



WEST ALLIS PLAYERS PRESENTS

The Nerd

By Larry Shue



Directed by
Mary Beth Topf



Liberace Auditorium
5048 W. Greenfield Ave.

October 6, 7, 13, 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
October 8, 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.



Director's Notes

To some, a “nerd” is that socially awkward/socially inept person everyone wants to avoid; They rattle off statistics, they get fixated on one thing, and they usually dress in the clothes of the past that...were also last washed in the era in which they were popular (be it one, two, or even three, generations prior). Yet, while “nerds” may have good intentions (socially and academically), their reputation of annoyance precedes them, thus leading them to a life of isolation, sub-par mediocrity, and social withdrawal.

At the same time, however, “nerds” can also bring people together. I can't tell you how many of my peers flocked to Sam Sung during our electrical-communication exams. I still recall all of us watching Chris P. Bacon in amazement as he perfected his tossed salad ala king during Home Economics. And, I'll never forget Jed I. Knight's stunt performances in my undergraduate years. All of these men—fit the above description of a “nerd” perfectly and yet...they drew us all in because we were all fascinated by their zestful spirit, energy, and a willingness to simply embrace their whole self.

And that's what “nerds” do. They bring us together. Strengthen our friendships. And teach us that it's more than okay to be the you, *you* need to be for you! (You know?).

Take Axel and Tansey for instance. Their beloved friend, Willum, is tired, exhausted, and broken-down from Ticky's impossible demands at work and, no matter how hard they try, Willum convinces himself that all will be well (even when his friends think otherwise). It is not, however, until Rick's (surprise) visit where Willum realizes that he is capable of so much more than what he has been doing, and owes his new-found sense of self all to this...well, in a word, “nerd.”

In a way, Larry Shue's play, “The Nerd” ought to be changed to “The Heroes,” because, it was Rick, and Willum's crew of friends, who banded together in the sprit and power of friendship, and gave him the courage to stand up for all that he truly wanted: Purpose, peace, and gumption. As you watch, think about your friends and loved ones; how they have helped you, how they have challenged you, and how, even in fits of annoyance/anger, they helped make you stronger than you were before.

And, remember:

“Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.”

--Bill Gates

Randall Tranowski for Mary Beth Topf, Director

Cast



Willum Cubbert	Scott Fudali
Tansy McGinnis	Anna Marie Zorn
Axel Hammond	David Cooklock
Warnock Waldgrave	Bill Kaiser
Clelia Waldgrave	Antoinette Stikl
Thor Waldgrave	Ellory Woodford
	Roan Kyne
Rick Stedman	Randy Tranowski

Show Overview



Place	Terre Haute, Indiana
Act I	November 4th
Intermission	15 Minutes
Act II Scene 1	Six days later
Act II Scene II	The following day

This production is presented by arrangement with:
Dramatists Play Service
www.dramatists.com

Production Team



Director	Mary Beth Topf
Stage Manager	Jennifer Conway
Scenic Designer	Scott Fudali
Master Carpenter	Scott Fudali
Lighting Designer	Scott Fudali
Sound Designer	Scott Fudali
Props Designer	Mary Beth Topf Michael Jablonski
Costume Designer	Mary Beth Topf and Cast
Lighting Technician	Pat Breed Kaiser
Sound Technician	Pat Breed Kaiser
Set Build/Painting	The Nerd Cast

Meet the Cast



David Cooklock (*Axel*) is thrilled to be in *The Nerd* as it is his favorite comedy. He has spent most of his adult life in community theatre, and it's starting to feel like it. He and his wife Lynn have two boys making their way into adulthood. Dave dedicates this performance to his boys, Callen and Ryan. And he reminds you to laugh loud and laugh long. Every day

Scott Fudali (*Willum*) 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.



Bill Kaiser (*Warnock*) started acting at the age of 12 when his first role was "Nels" in West Allis Players production of *I Remember Mama* and he has been performing and directing in the Milwaukee area ever since. Bill was last seen in WAP's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Revised)* this past April. He is happy to have his wife doing the lights and sound for this show so she can light him up again after doing 48 years of shows together.



Roan Kyne (*Thor*) is thrilled to be making his debut with the West Allis Players. He has performed in many other shows, most recent being Scuttle in *Little Mermaid Jr.* (Sunset Playhouse), Wesselton in *Frozen Jr.* (Park View Middle School), Ralphie in *A Christmas Story* (Mukwonago Village Players). He is also performing as Michael in *Elf Jr.* in Mukwonago. He plays soccer, volleyball, the piano, and trumpet. He also enjoys travel. He would like to thank his parents for all their support, and his sister Sophie for introducing him to acting. He hopes you enjoy the show!





Antoinette Stikl (*Clelia*) is no stranger to the arts as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, and assistant director. Her past shows with West Allis Players include, Lucille (*The Cemetery Club*), Madame Beauviers (*A Shot In The Dark*). A few of her favorite theater roles include, Joanne (*Company*), Abby Brewster (*Arsenic & Old Lace*), Mrs. Brill (*Mary Poppins*), Mother Superior (*Nonsense*), M'Lynn (*Steel Magnolias*), Miss Hannigan (*Annie*), Mary Magdalene (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), and Mrs. Meeker (*Funny Girl*). Recently Antoinette was an extra in 2 films shot in Milwaukee; *Diffraction*, produced by Marquette University, and *Earlybird*; produced by Two Scoops Production. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and TailWaggers 911 Dog Rescue. Enjoy the show and please continue to support the arts.

Randy Tranowski (*Rick*) went to the high school prom with a friend of his back in 2009. He wanted to make the night fun so, he waited in a long line at the tux store to make sure he matched pink dress. And then he waited in the long line at the florist to make sure he got her a matching pink corsage. And *then* they waited in the long line of limos as they made their way to the museum (where the prom was taking place). And THEN his date asked for a small plate of food so, he waited in the long line to get an assortment of deviled eggs, mini-wieners, and cookies. And *THEN*, after some dancing and mingling, she asked him to bring her some punch and...there was no punch line. Thank you. Enjoy the show!



Ellory Woodford (*Thor*) is so excited to be in her tenth show. Some of her favorite roles have been Gladys in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Young Anna in *Frozen Jr.*, and playing Lavender and Bruce in separate productions of *Matilda, Jr.* In her free time she enjoys singing and listening to the *School of Rock*, the *Musical* soundtrack. She would like to thank the production team and cast for such a fabulous experience, and hopes that everyone enjoys the show!

Anna Marie Zorn (*Tansy*) is happy to be part of her first production with West Allis Players. *The Nerd* has been a hilarious great time with an amazing cast and team! Favorite past roles include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Mrs. Potiphar), *Beauty*



and *the Beast* (Madame), and *Enchanted April* (Lotty). So many thanks to her supportive family and friends. Big thanks to Jeff for his unwavering encouragement and support of, well, everything. Enjoy the show!

Meet the Crew




Mary Beth Topf (Director) has directed a number of productions around the Milwaukee area, most notably with Falls Patio Players, West Allis Players and Memories Ballroom in Port Washington. Mary Beth has a Bachelors degree in Speech/Drama, a Masters degree in Theatre Arts and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Directing. Originally from Iowa, Mary Beth interned at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in Milwaukee and has directed several successful productions in the area. Some of her favorites include: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]*, *Farce of Nature*, *Rumors* and *Always a Bridesmaid*. She is now enjoying retirement after 42 years of working as a registered nurse.

Jennifer Conway (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and director on *The Nerd*. She has been involved with the Players since 2015. She started working as a crew member and moved into the Stage Manager role in 26. She was seen on stage for the first (and only) time as the maid in *Same Time, Next Year*. She quickly realized she prefers the behind the scenes work. She thanks her son for getting her involved with theater as a “helper mom” in his high school days. She dedicates this production to her dear friend Beth. She hopes you enjoy this fun production!



Pat Breed Kaiser (Lighting and Sound Technician) is happy to once again be working with Mary Beth and the West Allis Players after running the lights and sound this past April for WAP’s *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]*. She always enjoys working on a show when she gets a chance to work with her husband Bill (Warnock Waldgrave) who is the “light” of her life.

Special Thanks



Christopher Kurtz
Waukesha Civic Theatre

Jon Goltz
Carroll University
Reservation and Events

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The West Allis Players

Website	www.westallisplayers.org
Information	info@westallisplayers.org
Address	2450 South 68th Street West Allis, WI 53219
Phone	414.604.4900

Next Up for The West Allis Players



*Check our website for audition information,
show location, and all the details
www.westallisplayers.org*

March 15, 16, 17 2024

Other Local Theater



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

Blithe Spirit

Sunset Playhouse
October 19 thru November 5
www.sunsetplayhouse.com

The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition

Lake Country Playhouse
October 11 thru October 22
www.lakecountryplayhousewi.org

Clue: The Musical

The Haylofters Community Theatre
October 19 thru October 29
www.thehaylofters.com

Men on Boats

Waukesha Civic Theatre
October 27 thru November 12
www.waukeshacivictheatre.org

Escape to Margaritaville

West Bend Theater Company
May 3 thru 12
www.westbendtheatreco.com

*Directed by our own Mary Beth Toph

***This Page?
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.***