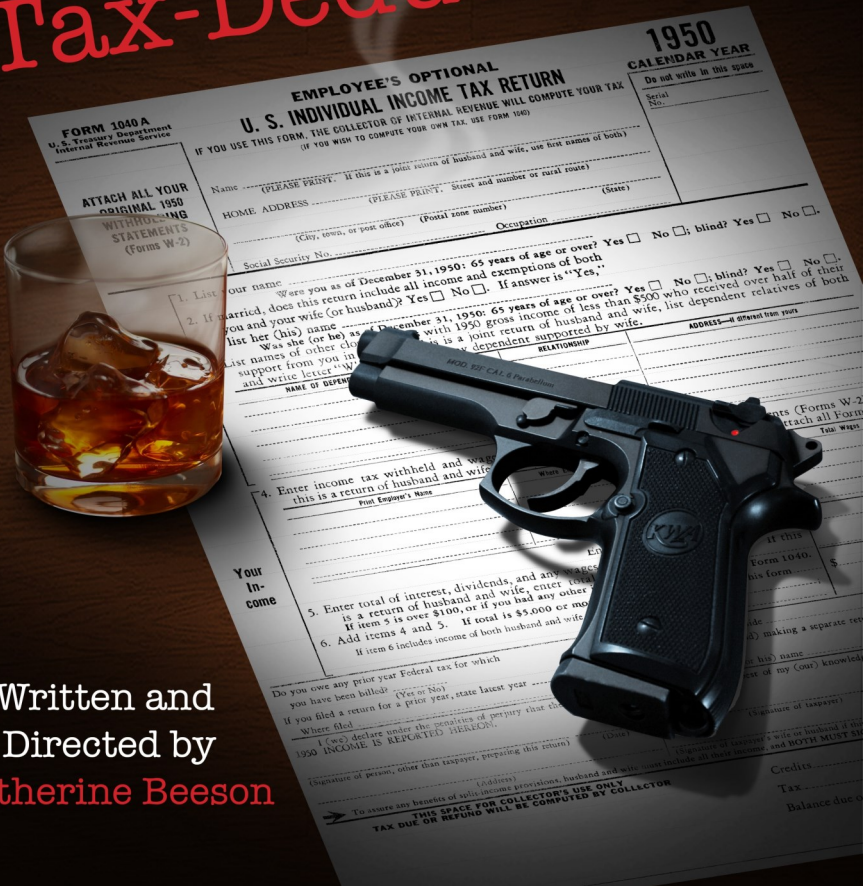




# Is Murder Tax-Deductible?



Written and  
Directed by  
**Katherine Beeson**





## ***Director's Notes***



I am beyond thrilled to be presenting "IS MURDER TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?" again with The West Allis Players. My show has recently been done by a theater group in Michigan earlier this year and will be presented in another Michigan city as well as in Florida and Louisiana next year. A small publishing house heard about the 2024 Michigan production and requested to read the script – hopefully, "IS MURDER TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?" will be offered as a professional licensed show very soon!

I want to thank my wonderful stage manager, Jon Goltz, for all his help with our show! I am also grateful to my good friend, Brian Dettmering, for being such a crabby accountant and serving as my muse with this production!

I dedicate my work on this show to the memory of my sister, Barb.

-Katherine Beeson

## ***From the Board President***



Welcome to The West Allis Players! We're thrilled to have you join us for this performance of *Is Murder Tax Deductible*, which is the second to last event of our 54th season. Our dedicated team of actors and volunteers work tirelessly to bring these productions to life, and your support is crucial in making it all possible.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of patrons like you to continue providing high-quality performances and fostering local talent. Please consider making a donation to help sustain West Allis' only community theater group. Your contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference.

We invite anyone interested in any phase of theater to join us on stage, behind the scenes or in the audience. The Park and Rec School theater programs do not end with a high school graduation.

Thank you for being part of our theater family and enjoy the show!

-Mary Beth Topf

## Cast



Bella Matthews	Dawn Molly Dewayne
Nathaniel Dett	Scott Fudali
Carol Merring	Maureen Lavin
Helen Coner	Marilyn Daleiden
Jane/Christine Devlin	Maria Bunczak Schmidt
Det. Phillip Bartholomew	David Jirik
Barry Silks	Derek Jacobs
Officer Henry	Luis Castillo
Brian Merring	Lance Odom
Harry Perkins	Marty Graffenius
Melvin S. Temple	Randy Tranowski
Christopher (7/13 Perf)	Jon Goltz

## Show Overview



All action takes place in the outer office of the accounting firm of Dett & Merring in tax season, 1951

### Act 1

- Scene 1: A busy afternoon
- Scene 2: Early AM the next morning
- Scene 3: Later the same day
- Scene 4: Later the same day
- Scene 5: Even later that day
- Scene 6: A few days later

**Intermission:** 15 Minutes

### Act II

- Scene 1: A few days later
- Scene 2: Immediately Following

## *Production Team*



Director	Katherine Beeson
Stage Manager	Jon Goltz
Scenic Designer	Scott Fudali, Katherine Beeson
Master Carpenter	Scott Fudali
Lighting Designer	Lance Odom
Sound Designer	Scott Fudali
Props Designer	Katherine Beeson
Costumes	Dawn Dewane and cast/crew
Set Construction/	Cast and crew
Lighting Technician	Mary Beth Topf
Sound Technician	Mary Beth Topf
Photography	Jon Goltz
Graphic Design	Kevin Stohlemeyer
Box Office Manager	Michael Jablonski

*We regret any omission due to printing deadlines.*

*The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.*

**Dawn Molly Dewane** (*Bella Matthews*) This is Molly's first performance with West Allis Players although she designed costumes for "Witness for the Prosecution" in 2021. Molly has worked with many theaters in the Milwaukee area as both an actor and costume designer. She is a big fan of film noir and murder mysteries.

**Scott Fudali** (*Nathaniel Dett*) has been involved in over 25 community theater productions since 2006, and has worked with the West Allis Players since 2011. Some favorite roles have included Max (Lend Me A Tenor), Paul Bratter (Barefoot in the Park), Harry Monday (Murder's Bad, but Monday Can Kill You) and George Schneider (Chapter 2). Much love to his wife for all her support in his theater endeavors.

**Maureen P. Lavin** (*Carol Merring*) is pleased to return to the WAP stage, where she last appeared as the subtly murderous Dr. June Heidelberg in "Murder's Bad, But Monday Can Kill You." She is so very grateful to have been cast as Carol, the entitled ex-wife, in this production, and thanks Director Katherine Beeson for this opportunity! She would also like to show her appreciation to the cast and crew for making this possible. In her "spare" time, she enjoys studying the film making process, especially in film noir, and she also dabbles in a tiny bit of the study of art history.

**Marilyn Daleiden** (*Helen Coner*) has been a veteran of the stage since the 1990's. This is her third time playing Helen and in 2019 was a finalist in the "Footlights People's Choice Awards" for "Supporting Actress in a Play." Her past credits with The West Allis Players include this show and "The Cupcake Killer. " Enjoy!

**Maria Bunczak Schmidt** (*Jane, Christine*) is thrilled to be back in theater after a long hiatus. Maria was active in theater in Wausau since the age of 4 and has been in over 30 productions. Most recently she was Young Melissa in "Love Letters" with West Allis Players in March. When not in Community Theater, Maria is a chemotherapy nurse. She would like to thank her husband of seven months for holding down the home with their cat, Cinderella.

**David Jirik** (*Detective Phillip Bartholomew*) is a veteran of the West Allis stage. He has appeared in musicals, dramas, and comedies. You may remember him from the musicals “Forum” (Senex), “Guys and Dolls” (Arvid Abernathy) or “1776” (John Dickinson). Or you may remember him as Jonathan Brewster (“Arsenic and Old Lace”), Charles Condomine (“Blythe Spirit”), or George Hay (“Moon Over Buffalo”). David has even directed one play for West Allis - “The Odd Couple” in the 2003/2004 season. He is thrilled to once again be working with so many of his friends.

**Derek Jacobs** (*Barry Silks*) This is Derek’s second time performing this show, albeit a different character. It was very enjoyable the first time around, and it is an honor to work again with this original script. Thank you, Katherine. Last year he was in “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, (abridged) [revised]” with the West Allis Players. He has also done a number of productions with different theater groups in the Milwaukee area. When he’s not with theater, Derek is busy designing graphics on the computer, enjoying the outdoors, and not taking into account where the time goes.

**Luis Castillo** (*Officer Henry*) is a local actor of film and commercial mediums. He has also had experience on stage with The Village Playhouse. He is excited to be back on stage after a two-year break and is glad that it is with the West Allis Players.

**Lance Odom** (*Brian Merring*) a seasoned actor on stage in plays and musicals, recently appeared in “Love Letters” with the West Allis Players. With a passion for the performing arts, he is excited to portray Brian Merring in this murder mystery. Lance thanks his family and friends for their continued support.

**Marty Graffenius** (*Harry Perkins*) This is Marty’s second production with West Allis Players having played Caesar Rodney in “1776.” He wants to thank Katherine for this opportunity and his wife Cheri, his family and his friends for their love and support.

**Randall J. Tranowski** (*Melvin S. Temple*) has been filing his own taxes for over a decade now and continues to have trouble in making sense of all the forms; He thought his 2023 Tax Return was a purr-fect piece of art but, soon received a letter from the IRS stating it as an abstract pile of crunched numbers. So, in efforts to do better for 2024, Tranowski joined a W-2 Dance Class to learn the steps for filling out tax forms--he's excelling on the From 4506 -Turn-Out! Regardless, Tranowski's future in understanding taxes and filing seems bleak and, even though he recently started a new job, he's contemplating starting a bakery in hopes to make plenty of dough and avoid the rising taxes in the years to come. Enjoy the show! "Change tomorrow, today."

**Elmer Woodendolly** (*Scuba Diver*) has been a part of every Katherine Beeson production ever since appearing as an actual character in "On Golden Pond." His other stage appearances include a short-order cook, a Marine, a sheriff's deputy, a drunken sot, a dancer at the Kit Kat Club and an English barrister. He hopes you enjoy the show!

## ***Meet the Crew***



**Kathrine Beeson (Playwright, Director)** is beyond excited to be bringing this show back to the Central Auditorium. "Is Murder tax -Deductible?" has been presented in Michigan this spring and will be done in Florida and Michigan again in 2025. It caught the interest of a small publishing company and hopefully will be part of their professional offering soon. She is very grateful to all who helped with this show as well as its curmudgeon muse, Brian Dettmering. Much love to Steve.

**Jon Goltz (Stage Manager, Christopher (7/13 Performance))** is excited to be back in a production with West Allis Players in his stage manager debut. Last seen with them on stage as George Read in "1776" back in July 2022, he has also run the Players Facebook page since January 2023.



## *Special Thanks*

Waukesha Civic Theatre

Village Playhouse

Carroll University Theatre

West Allis Central custodial  
staff

Carroll University Reservation and  
Events

## *West Allis Players Angels*

Katie Bivens

Steve & Katherine Beeson

Please consider becoming an Angel of the West Allis Players with your tax-deductible gift to our non-profit organization. Your support is greatly appreciated!



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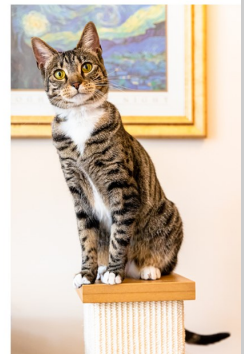
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## ***The West Allis Players***

Website	<a href="http://www.westallisplayers.org">www.westallisplayers.org</a>
Information	<a href="mailto:info@westallisplayers.org">info@westallisplayers.org</a>
Address	2450 South 68th Street West Allis, WI 53219
Phone	414.604.4900

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*Check our website for audition information,  
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[www.westallisplayers.org](http://www.westallisplayers.org)*

*August 16, 17 2024*

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## *Other Local Theater*



If you love theater, why not show your support by checking out one of these other upcoming local community theater mainstage shows?

### *The Lifespan of a Fact*

Waukesha Civic Theatre

July 12 thru July 21

[www.waukeshacivictheatre.org](http://www.waukeshacivictheatre.org)

### *A Chorus Line*

Sunset Playhouse

July 11 thru August 4

[www.sunsetplayhouse.com](http://www.sunsetplayhouse.com)

### *Unnecessary Farce*

SummerStage of Delafield

July 18 thru August 3

[www.summerstageofdelafield.org](http://www.summerstageofdelafield.org)

### *Jane Eyre*

Lake Country Playhouse

July 5 thru July 21

[www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org](http://www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org)

### *The Sound of Music*

The Haylofters Community Theatre

July 19 thru July 28

[www.thehaylofters.com](http://www.thehaylofters.com)

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Yup...  
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***Well, except  
for this text of course.***

***Use it to collect actors  
signatures in the lobby  
after the show maybe?***

***Or do a doodle during  
intermission.***