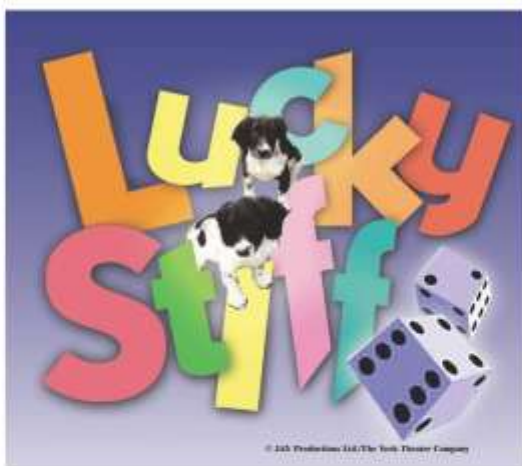




Now in its 92nd Year Presents



Book and Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Music by **Stephen Flaherty**

Based on "The Man Who Broke The Bank At
Monte Carlo" by Michael Butterworth

**September 26, 27, 28, and
October 3, 4, 5 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Also, 3 p.m. matinees on
September 28, 29, and October 5, 2024**

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre
1225 Fourth Street, Beloit WI

Lucky Stiff is being produced by arrangement
with Music Theatre International

Director's Notes

As a director, it's always a treat when you stumble upon a musical comedy that checks all the boxes. *Lucky Stiff* is that show. Witty dialogue and song lyrics? Check. Memorable score that the audience will be humming on their way out of the theater? Check. A budding love story between two adversaries? Check.

A fast paced and funny storyline with plot twists? A murder mystery farce about an English shoe salesman who stands to inherit \$6,000,000 if he can pass off his dead uncle in a wheelchair as alive on a trip to Monte Carlo definitely checks that box. Mistaken identities and zany supporting characters? Did I mention there's a dead body in a wheelchair throughout the show?

Putting a musical together requires a lot of teamwork to make the show a success. Thanks to Rod McFall for his creativity in designing a set that transports the audience from a shoe shop in England to a nightclub and casino in Monte Carlo and everywhere in between. This show has quite a few costume changes and props, and I'd like to recognize Elizabeth Armstrong and Donna Balsley for their hard work in these areas. Special thanks to Isaac Chmielewski for making us the Tommy Gun with his 3-D printer. Thanks to Peter Tropp for his expertise with lighting and sound and for all of the dialogue taping required for this show. I'd also like to acknowledge Adam Drefs, our music director, and Christy Munch, our choreographer, for their artistic and creative talents. In addition, I'd like to thank the cast for their hard work and dedication and our running crew for helping to make the scene changes smooth and timely. Finally, I'd like to thank my stage manager, Les Blumrieck, for all of her support and expertise.

Rob Connor

THE CAST

Harry Witherspoon.....Christian Foss
Annabel Glick.....Kim Schram
Rita La PortaLarisa Chmielewski
Vincent (Vinnie) Di RuzzioTim Rosenthal
Luigi GaudiJeremy Ramsey
Anthony HendonGrant McNall
Ensemble PlayersMichelle Dennis,
Sarlyn Rose, Stacy McNall, Matthew Tirtilli

The Setting

Act I

Prologue

- Sc. 1A Dreary Shoe Shop in East Grinstead
- Sc. 1B Kitchen of Harry's Boardinghouse
- Sc. 2 Solicitor's office, London
- Sc. 3 Optometrist's office, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- Sc. 4 Le Train Bleu en route to Monte Carlo
- Sc. 5 Harry's Room, Hotel de Paris, Monte Carlo
- Sc. 6 Exterior, Monte Carlo
- Sc. 7 Nice airport
- Sc. 8 All over Monte Carlo
- Sc. 9 Club Continentale
- Sc. 10 Harry's Room, Hotel de Paris
- Sc. 11 Monte Carlo casino

There will be a twelve-minute intermission between the two acts. Please enjoy refreshments in the lobby. All donations from refreshments go to the Helen Hayes Teed Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded to local graduating seniors entering college programs for the performing arts.

Act II

- Sc. 1 Monte Carlo casino
- Sc. 2 Outside Harry's Room, Hotel de Paris
- Sc. 3, All around Monte Carlo
- Sc. 4 Harry's Room
- Sc. 5 Harry's Room
- Sc. 6 Harry's Room

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

DirectorRob Connor
Music Director & Accompanist.....Adam Drefs
Stage Manager..... Les Blumreich
Choreographer.....Christy Munch
Set & Lighting DesignRod McFall
Set Construction.....Les Blumreich,
Richard McFall, Joe Colletta, Rod McFall, Harold
Pann, Mike Fallon, Mason Larson, Shannon Fie
Lighting and Sound.....Peter Tropp, Rod McFall
Costumes.....Elizabeth Armstrong, Donna Balsley
Properties.....Donna Balsley, Rod McFall,
Mary Mowers
Running Crew.....Donna Balsley, Deb Burns, Mary
Easland, Susan Smith, Doris Tropp, Dawn Kabor
Dressers.....Rebecca Wallendal, Shannon Fie

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Rebecca Wallendal.....Treasurer
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Easland, Mike Fallon, Mary Mowers, Lisa Scholten, Susan
Smith, Sydney Winchester, Peter Tropp and Rob Connor

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No photography is allowed during performance. Please set your cell phone to silent mode during the performance.

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**Please check out our website at
www.beloitcivictheatre.org**

WHO'S WHO



Larisa Chmielewski (Rita La Porta) A long time actor for Beloit Civic Theatre, Larisa appeared in last season's *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. Now What?* For BCT, she also performed in *Showboat, Mame, Once Upon a Mattress, Company, Nunsense, She Loves Me, Something's Afoot, Singin' in the Rain, Dames at Sea, Damn Yankees* and *The Apple Tree*.

For Theatre Unlimited, Larisa appeared in *Annie*, for Spotlight on Kids, *Godspell*, and at Carroll College, in *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Larisa served as Musical Director for Spotlight on Kids as well as performing in *Pinocchio, The Wizard of Oz, Free to be You and Me*, and *Godspell*. She also appeared in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, South Pacific*, and *The Sound of Music* at Turner High School. Larisa works at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program as Programs Assistant. She is married to husband, Adam, (whom she met at the Mame cast party!), and they have 2 children, Cal, a college student, and Isaac, a middle schooler. Both of them have appeared in many musicals as well. Larisa enjoys gardening, traveling, doing needlework and spending time with family which often involves attending theatrical productions. Larisa says, "My eyesight is as bad as Rita's...Join us! Theatre is good for your heart and soul, and there you can make life-long friends."



Michelle Dennis (Landlady, Miss Thorsby, Puerto Rican Nurse, Southern Lady #1, French Airline Voice, Dancing Portrait, Drunken Maid.) Michelle has appeared in several Beloit Civic Theatre plays including *The Game's Afoot, The Spitfire Grill, Nunsense*, and *Seniors of the Sahara*. She appeared in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Rabbit Hole* for Stage One, *The 39 Steps*,

The Full Monty, Side Man, and *Bare* at UW-Rock County's University Theatre and in *Oliver!*, and *Brigadoon* with Theatre Unlimited, Inc. She also participated in JPAC's Summer Shakespeare Series in *As You Like It, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Michelle directed *I Hate Hamlet* for Janesville

Little Theatre as well as acting in Dixie Swim Club. She co-wrote and directed the three part "Tales of ..." series for the Janesville Performing Arts Center and has stage managed fifteen shows...so far. Professionally, Michelle has worked in libraries for the past 30 years and now serves the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville as the Head of Access Services. She is very grateful for the love and support of family. Michelle loves working together to create "Theatre Magic", saying, "There is nothing like the camaraderie of 'backstage'. By the time you finish a show you know your cast mates deeply and well. Some you love, some stick with you for a lifetime, some pass by and move on, but all leave a mark. All make you better, stronger and more self-aware. Thank you to everyone with whom I have had the chance to perform. I hope I have affected you positively too." Michelle is deeply grateful to the Beloit Civic Theatre audiences, paraphrasing actor, educator and author Viola Spolin, "The audience is the most revered member of the theater....They are our guests, fellow players and the last spoke in the wheel....They make the performance meaningful.' Godere!"



Christian Foss (Harry Witherspoon) appeared last season in Beloit Civic Theatre's production of *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. What's Next?* Several years ago Christian also appeared in *Cinderella, See How They Run, The Princess and the Pea, Camelot* and *Showboat* for BCT. Christian works as Sales Support Manager at Blue Bunny Ice Cream. He is married to his wife, Amy, and has 2 daughters, Adeline and Olivia and enjoys golf and relaxing "next to water somewhere". Of his experience with BCT, Christian says, "after a long hiatus, it's been fun reconnecting with old friends and reliving old stories".



Saralyn Rose (Telegram Deliverer, Punk, Ms. Loomis, French Waiter on Train, Stationmaster's Voice, Bellhop, French Waitress in Club, Gambler, Hospital Patient) Saralyn has appeared for Beloit Civic Theatre in *Steel Magnolias, The Outsider* and *Being Earnest*. She also acted in Janesville Little Theatre's productions of *Run For Your Wife*,

Women and War, Terms of Endearment and *Steel Magnolias*. In addition, Saralyn worked as stage manager and makeup artist for shows such as *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Normal Heart*. Most recently, she was in Theatre Unlimited's production of *Rock of Ages*. She's overjoyed to be back at BCT, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Grant McNall (Body of Tony Hendon) Has hell frozen over? Because that's what Grant always said would happen before he would be on stage!! However, he is thrilled to have the opportunity to bring new life to a dead character. When he isn't playing dead, he enjoys the outdoors, growing tomatoes, all

things Marvel, and spending time with his family, especially going to live music and theater events. He would like to thank his wife, Stacy, for breaking him out of his comfort zone, and he would also like everyone to know that he was the first cast member off book!



Stacy McNall (Spinster, Southern Lady #2, Dancing Roulette Wheel, Dominique Du Monaco)) Last season, Stacy appeared for Beloit Civic Theatre's production of *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. What's Next?* Her other credits for Beloit Civic Theatre include *Baby, Working, Company* and *Tally's Folly*. Stacy also worked as Director for *Spotlight on Kids* for 17

years in over 35 productions, where she also appeared in *Oliver, Annie* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Stacy works as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at Journey Mental Health Center in Madison. Her family consists of her husband, Grant, and their 4 kids, Alex, Aidan, Ainsleigh and August along with their 4 dogs, Benny, Beau, Jack and Winnie. Stacy enjoys painting, reading and baking.



Jeremy Ramsey (Luigi Gaudi) Jeremy returns to Beloit Civic Theatre in this production after playing Elvis in BCT's production of *Elvis Has Left the Building*. He also has appeared in *Brigadoon*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *The Hiding Place* and *Who's on First?*. In addition, Jeremy has spent time as a stand-up comedian and a public speaker at multiple

events. He is an attorney, licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, and has his own practice in Loves Park, Illinois. Jeremy "... appreciates all of the help and support of his fellow cast members, the director, the stage manager and everyone who has made this production possible."



Tim Rosenthal (Vinnie Di Ruzzio) Tim previously appeared in Beloit Civic Theatre's productions of *Damn Yankees*, *Dames at Sea*, *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Nunsense*. For Theatre Unlimited, he performed in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie*, *Oklahoma!*, *Forever Plaid*, and *Beauty and the Beast*; for Bower City Theatre Company,

in *Our Town*, *Avenue Q*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *White Christmas*, *The Sound of Music* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*; and for Rock River Repertory Company, in Chicago, *Spamalot*, *Heathers: The Musical* and *Ghost: The Musical*. Tim currently serves as an Associate Director of Admissions at Beloit College after a 3 decades-long career as a music teacher at Beloit Turner. He is married to wife, Liz, and they have 3 children, Taylor, Haley and Sam. Tim enjoys cheering for Wisconsin teams including the Packers, Brewers, Bucks, Badgers and Buccaneers.



Kim Schram (Annabel Glick) Kim returns to Beloit Civic Theatre after previously performing in *She Loves Me* and *Dames at Sea* for BCT. She also appeared in Janesville Little Theatre's *Macbeth Did It*. Kim works as an elementary music teacher at Washington Elementary. She and her husband Dave live in Janesville, and they have 3 children, 2 dogs

and a cat. Kim loves reading, traveling, fitness and animals; she also teaches Spin at Janesville Athletic club.



Matthew Tiritilli (Lorry Driver, Solicitor, Man on Train, Clothing Salesman, French Emcee, Croupier, Nun, Old Texan) Matthew is very happy to be back on stage at Beloit Civic Theatre. Matthew directed last season's *Steel Magnolias* and will be directing this season's next production of *Dial M for Murder*. With BCT, Matthew most recently appeared two seasons ago in *Being Earnest*, *The Outsider*, and *The Kitchen Witches*. Some favorite BCT shows over the years have been *Sylvia*, *Private Lives*, *All My Sons*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Importance Of Being Earnest*....among countless others. With Gateway Arts in Rockford, Matthew has appeared in *Hairspray* and *Newsies* and co-directed *Shrek* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. With Byron Civic Theatre, he co-directed *Mary Poppins* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Matthew would like to thank Rob and BCT for this opportunity and his family and friends for their constant love and support.



Christy Munch (Choreographer) served as choreographer for Beloit Civic Theatre's production of *The Kids Left. The Dog Died. What's Next?* and is thrilled to choreograph the musical again this year! Christy lives in Beloit with her husband and two dogs and comes to the area with twenty-five years plus of experience in the Chicago area as a dancer, performer, choreographer, and costume designer. She teaches Adult Ballet/Jazz at the Rockford Dance Company and BeMoved Dance Fitness and Yoga Stretch at the Janesville Athletic Club. Christy retired from the Janesville School District earlier this year and now focuses on creating dance opportunities for adults.



Adam Drefs (Musical Director/Accompanist)

Adam served as Musical Director for last season's production of *The Kids Left*, *The Dog died*, *Now What?* and previously for *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*, and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* in which he also performed. He also appeared in Beloit Civic Theatre's production of *Being Earnest*. In addition, Adam performed for Chapel on the Hill in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Seussical*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Godspell*. He also directed and/or served as pianist for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)* and *The Addams Family* at Delavan-Darien High School. Adam works as a private voice and piano teacher and is an aspiring Christian content creator. His family consists of his wife, Lily, his parents, Annette and Matt and many siblings, nieces, and nephews. In his spare time, Adam enjoys "Pathfinder," a roleplaying game.



Rob Connor (Director)

Rob has appeared in and directed several shows for Beloit Civic Theatre since first appearing on our stage in 1992 as Captain Andy in *Showboat*. He directed *Kitchen Witches* and last season's *The Kids Left*, *The Dog Died*, *Now What?* In addition, Rob performed for BCT in *The Outsider*, *Sylvia*, *Greater Tuna*, *She Loves Me*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Baby*, and *Laura*. In addition, he appeared as The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* and Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins* for Spotlight on Kids. Rob loves playing Scrabble, doing CrossFit, and spending time with his three dogs.

SPECIAL THANKS

**Beloit Memorial High School Theatre
Department for support
For loan of properties: BMHS Swimming
program-Kim Gamble, First Lutheran Church,
Janesville, and Rod McFall.**

**Thank you to Kathy Vogel, Pat Hall and BCT
board members for donating cookies for our
spring production, Elvis Has Left the Building.**



Beloit Civic Theatre Angels



Beloit Civic Theatre wishes to thank the following members for their additional financial contributions to the theatre. If there are any errors or omissions in this list of supporters, please call Beloit Civic Theatre at 608-201-3084. This list was compiled on September 6th, so if your name is not listed, we may have received your donation after that date. Thanks again to all of you for your generous support!

Beloit Civic Theatre Angels

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Deanne Fischer

Deanne M. "Dee" Fischer, 85 of Beloit, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at her daughter's home in Johnson Creek, surrounded by family.

Dee was born on December 9, 1938, in Clinton, IN, the daughter of Eli and Alta (Howe) Chialda. She graduated from Beloit Memorial High School in 1956 and married Gerald Fischer on July 4, 1959, at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Beloit. The couple had 2 children and enjoyed 50 years until his death in June of 2010. Dee's interests, work experience, and volunteerism were vast. She worked as a bookkeeper for the Beloit Boys and Girls Club, a job she did for many years and one that she loved dearly. Later in life, she owned and operated a floral business where she made all sorts of dry arrangements, selling them both at her shop in South Beloit and at various craft fairs near and far. She was a long-time volunteer at the Beloit Civic Theatre, after having a critical eye for the on-stage makeup job during a high school rendition of "Sweet Charity". While at the theatre, her tasks included stagehand, makeup artist, costume designer, and quick-change specialist! The theatre company relied on Dee's dedication and willingness to do whatever job needed to be done. She also worked as an assistant manager at Blue Suede Shoes, a Rockford, IL hot spot during the 1980's. Dee will be remembered for her love, generosity, and happy spirit. She was always willing to help, loved everyone (and everyone loved her!), and was dedicated to the betterment of others. She was a neat lady with a wide range of talents and interests who will be missed.

She is survived by: her children Cary Fischer of Beloit and Crystal (Richard Rattinger) Fischer of Johnson Creek; grandchildren Kevin, Kory (Kristen), and Kyle; 5 great-grandchildren; and other family members.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and her siblings Eli Chialda and Stella Oakley.

If desired, donations in Dee's name to the Beloit Civic Center would be appreciated.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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