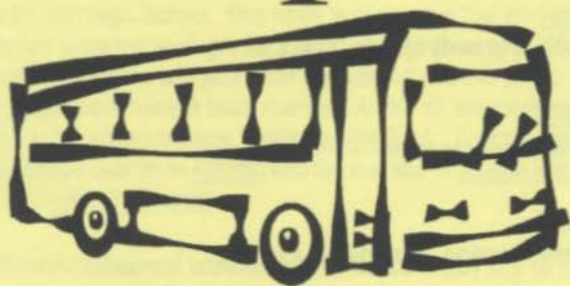


Pyramid Players

*bringing Broadway to southern Illinois audiences
since the summer of 1977*

present

“Bus Stop”



By William Inge
Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc. – NYC

Friday & Saturday, Aug. 24 & 25, 2007
7:30 pm
Sesser Opera House

Sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Association

Cast - in order of appearance

Elma Duckworth, a waitress.....Jennifer Norman
Grace Hoylard, owner of the restaurant.....Kathy Winston Reno
Will Masters, a Sheriff.....Patrick Herman
Cherie, a chanteuse.....Taryn Herman
Dr. Gerald Lyman, a former college professor.....Travis Westbrook
Carl, a bus driver.....Tom Herman
Virgil Blessing, a ranch hand.....Ben Reno
Bo Decker, a young rancher and cowboy.....Darren Hutson

The action takes place in a street-corner restaurant in a small town about thirty miles west of Kansas City.

Act I

A night in early March. 1:00 a.m.

Act II

A few minutes later.

Act III

Early Morning. About 5:00 a.m.

There will be a 10 minute intermission between acts II and III



"I would like to dedicate this production to Terry Hopkins, who inspired me and gave me the courage to try to direct my first play. I am honored and humbled to have been a part of his last stage performance, *You Can't Take It With You* in 2006. He will be deeply missed."

-Tom Herman



Meet the Cast & Directors:

Jennifer Norman / Elma - Bus Stop is Jennifer's 18th theatrical production since her graduation from Benton High School in 2002. Some of her feature roles include: Mina Murray in Dracula, Roxie Hart in Chicago, Babette in Beauty and the Beast, and her most recent role as Miss Mary Jane Wilkes in Pyramid Players' production of Big River. Jennifer was a four-time national gold medalist in competitive speech forensics at Southeastern Illinois College, and was ranked 4th Speaker in the nation for 2004. Jennifer would like to thank her beautiful son Jesse-Lee for inspiration and her family for their continuous support to make these performances possible.

Kathy Winston Reno / Grace - Kathy had her stage debut at age 5 when she performed in her first dance recital in "The Teddy Bears' Picnic." She studied dance through college and beyond, but along the way found time to act and sing in several productions. Her first musicals were performed at Benton High School where she played Mammy Yokum in Lil Abner and Nellie Forbush in South Pacific. After high school she did two seasons of summer stock at SIU-C and graduated with a degree in theatre from the University of Illinois. Kathy moved to NYC and eventually made a living doing commercials and industrial productions. You may remember her Dr. Pepper commercial. She left the business to raise a family and pursue a Masters Degree in Social Work and has been a psychotherapist for the past 11 years. Recently she returned to the stage when she performed the role of Melissa in Love Letters as a fundraiser for her church. Her greatest production, by far, is her two sons, both of whom are in the performing arts. This show marks the first time she has been on stage with her son or with any of her family members, and she is beyond thrilled. She is very proud to be part of such a talented family.

Patrick Herman / Will - Patrick is 17 years old and is a senior at Benton High School. He is a member of both concert band and jazz band. He has appeared in many Pyramid Players productions, including The Music Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and others. He also appeared in Oliver at John A. Logan College. He doesn't do as many shows on stage any more, but he can be heard playing bass guitar in many of the pit orchestras.

Taryn Herman / Cherie - Taryn is excited to be back on stage again with Pyramid Players, and even more to be on stage with her family. She just finished a production of Kiss Me, Kate performed at the Athenaeum Theater in Chicago. Her next projects include choreography for Rocky Horror Picture Show with Nightblue Theatre, and State Fair with Town Square Players. Some of her favorite Pyramid Players roles include Fruma Sara in Fiddler on the Roof, Helsa Wenzel in Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, and Margie in State Fair. While this is not the first time on stage with her brother, it is the first time he's been able to drive himself to rehearsal.

Tom Herman / Carl - Tom takes on the dual role of director and actor in Bus Stop. He is very excited about so many of his family members appearing on stage together for the first time. Some of his favorite roles include Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, Mortimer Brewster in Arsenic and Old Lace, and The King in Big River. Tom wants to thank everyone in the cast for all their hard work and sacrifice, with an extra special thank you going out to Caleb, Abby and Marley for being willing to go through the entire rehearsal process knowing they ultimately would not be able to play their characters in front of an audience. Tom would also like to thank Allan Kimball for taking what would have been his last free days of summer vacation to help design and build the great set you see before you.

Ben Reno / Virgil - Ben first appeared on stage at age 10 in a production of Children of Eden in Westchester County, New York where he lives. As a result of that show, he was accepted into a children's performance troupe called The Westchester Dreamcoats. He sang The National Anthem three times at Giants Stadium with the troupe, performed many community service events and played the roles of Oliver in Oliver! and Jesus in Godspell during the six years he was with the group. Community theatre roles include The Paper Boy in Working and Randolph in Bye Bye Birdie. Last year Ben played Danny Zuko in Grease for Pleasantville High School. Ben will be a senior there in the fall and when he graduates he plans to attend The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. Ben is happy to be a part of this family production and to appear on stage with his mother for the very first time.



Travis Westbrook / Dr. Gerald Lyman - Travis is a music theater major at SIU-C. He's no stranger to the stage, having appeared in over 25 productions. Favorite roles include Buddy Layman in The Diviners, Jinx in Forever Plaid, and Mooney in Anything Goes. Travis was most recently seen playing numerous roles in Pyramid Players' production of Big River earlier this year. He sends his love to the Herman family, with a special thanks to Tom. He hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Darren Hutson / Bo - Darren is a veteran performer in the Southern Illinois area. He has appeared in many Pyramid Players productions; in fact, for the past fourteen years. He has also appeared in productions at Rend Lake College. Darren played the title character in Paradise Alley's production of Dracula. His most recent stage appearance was as Samuel in The Pirates of Penzance. Darren would like to take this opportunity to thank the director, the cast, the crew, and his family for their love and support.

Caleb Dehne / rehearsal understudy for Virgil - Caleb is 16 years old and will be a junior at Benton High School this fall where he is active in speech, band, madrigals, jazz choir, and various drama productions. Caleb has been in five Pyramid Players productions. Favorite roles have included Motel in Benton High School's Fiddler on the Roof, the Genie in Pyramid Players' Aladdin, and Isacar in Pyramid Players' Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Caleb was a 2007 sectional finalist in humorous interpretation and a 2006 state qualifier in group interpretation.

Marley Tritsch / rehearsal understudy for Cherie - Marley is a 15 year old junior at Benton High School. She loves to dance and has been involved in Pyramid Players since the sixth grade. At Benton High School, she is active in speech, drama, madrigals, and jazz choir and was named this year's outstanding sophomore speech team member. At BCHS, she performed the role of Chava in the spring musical, Fiddler on the Roof. Favorite Pyramid Player roles include Jasmin in Aladdin and the narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Abby Wilburn / rehearsal understudy for Grace - Abby is a 15 year old sophomore at Benton High School. This is Abby's fifth Pyramid Players production. Active at BCHS in speech, madrigals, jazz choir, band, and drama productions, Abby was a 2007 IHSA State Qualifier in Performance in the Round. Abby's favorite roles include Hodel in BCHS's Fiddler on the Roof, Lucy in the BMS production of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and the narrator in the Pyramid Players production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. You might remember Abby best as the dynamic Annie Oakley in this summer's Pyramid Players' production of Annie Get Your Gun.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Tom Herman
Set and Lighting Design.....Allan Kimball
Set Crew.....Allan Kimball, Tom Herman, Darrell Compton,
Jan Compton, Patrick Herman, Andrew Chismar,
Caleb Dehne, Abby Wilburn, David McCoy, Ben Reno,
Marley Tritsch, Cheryl Herman
Sound.....Caleb Dehne
Lighting.....David Wicks
Backstage Crew.....Abby Wilburn, Marley Tritsch
Box Office / Programs.....Susan Summers
Ushers.....Franklin County Arts Association Board Members
Costumes.....Creatures of Habit, Paducah, KY
Hair Design.....Darren Hutson



Special Thanks to

Ned Mitchell
Ashley Beitz and WQRL radio
First Baptist Church of Marion, IL
Southeastern Illinois College
Benton Consolidated High School
Aggie and Maggie, for inspiration

Historical note: The bench used on the set is an actual bench that was in the courtroom on the day that Charlie Birger was sentenced to hang. It was donated for use in "Bus Stop" by Sesser mayor Ned Mitchell.

Friends of the Pyramid Players

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Bill Hedges, State Farm Ins., *Benton*
K & H Construction, *DuQuoin*

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