

Provenance

The Sad Truth About
Country Songs

Best Friends' Rule

DUBUQUE FINE ARTS PLAYERS
(DBQ One Acts)
present

**WORLD PREMIERE
PRODUCTIONS OF
WINNERS OF THE
41st ANNUAL
NATIONAL ONE-ACT
PLAY WRITING
CONTEST**

Thurs Sept 13, Fri Sept 14 and Sat Sept 15, 2018, 7:30 PM
Masonic Temple, 1155 Locust Street, Dubuque

On the web at: dbqoneacts.org

First Place

Provenance

by Ian Patrick Williams

Director: Teresa Fairchild

Alma Jill Heitzman
Benjamin Justin Milligan

Third Place

Best Friends' Rule

by Patricia Motto

Director: Mary Auman

Ricky Kevin Firnstall
Jess Cathy Goodman

Second Place

The Sad Truth About Country Songs

by Stephen Gracia

Director: Jennifer Maki

Darla Bartow Terri Jackman
Amos Bartow Zack Werner
Musician Amanda Eby

Prize-winning Writer Bios

Ian Patrick Williams shared the Chicago Emmy award for co-authoring the PBS teleplay *Bleacher Bums*, which was later adapted and produced as a M.O.W. by Showtime. After moving to L.A., he worked for the non-profit education organization Enrichment Works, writing and directing seven one act plays that toured the Los Angeles school system. His short play *Normal Shnormal* won the first place Gold Quill award at the 2017 Tehachapi One Act Festival. The film *Gangster Land* for which he wrote the screenplay was recently released by Status Media Entertainment.

Stephen Gracia is a playwright and one of the founders of Dialogue with Three Chords, a pub theatre night in the West Village which will begin its eighth season this year and for which he has written over 100 short plays. He is a member of the Playwright and Directors Workshop at the Actor's Studio and the Dramatists Guild. His plays have been seen at HERE Arts Center, The Producers Club, and Dixon Place. He is a graduate of the Brooklyn College MFA Poetry Program, and his poetry has been published in Riverrun, The Brooklyn Review, Weird Tales, and Slipstream, and he has read at the St. Mark's Poetry Project and ABC No Rio. Stephen also records electronic music under the name Rhythm & Detonation and contributed an original score to a revival of Jeffrey M. Jones's Crazy Plays at BRIC Studio and original songs to the Off-Broadway production of CJ Thom's Eightballs at the Lafayette Theatre. He is thrilled to be a part of the Dubuque Fine Arts Players One Act Festival!

Patricia Motto's first published work came in the Byford Booster when, at age six, she wowed her teacher with two complete correctly punctuated sentences. Since then she has at various times taught composition at the college level, made sort of a living as a freelance writer, spent two summers as a Soxette (don't ask) and, because she became fond of nice meals out, graduated from law school and became an attorney specializing in sexual harassment. Three completed full plays and several one acts under her belt, she is now just beginning to offer sacrifices to the theater gods in furtherance of her goal of actually having something produced. She is currently living happily with her shelter dog, Fosse, in Elmhurst, Illinois where she also choreographs for and dances with The Tree Town Tappers.

Performer/Director Bios

Mary Auman (Director, *Best Friends' Rule*) has been involved with the One Act Play Festival for many years. She has served as a reader, a board member, a director and as an actor and producer. Mary found working with playwright, Patricia Motto, to be a real benefit in directing this play. The collaboration process, between playwright and director, has been valuable and exciting.

Amanda Eby (Musician, *The Sad Truth About Country Songs*) started playing classical violin and fiddle at the age of eight. She has performed with the Dubuque Fiddlers, Raspberry Lemonade String Ensembles, and the Dubuque Youth Symphony, as well as playing in pit orchestras for *Oliver!* (2014), *The Producers* (2014), *Gypsy* (2017), *Young Frankenstein* (2017), and *The Pajama Game* (2018) at the Grand Opera House. After participating as concertmaster in the Dubuque Senior High School Orchestra, she studied music at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. You may see her on Saturdays playing fiddle at the Dubuque farmers market.

Teresa Fairchild (Director, *Provenance*) is a Dubuque almost-native and former president of the Dubuque Fine Arts Players. While she has acted in a number of previous productions this is her second time directing a one act, last was 2010's *Cork's Cattlebaron*. She'd like to thank her cast for being so accommodating during rehearsals in her living room while children, cats, dogs, and whatever else was running around and trying to "help" the production.

Performer/Director Bios

Kevin Firnstall (Ricky, *Best Friends' Rule*) re-joins DFAP after having previously directed two one-act plays (*Between Men, Sensational Surrogates*). Since moving to Dubuque in 1993, Kevin has performed in multiple productions for Fly-By-Night Productions, the Grand Opera House, Die Laughing Murder Mystery Players, and the Dead Artists Lecture Series. He has also directed several shows for both FBNP and the Grand. Kevin happily returns to the stage after a long absence that has been recently filled with a personal loss and challenges. This performance is dedicated to Tim Horsfield (1954-2018), Kevin's "too perfect" partner and husband for 29 years.

Cathy Goodman (Jess, *Best Friends' Rule*) – While a new face for the DBQ One Acts, Cathy is no stranger to Dubuque audiences, having done shows with the Bell Tower Theater, Grand Opera House, Fly-By-Night Productions, and Rising Star. She is also the director and performs with the Brew Ha Ha Players (stonecliffwinery.com). Cathy is founder of the Mistletones® (mistletones.biz) with their Christmas variety show, SNOWBIZ®, having been voted 2016 BEST EVENT by the Dubuque CVB. Be sure to catch them this year on December 6. By day, Cathy's in the swim of all things advertising as owner/creative director of big fish creative.

Jill Heitzman (Alma, *Provenance*) is excited to be acting in her first One Act, although she has directed three of One Acts over the years. Jill is an Assistant Professor of Music at Divine Word College. Jill is an artist, too, having taken many courses over the years. She probably knows just enough to be dangerous! Jill is really enjoying playing Alma Branzini, as she can really relate to her style of dress (yes, these are my clothes), her passion for the arts, and her unswerving belief that art makes the world a better place. Thank you, to my son for helping me with lines, not caring if I'm home or not, and being my wonderful boy. Also, a big thank you to Lisa Towers, my art teacher, for her supplies and help in creating these "unknown masterworks". And thank you to Teresa for sharing her home for rehearsals and for her thoughtful direction!

Performer/Director Bios

Terri Jackman (Darla Bartow, *The Sad Truth About Country Songs*) is excited to be on stage once again with the Dubuque Fine Arts Players. It is a change, though, to go from playing the Mother of God to a southern mama. She has been active in theater since 1992, doing theater with the Grand Opera House, Bell Tower Theater, Main Street Players, Galena Art Theater, Mighty Richland Players, and Fly-By-Night. When not involved in theater, she loves to read, travel and do counted cross-stitch.

Jennifer Maki (Director, *The Sad Truth About Country Songs*) is directing her second play for The Dubuque Fine Arts Players. Previously she directed *Soldier's Heart*. She also appeared in the one act *Where Were You on Your Ninth Birthday*. Additional area directing credits include Galena Art Theatre (*Harvey, 84 Charing Cross Road, Waiting for the Parade*) Western Dubuque High School (*Clue: The Musical*) Drexler Intermediate School (*Bard in a Box: The Taming of the Shrew*). In 2015 she formed a community theater company now based in Farley, Iowa (The Road Less Traveled Community Theatre Company) which is currently in rehearsals for *Steel Magnolias* opening in November. She is grateful for this opportunity to bring this script to life and celebrate the incredible performing talent of our area. Special thanks to her family and friends for their support, Stephen Gracia for this incredible script, and Christopher Daniel Gay for its inspiration. We have much to learn from you and your life.

Justin Milligan (Benjamin, *Provenance*) has always had a passion for theater, and he's also totally not embarrassed to say he was a member of the "Grandma Mojo's Moonshine Revival" comedy troupe at Iowa State University. Now that he's gotten married, moved to Dubuque, and had three children, he's ready to get into acting again, and he's grateful for the opportunity to do so through DBQ One Acts.

Zack Werner (Amos Bartow, *The Sad Truth About Country Songs*) has an acting history which includes Gilmore in *Egad! The Woman in White* and Nicodemus in *The Mystery of Irma Vep* among others. In his off time he enjoys drawing and the time spent at work. He'd like to thank his director and the whole community theatre, his parents and brothers, his roommate and loving girlfriend. Enjoy the show!

Production Credits

Technical & Lighting Director Nicholas Johnson
Stage Manager Nicholas Johnson
Artistic Director Melissa McGuire
Ushers Sherry Oswald
..... Rose Onufrak
..... Wendy Wilwert
General Factotum Tom Boxleiter
Promotion Design & Publicity Art Roche
Program Brian Peters
Mailing Art Roche
Box Office & Webmaster Brian Peters
Photography Barbra Ilten

DBQ One-Acts Board

Thomas Boxleiter, Contest Coordinator

Melissa McGuire

Brian Peters

Art Roche, President

Wendy Wilwert

Acknowledgements

Catherine Boxleiter
Tom Boxleiter
Ryan Michael Decker
Doug Donald
Dubuque County Fine Arts Society
Cathy Goodman
Tom and Geri Goodman
Kintzinger Law Firm, PLC
Lenore Howard
Loras Players
Doug Mackie
The Masonic Temple
Melissa McGuire
Patricia Motto
Net-Smart [providers of www.dbqoneacts.org]
The Richards House
David and Michelle Stewart
Justin Young



DBQ One Acts

Thanks

The Masonic Temple of Dubuque

For providing a space

For us to produce

the 41st winners of the

World's Oldest One-Act Play Writing Contest!

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: Emily Painter and Mike A.H. Link. 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

Dick Auman

Mary Auman

Carol Boleyn

Catherine Boxleiter

Jim Leybourne

Mike A. H. Link

Jennifer Maki

Luke Mann

Melissa McGuire

Steve McGuire

Michelle McKinley

Tom McMahon

Kari Mest

Ann Onufak

Rose Onufak

Sherrie Lou Oswald

Brian Peters

Art Roche

Dianne Roche

Christine Warner

Shannon Wedeking

Wendy Wilwert



**Dubuque County Fine Arts
Society**

Trainwreck Productions

DubuqueFest

DAWG (Dubuque Area Writers Guild)

Dubuque Fine Arts Players

Elisha Darlin Arts Award

Bluff Strokes

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

