



Indiana Players, Inc.
 P.O. Box 333
 Indiana, PA 15701

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Special History Issue

How do the Players contribute to our community?

Since 1990, the Indiana Players has actively participated in the activities of Downtown Indiana, Light-Up Night, Indiana County Chamber of Commerce, the Tourist Bureau, and the Indiana Arts Council. We have built a float for the Christmas and St. Patrick's Day parades for eight out of ten years, and have provided carolers for many events.

At least five or six times each year we are asked to provide entertainment for organizations such as the Indiana Free

Library, IUP's Retired Faculty Association, the faculty union (APSCUF) at IUP, and many of our civic and service clubs.



How do the Players benefit the economy?

The existence of a successful community theater in Indiana County has boosted the local economy by attracting thousands of people to our town. Our casts and crews, numbering from eight to eighty depending on the show, spend four to six weeks coming to rehearsals and parking and eating downtown.

When children are rehearsing for a show, many parents drop them off at the theater and spend a few hours shopping while they wait. Many patrons go out for dinner before or after a performance, and the casts and crews frequently gather at local restaurants after the shows.

Except for scripts and royalties, the Indiana Players' funds are spent locally on materials for sets, costumes, sound, and lighting.

Inside... more on the history of the Indiana Players

Thank you for supporting the Indiana Players!

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- Individual \$10
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- Senior \$8

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The Spotlight

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A (Somewhat) Brief History of the Indiana Players

In our first twenty-eight years, the Indiana Players, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, totally volunteer community theater group, produced three to five family-oriented shows a year in various venues. When we moved to the Indiana Theater in 1990, we had \$680 in the bank and about one hundred patrons.

During the following twelve years, we produced eighty-seven shows involving 520 adults, teens, and children. Within the first five years, our operating budget rose to \$40,000 and the patron list climbed to nearly 2,500. It was obvious that our growth was due to the Players having continuous and sole access to a performance space affording us a permanent presence in the Indiana area.

When we left the Indiana Theater building in July, 2002, we stored our belongings, without charge, in one of Mr. Joseph Kovalchick's warehouses and embarked on a search for a suitable building or site.

Aside from providing quality theatrical entertainment to our community, the Indiana Players offers adults, teens, and children the opportunity to have their "moment upon the stage." Taking advantage of acting and technical workshops increases their skills and self-image. Community theater gives people the chance to work as a team toward a single goal, whether on stage or behind the scenes. Our members, especially the teens and children, have enhanced their social skills and learned to work with a diverse group of people while they hone their acting and technical abilities.

Most of our young people retain their interest in theater. In the past decade, eleven of our teen thespians were accepted into the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Performing Arts. In addition, our Shakespeare Team consistently comes home from the annual Pittsburgh Public Theater's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest with first or second place or honorable mention awards.

What makes the Players unique?

Our audiences cover the range from children to senior citizens, and our ticket prices are very reasonable. We offer discounts for students, seniors, and groups of fifteen or more. We also invite several service groups to be our guests at our final dress rehearsals. For many people in these groups, our shows are the only live theater they ever get to see.

We encourage families to take part in our shows, both on stage and behind the scenes, affording them quality time while working toward a mutual goal. Through the years, there have been numerous families who have taken advantage of this opportunity.

While many university musical and theater productions are open to anyone, the roles usually and naturally go to students who are learning their craft. The Players' auditions are open to everyone. People have come from Kittanning, Homer City, Shelocta, Punxsutawney, Blairsville, and many other outlying areas.

The Players also give high school and college students an opportunity to perform school-required community service. Students have helped in the lobby as ushers and ticket-takers and worked backstage with sets and lighting. We have also cooperated with IUP, such as when the Robert E. Cook Honors College staged five performances of *Clue: The Game Show* as their community service.

Why can't the Players use spaces like church halls or school auditoriums?

- Being a volunteer group, it is vital that we have access to the space at all times. When we use spaces owned by others, we must work around their schedules as well as any other groups that may be using the facility.

- When we take advantage of another group's space, there is no place for us to store our props and sets. We must either do without them during rehearsals or cart them to and from our storage area for each rehearsal.

- Depending upon the space given to us, we seldom have more than two days to construct our set and install our lighting and sound systems. This forces the cast and directors to make last-minute adjustments to the performance space with only two or three rehearsals, which is simply not enough time to ensure a quality performance.

- There is usually no "rental" fee for the use of these spaces. However, we do have to pay for utilities and maintenance, and in some instances, security.

- With no permanent home, it is difficult to set a season of shows and sell season tickets. Allowing the community to know where and when our shows were being staged helped the Players develop a large following while we were in the Indiana Theater building. The audience received our season brochure in the mail and could mark their calendars in advance. For many of our patrons and performers, community theater shows took preference over their other activities and vacation plans.

In addition to being a home for the Indiana Players, a building might provide room for other groups to work at the same time. This would allow us to meet our needs and provide flexibility for other groups.

In addition, our costumes and properties would be at hand and our lighting and sound systems would be in place, ready for use with a few adjustments. The time and energy spent to stage a show would be drastically reduced. With our own home, our ability to attract directors, technicians, and actors would increase considerably.

