

KVTA STUDIOS' BLACK BOX THEATRE • 1 STUART DRIVE KANKAKEE IL 60901

FEBRUARY 3-4 & 9-10, 2024



THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD



DIRECTED BY: TYLER McMAHON



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BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY RUPERT HOLMES
ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION PRODUCED BY THE NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
PRODUCED BY: JOSEPH PAPP

This production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com

KVTA

A Note from the Director . . .

Welcome, Welcome, There You Are!

When KVTa first announced *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, I think a lot of people were surprised as this is not a very well-known musical.

I certainly was one of them. When the board selected me to direct the production, I read the Writing on the Wall; this was going to be a challenge. Victorian designs, English accents, tricky word-play, 7 locations on the black box stage, 44 possible endings...A Man Could Go Quite Mad!! But I was ready to meet it head on.

This cast has really stepped up. This is not easy music but they all have worked hard to learn it. They fully embraced the campiness and absurdity of the script and their characters. It's been a joy to watch them create and develop what you are about to see.

Our murder suspects deserve an extra kudos as some of them won't get the chance to perform their confession since we only have 4 performances but 8 suspects. The same goes for candidates for Detective Datchery as well as the secret lovers.

This staff has also been top-notch. Terri has hand-made some of the dresses as well as assembled a fantastic plot of costumes for everyone. Dave and Nicole have stood by while I went through 3 different set designs before settling on what you see before you.

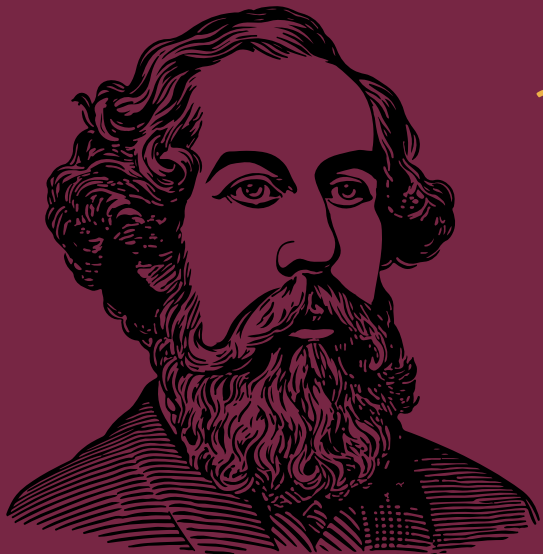
I want to add a huge round of applause to Nicole Bilyard for taking on the challenge of creating and hand-painting 7 drops for our show. Not to mention the actual set and the portrait of Rosa Bud. The drops alone she started in the summer of 2023 and finished the last one in the first week of January.

I want to thank Aubrey LaLuna for starting our production as our Assistant Director. And a special thanks to Thomas for stepping up when Aubrey unfortunately had to step down. My love and thanks to you both.

I applaud KVTa for embracing the musical and taking a chance on producing it, allowing me to helm the production and the encouragement toward the cast and crew.

To you the audience, I implore you to open your eyes, ears and minds as you journey to the Musical Theatre Royale in Victorian era England for the musical telling of...

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD!



Tyler McMahon



2023-2024 KVTA Board of Directors

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KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at www.kvta.org.

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit www.kvta.org.

KVTA is a Proud Member of:

- Community Arts Council of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Time: 1892

THE MUSICAL HALL ROYALE

Programme for this evening:

Opening comments by Your Chairman, Mr. William Cartwright

immediately followed by:

The Musical Hall Royale's Premiere Presentation of

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Act I Prologue

There You Are Chairman and Company

THE SITUATION

Scene 1 - The home of John Jasper at Minor Canon Corner in the cathedral city of Cloisterham. A morning in late December.

A Man Could Go Quite Mad Jasper

Two Kinsmen Jasper and Edwin

Scene 2 - The conservatory at The Nun's House, a seminary for young women in Cloisterham High Street. Later that morning.

Moonfall Rosa

Moonfall Quartet Rosa, Helena, Wendy, and Beatrice

Scene 3 - The opium den of the Princess Puffer in the East End of London. Dawn, the next day.

The Wages of Sin Princess Puffer

Jasper's Vision Orchestra

Scene 4 - Cloisterham High Street. The following afternoon.

A British Subject Neville, Helena, Edwin, Rosa, and Crisparkle

Both Sides of the Coin Jasper and Mayor Sapsea

Scene 5 - The graveyard of Cloisterham Cathedral. Early Christmas Eve.

Perfect Strangers Edwin and Rosa

Scene 6 - The home of John Jasper. A short time later.
No Good Can Come From Bad Neville, Rosa, Helena, Crisparkle, Jasper, Edwin, and
Waiter
Scene 7 - Cloisterham High Street. Christmas Day.
Never The Luck Phillip Bax
Off to the Races Company

There will be a 15 minute intermission.
No food or drink is allowed in the Black Box Theatre.
No drinking or smoking is allowed on the premises.
Thank you for abiding by these guidelines.

ACT II Entr'acte
England Reigns Company

THE SLEUTHS

Scene 1 - Cloisterham Station. Six months later.
Settling Up the Score Puffer and Datchery

Scene 2 - Cloisterham High Street. Later that day.
The Name of Love/Moonfall (reprise) Rosa, Jasper, and Company
Don't Quit While You're Ahead Company
Don't Quit While You're Ahead (reprise) Company

THE VOTING

The Vote Company

THE SOLUTION

The Garden Path to Hell Puffer
Puffer's Revelation..... Puffer
Out On Limerick Datchery
Murderer's Confession Murderer
Perfect Strangers (reprise) Secret Lovers
Writing On the Wall Company

Cast

(*Denotes first appearance in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production.)

Chairman.....	Rob Bishir
Drood.....	Mary Schwark
Rosa.....	Angel Mirkov
Jasper.....	Caspian Colbert
Helena.....	Aisa Rogers
Neville.....	Paul Bishir
Puffer.....	Bonnie Brewer
Bazzard.....	Grant Sparenberg
Crisparkle.....	Michael Norkus*
Durdles.....	Andrew Stephens
Deputy.....	Walter Krause
Flo.....	Sophia Rice*
Wendy.....	Jordyn Clark
Beatrice.....	Kayla Connelly*
Featured Dancers.....	Addison Haag Amanda Ringler
Ensemble.....	Emma Day Heather Day Hailey Neill* Abigail Van Kley*
Stage Manager.....	Paul Snyder



Staff

Mr. J. Benson, maestro of The Music Hall Royale Orchestra

Mr. William Cartwright, Chairman

Mr. James Throttle, Stage Manager and Barkeep

Cast (In order of appearance)

JOHN JASPER - Mr. Clive Paget

EDWIN DROOD - Miss Alice Nutting

ROSA BUD - Miss Deirdre Peregrine

WENDY - Miss Isabel Yearsley

BEATRICE - Miss Violet Balfour

HELENA LANDLESS - Miss Janet Conover

NEVILLE LANDLESS - Mr. Victor Grinstead

THE REVEREND MR. CRISPARKLE - Mr. Cedric Moncrieffe

THE PRINCESS PUFFER - Miss Angela Prysock

MAYOR THOMAS SAPSEA - Mr. James Hitchens

DURDLES - Mr. Nick Cricker

DEPUTY - Master Nick Cricker

FLO - Miss Florence Gill

WAITER/BAZZARD - Mr. Phillip Bax

DICK DATCHERY - ??????

SHADE OF JASPER - Mr. Montague Pruitt

FEATURED DANCERS -

Miss Gwendolyn Pynn

Miss Sarah Cook

SIGN GIRLS -

Miss Christine Lyon

Miss Harriet Sayle

Miss Alana Eliot

Miss Michelle Medford

Production Staff

Director.....	Tyler McMahon
Assistant Director/Choreographer.....	Thomas McMahon
Vocal Director/Rehearsal Pianist.....	Jeanne Benson
Production Coordinator.....	Courtney Stephens
Costumer	Terri Devine
Set Builder	Dave Atkinson Jason Haag, Mark Sutter
Set Decorator	Nicole Bilyard Jessica Parks, Mandy McNeely, Becky Jefferson, Tiffany Lanoue, Bridget Bertrand, Dan Hollowell
Properties	Stacey Froeschle
Stage Manager.....	Paul Snyder Jarriid Norden, Thomas McMahon, Zac Stephens
Box Office	Tricia Kohan
House	Christine Case
Split-the-Pot	Jim Kravat
Stage Door Lounge.....	Kirstin Bishir Melissa Daniels, Sarah Stephens
Programs	Kimberly Hall Courtney Stephens, Tyler McMahon, Christine Case
Publicity	Sharla Ronchetto Stephen Menard, Courtney Stephens, Robin Tober-Betourne, Andrew McBurnie
Lights	Joel Knapper Cole Pilbeam
Sound	Main Street Music Production Amy Shinabarger

Meet the Cast

Paul Bishir (Neville Landless/Mr. Victor Grinstead) The son of Kirsten and Rob Bishir of Momence, Paul is a Junior at Momence High School. One of Paul's favorite roles has been playing an Apostle in the KVTa 2023 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Paul states, "Thank you to the directors for giving me this opportunity in my 3rd adult show with KVTa. I would also like to thank my parents for their support."

Rob Bishir (Mr. William Cartwright/The Chairman) Rob lives with his wife Kirsten and son Paul in Momence where he is employed at Johnsonville LLC. Rob previously played the role of Priest/Ensemble in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with KVTa in 2023. Rob exclaims, "I can't believe that this is my 12th stage appearance with KVTa in the 8 years I've been involved. Thank you so much for welcoming us into the theatre family!"

Bonnie Brewer (The Princess Puffer/Miss Angela Prysock) A resident of Kankakee, Bonnie is married to Don and their children are Barbi Watson, Jay Brewer, and Joe Brewer. Bonnie is a retired teacher from Kankakee School District 111, providing 19 years of teaching. One of her favorite roles was playing Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man* in 2021 with KVTa. Bonnie adds, "Thank you to the cast for their help and support. This performance is dedicated to all the Senior Ladies. It's never too late to take on a new challenge!"

Jordyn Clark (Wendy/Miss Isabel Yearsley) Jordyn lives with her husband Samuel Clark in Ashkum where she is employed as a Preschool Aide. In 2023, she was the Director for KVTa's *Little Shop of Horrors*. Jordyn shares, "Thank you to my family for always supporting me in anything I do. And a special thanks to the cast for such a fun couple of months! Can't wait till the next one!"

Caspian Colbert (John Jasper/Mr. Clive Paget) A resident of Bradley, Caspian recently played the role of Annas in KVTa's 2023 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Caspian states, "I am forever grateful for my family and their constant support. To my found family, thank you for always pushing me and sharing every theatre adventure with me!"

Meet the Cast

Kayla Connelly (Beatrice/Miss Violet Balfour) A resident of Coal City, Kayla recently performed in the orchestra for the 2023 All State production of *Shrek*. Kayla says, “Thank you to the Drood staff for allowing me the opportunity to join an amazing program. Also to my parents for fitting my schedule into yours.”

Emma Day (Ensemble/Miss Alana Eliot) The daughter of Heather and Robert Day of Bourbonnais, Emma is a student at BBCHS. She was recently seen in KVTa’s *Jungle Book* in 2022. Emma adds, “I would like to thank the directors and my cast mates for making this a great production. I would also like to thank my family for always supporting me.”

Heather Day (Ensemble/Miss Christine Lyon) Heather lives in Bourbonnais with her husband Robert, and children Emma and Jackson. She is employed as the Director of Marketing for Barnabas Foundation. Heather has been in the ensemble for a number of KVTa productions, the last being *Mary Poppins* in 2015. Heather shares, “I’m thrilled to share the stage with my daughter Emma for the 1st time. Thanks mom, dad, Jackson and my husband/BFF/ride-or-die, Robert, for their love and support.”

Addison Haag (Featured Dancer/Miss Sarah Cook) Addison is the daughter of Rachel and Jason Haag of Herscher and is a homeschooled high school senior. In 2023, she played the role of Aunt Em in *The Wizard Of Oz: Youth Edition* with KVTa. Addison states, “I would like to thank my parents and sister, Grandma Karlie, Marnie Boyd, Isabel D., Hunter L., and Ella N., for their unwavering support and encouragement.”

Walter Krause (Deputy/Master Nick Cricker) The son of Steve and Jill Krause of Kankakee, Walter is a Junior at Bishop McNamara High School. He recently portrayed Beast in the 2023 Bishop McNamara High School production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Walter adds, “Thanks to Tyler for casting me and the staff for helping him.”

Meet the Cast

Angel Mirkov (Rosa Bud/Miss Deirdre Peregrine) A resident of Bradley, Angel is employed by Walmart. She recently played the role of Alice Beineke in *The Addams Family*, performed by the Chicago Heights Drama Group in 2023. Angel would like to thank her found family for always being there for her and her family for being her biggest supporters.

Hailey Neill (Ensemble/Miss Michelle Medford) The daughter of Sarah and Dennis Neill of Bourbonnais, Hailey is in the 11th grade at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School. She most recently was in Bishop McNamara's 2023 fall production of *Beauty and the Beast* where she played the role of Lumiere. Hailey says, "I am so thankful to be a part of my very first KVTa production, it has been an amazing experience!"

Michael Norkus (The Reverend Mr. Crisparkle/Mr. Cedric Moncrieffe) Michael and his spouse Brandon live in Romeoville, and he is employed as a Consultant. In 2023, he played the role of Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* with Theatre-on-the-Hill. Michael states, "Thanks to Angel Mirkov for thinking of me for this production!"

Sophia Rice (Flo/Miss Florence Gill) Sophia lives in Grant Park where she is a student. Sophia shares, "This is my first play. I'm excited to be a part of this play and to work with the entire cast. I've really enjoyed this opportunity."

Amanda Ringler (Featured Dancer/Miss Gwendolyn Pynn) Amanda and her husband Scott live in Kankakee. She is employed as a Special Education Teacher at Manteno High School. In 2023, she played the roles of Tree/Crow/Featured Dancer in *The Wizard of Oz* with Joliet Drama Guild. Amanda exclaims, "I'm thrilled to be back onstage with KVTa! I'd like to thank my family & friends, especially my found family (ACTMT), for their constant love & support."

Meet the Cast

Aisa Rogers (Helena Landless/Miss Janet Conover) A resident of Bourbonnais, Aisa is employed as a Barista. Aisa adds, "I've been involved in many productions on and offstage for almost 8 years now between school and professional endeavors, most recently, *Little Shop of Horrors* with KVTa in 2023. Aisa adds, "Thank you to my family and close friends for hyping me up and supporting me when I doubt myself and how far I can go. Love y'all bunches!"

Mary Schwark (Edwin Drood/Miss Alice Nutting) Mary lives in Bradley and is a Server at Stefari West Ave. In 2022, she played Judy in *A Chorus Line* with Acting Out Theatre. Mary says, "I am grateful for family, friends, and workplaces that cheer me on through all of the auditions and rehearsals. Special thank you to my found family and my mom."

Grant Sparenberg (Waiter/Bazzard/Mr. Phillip Bax) Grant lives in Kankakee and is employed at Kankakee Montessori & Fine Arts Magnet School. In 2023, he played the role of Ichabod Crane in *A Night in Sleepy Hollow* with KVTa. Grant shares, "I would like to thank everyone involved in this production and organization. I appreciate all that volunteer their time and talents to the success of this show."

Andy Stephens (Durdles/Mr. Nick Cricker) Andy and his wife Sarah live in Bourbonnais and they are the parents of two daughters, Ellen and Anna. He is employed by the State of Illinois. Andy was previously seen on the KVTa stage in *Spamalot*.

Abigail Van Kley (Ensemble/Miss Harriet Sayle) A resident of Bourbonnais, Abigail is a Barista at Starbucks and a student at Arizona State University. Abigail states, "Thank you to my parents and friends for encouraging me to audition!"

Meet the Production Staff

Tyler McMahon (Director) Tyler lives in Bradley with his fiancé, Thomas. Of the shows he has directed thus far with KVTa, his favorite would be *The Music Man* in 2021. Tyler adds, “Thank you to my supporters and friends.”

Thomas McMahon (Assistant Director/Choreographer) Thomas and his fiancé Tyler live in Bradley. He is employed as a Paraprofessional in Bourbonnais. One of Thomas’ recent roles was that of Jesus in the KVTa 2023 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Thomas states, “Thank you to my found family for their constant support, my mother, and especially Tyler.”

Jeanne Benson (Vocal Director/Rehearsal Pianist) Jeanne and her husband Wayne have a daughter, Jennifer, and they live in Kankakee. She is a retired music teacher. Jeanne was recently the vocal director/rehearsal pianist/pit pianist for *In The Heights* in 2023 with KVTa. Jeanne says, “Thank you to the sweet, wonderful, hardworking cast and Tyler, for asking me to do it.”

Courtney Stephens (Production Coordinator) Courtney resides in Bourbonnais with her husband, Zac. She is currently serving as the President of KVTa. She is also the Director of our next production on March 16 & 17, KVTa’s *Finding Nemo JR*. Courtney exclaims, “There are not enough words to thank everyone that has worked so tirelessly on this production since October. We are thrilled to bring this new-to-KVTa production to life!”

Dave Atkinson (Set Builder) Dave and his wife, Diana Mullins-Atkinson, live in Bradley and he is employed as the Associate Director of Quality Operations at CSL Behring. Dave shares, “This is my 46th KVTa-related production, mostly offstage, and I’ve enjoyed them all. *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition* last year was especially fun! Thanks to Tyler for always trusting in me, and thanks to my wife, Diana Mullins-Atkinson, for her help and support!

Meet the Production Staff

Nicole Bilyard (Set Designer) Nicole and her husband Brandon have two sons, Hunter and Brogan, and they live in Kankakee. She is employed as an Art Teacher with Bourbonnais School District 53. Nicole was recently the Set Designer for *Plaid Tidings* with KVTa. Nicole says, "Thank you to KVTa for this opportunity to share my art with the community. Hope everyone enjoys the creativity in each scene. What an AMAZING ART journey."

Paul Snyder (Stage Manager) A resident of Kankakee, Paul is employed in Inventory at Urban Farmer. Paul was recently seen on the KVTa stage in 2023 as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Terri Devine (Costumer) Terri lives in Orland Park and was recently the costumer for KVTa's *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2023. Terri shares, "Thank you, Tyler, for trusting me with the ruffles, frills and details of this show. And to the cast, for being open to anything! Break all legs!"

Joel Knapper (Light Tech) Joel is a resident of Bourbonnais and is the current Vice President of the KVTa Board of Directors. Joel states, "Thanks to the actors, directors, and staff for making this great show a reality!"

Amy Shinabarger (Sound Tech) Amy, her husband Jonathan, and daughter Chloe live in Bradley. She is employed as the Band Director at Bishop McNamara and St. Paul's Schools. She was most recently the vocal director for *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition* with KVTa in 2023.

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*Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered
after the program was completed.*



Thank You to 
for your support this season!



TICKETS:

6 for \$5

Arm's Length for \$10

The winning split-the-pot ticket
will be announced at the end of
intermission.



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency
through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Why Support KVTa?

The vitality of a community is determined by its cultural resources. KVTa strives for excellence. Like all other organizations, KVTa depends on support from the community to achieve this excellence. KVTa is a volunteer, community-driven organization. It takes many volunteers and many, many, man hours to produce one show. In our production season, we stage five regular season shows and more often than not, a summer production or a theatre camp for the local youth.

How can YOU make a difference?

- **Cash gifts** - every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can.
- **Matching gifts** - double or triple the value of your gift! Please contact your human resources or corporate giving department to learn about your employer's matching gift policy.
- **Stock gifts** - we gladly accept gifts of appreciated stock, an option that gives you a tax write-off while saving you capital gains tax.
- **Planned giving** - consider remembering KVTa in your will or leave a legacy for the future by including KVTa in an estate plan.



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YOUTH EDITION

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN
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