

# ROVER DRAMAWERKS DONORS

## Trailblazer - \$5000 and above

Anonymous (2) Jason and Carol Rice  
City of Plano Target

## Pioneer - \$2500 to \$4999

Matthew J. and Audra Edwards

## Explorer - \$1000 to \$2499

City of Carrollton Rick A. Elina  
David A. Miller Billy Mitchell

## Adventurer - \$500 to \$999

CiCi's Pizza Jennifer L. Hutchinson  
City of Mesquite Bill and Angi Parr

## Guide - \$200 to \$499

Albertson's Anonymous  
Misty Baptiste Rebecca Bremer Booth  
Einstein Bros. Bagels M. Shane Hurst  
Bill and Terrie Justus Mervyn's  
Michael Roe The Home Depot  
Tom Thumb Susan Wagner  
Wal-Mart

## Outrider - \$100 to \$199

Anonymous (2) Mr. and Mrs. Keith Blandford  
California Pizza Kitchen Ron L. Chapman  
Chick-Fil-A Dick Grote  
Tracy Hurd Jerry and Gladys Justus  
Kroger James and Patricia Mitchell  
Victoria Osborne Pizza Hut  
Sherri Small Truitt Jamie Thompkins  
Richard Wills

## Scout - \$50 to \$99

Anonymous Margo Lynn Hablutzel  
Adam and Alice Kuan Nancy Roberts  
Donald and Kelly McLaughlin John and Betty Silander  
Starbucks Brad Stephens

## First Watch - \$20 to \$49

Border's Andie Comini  
Amy Lynn Guerra Lynne Richardson  
Lynnette Schnitzius

***Thank you all for your generous support!***

**Rover Dramawerks**  
presents  
**THE MUSICAL COMEDY**  
**Murders of 1940**  
BY JOHN BISHOP  
DIRECTED BY MARC ROUSE  
August 23 - September 15  
Cox Building Playhouse  
Plano

## SPECIAL THANKS

*The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* would not have been possible without the generous contributions of the following:

ArtCentre of Plano	Greater Lewisville Community Theatre
Misty Baptiste	International Suit Warehouse
Ande Bewley	Barbara Kauffman
Bon Ton	Mary and Mike at Dallas Maytag
Brittany at Rocket Science	Don McLaughlin
Chapel in the Woods Bible Church	Frances Olinger
City of Plano	Patrick S. O'Neil
Cox Building Staff	Jason and Carol Rice
Dallas Vintage Shop	Marc and Rachel Rouse
Rick A. Elina	Pamm Stadt
Mary Esposito Watercolors	Jim Wear
Frisco Community Theatre	Wire and the Wood

Shoppers at Albertson's, Kroger, and Tom Thumb who have chosen Rover Dramawerks as their Shopping Partner.

YOU, for being in our audience! We hope to see more of you this season!

And a VERY special sponsors:



thanks to our season

**Please turn off all pagers, cellular phones, wristwatch alarms, and other noise-making devices. Thank you!**

## ROVERS MISSION

Searching for treasures, new and rediscovered, for theatre "off the beaten path."

Rover Dramawerks produces lost or forgotten works of well-known authors, revives excellent scripts that have suffered from lack of exposure, and discovers unknown gems of the stage.

## This production of THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940 is dedicated to the memory of **Frank Shirar**



Frank Shirar wandered into Rover's life last year as we began our new adventure in the renovated Plano Stages' Cox Building Playhouse. An actor for years and years, including award winning work while overseas in the armed services, Frank was taking a chance on a small theatre he had barely heard about and on a script he never knew existed, Agatha Christie's *Love From a Stranger*, adapted by Frank Vosper.

This season, he appeared in Rover's production of Steven Dietz's *Private Eyes* as the therapist...yes, named *Frank*. During the rehearsals, Frank was again diagnosed with cancer and began treatment before the show opened.

He never missed a performance. Not even one entrance.

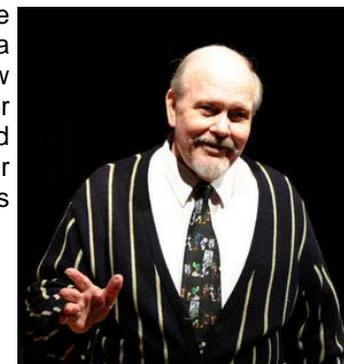
He was thoughtful and opinionated, focused but not inflexible. On Sunday June 24th, Frank passed away with his family in attendance. As his son Paul states, "He was surrounded by love, family, and faith. My mother and I were by his side."

Many of us involved with what was to be Frank's last production saw him in April at a cast get together. He had threatened to show up with a pot of menudo rather than sweets or snacks. His confidence, sly banter and signature defiance towards his condition never suggested the awful difficulties he was undergoing.

Now that is a great actor.

Thanks so much, Frank.

**We miss you.**





# WHOS WHO

**Jessica Alley** is excited to be in her first Rover Dramawerks production after a much too long break from her love of acting. Jessica hails from the posh and sophisticated city of Tyler, Texas. The Tyler Civic Theater spawned an early acting career with plays including *Chicken Little*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Tales of Uncle Remus*, and *ABC America Before Columbus*. In high school Jessica went on to more grown-up plays with lead rolls in *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, and *Les Miserables*. Not much exceeds Miss Alley's love of acting – except perhaps her two cats Mako and Jasmine and her dog Sigmund. Her fiancé DJ is pretty "swell," too!

**Ande Bewley** is well-known for her performance on the light and sound boards with Rover (even if she had to publicize it herself). Previous shows with Rover include *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Woman in Mind*, *Private Eyes* and *Frame 312*. She shows her gratitude for being allowed to work in theatre by working with the fundraisers *Live from Collin County* (benefiting local charities) and *Train in the Distance* (benefiting the American Cancer Society).

**Schelle Cantrell** - Behind the curtain . . . or is she? Schelle is happy to be back working with Rover and director Marc Rouse. "Thanks, Marc (and Rover), for inviting me to be a part of this very entertaining production." Credits include - Onstage: *My Fair Lady*, *Prince and the Pauper*, *Best Little Christmas Pageant*, *Babe-the Sheep Pig*, *Dickens Christmas Story*, *Once Upon a Mattress*. Backstage: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Private Eyes*, *The Best Little Christmas Pageant*, *My Three Angels*, and *Gypsy* to name a few... "Enjoy the show everyone, and thanks supporting the arts."

This is **Joe Cucinotti's** third time playing Eddie McCuen. He first performed this show his senior year at Allen High School. The play was selected as a main stage performance for the Texas State Thespian Convention that year, where Joe would end up taking home an award for "Best Actor". He would take on the role a second time for Garland Civic Theatre in 1998. Nine years have passed and Joe couldn't be more excited to be taking on this role one more time. (We don't have the heart to tell him that playing a bad stand-up comic isn't much of a stretch for him.) He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him in his return to the stage. He sends out special thanks to his friend Michelle Burdeaux for helping him find his way back on stage, to his bosses Rick and Amy for being sooo flexible, and finally thanks to the Rover "family" (cast, crew, etc.) for letting him play in this wonderful world once more. Joe can be heard every weeknight on Mix 102.9 from midnight to 5am where he DJs under the name "Joe Kelly".

**Matthew J. Edwards** has been involved with Rover in just about every capacity including actor, costumer, sound designer, director, writer...the list goes on and on. Matthew was born in the wrong decade, which works great for a '40's show since we can raid his closet.

**214-383-1888**

*Am Jole' Shear Ego Salon & DaySpa*

1108 N. Greenville Avenue, Suite 105  
Allen, Tx 75002

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

Present this coupon and receive \$5.00 off your First Visit.

Offering  
Quality Products and Services for  
Hair, Body, and Face

Visit our Boutique for Unique  
fashion items, Jewelry, soaps,  
candles, Hand crafted baby items  
and more!

Gift  
Boutique

# DELLA'S UNIQUE BOUTIQUE



1008 E. 15TH STREET  
PLANO, TEXAS 75074  
historic downtown plano

972-398-2039

972-422-5483

[dellasuniqueboutique@yahoo.com](mailto:dellasuniqueboutique@yahoo.com)

*Formerly Zoei's Closet*  
**new name, new location, SAME GREAT BOUTIQUE!**

# ROVER NEEDS YOU

Rover Dramawerks is experiencing incredible growth! 2007-08 marks our third full season at the Cox Building Playhouse and our seventh year of production. We will be presenting six full length mainstage shows and two One Day Only 24-hour play festivals in the upcoming year, and we're very excited about it!

However, with such amazing growth comes more expense. We want to continue presenting quality theatre and increasing our visibility in the Plano area, but we need your help to do so. Ticket sales cover only a fraction of the cost of a production. Won't you consider making a tax deductible donation to Rover Dramawerks? No amount is too small, and we would be forever in your debt.

Rover is also looking for new board members! If you are interested in making theatre happen, please let us know! We especially need people who are great at getting the word out about Rover to sponsors, philanthropists, and organizations throughout Plano. Please contact board President Carol Rice at [carol@roverdramawerks.com](mailto:carol@roverdramawerks.com) for more information.

If you aren't sure board membership is for you, there are other ways to get involved. You can buy an ad or volunteer your services or sponsor a show or audition or help build sets or sign up for adult or children's classes.... We will find a way to use your talents!

Or if you just want to watch the show, that's great! We need you and hope to see you in our audience again soon. Be sure to buy your season tickets!

## SHOP AND SUPPORT ROVER!

**Albertson's:** Visit [http://www.albertsons.com/abs\\_inthecommunity/](http://www.albertsons.com/abs_inthecommunity/). Click the **Community Partners** link at the bottom right hand side of the screen. Enter your Preferred Savings Card number (on the back of your card), and then enter Rover Dramawerks as one of your community partners! Our 11-digit Community Partner ID number is **49001002586**. Finish up confirming, and you're done!

**Tom Thumb:** Fill out an application at the store's Courtesy Booth including our account number, **10965**.

**Kroger:** Pick up a Kroger Share Card as you leave the theatre tonight and have the cashier scan it when you shop!

**You can also help when shopping Amazon.com, Walmart.com, and eBay!**

Just visit [www.roverdramawerks.com](http://www.roverdramawerks.com) first and go to the **Contribute** page. Click the appropriate icon to go to the **eBay**, **Walmart**, or **Amazon** websites, and Rover will receive a percentage of your purchase! It's that simple!

**Alison Davies** is proud to say this is the fourth show she has done with Rover. Previous shows were *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Love From a Stranger*, and most recently *Surviving Grace*. Thank you Rover for choosing plays that allow her to use her accent! Other theatres in the Metroplex she has worked include Stage West, Scott Theatre, Onstage, Rotunda, and Second Thought Theatre Group. She has also worked in Australia and Los Angeles.

**Melissa Harguess** graduated with a BFA in theatre design from Baylor University. She has designed lights for *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Garland Children's Theatre), *A Winter's Tale* and *Member of the Wedding* (Bucket Productions), and also served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Fumed Oak* for Bucket.

**M. Shane Hurst** is glad to be back at Rover, where he has performed in *The Baltimore Waltz*, *War of the Worlds*, and *Lady Windermere's Fan* and directed *Romanoff and Juliet*. He recently directed *Gypsy* for Greater Lewisville Community Theatre and music directed Teatro delle Muse's *High School Musical*. Shane is scheduled to appear in Lyric Stage's premiere of *Look Homeward Honky-Tonk Angel*, a new musical by Larry Gatlin, later this year.

**David Jeremiah** (also credited as David Conard) is a Dallas-based artist who frequently collaborates with Ft. Worth's The Butterfly Connection. David recently concluded his role as Danceny in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the Ft. Worth Theatre. David is also endeavoring to perpetuate the plane of artistry achieved via the "condensed" hit play, *The Willie Lynch Letters*, which he co-wrote and co-starred, with TBC founder Adam Dietrich, by starring in his playwright and directorial debut play, *Mannish*, in September. He views every performance as a means to counterbalance his prohibiting preference to watch good theatre rather than create it. He hopes you enjoy the show.

**Laurie Johnson** is thrilled to participate in her first Rover production. She got hooked on theater performing with Unity Church of Dallas and the First United Methodist Church of Richardson, in shows including *Honk*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *A Grand Night for Singing*. Last year she received a Column Award nomination for her role as Widow Douglas in the Garland Civic Theatre production of *Big River*. She has also been honored to perform with the Turtle Creek Chorale in *Voices of Light* and *Fond Farewell*, as well as in several performances with *Live from Collin County*, an annual fundraiser for children's and adults' shelters in Collin County. Her beloved regular gig is Singing Unity, the "best choir in the Unity movement."

**Joslyn Justus** is excited to be assisting backstage with *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. She has been involved with Rover productions since *Little Footsteps* in 2005. She last worked behind the scenes on *Private Eyes* and even made an appearance in *Frame 312*. Joslyn would like to thank Rover for their continued support and faith in her abilities. Stage work can be murder!!!

**Andrew Kasten** strikes back with Rover, having made his post-collegiate theatrical debut as the genuinely caring and handsome Dr. Sam Gelman in the highly acclaimed production of *Surviving Grace*. A Kasten sighting recently occurred in Rover's *One Day Only* where he played a jaded, hippie coffee shop barista. Known for his affable personality, good looks, quick wit, school boy charm, disarming nature (edited for brevity)...and modesty, Andrew hopes this role will vault him onto the Great White Way. In his spare time, Andrew likes to play with Legos and Lite Brites, read Danielle Steele novels, and occasionally engage in a battle of Scrabble with his mother.\* Andrew aspires to play Edmond Dantes as the Count in *The Count of Monte Cristo* or the Beast (...a natural choice) in *Beauty & the Beast*. As a consolation prize, he'll gladly accept the James Bond role with his pick of Bond girl(s). A heartfelt thanks goes out to family and friends for their enthusiastic support (\*only the latter activity rings of truth).

**Bill Otstott** is thrilled to be back with Rover, having appeared previously in *War of the Worlds* and *The Best of One Day Only*. Other favorites include: *Death of a Novelty Salesman* for West End Players (a role he will be reprising for the show's 10th anniversary this winter), all three *Trailer Trash* shows at The Pocket Sandwich Theater, and *Sly Fox* at Theater Three. Bill has also been in several films, TV, and radio. Most recently he appeared as a mechanic on an episode of *Prison Break*. Bill also draws, writes, designs t-shirts, and keeps trying to convince his dog Gromit that not everything needs to be licked. He would like to dedicate his performance to his aunt, former actress Jean Wear, who passed away last month. She was an inspiration to him.

**Celeste Rosenthal** is thrilled to be back in the limelight after having taken time off, roughly half of her life, but she's not going to tell you how long that is. This is her first performance since she graduated high school in 19- well, that's not important. Acting is her passion and her first love, er...um second, her husband, Jason is her first, and has never been happier. This is her first production with Rover, and hopefully the first in a long list. She would like to thank all of the poor souls that have been babysitting for her, her husband who is her biggest fan and the best stalker ever and her children, Quinn and Chloe, for still being willing to come home with her after having so much fun at other people's houses.

**Marc Rouse** is proud of his past accomplishments in theater including, but not limited to, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, and four, count'em, FOUR Harry Hunsacker Black & White Comedy Murder Mysteries with Pegasus Theater. Please refer any questions for Mr. Rouse to his publicist.

**Rachel Schnitzius** has most recently been seen onstage in Rover's production of *Frame 312* as Lynette Porter. Other appearances include *Sweeney Todd: the Fiend of Fleet Street* (Pocket Sandwich Theater), *Pride and Prejudice* (Bucket Productions), *The War of the Worlds: 2003*, *Mrs. California* (Rover Dramawerks), as well as *Blithe Spirit* and *The Unexpected Guest* at Richardson Theater Center. Her behind the scenes work includes everything from Stage Manager to Scenic Artist, and has been executed at various local

venues. In the outside world, Ms. Schnitzius is a Registered Interior Designer (TX) for an international consulting firm and a member of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

This is **Sherri Small Truitt's** third production with Rover since performing in her first *One Day Only* and *Best of One Day Only*, *The Baltimore Waltz* last summer (with the incomparable Marc and Shane), and the phenomenal joyride that was *Surviving Grace*. Since then she produced Rover's *Woman in Mind*, produced and narrated a documentary on the New Braunfels Conservatory Society and continues to act in film and commercial projects. Her last feature film, *The Water's Edge* has claimed numerous awards at four film festivals. A multi-award winning actor, Sherri has been recognized for her performances in such productions as *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Martha), *Everything in the Garden* (Jenny), *The Rainmaker* (Lizzie), *An Inspector Calls* (Sheila), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Nurse Ratched), and *Memory of Water* (Teresa); as well as performed for Sea World of Texas and Shakespeare in the Park.



**DON'T MISS...**

Rover is proud to host a staged reading for Write Around Here, a local playwrights' group, during the run of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

## *Murder at the Orient Burlesque*

by Carol M. Rice

September 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Cox Building Playhouse - Admission is free!

Visit [www.writearoundhere.org](http://www.writearoundhere.org) for more information.

**AND COMING UP NEXT FOR ROVER...**

## *Two Rooms*

by Lee Blessing

**November 1-17, 2007**  
**Cox Building Playhouse**

An American professor has been taken hostage in Beirut, where he is being held and tortured in a small room. Back in the States, his wife imposes her own form of self-inflicted torture in a second room, stripped of furnishings, that was once his den. It is within the confines of these two rooms that the play unfolds.

**Get your season tickets NOW!**