



THE PLAYER

VOLUME CVIV, No. 5

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MARCH 2020

Where Did THAT Come From?

By Player John L. Daly

Player seasons have a certain rhythm. In effect, October is the pre-season, often giving new member teams an opportunity to perform their show. November becomes the first major effort and a Thanksgiving-interrupted rehearsal schedule often gives the December prompters a workout. The season's contiguous block starts in February with March and April shows to usually contesting for the May Invitational. No one ever expects February to be the best month of the year, but it may be this season, in every aspect.

As gentlemen arrived from the Rattlesnake Club pre-frolic dinner, **Roy Jendrzewski** and **Rob Trube** served a **Dragonmead** selection of *Lancelot's Cream Ale*, *Erik the Red* and *Under the Kilt*. **Earl Wolfe** set the evening's mood at the keyboard.

President **Tim Cordes** had four main messages: 1) We need to raise another \$70,000 to replace our leaking roof. 2) Lock up when you leave. 3) Tickets are still available for the Balduck Mountain Ramblers on March 13th & 14th. 4) Cabaret 313 will perform on March 28th.

Todd Storrs added a new dimension to *The Players Song*, by doing more than just standing there as he sang. His performance will likely inspire many of us to step up our game.

Suicide is Painless, the **MASH** theme, preceded the evening's first play, *The Roof Top Lessons*. Suicide would be the evening's connecting theme. *Roof Top* begins with **Fuzz Corey** as a teacher giving a drama writing lesson. Armed with a clicker, he shows a scene of a jumper played by **Andrew Ballantine**. Good Samaritans **Chuck Steltenkamp** and **Steve Flum** alternately try to keep him from killing himself by jumping as the teacher repeatedly stops the scene and critiques each attempt's dramatic value. He advises avoiding profanities as it "Irritates the Conservatives and makes the Liberals think you're just a 2nd rate David Mamet". **Tom Conley** sits on a bench and watches as the bystander. At one point, Flum's Samaritan tells the man that he can't jump from a particular point because his daughter, played by **Mark Habel**, has her lemonade stand directly below. Around the building's corner would be better. Such ridiculous situations made this a comedy.

Billed as a Troy High School faculty and alumni play, Flum and Steltenkamp played interior line for coach **Tom Conley**. Even Mike Frank, the prompter, taught at Troy High for many years. As prompter, Mike had little to do but follow along. Director Conley had his team well prepared. Special praise goes to **Andrew Ballantine** in what was only his third Players stage appearance. **Glenn Scoles** called it the "Best play I've seen in a long time."

Continued on page 3.

Mark Your Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar for these important upcoming dates:

Mar. 7, 5:30 pm..... Pre-Frolic Dinner
 Mar. 7, 8:30 pm..... December Frolic
 Mar. 9, 5:30 pm..... Traffic Hour
 Mar. 13, 8:00 pm..... Balduck Mtn. Ramblers
 Mar. 14, 8:00 pm..... Balduck Mtn. Ramblers
 Mar. 28, 6:30, 8:45 pm..... Cabaret 313

Players Caricature Book

In the wake of our successful exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum, The Players has published a book named appropriately, **PLAYERS ART & MEMOIRS**. It has most of The Players' caricatures from over the years, chapters on the history of the club, as well as a nice recap of the museum exhibit. Included are many memoirs of current and past members. We uncovered several letters of founding and early members that are as informative as they are hilarious. This remarkable book is available in hardcover at a **low low price of \$65**. It continues to be on sale at Frolics with an initial limited run. Interest in the book will allow us to reprint more on demand.

Cabaret 313

Carole J. Bufford returns to **Cabaret 313** on **March 28** with a brand-new show exploring the monumental change in the musical landscape from 1965-75. With music made famous by Cher, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Simon & Garfunkel, Dusty Springfield, Otis Redding, Linda Ronstadt and more, *Come Together: When the 60s Met the 70s* explores the ever-changing music industry in one of the most exciting, controversial and impactful eras in musical history.

- 1st Performance: Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m.
- 2nd Performance: Doors open at 8:15 p.m., show at 8:45 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 for Preferred Admission, \$60 for General Admission, and \$25 for 40 & Younger and can be purchased at cabaret313.org.

Donor Appreciation Event Set

The 2nd Century Fund Committee has set the date for its second donor appreciation cocktail party on September 11th. Last year's **Milestone Celebration** drew rave reviews from Player wives who rarely get much time to talk with each other at Invitationals. Invitations will go out in July for those who have made 2nd Century Fund pledges.

We need \$150,000 more in pledges to meet our five-year goal. In February, members saw why our playhouse needs some reinvestment as buckets sat in the Founder's Room to catch the drips from our leaking roof. If you haven't made a pledge already, please consider making one. Current rough estimates are that we need to raise at least another \$70,000 in the next few months to pay for the roof project.

If you need a pledge form or have questions, contact Players **Bill Robinson** (248-341-5053, WRobinson@ATATitle.com) or **John Daly** (734-223-2850 or JohnLDaly@comcast.net).



Balduck Mountain Ramblers

The Balduck Mountain Ramblers will return to the Historic Players Playhouse on Friday, March 13th at 8:00 pm for the annual St. Patrick's concert and fundraiser. The concert sold out the last two years, so to accommodate demand a second show has been added on Saturday, March 14th!

Admission is just \$35, which includes refreshments and a light snack. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Players Endowment Fund. Contact the Office soon to make reservations.

Where Did THAT Come From?, continued from page 1.

The Save opens in the bleachers of a Little League ball park where **Richard Yeager Stiver** as Julie and **Shane Henry** as Courtney watch their sons play ball. A man, Zender (**Matthew Turnbull**), arrives who clearly isn't a parent. Since he is carrying a bag of candy and may have come in a van, Julie concludes Zender may be a kidnapper and wants him gone as soon as possible. Richard gives his usual high quality performance. As Julie goes to call the cops, Courtney is left to interact with the possible kidnapper.

Watching Shane and Matthew was a treat. We suspect Courtney may have deep issues as she reads **50 Shades of Grey**. Whatever issues she has, they are not as deep as Zender's. He is a veteran who "just got back from the sandbox." He doesn't recognize his wife or daughter anymore and something has changed deep inside of him. On this particular day he has come home, bypassing his 5th floor apartment to go to the 20th floor roof, perhaps to end his suffering. Looking for a sign, the clouds part and show a small sliver of sunlight on the green Little League baseball diamond. That is why he's here.

Sometimes a player reaches deep within his soul to pull out a performance that surprises everybody. **Roy Jendrzewski** accomplished this decades ago in **Today a Little Extra**. Matt, an Army veteran himself, accomplished something extraordinary with his performance. **Larry Smith** said "I don't know where THAT came from, but oh, my God." The performance brought tears to many people's eyes. If we had an award for best actor, Matt's performance would probably be the favorite to win. Expect **Shane Henry** to be a Diffendal Award nominee.

Eric Christian directed this year's scholarship play, **The Philadelphia**, featuring two Wayne State University seniors **Perry Quarker** as Mark and **Luke Hodgeson** as Al.

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Keep it Clean Gents

The Players does not have a full-time janitorial staff. We do, however, have regular visitors, including organizations that have paid good money to rent our facilities or are considering doing so.

If you are at the Playhouse for a rehearsal or for other reasons, please clean up after yourselves. That includes properly emptying ashtrays and wastebaskets and washing mugs or other dishes. If you don't know how to operate the dishwasher, please don't try. Instead, rinse your dirty dishes and leave them in the sink. Don't just leave an inch of beer in a mug waiting for the rats to drink it.

Access to fire exits, *including the basement access to the area under the stage*, must be kept clear. Likewise, we are legally obligated to provide unimpeded access to the DTE meters in the basement. Please do not pile props or furniture there.

Please talk to V.P. of Production **Andrew Ballantine** or Stage Manager **Nick Stojkovski** before adding to our ever growing collection of props and furniture. This way, we can keep the basement and stage clean and safe.

Directors, actors and producers: You are responsible for returning props to the prop room, cleaning out the dressing rooms and makeup room, and returning furniture to its proper storage location.

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THE PLAYER is published more or less monthly from October to May with an occasional summer issue. The views expressed herein are those of the respective authors and/or editor, whoever they may be in any given month, and not necessarily those of The Players. Comments may be made to, and back issues may be available from, the Office, (313) 259-3385, or send an inquiry to Office@playersdetroit.org. **THE PLAYER** is available online at www.playersdetroit.org.

Pre-Frolic Dinner

The February Pre-Frolic Dinner will be held at the ***London Chop House***.

The festivities will begin with cocktails in the bar at about 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 or so. The price is only \$60, including tax and tip (Cocktails are extra, of course).

Please call or email the office to make your reservations now.

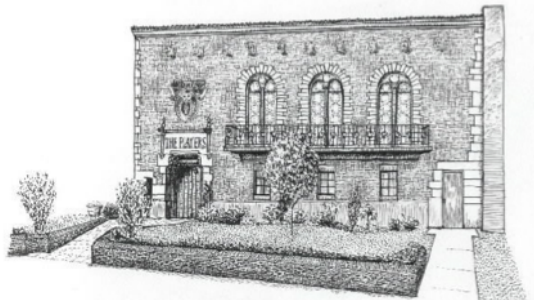
Traffic Hour

Traffic hour –an informal gathering on Mondays following our Frolics –is a great time to meet other Players, line up a part in an upcoming Frolic, meet the sound and lighting wizards, shill for a play you’ve written, or just generally learn the ins and outs of The Players. It’s also a great time to organize the flats, and put away the furniture, props and costumes used in the Frolic. Come as you are. Things usually get going around 5:30 p.m. Beer will be served.

You’ve Got to Have Art

One of the many side benefits of digitizing The Players’ records and artwork is the ability to provide you with copies of the wonderful caricatures that reside on the walls of the Playhouse.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of one of the wonderful Bil Barrett caricatures that appear in this publication, please call the office. 11”x14” copies on heavyweight acid-free paper suitable for framing are available for just \$25.00. Larger sizes at additional cost may also be available.



Did You Know?

Did you know that you can search for Frolics by name, actor, director or Frolic number on The Players website? You can also search through back issues of THE PLAYER by typing in a date range. For example, by searching for Frolics directed by Player **Bill Robinson**, one discovers that Player Robinson has been responsible for such artistic gems as *Thunderbird*, *Frontier Accountant*, *Wasting Away*, *The Footsteps of Doves*, and *The Rewrite* in just the past five years.

In sum, the accessible database contains enough trivia to make Player **Will Dawson** proud. “I’ll take May contenders for \$1,000, Alex.”

So, just how does one gain access to this treasure trove of trivia? First, go to: www.playersdetroit.org. Next, click the “Member Login” link at the top of the page. The username is “**players**” and the password is “**fr0ll!c**”. (Note, the “o” is a zero and the “i” is an exclamation point). At the bottom of the members page, click on “search for a frolic.”

Our Dress Code

Part of what makes The Players unique is our traditional dress code. From the inception of our organization, Players have been required to wear “black tie” (a tuxedo) at our Frolics and Invitationals. While guests are encouraged to do the same, a dark business suit is acceptable. Tuxedos can be purchased for surprisingly low prices – often less than the cost of a rental. Members are responsible for informing their guests of our policy (and for paying any guest fees.)

The Players also maintains a tuxedo bank of tuxedos that may be loaned to guests. Sizes are limited, so it would be best to plan ahead and see what is in the basement. If you have grown, shrunk or simply tired of your current tux, consider putting your tux in the bank.

Be Our Guest!

This year, the number of guests attending our frolics may have reached an all-time high (at least in recent history). Inviting a guest to attend a frolic is an important tool in our membership recruiting efforts. In fact Article VI of our By-laws provides that invitations are generally "limited to prospective members."

As Players, we are all responsible for ensuring that our membership base remains strong. It goes without saying that a strong membership base is essential to our financial health. It is also essential to our ability to put on our monthly frolics without having to rely on the same few Players every month. When you bring a guest, please follow up with an invitation to apply for membership. Applications are available in the lobby.

While joining our historic organization is not right for everyone, most guests are flattered by the invitation. Guests may not be aware of how reasonable our dues are. They may also not be aware that it is not necessary to appear on stage, with or without a dress.

Take a look at the banners that adorn the theater. They represent a cross section of the skills required to put on a show, including writing, music, art, financial acumen, and set design and construction. In other words, there is something for everyone (I'm not sure what happened to the bartending banner). For more information, talk with Membership chair **Chuck Steltenkamp** or any member of the Board of Governors.

Board of Governors

President.....	Tim Cordes
VP Administration.....	Mickey Champion
VP Production.....	Andrew Ballantine
Secretary.....	Nick Skojkovski
Treasurer	Matt Maul
Governor.....	Sean Fisher
Governor.....	Stu Johnson
Governor.....	Matt Ochab
Governor.....	Tom Ball

100 Years Ago at The Players

The Players performed their March Frolic on March 13, 1920 at the Arts and Crafts Theatre in Detroit. All three plays were written by Players members.



CORRESPONDENCE

to the aditor

i am a player in good standing and came to the last meeting expecting food and liquid refreshment imagine what i felt like when there was only one half barrel of near beer and when they had passed around all of it most of us just was able to smell it thats as near as i got to it and i was sore have they put a Scotchman on the entertainment committee or has the associate members not paid dues or does the janitor get so much that the liquor must be cut in quantity as well as quality i want to no for i got a right to how can i glow when there is nothin' to drink answer no licker no literature.

—A Player

We hasten to assure our determined correspondent that no Scot has crept on the Entertainment Committee. The amount was an oversight. At the next show there will be many half-barrels.

—Editor.

Opinion at the last Frolic was unanimous that the May performance should be given at Orchestra Hall, even though it necessitated a special levy of two or three dollars per member so as to meet the added expense. The desire of the Players coincided with that of the Board of Governors. A contract has been made for the use of Orchestra Hall and the date set for Saturday, May 1st. Mark that on your calendar now, tell your wife and your friends about it, and don't let anything interfere with that evening's diversion by the Players.

Important Numbers

OFFICE:	313.259.3385
FAX:	313.259.0932
EMAIL:	office@playersdetroit.org
BOARD EMAIL:	bog@playersdetroit.org

Where Did THAT Come From?, continued from page 3.

Brian Bawol, as the waitress was back on our stage in his first Players performance in 10 years after spending most of a decade in Portland, Oregon.

Mark is having a type of great day called a Los Angeles where nothing can go wrong. When he asks about the menu, the waitress lists horrible sounding food. Confident of the kind of day he's having, Mark order's pig's feet, knowing that she'll bring him something great instead.

His friend Al comes into the bar in a panic. His day is going irrationally bad. He can't buy aspirin in the drug store, he can't buy pastrami at a New York deli and the cabbie won't take him to midtown Manhattan. Al is getting so frustrated he is actually considering suicide. Mark explains that he is having "a Philadelphia," pockets that exist where not matter what you want, you can't have it. The only way to deal with it is to ask for the opposite of what you want. Suicide isn't an option, because in a Philadelphia, he'll only end up hurting himself.

Understanding the challenge, Al can now get what he wants by asking for the opposite. The twist comes when the waitress puts a Philly cheesesteak in front of Mark. Mark detests Philly cheesesteak and realizes that Al has brought him into his Philadelphia. By now, Al has mastered being in a Philadelphia and is a happy man. This was a well-directed, stellar show. I predict directors will seek out **Brian Bawol** anytime a role calls for a young woman in a short skirt.

The evening's surprises were not over. The frolic supper of pork teriyaki *sous-vide*, rice with mushrooms and water chestnuts and salad provided by **Andrew Turnbull** and his team was particularly tasty. Andrew suggests that sometime we might try skipping the restaurant pre-frolic dinner restaurant and buy a high-quality meal at the club.

The last pleasant surprise was **Mike Mongan's** afterglow called ***My Funniest Day at Work*** in which he described a farting contest held in a

Tank Plant engineering department around 1986. Mike's "style points" won him the event. The story was quick and a great ending for the evening.

Tim Flintoff was the evening's producer, taking the job solo for the first time. Special mention goes to stage manager **Mark Habel** and his crew of **Tom Starynychak**, **Matt McGuire**, **Glenn Scoles** and **Nick Stojkovski**. Nick said that working back stage gave him a good workout and he saw a definite need to get more people under 60 years old back stage.

Did You Ever Want To...

- Prepare a Frolic Supper?
- Write a Frolic Review
- Lead us in The Players Song?
- Learn to be a Frolic Producer?

All of these and more are possible for any Player, regardless of how long you have been a member. Some things are easier than others, and being a Producer for a Frolic takes mentoring and tutoring. But like most things at The Players, it's not rocket surgery.

If producing a Frolic interests you, please email Player **Allan Dick**, who chairs the Producer Committee and is more than willing to instruct. Likewise, if you think you might have the chops for singing *The Players Song*, contact Allan. The Producer selects the singer each month.

How about writing a Frolic review? If you read THE PLAYER, (Shame on you if you don't. Players **Mickey** and **Bill Champion** put a lot of work into it each month!) you read the review of last month's frolic. This is a great opportunity to express your appreciation for the hard work that goes into each Frolic. If this interests you, again, contact Allan Dick.

And finally, if you would like to take a turn in the Players kitchen, DO NOT contact Allen Dick. He doesn't handle that. Instead, contact Player **Matthew Turnbull**, who chairs the Frolic Supper Committee, and lines up the chefs for each month's post-Frolic meal.

FROLIC 641

March 7, 2020

8:30 p.m.

Produced by Player Ted Groustra

IN A VAN, DOWN BY THE RIVER

By Bob Odenkirk and Chris Farley

Directed by Player John Hatcher

Setting: A suburban living room

Dad	Player Ted Groustra
Mom	Player Shane Henry
Brian	Player Jeremy Tick
Jimmy	Player Matt Wozniak
Matt Foley	Player Matt Ochab
Patrick Swayze	Player Kiernan Babcock

SECOND DIVORCE

By Player William H. Volz

Directed by Player J. Robert O'Leary III

Setting: An isolated cabin in Northern Ontario, late spring

Dr. Myles Cohen	Player Jeff Barry
Dr. Anthony (Tony) Rizzo	Player Todd Storrs
Horne Payne	Player Steve Flum
Julius Childs	Player Tim Flintoff
Guy (Gei) Guerrier	Player John O'Hara

7 ANGRY MEN

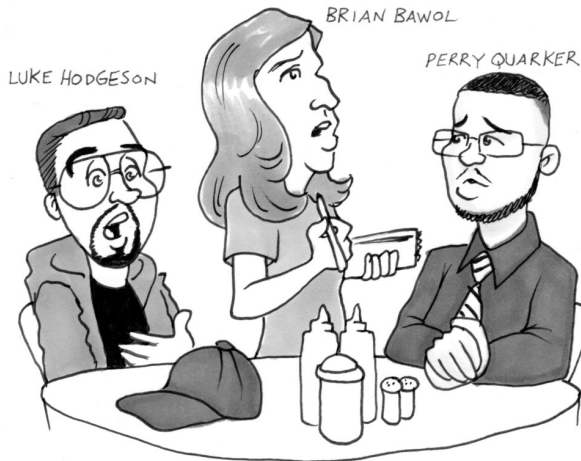
By Player Matt Maul

Directed by Player Matt Maul

Setting: A Jury Room

Phil (Juror 8)	Player Jeff Barry
Jim (Juror 3)	Player Matt McGuire
Bill (Director)	Player Bill Robinson
Nick	Player Nick Stojkovski
Eric	Player Ted Groustra
Al (Juror 5)	Player Larry Smith
Ralph (Juror 6)	Player Gari Kersten
Frank (Juror 7)	Player Michael Cretu
Ben's Phone	Player Ben Liston

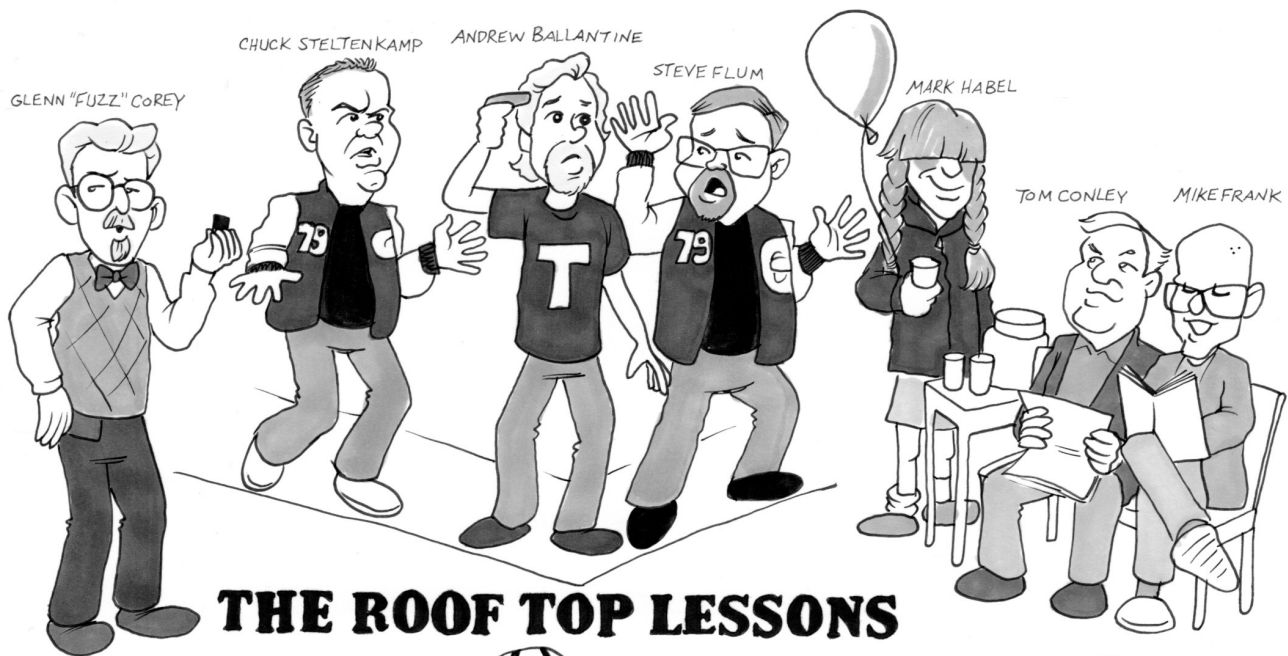
AFTERGLOW



FROLIC 640

FEBRUARY 1, 2020

THE PHILADELPHIA



THE ROOF TOP LESSONS

THE SAVE

