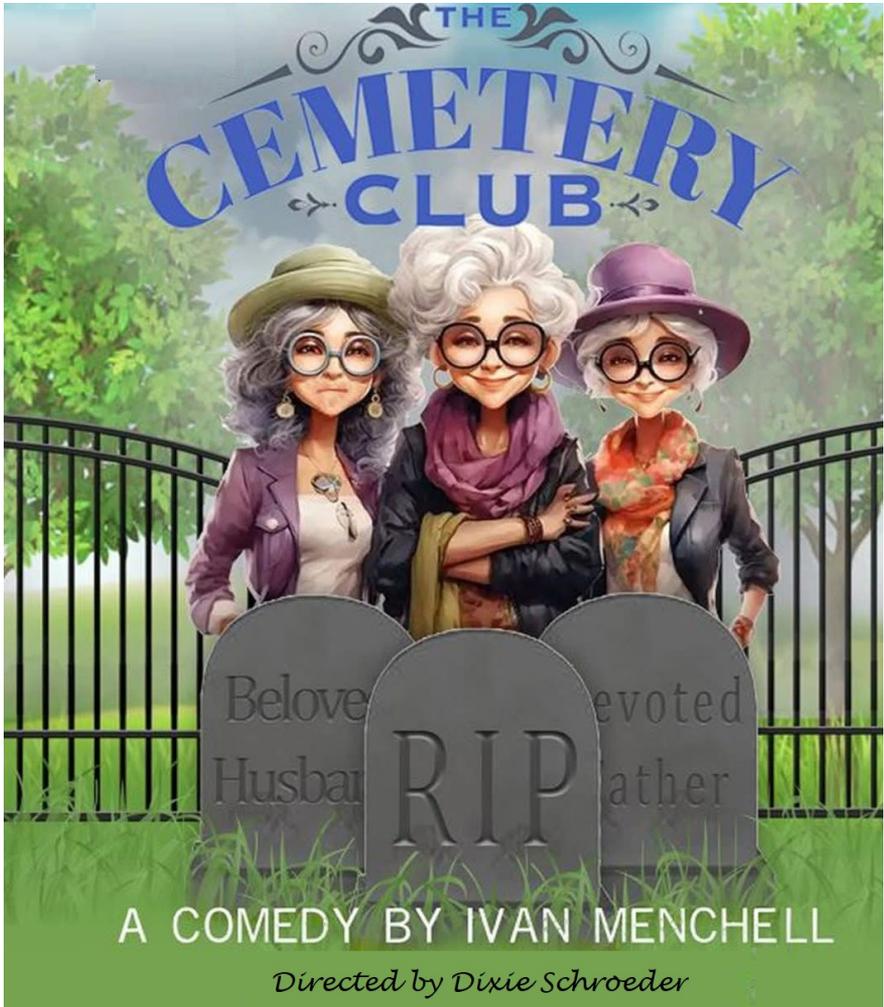


The Prairie Arts Council Presents



Fri Feb 27 & Sat Feb 28, 2026 — 7:30 pm

Sun Mar 1, 2026 — 2:00 pm

Prairie Arts Center

24 Park Avenue East, Princeton, IL 61356

CAST of Characters

IdaShelley Gorenz
Lucille.....Lisa Gifford
Doris.....Karin Hansen
Sam.....Josh Bush
MildredLaurie Ann Innis

Setting

The Time is mid-Autumn. The Present
The action of the play takes place
in the living room of Ida's house
and a cemetery in Forest Hills Queens

ACT ONE

Scene 1 — Ida's Living Room

Scene 2 — The Cemetery

Scene 3 — Ida's House Late Afternoon

Scene 4 — Abe's Plot

15 Minute Intermission

Snacks & Refreshments available in the lobby

Donations gratefully accepted

ACT TWO

Scene 1 — Ida's House

Scene 2 — Ida's House 2 am

Scene 3 — Ida's Living Room the next morning

Scene 4 — Abe's Plot

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Dixie Schroeder
Producer.....Jill Marti
Assistant Director.....Jennifer Walk-Dudek
Set Design/Construction.....Gary Talsky,
David Gorenz, Dads of The *Magic of Christmas*
Show, Ken Schroeder, Karen Talsky
Set Decoration/Painting....Jill & Andy Marti, Laurie Innis
Props.....Cast & Crew
CostumesCast
Light/Sound Design/Execution.....Gary Talsky
Photography/Video/Podcast.....James Gassen
Web Support.....Jack Olson
Facebook.....Dave Gorenz
Concessions.....PAC Volunteers

The Cemetery Club is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
www.concordtheatricals.com

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tammy Tieman & The PAC Board
Stage 212—Reid Tomasson
David Gorenz, Jack Olson, IVCC
Shaw Media & Starved Rock Media

**Donations to the PAC are always welcomed
Thank you for your support!**





Dixie Schroeder (Director)

“I have gotten extremely lucky with this cast and crew, and I hope our audience will enjoy their efforts. We have been blessed with some new talents to the Princeton area and some veterans have pitched in to fill in the pieces nicely,” Schroeder said. She is excit-

ed to be able to do adult theater again and appreciates all the work that the cast has done to make the show what it is today. From newcomers to the PAC stage like Lisa Guifford and Karin Hansen to the veteran PAC players like Shelley Gorenz, Laurie Innis and Josh Bush, Schroeder feels like she has a solid cast on the stage.

“And then to tech, I was so very blessed to have Gary Talsky, Jill Marti, Jennifer Dudek and Landon Bush to take on lights, sound, costumes, set decorating, stage managing and script prompting. This has been an amazingly enjoyable experience,” she added.

Schroeder gives thanks to the board for their support and looks forward to more collaborations in the future. She lives in Princeton with husband Ken and cats Zaphod and Trillian.



Ivan Menchell (Author)

Ivan Menchell's Broadway credits include *Bonnie & Clyde* (book), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (additional material), and *The Cemetery Club*. Off-Broadway/Tours include *Smiling*

Through (book), *The Prince & The Pauper* (book), *The Surprise Party*. For the screen, Mr. Menchell wrote an adaptation of his play, *The Cemetery Club*, starring Ellen Burstyn, Diane Ladd, and Olympia Dukakis; is co-writer of Samuel Goldwyn's *Napoleon*; and served as a writer on Universal's animated feature, *Curious George*. An Emmy nominated television writer, he created the critically acclaimed Showtime series, *Bedtime* and has served as Writer/Co-Executive Producer on Disney Channel's Phil of *The Future* and *JONAS*, starring the Jonas Brothers. He was also a writer/producer on the long-running CBS comedy *The Nanny*, and the FOX dramatic series *Time of Your Life*, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt. Ivan is the recipient of a Fulbright fellowship for his playwriting and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.



Josh Bush (Sam)

Josh is returning to PAC, previously seen in *Death-trap* and *Barefoot in the Park*. He was last seen playing multiple roles in *Tuna Does Vegas*. Lately, Josh has been performing at River Valley Players in performances such as *Shrek*, *Anything Goes*, *Catch Me If You Can*, and *Legally Blonde*. Josh shared the stage with his son during the *Shrek* production at River Valley Players, which was so much fun; they're back together for this show, with Josh on stage and his Landon as Stage Manager. Josh enjoys cooking and is looking forward to softball season.



Shelley Gorenz (Ida)

Shelley Gorenz is no stranger to the PAC stage, having performed and directed many times at PAC and having performed in community theater in Homestead Festival shows as well as at River Valley Players in Henry. She co-directed children's theater for over 20 years and directed many summer youth productions involving high school and college students. Favorite roles include Sister Margaret in *The Sound of Music* and Marmee March in *Little Women*. Gorenz is a retired counselor and Princeton native. She currently volunteers at the TCOC Food Pantry and is an Educator for the Alzheimer's Association. Gorenz enjoys walking, reading, baking, binge watching foreign-language TV series, and playing with her grandchildren. She lives with her husband, David, and dog, Leo.

MARCH EVENTS AT THE PAC

Wed March 11 - Vase Pour Painting Class with Collette Yelm
Sun March 15 - PHS Honors Concert



Lisa Gifford (Lucille)

Lisa is delighted to make her debut with PAC Theatre in *The Cemetery Club* as Lucille. Previous credits include Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo* (Engle Lane Theatre), Monica in *Beyond the Great* (Morris Theatre Guild), the Ugly Duckling in *Shrek* (River Valley Players), and roles at Stage 212 as Karen in *Jake's Women* and Viney in *The Miracle Worker*. Lisa is an educator, administrator, and theatre artist with experience spanning community theatre, higher education, and educational leadership. She has worked as a director, designer, performer, and instructor, and currently serves as adjunct faculty while remaining active onstage and behind the scenes. She is grateful to share this production with such a talented cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show.



Karin Hansen (Doris)

Karin has been involved in performing arts and theater in many capacities, both on stage and behind the scenes in marketing, development, event planning, costuming, props, and administration, since earning her BFA in Theater at Millikin University. Her favorite past roles include Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, Bo in *Criminal Hearts*, and Wanda in *The Baby Dance*; she spent more than a decade doing comedy murder mysteries at wineries, being paid to be "an improvisational smart aleck."

She's currently developing a one-woman show (*Lost Child*) and an interpretation of a historical figure. Karin works full-time as a corporate event planner, coordinating meetings around the world and traveling to Rome, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Paris, Dallas, and Ft. Lauderdale. She enjoys sailing and serves on the board of directors of the Midwest Women's Sailing Conference. This is her second show at PAC and she's very happy to be a member of *The Cemetery Club* !





Laurie Ann Innis (Mildred)

Laurie is 56 years old from Ladd, IL and has been involved in community theater in previous years both as an actor and stage background artist. She has had several roles in past productions including *6 Rms Riv Vu* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Stage 212 in LaSalle and *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, and *Leaving Iowa* here at the Prairie Arts Center. She enjoys theater in every aspect and, after a long hiatus, is thrilled to be a part of this play! She loves baking, cooking, documentary films, and reading murder mysteries.



Jennifer Dudek-Walk (Assistant Director/Crew)

Jennifer has performed locally for 30+ years. Her most recent credits include *Shrek The Musical* at River Valley Players, *Bonnie and Clyde* at Stage 212, and *The Prom* at IVCC. She last appeared on the PAC stage as Beth Ziegler in *Delval Divas*.



Landon Bush (Stage Manager)

Landon is making his PAC debut. Landon will be running the backstage area as Stage Director. Landon made his acting debut last fall in River Valley Player's production of *Shrek*. Landon enjoys playing video games and spending time with his 2 cats Atreyu and Garfield.



Gary Talsky (Set/Lights/Sound)

Gary has been involved with the PAC Theater since 2013 as an actor, set builder, lights, sound, and event support here and has done some of the above at 15 other venues in IL, WI, and IA over the past 17 years. He previously worked with Dixie on *Don't Drink the Water* (212) and *Greater Tuna* (PAC). Love to Karen & Butterscotch!

LOOKING FOR A CREATIVE OUTLET? LOOK NO FURTHER!

The Prairie Arts Council theater department is here to help you express your creativity. *We are looking for volunteers to help with ALL aspects of a production both on and off stage.* Check out the options below and contact Tammy Tieman, PAC Theater Director, at prairieartsprinceton@gmail.com or leave a message at 815-875-2787.

ACTOR/SINGER/DANCER: If you enjoy acting, singing, or dancing then share your talent with us and audition for a show. Want to up your game – how about serving as a musical director or choreographer?

DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Have you directed a show elsewhere? Share your passion with the PAC. Want to direct, but haven't had the chance – how about serving as assistant director? It's not too late, show submissions are currently being accepted for the 2026-2027 season.

STAGE MANAGER (SM)/ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER (ASM): Are you an organizer? Stage management might be for you. Stage managers work closely with the director and tech crew to help create an efficient and positive production. SM's coordinate all aspects of the production and ASM's head the run crew backstage.

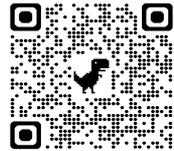
MUSICIAN: The PAC is looking to produce more musicals and concerts, but to do so we need accompanists and other pit/band members. If you're a musician who wants to share your talents, we would love to get you involved!

COSTUMES/SEAMSTRESS/ETC.: Every show has its own varied style which brings something different in terms of costume design. While we do have a nice supply of costumes, often items need alterations, mending, etc., and there are times that we need to have an entire costume made

LIGHTS/SOUND/SCENIC DESIGN/SET CONSTRUCTION/ PAINTING/PROPS: Do you know tech or want to learn? Are you a budding designer or a carpenter? These are just a few of the ways you can assist behind the scenes.

Interested in becoming a supporting member of the PAC?

- Forms are available in the lobby
- Click the QR Code for a downloadable form



PAC programming is funded in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and The Princeton Closet

Illinois
ARTS
Council

