

**Grind City**

**Came For Me**

**Coming Up For Air**

**DUBUQUE FINE ARTS PLAYERS  
(DBQ One Acts)  
present**

**WORLD PREMIERE  
PRODUCTIONS OF  
WINNERS OF THE  
40th ANNUAL  
NATIONAL ONE-ACT  
PLAY WRITING  
CONTEST**

**Thurs Sept 28, Fri Sept 29 and Sat Sept 30, 2017, 7:30 PM  
Mindframe Theaters, Behind Kennedy Mall, Dubuque**

**First Place**  
**Grind City**  
by Rosemary Parrillo

**Director: Danny Fairchild**

Dexter . . . . . Tom Eckermann  
Tony . . . . . Nicholas Johnson  
Micky . . . . . Andrea Lange  
Adira . . . . . Eva Ressler

**Second Place**  
**Came for Me**  
by Seth Kramer

**Director: Jill Heitzman**

The Voice of Authority . . . . Rob Kundert  
Martin . . . . . James Brown  
Oller . . . . . Richard Walker  
Neim . . . . . Melinda Titus  
Ladd Fawn . . . . . Rick Walker  
Eva Fawn . . . . . Wendy Wilwert

**Third Place**  
**Coming Up for Air**  
by Marie Amthor-Schuett

**Director: Melissa McGuire**

Katherine . . . . . Jill Heitzman  
Stephanie . . . . . Wendy Wilwert  
Ellie . . . . . Melinda Titus  
Kent . . . . . Art Roche

## Prize-winning Writer Bios

**Rosemary Parrillo** lives in Marlton and Westfield, New Jersey. Her plays include *The New Normal Trilogy*, named a semi-finalist for the 2017 O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference, *Shelter*, which received a festival production at Freedom Theater in Philadelphia, *Lou's 24/7*, *The Waiting Room*, *The Elephant Pit* and *Cent Anni*. Presently, she is editor in chief of *Inside Jersey* magazine, published by The Star-Ledger in Newark, N.J.

**Seth Kramer** lives and works as a playwright in Chicago. Seth was recently selected as the winner of the 2017 Activate Midwest New Play Festival in Michigan. He has also been honored to receive such playwriting awards as the George R. Kernodle Award, the Kennedy Center's Award for Playwriting Excellence, the New York Thespian Award. Seth has also been a three-time finalist for the Actors Theatre of Louisville Heideman Award. Mr. Kramer was a finalist for the Nicholl Fellowship, and a semi-finalist in the Reader's Digest Hollywood Screenwriters Contest; his writing has received praise from the Iowa scriptwriters Alliance.

**Marie Amthor-Schuett** currently resides in Omaha, Nebraska and is a member of the Playwrights' Center. By day, Marie Amthor is a Marketing Manager and graphic designer. By night, she is a Brazilian American playwright. Her plays include *The Baby Journals*, *Coming Up for Air*, a one act from her trilogy, *A Herstory*, *The Other Sewing Circle* and *Constellations*.

## Performer/Director Bios

**James Brown (Martin, *Came for Me*)** has made sporadic appearances in theater since his junior high days, long ago. He has performed in various productions for Fly by Night productions and the Grand Opera House. James was last seen on stage during the 2015 Dubuque One Acts and is glad to make a return visit. In his spare time, James creates artwork and is pursuing a career in voice-overs.

**Tom Eckermann (Dexter, *Grind City*)** is very grateful for the opportunity provided by the Dubuque One Act Festival, to get on stage in his hometown with an excellent cast, a great director and an award winning play. He was a St. Joe's the Worker/Wahlert student and is a graduate of Loras College. In the past he was in *The Sunshine Boys*, and *Streetcar* at the Grand Opera House as well as a few original productions at the Bell Tower Theater.

**Danny Fairchild (Director, *Grind City*)** has acted and directed for several Dubuque One-act productions, and is a past winner, having won 1st place in 2011 for his play, *No One's Home*. He was last seen on stage as The Old Man in The Grand's production of *A Christmas Story*.

**Jill Heitzman (Director, *Came for Me*, *Katharine*, *Coming Up for Air*)** is very happy to be directing her 3rd Dubuque Fine Arts Players One Act. Jill likes the challenge and freedom of directing a play that has never been performed before. Jill also enjoys her cast, who have gone far beyond acting, to make this production come to life. Jill has also directed for Fly by Night productions and music directed at the Grand Opera house and Bell Tower productions. Jill also appears on stage regularly in Fly by Night, Bell Tower, and Grand Opera House productions. In her spare time, Jill is celebrating her 25th year as an assistant professor of music at Divine Word College. Jill also helps in instructing voices at NISOM and New Melleray Abbey. Jill's son, Ben, is a computer guru and a big help with all her plays. Jill thanks Ben, 2 wonderful dogs and a kindly cat, for their patience and love.

## Performer/Director Bios

**Sunil Malapati (Director, *Peak Experience*)** is excited to be back directing a one-act play after a eight year (too long) break! He has been part of the Dubuque theater scene, on and off stage, for 11 years. His favorite on-stage performances include *Dracula*, *Miss Witherspoon*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, and *The Laramie Project*. Off stage, he has played various roles as director, stage-manager, sound designer (over 20 shows) and even costume design! Most recently, he directed Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* and is having fun with a mini-reunion of that cast for this one-act! He will next direct *Mothers and Sons* for FBNP.

**Melissa McGuire (Mother, *Bro*)** began participation in the one act festival as a reader, then enjoyed directing *Verbatim* in 2005. Since then, she has directed three more times and acted, in 2006, in *Day of Atonement*. Last year, she appeared in *The Other Half*. She serves on the Board, as Artistic Director, and the leader of the Galena pod of faithful and discerning readers.

**Emma Mentley (Director, *Parting Wishes*)** is new to the DBQ One-Acts, honored to take part in the one-act festival, and thrilled to put her theater degree to some use. Once, she played the role of a cluster of rocks in *The Pirates of Penzance* and has since moved on to serve as a college diversity educator, play roller derby on the Dubuque Bomb Squad, and perform improv with ComedySportz.

**Anna Super-Stremlau (Zee, *Parting Wishes*)** is a friend, daughter, lover, and mother of dachshunds. The last time Anna took the stage in Dubuque was for a 2016 February production of *The Vagina Monologues* and is excited to perform again! When she is not having entire conversations in movie quotes or song lyrics, she can be found advising and recruiting at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. Anna would like to thank her own lovely Z for running lines, having dinner ready between runs from work to rehearsal, and being a source of relief and comfort in her life.

**Zach Thomas (Mason, *Peak Experience*)** is very excited to be performing in the Dubuque One Act Festival for the very first time! He is currently a theater major at UW-Platteville, and wants to pursue acting on screen as a career. Some favorite past roles include the Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, The Herald in *Marat/Sade*, every minor role in *A View From The Bridge*, and Herman in *Cabaret*. He will be portraying Mitch in the UW-Platteville production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* later this fall. He'd like to thank his cast and Sunil for making the process so fun and filled with new experiences, Emma Wilson for always convincing him to shoot for new roles and heights, Ann Farrelly for always pushing him past his limits, and his mother Jennifer for always encouraging him to follow his passions.

## Performer/Director Bios

**Art Roche (Kent, *Coming Up for Air*)** has been producing the One Acts for the past few years, and has performed for the One Acts in *Aviators*, *Antigone in Warsaw*, *Grant Wood*, *Prairie Rebel*, *Souvenir*, and *No Koch*, *Pepski*, as well as several performances with Fly By Night and other companies.

**Melinda Titus (Neim, *Came for Me*, *Ellie*, *Coming Up for Air*)** is no stranger to the theater nor to the Dubuque One Act Play Festival, having both directed and acted in two different plays during the same year. She started acting in 1996 in Fly By Night's *All In The Timing*. She is from this country, but also from *the* country, so she feels a bit like an immigrant when she has to drive in traffic! The signs mean nothing, there's so much chaos, she understands nothing- She lives in Durango on a small hobby farm. She has two daughters and she's now a grandmother of three.

**Rick Walker (Ladd Fawn, *Came for Me*)** age 14, enjoys choir, band and show choir as well as tennis and soccer. He is very excited to be in this production and would like to thank his mom, dad, sister and four legged sister, Sylvia

**Richard Walker (Oller, *Came for Me*)** age over 18, so he can vote, but for whom...? Anyway, a history major with a keen understanding of 'isms and appreciation for what they inflict upon my fellow man. This is his first play, so he would like to thank Jill and his fellow actors for putting up with him, and his family for putting up with him...longer.

**Wendy Wilwert (Eva Fawn, *Came for Me*, *Stephanie*, *Coming Up for Air*)** is finally returning to the Dubuque theater scene after a few years hiatus. She is thrilled to bits to be back with the Dubuque One Acts, where she has been involved in numerous productions in the past. And, yes, she is one of *those* Wilwerts and is quite probably related to \_\_\_\_\_ (insert list here.)

## Production Credits

Technical & Lighting Director ..... Allison Ott  
Audio Visual Director ..... Art Roche  
Production Assistant, Sounds ..... Christian English  
Stage Manager ..... Alison Ott  
Artistic Director ..... Melissa McGuire  
Ushers ..... Sherry Oswald  
..... Rose Onufrak  
General Factotum ..... Tom Boxleiter  
Promotion Design & Publicity ..... Art Roche  
Program ..... Brian Peters  
Mailing ..... Art Roche  
Box Office & Webmaster ..... Brian Peters

## DBQ One-Acts Board

Thomas Boxleiter, Contest Coordinator

Melissa McGuire

Brian Peters

Art Roche, President

## Acknowledgements

Molly's Silver Screen Cantina  
Mindframe Theaters  
Catherine Boxleiter  
Tom Boxleiter  
The Masonic Temple  
Greg Stechman  
The Fischer Building  
Hugh McCarron  
Melissa McGuire  
Richard Walker  
Melinda Titus  
Wendy Wilwert  
Dave Bauer  
Mercy Medical Center  
Lands End  
Fly by Night Productions  
JoAnn Fabrics  
Lifeline Audio-Visual  
Doug Donald  
Loras Players  
Tracy Leclere  
Deb Elkins  
Becky Worthington  
Dubuque County Fine Arts Society  
Kintzinger Law Firm, PLC  
Net-Smart [providers of [www.dbqoneacts.org](http://www.dbqoneacts.org)]

## Best PRICES – Best POPCORN – Best PEOPLE

Matinee admission - \$6.50      Evening admission (after 6pm) - \$9

Children, Seniors, Current Military - \$6.50 ALL THE TIME



[www.mindframetheaters.com](http://www.mindframetheaters.com)

Movie line – 563.582.4971

## The Process

The Prize-winners you see today have been vetted through a rigorous selection process. In the first round, every play that is submitted to the Playwriting competition is read twice by two different readers. Once all the plays are scored, the top plays (the exact number depending on the cut-off score) are read by two different readers from a different reading group. The top ten plays are selected based on the average scores from two rounds and are sent to the jury.

The final jury consisted of the three directors and two other tri-state theater luminaries: Mike A.H. Link and Melissa McGuire. The prize winners thus have been read by at least nine different readers.

Our competition is unique in that the writers get back comments from the readers, allowing even those who did not survive our vetting process to improve their skills and come back stronger next year. And many of them do come back and sometimes even win!

## Our Readers

Mary Auman  
Catherine Boxleiter  
Dan Fairchild  
Teresa Fairchild  
Bonnie Geisert  
Mike A. H. Link  
Jennifer Maki  
Luke Mann  
Melissa McGuire  
Steve McGuire  
Michelle McKinley  
Tom McMahon

Ardy Michaels  
Ann Onufak  
Rose Onufak  
Sherrie Lou Oswald  
Brian Peters  
Art Roche  
Dianne Roche  
Susan Ruden  
Peggy Stortz  
Christine Warner  
Shannon Wedeking  
Myrna West



**Dubuque County Fine Arts  
Society**

**Trainwreck Productions**

**DubuqueFest**

**DAWG (Dubuque Area Writers Guild)**

**Dubuque Fine Arts Players**

**Elisha Darlin Arts Award**

**Mississippi River Art Workshops**

The Dubuque County Fine Arts Society (DCFAS) is a volunteer-driven 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit arts organization serving the Dubuque, Iowa community. DCFAS serves as an “umbrella” organization for a range of affiliate groups and programs and is governed by an active volunteer board and committees. The group’s mission is “to encourage, promote, and present local and regional arts including music, writing, theater, and fine art.”

## **History**

With a team of like-minded individuals, Ruth and Russ Nash founded Fine Arts Society in 1976 to enrich the cultural landscape of Dubuque. With Russ and Ruth’s passing in 2000 and 2002, respectively, board members and volunteers committed themselves to maintaining the core programs of the organization and guiding DCFAS toward a more sustainable future. The challenge of reinventing Fine Arts Society has resulted in a number of new volunteers, committee and board members, bringing new ideas, energy, and vitality to the group while remaining true to its mission to provide free or low-cost access to arts experiences through a variety of cultural programming.

**[www.dcfas.org](http://www.dcfas.org)**

