# Arena Dinner Theatre

## 2021 - 2022 Season

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**Online: arenadinnertheatre.org**
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**In person: Arts United Center**
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**Once tickets are purchased there are NO REFUNDS.**
All cancellations and exchanges are subject to a $ 2.00 per ticket fee.
All cancellations and exchanges must be made 48 hours in advance.

ARENA DINNER THEATRE PRESENTS

# Clue

"Clue: On Stage"

Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn

Written by Sandy Rustin

Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price

Based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture

Based on the Hasbro board game CLUE

Original Music by David Abbinanti

"Clue (Alternate I)" (a/k/a "Clue Main Title")

Written by John Morris

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**Directed by**

**CHRISTOPHER J. MURPHY**

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# IN MEMORIAM

We dedicate our season to the memory of our fellow theatre family members who left us too soon. Your light remains in our hearts and on our stages. Rest in peace.

BOBBI DANIELS
KIM DETWILER
SCHELLIE ENGELHART
CARLO GARCIA
FRED KRAUSKOPF
MYRA MCFARLAND
ROSY RIDENOUR
ERIN HARNEY SIPLES
BILL AND MARILYN WUNDERLIN

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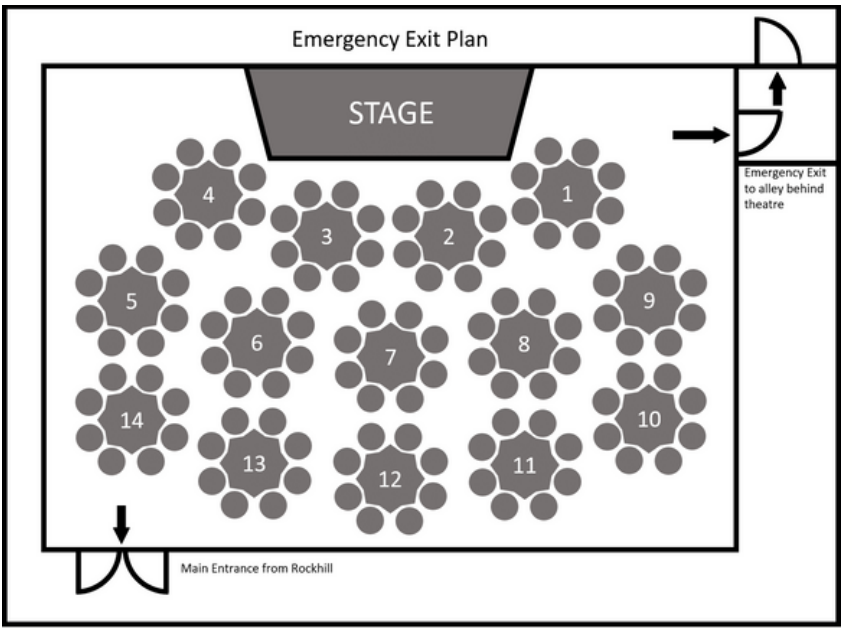

# Arena Dinner Theatre

Welcome! We are so thrilled to welcome you back into our theatre and share our fourth show of the season with you - *Clue: On Stage*. We owe so much of our resilience to you, our dedicated patrons, and to the diligent volunteers that have kept the wheels turning behind the scenes. We have much to be thankful for.

Let us begin by giving our thanks to you, for your continued support. You have allowed us to thrive for 49 years -- yes, can you believe it?! Our first season was in 1973-1974 and we are so excited to share that we have finalized our 50th Anniversary season. You can find the full season on pages 10-11 of your program. We hope you enjoy the lineup of shows that we've chosen. And -- the Audience Choice voting was so popular, that we decided to produce the top TWO winning productions! ***And Then There Were None*** came in first place, with ***No Sex Please, We're British*** coming in close behind.

If you'd like to keep in touch and stay up to date with new developments, you can follow us on social media or sign up for our e-newsletter through our website. You can also sign up to be on our physical mailing list by filling out a card before you leave the theatre tonight.

We are currently run by a hardworking, all volunteer Board of Directors with much appreciated assistance from community volunteers. If you'd like to lend a hand, let us know. We can always use help both behind the scenes and on stage.

We have so many wonderful things in store for you this upcoming season and we're so excited to share them with you. The Arena Theatre Board of Directors thanks you from the depths of our hearts and we hope you have a wonderful time at the show.

Sincerely,
The Arena Dinner Theatre Board of Directors

Facebook: @ArenaDinnerTheatre and Instagram: @arenadinnertheatrefw

# NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: BLOODY GOOD FUN

I have always loved murder mysteries. I have incredibly fond childhood memories of watching old Basil Rathbone Sherlock Holmes movies with my dad; and I may have been the only 9-year-old in America who couldn't wait to get home on Sunday to watch "Murder, She Wrote." So naturally, I loved playing CLUE…even though it's the one game I could never figure out how to cheat at (*something I was notorious for as a kid*).

CLUEDO (a*s it is known in England*) was created during WWII by Anthony Pratt, a London factory worker who was looking for an entertaining way to pass time during German air raids. He was inspired by the popularity of writer Agatha Christie. Material shortages, however, kept CLUEDO (*a twist on the word "ludo," Latin for "I play"*) from being mass-marketed until after the war. Parker Brothers simultaneously brought it stateside as CLUE with a few minor changes: the English victim, "Dr. Black" became "Mr. Boddy" in America, while, perhaps in reverence to our puritanical leanings, "Rev. Green" became "Mr. Green."

Ten-year-old Chris Murphy already loved trying to outwit friends and family over a game when Paramount brought it to the screen in 1985. I vividly remember going and being utterly…disappointed. It wasn't at all what the game was in my head; and I was too young to appreciate the killer cast of top-notch character actors. It wasn't until I watched it much later, maybe in high school, that I realized its brilliance. I've wanted to do it as a play ever since.

A few fun facts for you "Clue" film lovers. Did you know?

- Tim Curry was only cast after Rowan Atkinson (*Mr. Bean*) was deemed too unknown in America.
- Carrie Fisher was originally cast as Miss Scarlet, but entered rehab days before filming began, leaving Leslie Ann Warren to jump in last minute.
- A 4th ending was filmed in which Tim Curry's character committed all the murders, but it was deemed "not very good" by director/writer Jonathan Lynn and removed.

Over the years, CLUE has become a part of our culture. The film has gained cult status. CLUE and CLUEDO continue to be sold in various forms. Mrs. White (*generally portrayed as the maid in the game*) has been replaced by the more feminist Dr. Orchid. There are *Simpsons* and *Harry Potter* editions, among others. There's even a TERRIBLE musical adaptation in which Mrs. White is (*for reasons I can't or don't wish to recall*) played by a man. But it wasn't until a few years ago that someone FINALLY adapted Jonathan Lynn's hilarious film into a stage play. I may have been the first person to order a script the minute it was available. With licensing delays and COVID cancellations, it's been a winding and sometimes mysterious path to the Arena stage. But here we are: a top-notch behind-the-scenes team, a cast of eleven phenomenal character actors, and one director who's been practicing for this since he was a little boy.

**Roll the dice. Let's play!**

Notes by Christopher J. Murphy

# Arena Dinner Theatre

Announcing our 2022-2023 Season

## Lucky Stiff

Book & Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Music by Stephen Flaherty
August 5 – 20, 2022

## into the BREECHES!

a play by George Brant
October 28 – November 12, 2022

## Mrs. Bob Cratchit's WILD Christmas Binge

By Christopher Durang
December 2 – 17, 2022

## The Ladies Man

By Charles Morey
January 20 – February 4, 2023

# Arena Dinner Theatre

Announcing our 2022-2023 Season

Audience Choice Winners

## NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH

By Anthony Marriott & Alistair Foot
March 10 – 25, 2023

## And Then There Were None

By Agatha Christie
April 28 – May 13, 2023

## A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER

Book & Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman
Music & Lyrics by Steven Lutvak
June 16 – July 1, 2023

# Clue

## THE PLAYERS

### The Help:

TODD FRYMIER as Wadsworth, the butler

LINDSAY HOOPS as Yvette, the maid

### The Suspects:

JIM MATUSIK as Colonel Mustard

CHRISSY WEADICK as Mrs. White

PAM KARKOSKY as Mrs. Peacock

TRACY COLLINS as Mr. Green

JAMES SCOTT as Prof. Plum

OLIVIA RANG as Miss Scarlet

### Surprise Guests:

EMERSEN CONNER

MICHAEL COALE

& JIM NELSON

## TIME

1954, just before dinner on a dark & stormy night.

## PLACE

Boddy Manor, a mansion of epic proportions & terrifying secrets just outside Washington D.C.

- THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION -

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Direction & Set Design.....Christopher J. Murphy
Stage-Manager.....Andrew Gross
Asst. Stage-Manager.....Cassandra Smith
Music Director/Accompanist.....Ben Wedler
Additional Staging.....Heather Closson
Costume Designer.....Jan Klee
Lighting Designer.....Jeremy Springer
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Ashley Brassell
Lighting Consultant.....Miriam Morgan
Sound Designer.....Nick Lubs
Props.....Beth Kuebler-Wolf
Light Board Operator.....Josiah Beights
Set Construction Lead.....Jordan Plohr
Set Construction and Scenic Painting.....Sean Arata, Josh McDowell, Dave Felts, Steve Johnson, Winston Enos, Scott Buckel, Chip Davis, Brett Lackey, Mark Shaylor, Justin Dirig, Emersen Conner, Ryan Peroza, Kathleen Weinert, Marissa Drew, Cassandra Smith
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Fort Wayne Youtheatre
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Gloria Minnich
Leslie Beauchamp
Todd Frymier
The Bob Salon
Mason Hunter
Miriam Morgan
Dee Stoner & Teresa Cortez - Stoner's Funstore
Angela Sahli, Rosemary Hampton, Corey Lee & Jim Hulbert - Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
Todd Sandman-Cruz & Rae Surface - First Presbyterian Theater

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**TODD FRYMIER** (Wadsworth) has appeared in productions such as ***Company***, directed by Christopher J. Murphy; ***Assassins***, directed by Christopher J. Murphy; ***A Little Night Music***, directed by Christopher J. Murphy; and ***Present Laughter***, directed by Christopher J. Murphy. As a director, he helmed ***Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*** and ***A Life in the Theatre***, both featuring Christopher J. Murphy. Recently, he performed in Civic's ***...Forum***, alongside (you guessed it) Christopher J. Murphy; and ***Every Brilliant Thing***, which Christopher J. Murphy attended as an audience member. Todd would like to thank Christopher J. Murphy for writing his bio.

**LINDSAY HOOPS** (Yvette) Lindsay is thrilled to be back on the Arena stage! Lindsay has performed both locally and regionally, is a private acting instructor and teaching artist for the Fort Wayne Youtheatre and has recently begun directing. Local favorites include: ***Comedy of Tenors***, ***Play On!*** & ***Company*** (Arena Dinner Theatre), ***Les Miserables***, ***Beauty and the Beast*** and ***Jekyll and Hyde*** (FW Civic), ***Cabaret*** and ***Light in the Piazza*** (TRMT) and ***I Will Wait*** with the Veteran's Spouse Project. "All my love to sweet Jimmy Mitchell and our beloved cat children."

**JIM MATUSIK** (Colonel Mustard) Jim is stoked to return to the Arena stage for this great adaptation of a classic board game....just wait until we do Monopoly, the Musical! Recent roles include a little cameo as the Professor in Fort Wayne Youththeatre's ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe***, and Mr. Fogg in ***Sweeney Todd***, and Sam in ***Mamma Mia*** at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, as well as Morris Dixon in ***Present Laughter***, Dr. Watson in ***Baskerville*** at FPT. Special thanks to Katie, for being such a great daughter.

**CHRISSY WEADICK** (Mrs. White) Chrissy is fiercely proud to be making her mainstage Arena debut as Mrs. White. Local credits include ***Matilda***, ***Sweeney Todd***, and ***Mamma Mia*** at FW Civic, and ***[title of show]***, ***Spring Awakening***, and ***A New Brain*** at Three Rivers Music Theatre. Offstage, Chrissy is a remote production manager for Second City Works, the B2B arm of the famed comedy institution. Many thanks to Murphy & team, Marshall, Skate Gang, and The Quarantinx. For Dad, always.

**PAM KARKOSKY** (Mrs. Peacock) Pam was recently seen as Franklin in the Civic's female version of ***1776***. An award-winning actress, some of Pam's favorite roles include Sister Mary Lazarus in USF's ***Sister Act*** and (many years ago) Andy in ***Steppin' Out***, City Her in ***Gifts of the Magi***, Ensemble in ***The Dining Room*** and Widow Corney in ***Oliver***. In her college days, she played Mrs. Frank in ***The Diary of Anne Frank***, Juanita in ***Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean***, Rosemary in ***Picnic*** and Amanda Wingfield in ***The Glass Menagerie***. "Much love to my family, friends, and squad!"

**TRACY COLLINS** (Mr. Green) Tracy is tickled to make a return to the stage after a long hiatus. He last appeared as Bazzard in ***The Mystery of Edwin Drood***, also under the direction of Christopher Murphy at Arena. He has performed at all of the area theaters and hopes to stay a part of the local theater scene. As always, for Marilyn.

**JAMES SCOTT** (Professor Plum) James has recently made his return home after 13 years of professional acting in Chicago, Colorado & Los Angeles. A graduate from Ball State, James studied at the famous The Second City Conservatory & Stan Kirsch Studios. Regional credits: Sebastian (***The Little Mermaid***), Corporal Howard (***A Few Good Men***), Mister Applegate (***Damn Yankees***), Ali Hakim (***Oklahoma***), Stanley Stubbers (***One Man Two Guvnors***), earning various Broadway World nominations. He is signed with CESD Talent LA & would like to thank his family & friends for their love & support. Instagram: @thejamesrush

**OLIVIA RANG** (Miss Scarlet) Olivia received her formal dance training from the Fort Wayne Ballet, and has also worked with the Buglisi Dance Theatre and the Radio City Rockettes. Previous theatre credits include ***Cabaret*** (Three Rivers Music Theatre), ***Assassins*** and ***A Little Night Music*** (Arena Dinner Theatre), ***Young Frankenstein*** and ***Matilda*** (Civic Theatre), ***Catch Me if You Can*** (USF). Choreography credits include ***Little Mermaid*** (Civic Theatre), ***HAIR*** (Three Rivers Music Theatre) and Holiday Pops (Fort Wayne Philharmonic). Olivia is so grateful for the love and support of her family, friends, and incredible husband.

**EMERSEN "Emmie" CONNER** (Surprise Guest) Emmie has been performing as long as she can remember, and is excited to be performing at Arena for the first time. You may have seen her recently as a Gemini at the Civic Theatre's ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum***, the White Witch in the Fort Wayne Youtheatre's ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe***, or as Wednesday Addams in Summit City Music Theatre's ***The Addams Family***. Emmie spends most of her time working at Youtheatre and cuddling her cats: Kitten Boy and Begue.

**MICHAEL COALE** (Surprise Guest) Michael is thrilled to be returning to the Arena stage after a bit of a hiatus due to a bit of a pandemic. Michael is currently considering not learning the end of the show so he doesn't spoil the surprise! Previous credits include Judge Turpin in ***Sweeney Todd*** at Civic, Max in ***A Comedy of Tenors***, Self in ***Complt Wrks of Wlm Shkspr [abridged][revised]***, and Paul in ***Barefoot in the Park***, all at Arena.

**JIM NELSON** (Surprise Guest) Jim is grateful to have the opportunity to appear once again on the Arena stage. Most recently, he appeared as Miss Trunchbull in Fort Wayne Civic's production of ***Matilda***. Other Arena plays he's done have been ***Boeing Boeing***, ***Caught in the Net***, ***The Man Who Came to Dinner***, and ***Magnolia***, and countless others. Thanks to all who were there for me during the last year and a half. You make my spirit soar.

Thanks so much for joining us
in the house tonight.
Hope you enjoy the show!

Speaking of ***houses***...

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# THE HISTORY OF ARENA DINNER THEATRE

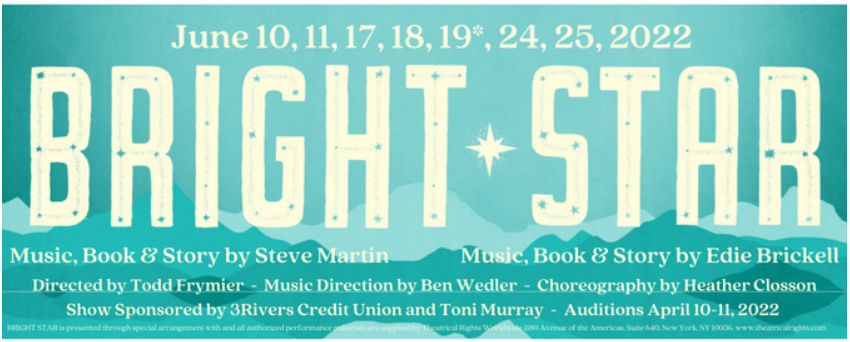
Arena Dinner Theatre came into existence as a result of budget cuts in the Fort Wayne Parks Department in 1974. Formerly known as Theatre Workshop, it was the only theatre in the city at that time to perform regularly in the round at the old Jefferson Center on the southwest corner of Jefferson and Fairfield, now home of the downtown McDonald's. Funding for Theatre Workshop was eliminated and the theatre's future looked bleak.

Not willing to abandon the unique concept of the theatre, which had been in operation since 1962, Board members sought a new location and funding to continue operating as a separate not-for-profit entity. They approached the director of the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce about the prospect of opening a dinner theatre in the Anthony Wayne Ballroom of the Chamber building on Wayne and Ewing streets and a relationship was forged that would last ten years. Arena was, and continues to be, the areas only full time dinner theatre. Shows were performed in the round on a stage with a set and lights that had to be assembled and struck every weekend. After a change in direction and policy at the Chamber of Commerce, Arena was once again forced to seek a new home.

For the next ten years it became known as a theatre on the move, having performed at no less than eight other sites around the Fort Wayne area, and finding rehearsal space at even more locations, before finally finding a permanent home here in the historic West Central Neighborhood. Thanks to grants from many arts supportive foundations, philanthropic organizations and private citizens, along with the determination and elbow grease of many volunteers, Arena was able to purchase and renovate the much deteriorated Fort Wayne Art School Little Theatre, designed by the architect firm of Wing & Mahurin and built in the 1920's. The theatre had been empty since the Fort Wayne Art School had become IPFW's Fine Arts program and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art had been established in their current building on Main and Lafayette. Rich in history, the building was initially a recital hall where luminaries such as Albert Schweitzer, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sir John Gielgud, Carl Sandburg, Martha Graham and Basil Rathbone once graced the stage located just half a block from Carole Lombard's childhood home. The transformation of the building into an intimate, yet elegant, dinner theatre was astounding. Arena has been in the West Central Neighborhood since 1995 and we don't plan on moving again!

# NEXT AT ARENA

Synopsis: Grandpa Vanderhof and his wacky family, the Sycamores, have been happily living their zany lives in his house by Columbia University in New York for many years. This family (and their friends) are a madcap group of eccentrics, marching to the beat of their own drum, with pride and joy. But when practical young Alice Sycamore becomes engaged to her company's Vice President Tony Kirby, the Vanderhof/Sycamore clan must straighten up to meet the new in-laws. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU is a madcap, idealistic comedy that reinforces the idea that you can only live life to the fullest by doing whatever makes you happy.




Synopsis: Inspired by a real event and featuring the Grammy-nominated score by Steven Martin and Edie Brickell, Broadway's BRIGHT STAR tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past – and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds you tight in its grasp, BRIGHT STAR is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

Activities are made possible in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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# WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**CHRISTOPHER J. MURPHY** (Direction & Set Design) spent many a happy hour solving mysteries around the CLUE board as a child. At age 10, he had his mother drive him and a friend (also named Chris) to the now-long-gone Southtown Cinema to see the movie. It was ALL THE WAY across town…but was the only theatre in town to show it…and they had ALL THREE endings…so it was worth it. A short time later, he tried hosting a CLUE-themed birthday party using a toy cowboy pistol and a table knife among the weapons; but his little brother cracked his head open on the bannister of "Boddy Manor," requiring a trip to the ER before the murderer could be revealed. Now all grown up, Murphy is pleased to be "playing" ***Clue*** once more with his friends and hopes you all enjoy the game!

**ANDREW GROSS** (Stage Manager) Andrew is pleased to once again be working at the Arena Dinner Theatre. He did his first show with Arena, ***In Praise of Love***, in 1979. With ***Clue***, we have a great director and a wonderful cast and crew. So, sit back and enjoy the show! And as always, Andrew would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support and encouragement.

**CASSANDRA SMITH** (Assistant Stage Manager) is taking a break from being on stage to help out behind the scenes. She was Assistant Director for ***Charlotte's Web*** and Stage Manager for ***The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe***, both with Youtheatre where she is also an intern. She has been involved in theatre for 9 years and was most recently on stage as Jovie in ***Elf Jr.*** Cassandra says thank you to the Youtheatre staff for putting up with her, especially Murphy and Emmie.

**BEN WEDLER** (Music Director) is excited to help bring this stage adaptation of his favorite film to life from a vantage point where he gets to watch every night! Ben has music directed many musicals at Arena, Youtheatre and Civic over the past fifteen years, including ***Assassins***, ***Seussical***, ***Elf***, ***Frozen*** and ***Sweeney Todd***. He is Arena's Board Treasurer and, by day, Music and Liturgy Director for St. Elizabeth's Catholic church. Love and thanks to Leah, Evelyn, Henry & Ollie.

**HEATHER CLOSSON** (Additional Staging) always loves a show that involves murder, mystery, and mayhem! Heather's only appearance on the Arena stage earned her a nomination for her portrayal of not one, but *two* dead bodies in ***Arsenic and Old Lace***.. Which has never proven itself useful until this very production! Recent credits: ***Seussical the Musical*** (Mayzie LaBird), ***Elf, Jr.*** (Choreo.), Holiday Pops (Choreo./Performer), ***A Funny Thing...Forum*** (Panacea), and ***Annie*** (Lily St. Regis). Up next: ***The Greatest Showman: In Concert*** (First Presbyterian Theater) and ***Bright Star*** (Arena Dinner Theatre). @heatherclaw

**JAN KLEE** (Costume Design) received her undergrad in theatre from IPFW and studied costume design at University of Illinois. Early career highlights include University of Rhode Island, Portland Opera, Calumet Opera House, and Wilkes University. Upon returning to Fort Wayne, Jan designed church dramas while working and raising her daughters. Recently, Jan has designed color guard costumes for Snider and Bluffton. Favorite Arena designs include ***Drood***, ***Company***, and ***Night Music***. This fall she costumed ***Elf Jr.*** for Youtheatre. Jan loves to make people look good and feel good on stage and can't wait for you to see this wonderful cast.

**NICK LÜBS** (Sound Designer) After a 4-year hiatus, he's back at it again. IPFW Theatre Alumni "LÜBS" was last seen in the industry composing/designing sound and lighting for productions such as ***Funny Little Thing Called Love***, ***Blithe Spirit***, ***Road***, ***God's Ear***, and ***The Glass Menagerie***. You may have seen him in the orchestra for local productions of ***Anything Goes***, ***Merrily We Roll Along***, and ***Sweeney Todd***. Recently, he's been pursuing electronic music by creating the first "4-Dimensional EDM Concert Experience" at Parkview's Artslab. Follow his adventures on social media - @LubsOfficial.

**JEREMY SPRINGER & ASHLEY BRASSELL** (Lighting Design) have worked alongside a dozen different performing arts organizations in and around Fort Wayne, doing lighting design; sound design and audio engineering; scenic design, construction, and painting; props design and building; and much more. With over 30 years of combined experience in the performing arts, they've done a little bit of everything. This is their first time working in Arena, and they are thrilled to be here!

# AUDITORIUM ARTWORK

## JOVAN MVROS

Artist Biography: "Starting my artistic journey as a young man, the desire to create art that I attained soon became an unyielding obligation to myself to explore the inner mechanism of my creative consciousness. From small sketches to large scale projects, my art is a highly-personal reflection of myself. I live and work in Decatur, IN and share studio/gallery space ("LaughingCat Gallery+Studio") with my wife Laurie, who is a Weaver and Textile Artist."

Mrvos' work can be viewed on his painting blog: https://indianacornreport.blogspot.com

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We appreciate the hard work that everyone has put into this production of *Clue: On Stage*!

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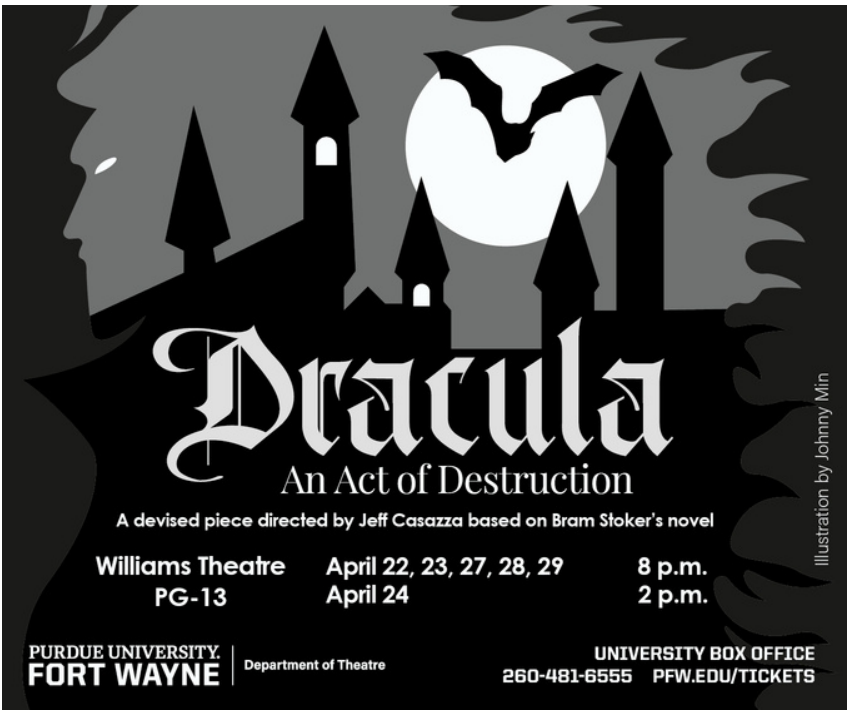

Walnut Hill Catering and Events specializes in personally created menu, and event design adding freshness, flair, and hospitality to an organization or individual's event. We support local producers, vendors, and farm-to-table initiatives.

Our clients have included: Parkview Health System, Ambassador Enterprises, The Summit, Grace College, Purdue Fort Wayne, Ball State University, Strauss Veal Feeds, The Cottage Event Center, National Corvette Restorers Society, The Los Angeles Dodgers, St. Joe Conservation Club - USSA, Illinois Indiana Bison Association, Purdue Men's Glee Club, The Foellinger Foundation, The City of Fort Wayne, Jaylon Smith, and private events including: Personal Chef Services, Cooking Classes, Team-Building Culinary Exercises, In-Home Dinner Parties, Wedding Rehearsals/Receptions, Multi-Day Reunions, Graduations, Event Concessions, Funeral Dinners, ServSafe Food Manager Training & Examination Proctoring, and Culinary Facility Consultation.

We have participated as part of the select culinary team supporting celebrity Chef's Jose Garces, Stephanie Izard, Graham Elliot, Michael White, Geoffrey Zarkarian, Jean-Georges Vongerichten, and Marcus Samuelsson for the "Blessings in a Backpack" Fundraiser at Sycamore Hills Golf Club, AWAC Seafood Boil with Chef Michael DiVidts from The New Orleans School of Cooking, as well as SCAN's Brown Bag Lunch.

Jim Huffman, Owner, serves as Chairman on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network, and is an Adjunct Instructor at Ivy Tech Community College.

We are ServSafe Certified, Insured, and follow stringent on-site food safety practices.

Jim Huffman, Owner
260.438.1607
WHCRBT@gmail.com

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