

The  
**Pyramid  
Players**

Present



***THE BOYS NEXT DOOR***

by  
Tom Griffin

July 15 & 16, 1994  
7:30 P.M.

**Sesser Opera House**

Sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Association

Produced by special permission of Dramatists Play Service

## ***THE CAST***

Arnold Wiggins	.....	ERIC EWAN
Lucien P. Smith	.....	RUSSELL REIDELBERGER
Jack	.....	ERIK BERREY
Norman Bulansky	.....	TOM GEORGE
Barry Klemper	.....	A.J. TRIANO
Mr. Hedges	.....	MICHAEL COMPTON
Mr. Corbin, Senator Clarke.	.....	TRAVIS STERN
Mrs. Fremus	.....	SARA WILKINSON
Mr. Warren, Clara	.....	NATALIE LEWIS
Sheila	.....	PAM KIMBALL
Mr. Klemper	.....	JOHN WILKINSON

## ***THE PRODUCTION STAFF***

Director	.....	Allan Kimball
Asst. Director	.....	Michael Compton
Set Designer	.....	Michael Compton
Lighting Technician	... Michael Compton & Travis Stern	
Sound Technician	.....	Troy Brown
Spot Light	.....	Tim Tindall
Photos	.....	Cooper Studio of Benton
Program & Poster Design	.....	Carson Johnson
Box Office	.... Susan Summers & Sue Willard	
Ushers	.....	Members of FCAA
Artwork	.....	Donna Keen
Set Crew	.....	Darrell Compton, Jan Compton, Michael Compton, Andrea Keen, Donna Keen, Allan Kimball, Pam Kimball, Natalie Lewis, Travis Stern, A.J. Triano

# ***THE BOYS NEXT DOOR***

***Time:*** The Present, Summer

***Place:*** New England

***Setting:*** A modest two-bedroom apartment in a large apartment complex. The area is suburban.

The play will be in two acts and is divided into several scenes which take place in a variety of places. All are suggested with lighting, location, props, and set pieces. However the main setting is the living room of Arnold, Norman, Lucien, and Barry's apartment and their adjacent efficiency kitchen.

*There will be a 15 minute intermission  
between the two acts.*

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## **Special Thanks to:**

Jon Montgomery & the DuQuoin Junior High School

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*The Boys Next Door*  
**Southern Illinoisan**

**ERIK BERREY** (Jack) is a junior at SIU-C majoring in speech education and was a graduate of Benton High School, where he was named Outstanding Thespians and Outstanding Senior. Erik was also an IHSA State finalist in verse reading his junior year and qualified for IHSA State Competition in individual events, drama, and group interpretation. His most memorable role was his portrayal of Atticus Finch in the 1992 production of the All-State play, "To Kill a Mockingbird," which was performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival in Champaign. Erik has been a member of the Pyramid Players for three years. Pyramid Player audiences may remember him as Mr. Sanders in "Lend Me a Tenor," and Charlie in "The Foreigner."

**MICHAEL COMPTON** (Mr. Hedges/Set Designer) is a junior at Benton Consolidated High School and has been a member of the Pyramid Players for five years. Michael's favorite roles were Evil Eye Fleagle in the 1993 Pyramid Players production of "L'il Abner" for which he received the honor of best juvenile actor and Johnny in the BCHS production of "The Outsiders." He has been named Most Valuable Participant for Pyramid Players and was recently chosen for the set crew of the 1995 all-state production of "Fiddler on the Roof," to be performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival in Champaign.

**ERIC EWAN** (Arnold) is the speech and drama teacher at Mt. Vernon High School, where he directs the musical and coaches the speech and acting team, for which Eric was named E.F.L. Coach of the Year in 1987 and 1991. He has been a member of the Pyramid Players for four years, and he was named Best Actor for his portrayal of Mr. Snow in the 1987 Pyramid Players production of "Carousel". Eric is also well-known to SIU Summer Playhouse audiences, where he played such roles as Nicely in "Guys 'n Dolls", Bellamy in "The Fantastiks," and Rudolph in "Hello Dolly." One of his most memorable roles was Marcellus in "The Music Man," which he performed both at SIU and at the Little Theatre on the Square, in Sullivan, Illinois.

**TOM GEORGE** (Norman) is the speech teacher at Carbondale High School and the coach of the highly successful forensics team, which proudly boasts, among other honors, the 1994 Illinois High School Association State Champion in radio. He is a newcomer to the Pyramid Players; however, not a newcomer to the stage. Tom has performed not only in college productions, but with The Stage Company in Carbondale and in the SIU Lab Theatre. His favorite roles include Bellamy in "The Fantastiks," Teddy in "Arsenic and Old Lace," and Elwood P. Dowd in The Stage Company's production of "Harvey." He is reprising his role of Norman, whom he originally played in the SIU Lab Theatre production of "The Boys Next Door."

**ALLAN KIMBALL** (Director) is the speech and drama teacher at DuQuoin High School and the co-director and co-founder of the Pyramid Players, for which he has directed or designed over 40 productions since 1977. At DuQuoin, Allan directs the plays and musicals and coaches the award-winning speech and drama team. Most recently, his production of the play, "Shadowbox," placed third at the IHSA State Drama Competition in Decatur. Allan has been named SIU Coach of the Year and E.F.L. Coach of the year twice in his 9 years at DuQuoin and was named Benton Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1988 for his work with the Pyramid Players. Pyramid Players audiences may remember Allan in his one and only appearance on stage in "L'il Abner."

**PAM KIMBALL** (Sheila) is the speech and drama teacher at Benton Consolidated High School, where she also coaches the highly successful speech and drama team. This year, she was named E.F.L. Coach of the Year for the second time in her career at Benton and most recently had five students named to the cast and crew of the all-state production, "Fiddler on the Roof," to be performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival in 1995. Pam has been a member of Pyramid Players for 14 years and has directed the popular Pyramid Players children's pro-

ductions for the past four. Her favorite Pyramid Players roles include Miss Hannigan in "Annie," and Carrie Snow in "Carousel" for which she re-ceived the honor of being named 1987 and 1992 Best Actress.

**NATALIE LEWIS** (Clara/Mrs. Warren) is a junior at Benton Consolidated High School and has been a member of the Pyramid Players for four years. She most recently portrayed Mrs. Paroo in the BCHS production of "The Music Man" and Sister Mary Annette in the IHSA state qualifying group interpretation, "Nunsense." Pyramid Players audiences may remember Natalie as Dr. Finsdale in "L'il Abner" and the grown-up Wendy in "Peter Pan." Natalie was named Outstanding Sophomore for the 1993-94 speech team.

**RUSSELL REIDELBERGER** (Lucien) is a sophomore at SIU-C, majoring in theatre and English literature. He has been a member of the Pyramid Players for two years. He most recently appeared on the main stage at SIU in the production of "Christmas Carol", but DuQuoin audiences will remember Russ in such outstanding roles as Lennie in "Of Mice and Men," Conrad Birdie in "Bye, Bye Birdie," and Raoul in "The Phantom of the Opera." In high school, Russ was an IHSA state qualifier in I.E., group interpretation, and drama and the recipient of a SCOTIE tournament of champions scholarship. He was also named Outstanding Actor his senior year. But his most treasured award is his Pyramid Players "bloopers" award for his memorable (but garbled) lines in "Annie"!

**TRAVIS STERN** (Senator/Mr. Corbin) is a senior at DuQuoin High School. He has been a member of the Pyramid Players for two years. He most recently portrayed the rabbi in DuQuoin's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" and the role of Brian in the contest play, "The Shadowbox," for which he was named to the IHSA All-state Honorary cast. He also played the role of Curley in "Of Mice and Men," and Judge Turpin in the state-qualifying group interpretation, "Sweeney Todd." Travis was named 1994 Best Actor at DuQuoin High School.

**A.J. TRIANO** (Barry) will be a freshman theatre and communications major at Murray State in the fall and is a recent graduate of Benton High School, where he was named Outstanding Thespian, Outstanding Senior, and National Choral Award winner. His most memorable roles include Harold Hill in "The Music Man," Roger in "Grease," and Ponyboy in "The Outsiders." A.J. was also a member of the 1994 All-State production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," which was performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival in Bloomington. A.J. has been a member of the Pyramid Players for ten years, beginning at the age of seven, with the role of Sydney in "Tom Sawyer." Audiences may remember him as the Bellboy in "Lend Me a Tenor," and as Hans in "Hans Christian Andersen."

**JOHN WILKINSON** (Mr. Klemper) is a private music teacher in Benton and owner of Animal Crackers Child Development Center. John made his first Pyramid Players' appearance as Emile in the 1981 production of "South Pacific." Since then, he has become extremely popular with Pyramid Players' audiences, playing such roles as Daddy Warbucks in "Annie," Nathan Detroit in "Guys n' Dolls," and, most recently, Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady." John also wrote the highly successful adaptation of "Snow White," which was performed as the Pyramid Players' children's production in 1986.

**SARA WILKINSON** (Mrs. Fremus) is a private music teacher in Benton and a realtor by profession. She made her first appearance on stage for the Pyramid Players as Miss Hannigan in the 1984 production of "Annie." Since then, Sara has volunteered her talents in a wide variety of roles including actress, accompanist, choreographer, and director of the highly successful Pyramid Player children's productions. When she was not "behind the scenes," Sara has been seen on stage as a featured performer in "Follies" and "Side by Side," as well as Adelaide in "Guys 'n Dolls."