



THE INDIANA PLAYERS PRESENT

A NEW DEATH



SEPTEMBER
11, 12, 13 & 18, 19, 20

INDIANA PLAYERS, INC.

2026-2027 MAINSTAGE SEASON

THE PHILADELPHIA STREET PLAYHOUSE
725 PHILADELPHIA STREET ▪ INDIANA, PA 15701
WWW.INDIANAPLAYERS.COM
(724) 464-0725

2026-2027 MAINSTAGE SEASON

A New Death

Written by C.S. Wyatt

Directed by John Henry Steelman

Auditions: August 3 and 4

Performances: September 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, 20

Bad Seed

Written by Maxwell Anderson

Directed by Bill Herring

Auditions: September 14 and 15

Performances: October 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and November 1

It's a Wonderful Life

Written by James W. Rogers

Directed by Vanessa Arvidson and Sam Sherburne

Auditions: October 26 and 27

Performances: December 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, 20

Sleuth

Written by Anthony Shaffer

Directed by Dave Tabish

Auditions: December 14 and 15

Performances: February 19, 20, 21 and 26, 27, 28

16th Annual One-Act Festival

Auditions: February 22 and 23

Performances: April 1-4

The Secret Garden (Spring Version)

Written by Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon

Directed by Tracey Iandiorio

Auditions: April 5 and 6

Performance: May 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29, 30

*The 2026-2027 Season Schedule is currently
tentative and subject to change.*

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER!

You can support live, local community theater by becoming a member! Your membership dues go towards staging year-round shows. The Indiana Players is a non-profit, all volunteer organization, so your help is vital to keeping the Philadelphia Street Playhouse alive and active.

Membership gives you regular newsletters about upcoming shows and special events and allows you to run for and elect the Board of Directors at our annual meeting each May.

To become a member, visit www.indianaplayers.com and click "Become a Member" to join and pay online. Or fill out the form below and submit it with a check by mail or to the box office. Your patronage is greatly appreciated!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____ \$25 Individual

_____ \$20 Student

_____ \$20 Senior (65 or above)

_____ \$60 Family

_____ New

_____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Checks are payable to: Indiana Players, Inc.
Mail to: P.O. Box 333, Indiana, PA 15701

ANGEL'S CORNER

We are so pleased that you are joining us on our journey to bring high-quality community theater to Indiana! We're looking forward to another four decades of all-volunteer service, but we cannot do it without you! Like all theaters, ticket sales do not cover the costs of operation and so we ask for your generosity. Your contributions are invaluable.

We want to recognize those who make charitable gifts. Members of our donor society will receive recognition in this season's programs, and are categorized as follows:

Tony Award	\$2,000+
Producer	\$1,000 - \$1,999
Director	\$750 - \$999
Playwright	\$500 - \$749
Actor	\$250 - \$499
Stage Manager	\$100 - \$249
Understudy	\$50 - \$99

To make a gift, visit IndianaPlayers.com and click "donate" or fill out the form below and mail it with your check.

Checks are Payable to: Indiana Players, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 333, Indiana, PA 15701

DONOR FORM

GIFT AMOUNT _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please recognize me as _____

I would prefer my gift to remain anonymous (*check here*) _____

DONORS

The Indiana Players Board of Directors thanks all our members, contributors, volunteers and patrons who make what we do possible and our theater an integral part of our community!

Tony Awards

Anonymous
Diane Duntley

Producers

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Vicki & David Smith

Directors

Anonymous

Actors

Anonymous
Anonymous
Donald & Susan McClure
In Honor of Edgar & Lois Miller
Patricia & John Prushnok
Tony DeLoreto

Understudies

Bruce & Carol Hamilton
Gemma Para Gomez
Kate Cowden
In Memory of John Bellas

Playwrights

Anonymous
Anonymous
David & Irene Tabish
Mary Jo Bowes
Richard Stewart

Stage Managers

Anonymous
Anonymous
Alex & Susan Juhasz
Donald Lancaster
Faye Bradwick
Hilton Garden Inn at IUP
In Memory of John Sinclair
Joshua Muscatello
Judy Cessna
Larry & Deborah Rupp
Mike & Kim Shaffer
Nick & Jessica Karas
Sandra Whitson
Stacy Moran
Tom & Sara Crumm
Nick & Jess Karas

2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Smith, *President*
Bill Herring, *Vice President / Artistic Director*
Jo DeBuyser, *Secretary*
Michael Shaffer, *Treasurer*
Richard Smith, *Theater Manager*
Vacant, *Publicity Director*
Tracey landiorio, *Fundraising Director*

A NEW DEATH

ACT I: The Interview

- SCENE 1 – Mother Takes Action
- SCENE 2 – Harlan's Interview
- SCENE 3 – Harlan Who? How?
- SCENE 4 – Mom, I Got A Job!
- SCENE 5 – I Warned You!
- SCENE 6 – A New Suit For Harlan
- SCENE 7 – Progress Report
- SCENE 8 – Harlan's Training Continues
- SCENE 9 – Only A Couple of Goldfish
- SCENE 10 – Harlan At Work
- SCENE 11 – Bingo! A Huge Mistake

10-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II: The Plan

- SCENE 1 – Their Rooms Weren't Ready
- SCENE 2 – Candy Coated Death
- SCENE 3 – Death Requests A Transfer
- SCENE 4 – The Grim Reaper Explains It All
- SCENE 5 – Harlan Breaks The Rules
- SCENE 6 – Back At Death's Office
- SCENE 7 – Harlan Does Good
- SCENE 8 – Promotions Approved
- SCENE 9 – The Receptionist... Again?
- SCENE 10 – Harlan Goes Upstairs
- SCENE 11 – The Interview

*Flash photography and video recording are **prohibited**. Please **silence** cell phones, electronics, and other noise-making devices. **Restrooms** are located at the back of the theater. Please follow the long lit hall to the right of the stage, all the way down. The restrooms are the last two doors on the right.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

**denotes an IPI debut*

REGIONAL DEATH.....	Erin Winebark Arnold*
HARLAN HOWE.....	Jonathan Smith
GABRIEL.....	Theresa Ireland
GRIM REAPER.....	Finn Lonjin
DARK MESSENGER.....	Mike Petersen
MOTHER.....	Chauna Craig
LIZZIE.....	Kim Shaffer
JOHN.....	Mike Petersen
RECEPTIONIST.....	Gwen Ondo
TAILOR.....	Payton Smathers*
NUN 1.....	Kim Shaffer
NUN 2.....	Chauna Craig
KID.....	Maddy Mullen
THUG 1.....	Payton Smathers*
THUG 2.....	Maddy Mullen
VICTIM.....	Kim Shaffer
BINGO WINNER.....	Payton Smathers*
BINGO LOSER.....	Gwen Ondo
HOMELESS PERSON.....	Mike Petersen
APPLICANT.....	Payton Smathers*
ANNOUNCERS (VOICE).....	Bill Herring, Sam Sherburne

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR.....John Henry Steelman
PRODUCTION MANAGER.....Vanessa Arvidson
STAGE MANAGER.....V Crocker
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....Leia Demetro
SET DESIGNER.....Bill Herring
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Vanessa Arvidson
SOUND DESIGNER.....Bill Herring
COSTUMER.....Sharon Herring
PROPERTIES.....Cast & Crew
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....V Crocker
SOUND BOARD OPERATORS.....Bill Herring,
Sam Sherburne

GRAPHIC DESIGN.....Vanessa Arvidson
PROGRAM DESIGN.....Jo DeBuyser
PUBLICITY.....Vanessa Arvidson, Jo DeBuyser
SET CONSTRUCTION.....Bill Herring, Shawn Mullen,
Mike Petersen, Michael Shaffer,
Payton Smathers, John Henry Steelman
SET PAINTING.....Vanessa Arvidson, Bill Herring,
Maddy Mullen, Michael Shaffer
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.....Michael Shaffer
BOX OFFICE STAFF.....Marissa Bruno, Cecily Benedict,
Rich Smith, Sharon Smith, Michael Shaffer, Arlene Wanatosky

SPECIAL THANKS TO

C.S. Wyatt, Throughline Theatre,
Spotlight Costumes, and Renda Broadcasting



Thank you to Pro-Packet Printing for supporting local theatre and printing this show program!

From the Director's Chair

A New Death was commissioned by Throughline Theatre as a new work in 2014. I was fortunate enough to play several minor characters in that original production. From time to time since then I have reflected on how clever I found the play and thought about suggesting that the Indiana Players produce it. I did not follow through on that idea, however, until recently. Earlier this year I contacted the playwright. He explained that after seeing that production he had intended to edit the script a bit and possibly submit it for publication, but life intervened and he never got around to doing so. He was excited to hear that we were thinking about doing the play and used that as motivation for doing the editing he had meant to do years before. I believe he got a small group together to test those edits, but this is only the second fully staged production of the play. I hope the audience enjoys seeing this show as much as we have enjoyed pulling it together.

John Henry Steelman (Director, *A New Death*, IPI 2026)

MEET THE CAST

ERIN WINEBARK ARNOLD* (Regional Death) is happy to make her Indiana Players debut after 20 years in NYC as a writer, director, producer, and actress. Favorite stage credits include *Men* (Manhattan Repertory Theatre) and *The Birds and the Bees: Unabridged* (dir. Maggie Keenan-Bolger, Honest Accomplice Theater - NYC). Her voice appears as Mary Meehan in the video game *Blackwell Epiphany* (Wadjet Eye Games) and as various characters in *Kathy Rain* (Clifftop Games), plus national radio spots for NHTSA/The Ad Council's anti-buzzed-driving campaign. She holds a B.S. in Music Education (bassoon) from the Cook Honors College at IUP and graduated from the Professional Performance in Acting program at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in NYC. Love to Chris, Austin, Mom, Dad, and Mrs. Popp.

CHAUNA CRAIG (Mother/Nun 2) previously played Sonya in the Indiana Players production of *Vanya, Sonya, Masha, and Spike*, and her own play, *Pocatello*, was performed in the 2025 One Act Festival. She is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this great community and their passion for the art of performance.

THERESA IRELAND (Gabriel) is an artist of many facets, happy to be back on stage in her hometown after performing in California and nationwide the last 25 years in theater, film, and TV. Her most memorable theater productions include *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Anatomy of a Murder*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*. Previous roles for The Indiana Players are Cassandra in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike*, and Cherie in *Bus Stop*. Theresa is a well known Marilyn Monroe impressionist seen in *The Fanatic* with John Travolta, The Jimmy Kimmel Show, plus many special events and music videos. Notable TV shows include *Shameless*, *Will & Grace*, *Westworld*, and *Star Trek: Picard*. Theresa dedicates her performance to her Grandmother, Gloria Kanick, for her love of Angels.

MEET THE CAST (cont.)

FINN LONJIN (Grim Reaper) is thrilled to be doing another show with the Indiana Players. He wants to give thanks to the cast, crew, and John Henry for bringing attention to such an extraordinary play.

MADDY MULLEN (Kid/Thug 2) has started her 9th grade year at the Indiana Senior High School this school year. This is her fourth Indiana Players show and her eighth show total. She enjoys all things theatre, singing, and reading. She does chorus and has done chorus since fifth grade. She thinks *A New Death* is hilarious and hopes you get some laughs in while watching!

GWEN ONDO (Receptionist/Bingo Loser) is excited to be joining The Indiana Players for another play. Gwen has been in most junior productions, and was in *High School Musical Jr.* as Gabriella Montez. She is very excited to be with this new cast and to gain more experience and knowledge.

MIKE PETERSEN (John/Homeless Person/Dark Messenger) a retired newspaper editor, has had a few minor parts in past Players productions. His favorite role was as a policeman in *Clue*, where he literally lost his head. He says he's happy to be working with director John Henry Steelman and the rest of the production crew and with such a talented cast. Mike and Pat, his wife of 52 years, live in Indiana.

KIM SHAFFER (Lizzie/Nun 1/Victim) has been with the Indiana Players for about four years and is so glad they keep letting her come back! In the past year you may have seen her in *The Dining Room* and in the 2026 One-Act Festival where she wrote and performed in "Self-Maid". She enjoys meeting new people every time she gets to participate in a show and would like to thank John Henry for casting her in *A New Death*. And as always, she sends a big thank you to Mike for all of his support and encouragement. Bingo!

MEET THE CAST (cont.)

PAYTON SMATHERS* (Tailor/Thug 1/Bingo Winner/Applicant) is thrilled to make his stage debut! Born and raised in Indiana, he is excited to explore live theatre for the very first time. He would like to thank everyone for this opportunity, as well as his family and fiancée for their endless love and support.

JONATHAN SMITH (Harlan Howe) is pleased to appear as Harlan Howe in *A New Death*. His previous Indiana Players credits include the ensemble of *Love and Information*, Spike in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, and Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Jonathan is grateful to be part of another Indiana Players season and hopes you enjoy the show!

MEET THE CREW

VANESSA ARVIDSON (Production Manager/Lighting Designer) has lived and breathed Theatre for almost all her life. She has a B.A. in Theatre from Lehigh University where she concentrated on Stage/Production Management and Lighting. She has been a part of the Indiana Players' family since 2021 and has produced, acted, directed, stage managed, designed lights, sound, sets, and costumes, has trained and mentored others, and even served as Publicity Director. She most recently directed *Proof* last season and was the producer/production manager for *High School Musical Jr.* this summer. Later this season she will be co-directing *It's A Wonderful Life*.

V CROCKER (Stage Manager) is honored to be stage managing their fifth IPI production! Their other credits include *High School Musical Jr.*, *Proof*, *Wait Until Dark*, and The 14th Annual One Act Festival. Outside of the tech booth they love drinking too much caffeine and running around town. They would like to personally thank both Vanessa and Leia for their help with this production; there wouldn't be a show without them. V also thanks you for coming out and supporting the Indiana Players!

MEET THE CREW (cont.)

LEIA DEMETRO (Assistant Stage Manager) You may have seen Leia in a few productions, whether it be as an actor, Set Designer/Painter, or Assistant Stage Manager. Leia started their involvement in theater since their sophomore year of high school and is at the Indiana Playhouse to get involved in theater once again. Though they were out for a while due to their surgery, they are glad to be back to Assist with being ASM in *A New Death*. Though they prefer to be on stage, they are glad to be given this (and any) opportunities to be involved with theater and the community any way they can!

BILL HERRING (Set and Sound Designer/Announcer Voice) enjoys the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a show and had good time designing the sounds, choosing the music for the Death Playlist, and working on the set with Vanessa and John Henry.

SHARON HERRING (Costumer) has enjoyed the challenge of costuming for the show. Previously she designed costumes for *The Wizard of Oz* and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Sharon would like to thank John Henry for the opportunity to be creative and to her husband for his unwavering support.

SAM SHERBURNE (Light Board Operator) has been involved with the players in recent years as an actor, director, board member and several other capacities. He is happy to be back behind the scenes, helping bring *A New Death* to life.

JOHN HENRY STEELMAN (Director) has been active with the Indiana Players for more than 30 years, most recently appearing as Verges in *Much Ado About Nothing*. This is the tenth production he has directed for IPI, including such diverse fare as *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Godspell*, *The Children's Hour*, and most recently, *Vanya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike*. As an actor he has appeared in over 100 productions with more than two dozen companies throughout the greater Pittsburgh area. He and his wife, Sara, also coach the IPI Shakespeare Team.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE PLAYERS!

VOLUNTEER!

We survive and thrive through the support of our dedicated family of IPI volunteers. There are many opportunities to get involved – no experience required!

Scan the QR code to fill out our **Volunteer Interest Form** on our website!



JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The role of Publicity Director is currently **vacant**! The IPI

Publicity Director oversees our social media, website, newsletters, and more! If you are interested in serving on the Indiana Players Board of Directors as Publicity Director or want more information on the position and any requirement, please reach out to info@indianaplayers.com.

HOLD AN AUXILIARY BOARD POSITION

Auxiliary Positions are at-will positions that are designed to support the Board of Directors, under their supervision. These positions are incredibly important to the organization!

In order to hold an auxiliary position, a person must be a member of the Indiana Players. If you are interested in holding any open auxiliary positions or want more information, please reach out to info@indianaplayers.com

Open Auxiliary Board Positions:

Volunteer Coordinator

Box Office Manager

Digital Communication Specialist

Hard Tech Coordinator

NEXT UP ON THE MAINSTAGE

Bad Seed

Written by Maxwell Anderson

Directed by Bill Herring

Show Dates:

October 23, 24, 25, & 30, 31, and November 1

Open Auditions:

September 14th and 15th ▪ 6:00pm-8:00pm

at the Philadelphia Street Playhouse

725 Philadelphia Street, Indiana PA

No preparation or experience needed!

Just come on in either day!

We are looking for performers 18 years old and up (except
for the role of Rhoda Penmark)

For more information including character descriptions,
please visit

<https://www.indianaplayers.com/auditions/badseed>

ABOUT THE SHOW:

Bad Seed is a suspenseful thriller about Rhoda Penmark, a seemingly normal and polite young person. Behind her charm, Rhoda is a cold and calculating murderer. Her mother, Christine, slowly realizes that Rhoda inherited a dark, murderous genetic trait from her own birth mother.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!

INDIANA PLAYERS, INC. is a nonprofit community theater group located in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Since their first show in 1977, the Indiana Players has continued to offer western Pennsylvania audiences the very best of dramas, mysteries, comedies, and musicals. With a strong focus on community involvement, the Indiana Players encourages anyone with an interest to join or get involved with a show.

Community theater is more than acting and directing! We are always looking for talented people with broad interests and backgrounds. From builders and painters and electricians to media specialists or grant writers, a donation of your time and skill is highly appreciated. If you have an interest, but lack the know-how, The Indiana Players prides itself on training beginners in all things theater. If you're not already a member, sign up today!

CONTACT, LIKE, AND FOLLOW THE INDIANA PLAYERS!

**Philadelphia Street
Playhouse**

725 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA 15701

Indiana Players, Inc.

PO Box 333
Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: (724) 464-0725

Web: www.indianaplayers.com

Email: info@indianaplayers.com



@indianaplayers



@indianaplayers



@theindianaplayers