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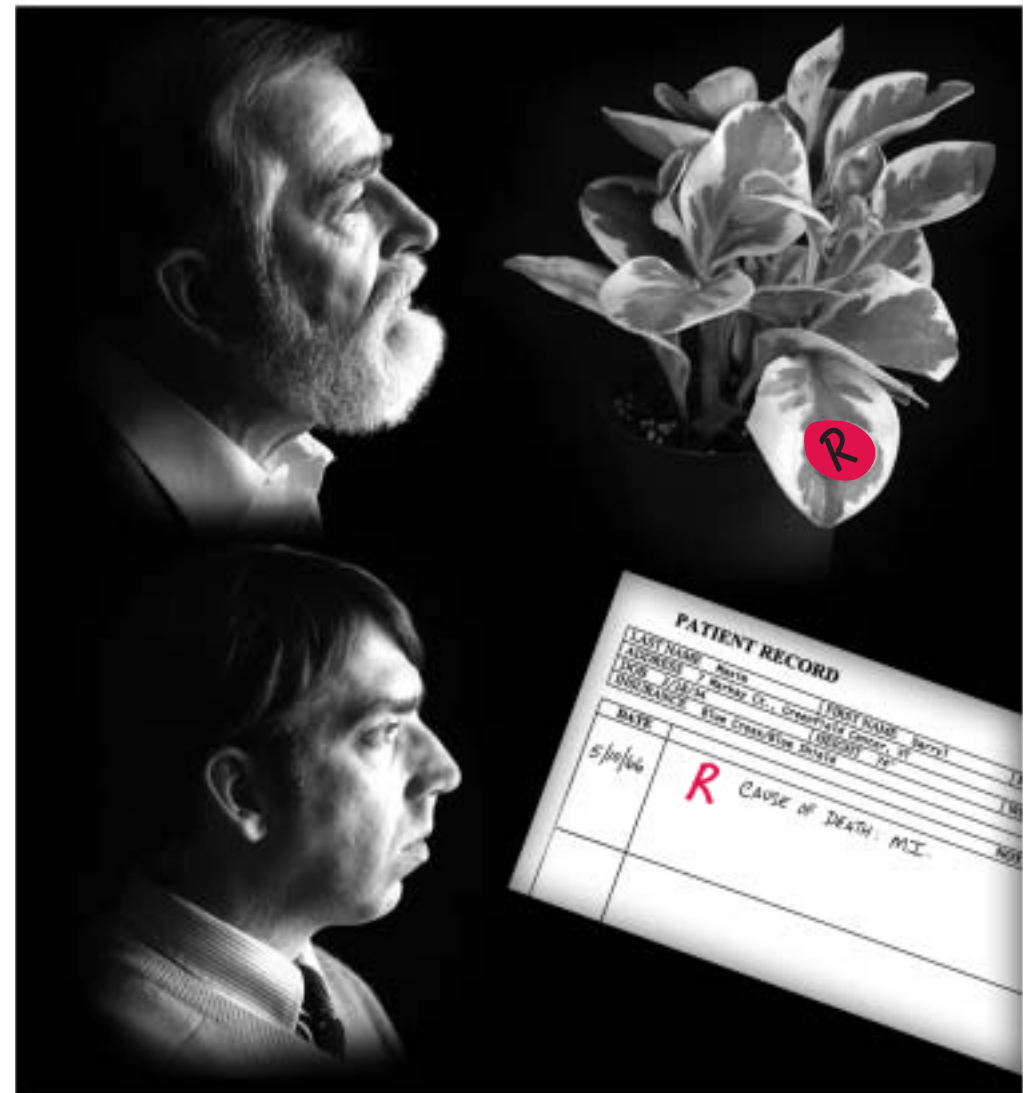
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RED MASK PLAYERS PRESENT

DR. COOK'S GARDEN

by IRA LEVIN



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DR. COOK'S GARDEN

by IRA LEVIN

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

CHARACTERS

Dr. Jim Tennyson

Bea Schmidt

Dora Ludlow

Elias Hart

Dr. Leonard Cook

The action takes place in the home and office of Dr. Leonard Cook, in the village of Greenfield Center, Vermont.

The time is a Friday in the fall of 1966.

Act I – Late Afternoon

Act II – Ten Minutes Later

Act III – Half an Hour Later

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between Acts II & III. At this time restrooms and refreshments are available at the lower level of the theater. We request that there be **NO SMOKING** in any area of the building.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to "Dr. Cook's Garden." I know that you will enjoy this show. It is a very good drama with chills and suspense and will keep you guessing until the end.

Mike Boedicker along with his casting committee have picked a very good cast. Veterans Sonny Downing and John Dowers head a cast of seasoned actors and a newcomer. Sharon Tipsword and Rick Prentice return to our stage and Debbie Rousseau makes her first on-stage appearance at Red Mask. They make a wonderful team and I know you will enjoy the show they have put together for you.

The theater is warm but the show is chilling. Please sit back and enjoy the show.... that is, at least when you're not on the edge of your seat.

Beverly Nees

President

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I've been a fan of Ira Levin's work for years, but until recently was unfamiliar with *Dr. Cook's Garden*. It's a little-known gem that deserves to be discovered, so I'm thrilled Red Mask has decided to present it. Though *Dr. Cook's Garden* has been performed regularly in community theaters around the country, it has never achieved the recognition of Levin's blockbuster play *Deathtrap* or of his novels. Perhaps this is because the play tackles questions we'd rather avoid -- the thorny kind without easy answers; and while this is done in an entertaining way, the issues raised tend to linger with us long after. Levin asks tough questions.

Dr. Cook's Garden is a story about playing God, and the dangerous consequences that can result when a person assumes such a role. Though written in 1967, the show is even more topical today because advances in medicine are increasingly allowing us to make the kinds of weighty decisions like those made by Dr. Cook. A special field, bioethics, was even established in the 1970's to address such issues; but long before bioethics was formally recognized, society was grappling with medical ethics. The current debate over stem-cell research is simply the latest example of this.

At its most extreme, medical ethics asks three Big Questions: Who lives?, Who dies?, and Who decides? Dr. Cook answers the third question easily; it's the first and second questions that haunt him. His obsession with making Greenfield Center the "perfect" community clashes with a cardinal tenet of his profession: First, Do No Harm. The quest for perfection is a central theme in much of Levin's work, but what makes it terrifying in *Dr. Cook's Garden* is that the role of moral arbiter is assigned to a physician -- the person we trust with our lives and who is in a prime position to take advantage of that trust. If we can't trust our doctor, who can we trust?

Like I said, Levin asks tough questions...

Mike Boedicker

Director

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ON STAGE



Doctor Leonard Cook -- Sonny Downing

A casual remark to the right person in the early 80s changed a life-long dream into reality, and Sonny was onstage almost before he realized it. Having started with the Sunshine II players at the Beef House, he went on to appear with DLO, and finally ended up on the Red Mask stage. Ironically, his counterpart in *Dr. Cook's Garden*, John Dowers, also appeared in Red Mask's 1990 production of *Luann Hampton Laverty Oberlander*, Sonny's first Red Mask show. His thanks go to Mike and Leslie and the casting committee for the opportunity. Thanks also to our patrons without whom none of this would be possible. He also thanks his family and friends for their support...especially his sweet wife Sandy. And, of course, he thanks God for his talent.



Dr. Jim Tennyson -- John Dowers

John has been involved in nearly every capacity of putting on a show...cast member, director, stage manager, producer, but still finds acting to be his true passion. After some time away from the Red Mask stage, John appeared in last winter's production of *Meet My Husbands*. Prior to that, he had the opportunity of a lifetime appearing in the independent film *Show*, filmed locally. John would like to thank Mike for his faith, patience and vision, Sharon for her example, devotion, and humor, the cast and crew for making magic, and most importantly you, the audience, for letting us play.



Bea Schmidt -- Sharon Tipsword

Sharon works part time at the Georgetown Library which is having a new facility built at this very moment. She has previously been seen on the Red Mask stage as Boo in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, as Vivian in *I Hate Hamlet*, and as Lucille in *The Cemetery Club*. Last year she directed a whole herd of delightful and gifted actors in *Meet My Husbands*. Now once again she finds herself surrounded by talented and genuinely nice people with whom it is a pleasure not only to perform but to rehearse as well. Hope you have a stimulating evening...in the Garden.



Dora Ludlow -- Debbie Rousseau

This is Debbie's first real acting role. She was in the chorus of Danville Light Opera's *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *South Pacific*. She also had a cameo spot in Red Mask's summer One-Act *When the Light Was On*. Debbie lives in Danville with her fiancé, Rick Prentice, whom she thanks for introducing her to the arts and giving her his love and support. She would also like to thank her sister Lisa and the rest of her friends for their love and support. Also, a special thank you to Mike for believing in her.



Elias Hart -- Rick Prentice

This is Rick's fifth Red Mask show. He's played everything from "Cuckoos" to "Foreigners." This will be Rick's first appearance on stage with his fiancée, Debbie, who plays Dora. Thanks to Mike and Red Mask for this opportunity. Break a leg to all involved with *Dr. Cook's Garden*.

Before the Show!
After the Show!



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PRODUCTION TEAM



Director -- Mike Boedicker

Mike became involved with Red Mask shortly after moving here from New York in 2000, working behind the scenes but always interested in acting and directing. He took the acting plunge in last winter's *Meet My Husbands* and also appeared in the summer One-Act *When the Light Was On*. Right now he's in the final editing stage on *Show*, a low-budget feature film he shot last year in Danville -- which he promises the patient cast WILL be finished soon. He thanks the Red Mask board for giving him the opportunity to direct a script he loves, the cast and crew for their dedication and sweat, and Leslie for getting him hooked on theater. Special thanks to our patrons, for keeping theater alive in Danville.



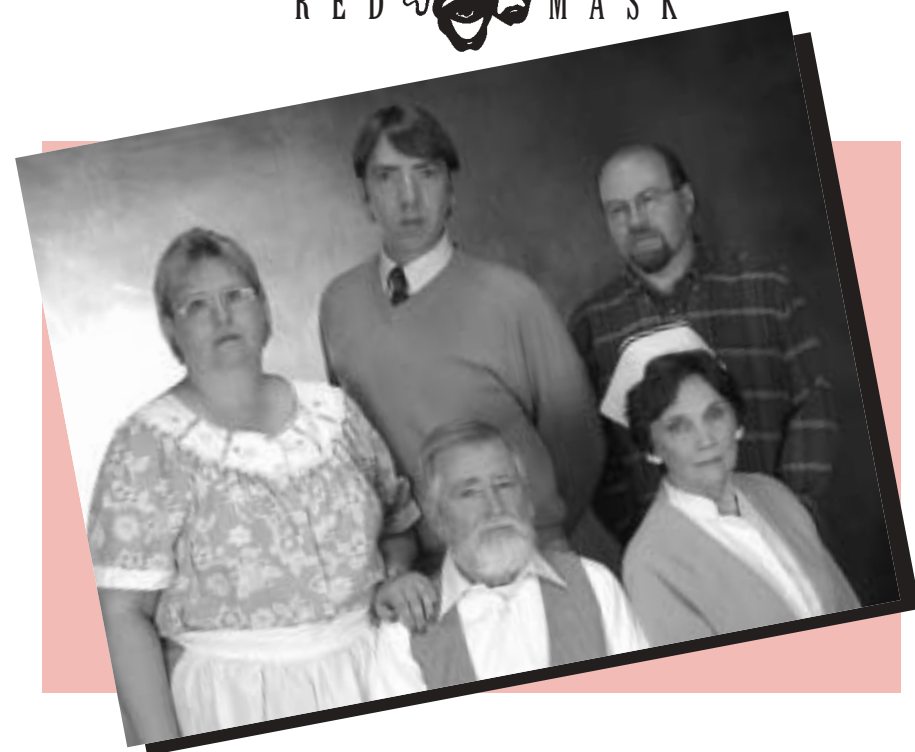
Stage Manager -- Beth Lashbrook

Having finally graduated from children's theater, Beth is delighted to try her hand backstage with the big kids. Years of involvement with the younger set, including a stint on the Red Mask board as Children's Rep, has prepared Beth for this big step. A school teacher by day and "happy in the kitchen" wife and mom most evenings, she would like to thank Mike for giving her this additional opportunity to micro-manage others! She also thanks John and Kathleen for putting up with her nonsense!!!



Producer -- Jennifer Dixon

She considers it a compliment that this is the fourth time she's produced since the summer of 2002 - either that or it's a conspiracy to keep her off the stage! In either case, she finds it a pleasure to once again be involved in a production with an organization and friends that are dear to her heart. When she isn't hunting down props, people, advertisements, memberships and photos, Jennifer works at Walgreens Accounting supporting hardware and software in the stores. She gives her love and thanks to her patient, albeit shameless furry family of five and her wonderful husband Dwain, who continues to feed her very well and helps her to collect stamps in her passport.



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The Red Mask Players Board of Directors is happy to announce that it will once again present the Jean Lewis Scholarship, a \$750 stipend, to a local college bound high school senior, community college student, or university student in full-time enrollment. Students encouraged to apply, but not limited to, are: theater majors or those pursuing a directly related field of study. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate a continuing interest in theater by their past participation in local theater opportunities at the school or community level. Details and applications will be available from guidance counselors at area high schools and from the DACC Communications Department. The deadline for filing applications is **March 13, 2005**, with auditions and interviews to be arranged at a later date. The scholarship is named for Jean Lewis, who directed all 37 of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1986.

SPECIAL THANKS

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Red Mask

- January 23 and 24, 2005 - Auditions for *Web of Murder*, 7:00 p.m. at the Kathryn Randolph Theater.
- April 4 and 5, 2005 - Children's Theater auditions for the spring production (TBA), 7pm at the Kathryn Randolph Theater.

Danville Light Opera

- February 18, 19, 20, 2005 - *Fantasticks* at Bremer Conference Center (DACC)
- January 30 and 31, 2005 - Auditions for *Annie Get Your Gun* at Center Stage at the Village Mall

Vermilion Festival Chorus

- April 17, 2005 - Spring Concert, 3pm, Holy Family Church

Danville Sweet Adelines

- May 7, 2005 - Cabaret Show 6:00 p.m. at The Beef House Convention Center

Danville Symphony Orchestra

- March 12, 2005 - *Don Quixote*
- May 14, 2005 - Swingsational! with the Capital Quartet

Danville Barbershop Chorus

- April 3, 2005 - America Barbershop Style 2:30pm, Bremer Conference Center (DACC)

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Director	Mike Boedicker
Stage Manager	Beth Lashbrook
Producer	Jennifer Dixon
Set Design	Mike Boedicker
Set Construction	Kenny Harden, John Lashbrook, Rick Prentice, Dave Downing, Jason Asaad, Mike Boedicker, Bob Lewis
Set Painting	Ed Sant, Sue Harden, Chad Myler, Mike Boedicker
Lighting Design	Leslie Boedicker
Lights	Eric France
Sound	Chad Myler
Music	J.S. Bach
Props	Suzie Harmon, Jennifer Dixon
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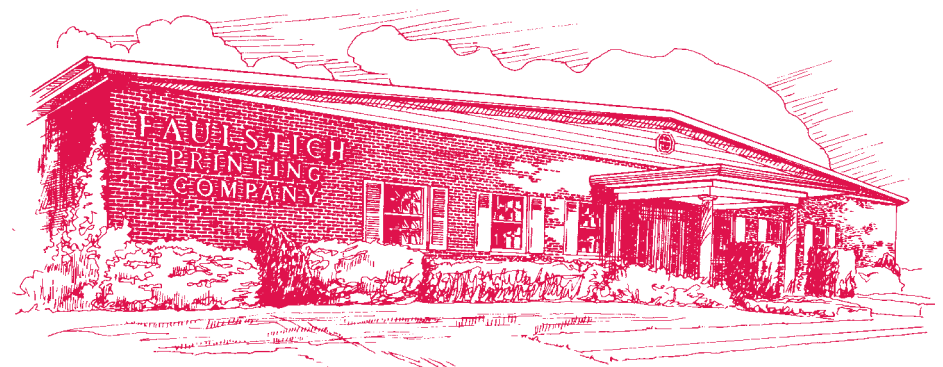
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