RED MASK PLAYERS present

Dixie Swim Club

By Jesse Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten

Jan 30th - 31st & Feb 1st, 6th - 8th, 2015

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

A warmth – A poignant show wrapped in laughs that will tug at your heart, may give you cause to reflect, leaving you with a warm feeling and a smile. That, to me, is what The Dixie Swim Club is all about.

As an actor I love these types of shows. You have to work hard to tap into the person your character is. They are not characters to be overplayed for either laugh or emotion. Doing so will destroy the truth and meaning of the story. Rather, you have to understand and empathize with the individual the author has created so they are as real to the audience as any person you can name. The goal is to introduce you to a new friend, someone you root for, someone you like, or not, and someone you feel for at a personal level.

This requires the actor to selflessly give themselves over to a new person, to experience both the joy and the pain that it must bring. You have to trust your director to be your psychologist, therapist and friend who will be your confidant helping you through all the trials and relishing all the joy. The end result is a total satisfaction by yourself that you have introduced a new friend to many and that your audience has accepted this new person for who they are.

You're about to meet five new friends.

Enjoy,

Ed DeVore

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The Dixie Swim Club is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

TIME/PLACE
One weekend in August in the living room of a beach cottage on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

ACT ONE
Scene 1: Twenty-two years after college graduation
Scene 2: Five years later

ACT TWO
Scene 1: Five years later
Scene 2: Twenty-three years later

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts and an extended scene change between scenes in Act 2.

During intermission restrooms and refreshments are available in the lower level of the theater. Gift items are also available for purchase. We request that there be no smoking in any area of the building. Also, no food or drinks will be permitted in the auditorium. Thank you.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Friend /frɛnd/ noun 1. a person one knows, likes and trusts. 2. a favored companion; comrade.

The Dixie Swim Club is about lasting friendships. This show will take you through the highlights of more than 50 years of friendship. Every August, these five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago when they met on their college swim team, meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to recharge their relationships.

Enter Sheree, the perennial team captain who is never without her to-do lists, has a fount of boundless energy and is a health nut who occasionally drives her friends a bit crazy. Dinah, the wise-cracking cynic of the group, is a lawyer who excels at everything except romance. Lexie, a true Southern belle who is determined to hold on to her looks and youth as long as possible and enjoys being married over and over and over again. Jeri Neal, the ditzy ray of sunshine who has been a nun for many years, experiences a late entry into motherhood that takes them all by surprise. Vernadette, the hard luck case who has had a dark cloud hover over her since graduation, and has just decided to just give in and embrace the chaos.

The cast has worked so hard to bring these characters to life. I am proud of each and every one of them. You will note that we have some familiar faces on stage as well as some new. Thank you all who have helped make this show a success.

Please join us in enjoying this story about five unforgettable women and friendships that last forever.

Sue Harden
ON STAGE

Roberta Marr Candiff (Leaie Richards) is back in the Danville area after living in Effingham for five years when husband, Jesse, was transferred there. While there, she was involved with the FACE Players and the Effingham Performance Center. She is happy to be back in this area and even has her previous job back as supervisor of Recovery Services at Crosspoint Human Services. Roberta has four grown sons, two grown stepdaughters, and four grandchildren. She thanks Sue Harden, June Techton, and Bryan Schroeder for giving her a chance to participate in this sentimental and hilariously fun show!

Sue Daugherty (Vernadette Simms) has appeared on the Red Mask stage several times, and the greatest reward for her efforts has come in the form of amazing friendships. She’s extremely happy to join with friends, old and new, to present this salute to enduring and unconditional love and support. She’d also like to thank her husband, Dot, and their three daughters, for many, many years of both.

Alyson Ferren (Sheree Hollinger) spent many shows off-stage as a cast mom for her kids’ productions and is having a ball now that she’s on stage, starting with her role as Kate Keller in The Miracle Worker. In real life, she is a mom to two fantastic kids and wife to the greatest husband ever. She also teaches piano and loves to spend time at Mad Goat Coffee. She invites you to sit back and enjoy these summers in the south!

Mimi Myers-Saylor (Dinah Grayson) knew she wanted to be involved with this show as soon as she read about it. When she researched the characters, she thought, “I could be Dinah! I’m not a lawyer, but I do make a great martini!” Mimi has only become involved with Red Mask Players in the last couple years, but little else has ever made her as happy. Working with this great group of women to bring this show to life has been such a wonderful experience.

Julia Reynolds (Jeri Neal McFeeley) is thrilled to be working with such amazingly talented women! This is Julia’s fifth Red Mask show in 10 years. In real life, Julia has been married to her high school sweetheart, Todd, for 24 years and is mom to two handsome young men, Tyler and Anderson. She works at CUMSI and is an active member at Crossroads Christian Church. This performance is dedicated to her family and friends for all of their love, support, and encouragement.
Sue Harden (Director) has been involved with Red Mask since 1993 having done everything from props to Presidency and everything in between. The Dixie Swim Club marks Sue’s fifth turn as director. She thanks the Red Mask Board for choosing her to direct; her stage manager, June, for being her right-hand; producer, Julia, for always being there; the cast for being willing to share in her vision; and especially her husband, Kenny, and the “boys” (Augie and Max) for supporting her enthusiasm in community theater.

June Techtow (Stage Manager) has been working behind the scenes for Red Mask for five seasons after getting bit by the theatre bug along with her husband and stepson. She has enjoyed making so many new friends and is grateful for everyone’s kindness and knowledge. She thanks all of her families for letting her play, and especially thanks her loving husband, Dave, for his support.

Julia Megan Sullivan (Producer) has worn many hats on and off stage at Red Mask, but this is her first time producing. She most recently appeared on stage at the Beef House Dinner Theatre, first as Louise in Always…Patti Cline, then peddling her debut (comedy) CD during the BHDT Christmas Show. She is grateful to Sue and June for welcoming her as part of this production team.
JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Named after the founder of Red Mask Children’s Theater, the Jean Lewis Scholarship is an annual award of $750 to a student planning a career in the theater, performing arts, or a directly related area such as speech or radio/television. Area high school students as well as university or community college students are eligible to apply. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate their ongoing interest in theater by their past participation in local theater opportunities. Performing artists will be asked to audition as part of their application. Along with a completed application, those seeking the scholarship funds must submit two letters of recommendation. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 20, 2015.

Guidelines and applications are available at our website www.redmaskplayers.com/getting involved, and from guidance counselors, speech teachers or drama departments at area high schools and from the DACC Communication Department.

Mail completed applications to:
Sue Daugherty
Red Mask Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 814
Danville, IL 61834-0814

For additional information email: Dot51@comcast.net

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Red Mask Auditions/Performances
* A Shot in the Dark
* Auditions: February 9 & 10, 2015
* Performances: April 2-4 & 10-12, 2015

Danville High School
* Midwest Classic Show Choir Competition
  * February 6-7, 2015
* Evening of Singing & Dancing
  * April 18, 2015
* Veteran’s Concert
  * May 14, 2015

DLO Musical Theatre Auditions & Performances
* La Cage Aux Folles
  * February 14-5 & 21-22, 2015
* Auditions for Big Fish: February 15 & 16, 2015

Knights of Columbus
* Dinner/Mystery Theatre
  * February 14, 2015

Danville Symphony Orchestra
* Heroes and Heroes
  * March 14, 2015

Danville Barbershop Chorus
* Beatles, Beach Boys & Barbershop
  * April 11, 2015

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