

# Backstage Pass

Minnesota State Mankato  
Theatre  
& Dance

June 2008

## Highland Summer Theatre 2008

By the evening of Monday, May 19—the first day of rehearsal—the entire show *Dial 'M' for Murder* had been blocked by first-year Highland Summer Theatre director Heather E. Hamilton (*Dancing at Lughnasa*). From there, it was all polish.

Things move quickly during the summer, even more quickly than during the school year. In just nine short weeks, four plays—including two big musical productions—are rehearsed, performed and enjoyed! We've been doing that for 42 years now, and we have no intentions of ending that tradition any time soon.

There are three big reasons we can do that:

1. We're able to start designing all shows and building the first one at the end of the school year;

2. We cast the shows and get scripts to our actors early so they arrive at the first day of rehearsals with their lines memorized; and



The salesmen from 1996's production of *The Music Man*.

3. It's just so darn much fun!

For *Dial 'M,'* we've got Hamilton directing, first-year faculty member John Paul doing scenic design, first-

year costumer Jessica Guthrie making her Minnesota State Mankato design debut, George Grubb on sound design and the ever-trustworthy Steve Smith on lighting design. It's also the first summer show for our crack student production staff that includes Production Stage Manager Amanda Rozmiarek, Technical Director Doug Bennett and Assistant Stage Manager Kevin Carroll. All were invaluable during the school year and will be adding to their educations this summer.

The cast features Heather Ann Folsom, Cody Gerrells, Micah J. L. Kronlokken, John Olive and "hired gun" Ryan Sturgis. We welcome back our sponsor, Hale Associates.

Director Paul Finocchiaro and Musical Director Nick Wayne take charge in *Smokey Joe's Café* June 12-



*The Boys Next Door* from 1992.

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# Theatre & Dance Schedule 2008-09

## MAINSTAGE SEASON

### *Miss Saigon*

7:30 p.m. Oct. 1-5 and 8-11  
2:00 p.m. Oct. 5 & 12  
Ted Paul Theatre

### *Harvey*

7:30 p.m. Nov. 6-9 & 13-15  
2:00 p.m. Nov. 9 & 16  
Ted Paul Theatre

### *Noises Off*

7:30 p.m. Feb. 19-22 & 26-28  
2:00 p.m. Feb. 22 & March 1  
Ted Paul Theatre

### *Lysistrata*

7:30 p.m. Oct. 15-19 & 22-25  
2:00 p.m. Oct. 19 & 26  
Andreas Theatre

### *The History Boys*

7:30 p.m. Jan. 28-Feb. 1 & Feb. 4-7  
2:00 p.m. Feb. 1 & 8  
Andreas Theatre

### *Mame*

7:30 p.m. April 9-12 & 16-18  
2:00 p.m. April 12 & 19  
Ted Paul Theatre

## STUDIO SEASON & DANCE CONCERTS

### *Cloud Tectonics*

7:30 p.m. Sept. 18-21  
Andreas Theatre

### *See What I Want to See*

7:30 p.m. Nov. 20-23  
Andreas Theatre

### **Fall Dance Concert**

7:30 p.m. Dec. 4-5 & 1 p.m. Dec. 6  
Ted Paul Theatre

### *Rabbit Hole*

7:30 p.m. April 23-26  
Andreas Theatre

### *Tobacco Road*

7:30 p.m. March 26-29  
Andreas Theatre

### **Spring Dance Concert**

7:30 p.m. April 30-May 1 & 1 p.m. May 2  
Ted Paul Theatre

*Season brochures will be mailed in mid-August. For more information about shows, be sure to visit us at [MSUTheatre.com](http://MSUTheatre.com)*

## Summer theatre season: Continued from page 1

15. They'll lead a cast of nine through nearly 40 songs written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller that includes "Dance with Me," "Kansas City," "Fools Fall in Love," "Hound Dog," "Love Potion No. 9," "Spanish Harlem" and many more.

The cast is a mix of current students—Mathias Becker, Jacleen Olson, Clayton Rutschow, Travis Shafer and Andrew D. Umphrey—alumni—Akia Fleming, Mallory Martin and Toby Miller—and returning performers—Christina Dyrland Smith. They will be featured on a scenic design by MFA candidate Allen Shannon, who this year designed (and starred as "Old Deuteronomy") *Cats* and *Hamlet*.

Up June 25-29 in the Andreas Theatre, sponsored by the Minnesota State Mankato TRIO Programs, is *The*

*Boys Next Door*. It is directed by Paul J. Hustoles, with scenic design again by Allen Shannon (and featuring the rest of the summertime production team).

This show features many current students in an ensemble cast: Joel Partyka, Micah J. L. Kronlokken, Mathias Becker, Jacleen Olson, Jeff A. Smith and Cody Gerrells. Alums include Heather Ann Folsom and Mark E. Bailey (last seen as the King in *Cinderella* during HST 2005).

Finally, we close our summer season with one of the few shows we've done three times: *The Music Man*. Performances are 7:30 p.m. July 11-13 and 17-20 in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Hustoles again directs, this time with a scenic design by our academic year technical director, Randy York.

Randy's designs are often seen during Highland Summer Theatre.

Andrew D. Umphrey stars as Harold Hill, that loveable peddler of boys bands, opposite alum Mallory Martin as Marian the Librarian. The large supporting cast includes many youngsters from the surrounding area (see accompanying story).

Returning sponsors are Eide Bailly, the Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic, PA, and the Pamela and R. Wynn Kearney Foundation.

Individual tickets for ALL Highland Summer Theatre productions are available now by calling 507-389-6661 between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. A ticket request form is available at [MSUTheatre.com](http://MSUTheatre.com).

## Local kids populating River City

**Luke Ambrose**, 10, is the son of Kerri and Ken Ambrose of Mankato. A soon-to-be fifth-grader at Jefferson Elementary School, he has appeared in the Children's Choir production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He enjoys soccer, skiing and track.

**Bridget Foy**, the daughter of Lolly and Terry Foy of Mankato, will turn nine during *The Music Man*, and will be a fourth-grader at Bridges Elementary School in the fall. She has performed for six years with "Jenny Wren and the Six Pence" at Renaissance Festivals in Minnesota, Texas and Arizona. She played in the Rat Chorus of *The Pied Piper* for Missoula Children's Theatre and was "Auntie Em" and "Glinda the Good Witch" in *The Wizard of Oz* for Stage Works Summer Theatre Camp in Charlotte, NC. Being in *The Music Man* with Mom will be Bridget's "grown-up-theatre" debut.

**Lydia Helder**, 9, is the daughter of Launa and Jason Helder of Mankato. Soon to be a fourth-grader at Bridges Elementary School, she dances and enjoys gymnastics. With Prairie Fire Theatre she has appeared as "Schmegens" in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and "A Mouse" in *Cinderella*.

**Lucas Hendrickson**, 11, just completed fifth grade at Bridges Elementary School. The son of Margy and Marcus Hendrickson of Mankato, he appeared as "Flute" in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, "Bobo" in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and "Cratchit No. 4" in *A Christmas Carol* with St. Peter Area Children's Theatre. He enjoys playing soccer.

**Kinsale Morrow** has appeared in two previous Minnesota State Mankato productions: As "Baby June" in *Gypsy* and in the chorus of *Cinderella*. She also appeared as the title character in *Miranda's Amazing Adventure* at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and in numerous St. Peter Area Children's Theatre productions. The 11-year-old daughter of Martha and Terry Morrow of St. Peter, she completed fifth grade at North Intermediate School. She enjoys soccer, and has participated with the Mankato Children's Choir, Mankato Ballet and Dance Conservatory.

**Magdalena Morrow**, 14, is the daughter of Martha and Terry Morrow of St. Peter. At Minnesota State Mankato she has appeared as "Kate Cratchit" in *A Christmas Carol*, "Young Louise" in *Gypsy*, "Mary Rogers" in *The Will Rogers Follies* and in the chorus of *Showboat* and *Cinderella*. Soon to be a 10th-grader at St. Peter High School, she enjoys singing, ballet, tap, jazz and modern dance, and soccer.

**Cedar Mowrey** is the 10-year-old son of Tina and Jon Mowrey of Mankato. Soon to be a fifth-grader at Jefferson Elementary, he appeared in the children's choir in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at West High School and has performed solos at church and school.

**Charles Nissen**, 7, is the son of Angela Murilla and Jonas Nissen of St. Clair. Soon to be a second-grader at St. Clair Elementary, he enjoys wrestling.

**Aria M. Smith**, 7, daughter of Steve and Christi Smith of Mankato, completed her first-grade year at Jefferson Elementary. She has performed solos in church choir, and enjoys T-ball, swimming and figure skating.

**Peter Stelter** of St. Peter just completed the third grade at North Intermediate School. The nine-year-old son of Carrie and Keith Stelter, he appeared as an "Oompa Loompa" in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and "Grandchild" in *A Christmas Story* with the St. Peter Area Children's Theatre and as a "Pirate" in the Prairie Fire Theatre production of *Peter Pan*. He plays baseball.

**Trevin Wacker**, 11, just completed his fifth-grade year at Kennedy Elementary. The son of DeeAnn and Darren Wacker, he appeared on the Minnesota State Mankato stage as "Dodger" in *Peter Pan* and a Boy in *Gypsy*. In addition, he appeared in Prairie Fire Children's Theatre productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Cinderella*, *Tom Sawyer* and *Alladin and His Magic Lamp*, as well as being "Scrooge" in a fifth-grade production of *A Christmas Carol*. He enjoys soccer.

**Isaac Westphal** is familiar to Minnesota State Mankato audiences through appearances as "Michael" in *Peter Pan* and "Ricky" in *The Seven Year Itch*. The 9-year-old son of Lisa and Todd Westphal of St. Peter, he completed his third-grade year at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran School. He has performed with the Metropolitan Boys Choir, and enjoys hockey and soccer.