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Lady of The Diamond

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LADY OF THE DIAMOND

By MARK BERMAN

Directed by JACK O'BRIEN
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Mark Berman began his professional theatre career as a playwright/actor with the Guthrie Theatre Company which produced one of his early plays. His works have been done by the American Conservatory Theatre, in San Francisco, at the Dallas Theatre Center, Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre Company, the Hartman Theatre Company, Chicago’s North Light Repertory Company, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, the Cricket Theatre in Minneapolis and the Obie Award-winning Second Story Players and the 13th Street Theatres in New York City. His plays include PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS, THE DAY THE MARCHING BANDS WENT WILD, ROUTE 66, TALL STORIES FROM THE BUTCHER’S BLOCK, OLD FOLKS AT HOME, LET’S PLAY CHESS, TRIPS, I HAD 3 BALLS BUT I LOST ONE, and POPITCH LOVES PUCCINI. Mr. Berman’s last visit to Buffalo was as a merchant seaman aboard a Great Lakes freighter. He has also worked as a welder in a midwest auto plant, been an FM disc jockey, a construction worker and served as a playwright-in-residence at several State Universities, as well as having played semi-pro baseball in New York.

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LADY OF THE DIAMOND

By MARK BÉRMA

Directed by JACK O’BRIEN

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ROBERT MORGAN

Lighting Designed by
JOHN McLAIN

Special Consultant
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Production Stage Manager
BEVERLY J. ANDREOZZI

Sound Designed by
RICK MENKE

Technical Director
JOHN BAUN

This production is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency, and from Erie County and the City of Buffalo. The Studio Arena Theatre participates in the Arts Development Services Performing Arts Voucher Program.

128th Production, September 26–October 25, 1980 World Premiere

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In order of appearance)

Connie Weaver
Vendor
Hap "Coach" Farrell
Moose Katrina
Bomber
Benton
Willie
Mom (Clara Kocinski)
Sportscaster
Sammy (Batboy)
Hedley Wooster
Groundskeepers

CHRISTINE BARANSKI
ROBERT SPENCER
ROBERT DARNELL
VICTOR ARNOLD
JOHN GOODMAN
TERRY ALEXANDER
JOEL POLIS
LYNN COHEN
TIMOTHY MEYERS
MARK MISSERT
CARL SCHURR
PHILIP KNOERZER,
BRIAN DeMARCO

SCENE SYNOPSIS

Time: Baseball Season
Place: The Major Leagues

Act I: Fun and Games
Act II: Winning Games
Act III: End of the Game

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.

SPECIAL CREDITS

Lobby and Publicity Photographs—Phototech Studios
Consultants for Audience Development and Special Programs—Putnam-Anger Associates
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Christine Baranski’s Hair and Wigs Designed and Executed by Patrick Moreton
Dresser for LADY OF THE DIAMOND—Eileen Schnell

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Smoking is permitted only in outer lobby and Stage Left Lounge.
The use of photographic or any other recording device, such as tape recorders, is strictly prohibited in this theatre.
As we head into the '80s, one cliche symptomatic of our times abounds: "You can't really be sure of anything anymore." And as disquieting as that may be to our grandparents, we seem to adjust as well as we can — often surprising ourselves. This is truly an age of transition — careers can rise and fall within a television season, to say nothing of a baseball season, and one no more gets used to the punk rock look than it is immediately passé. Roller disco . . . computer games . . . test tube babies . . . and fast-food croissants from France. So you shake your head, smile, and say, "Look. You can't really be sure of anything anymore."

The theatre has been changing, too. The influence of film and television on our aesthetic sensibility is more direct than we might imagine. When a well-made play is performed these days — say, a revival of an elegant Lillian Hellman effort — it seems to be the exception more than the rule. Plays still have a beginning, a middle, and an end, but we have become so used to jump-cuts and fast edits from film, that when we sit in our seats in the theatre, we are finally ready for anything.
And a very good thing, too. Because theatre, which can entertain us and even educate us, must also astonish us. For nothing stays the same forever — even baseball, perhaps the most formal of all American sports, and the only team sport not played to a clock, has felt the impact of the media, and the reverberations of big business and advertising.

And LADY OF THE DIAMOND? Well, perhaps it might be easier to define it by defining what it is not. Because it's not just about baseball, and it's not just about the women's movement, and it's not just about sacred American institutions. It's about all of those things, of course, and finally mostly about men and women. And human potential. Well, look. It's theatre. And you can't really be sure of anything anymore.

Jack O'Brien
Buffalo, September 19, 1980

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  Stage Manager ...................................................... Robert C. Mingus

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  Shop Foreman ......................................................... Ray Scultz
  Head Carpenter ..................................................... Lee Alan McCoy
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THE COMPANY

TERRY ALEXANDER  Benton

Mr. Alexander hails from Detroit, Michigan where he received a B.S. degree in theatre from Wayne State University. The next stop was New York. He starred on Broadway in Charles Gordone's Pulitzer Prize-winning NO PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY. He later performed in the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of STREAMERS directed by Mike Nichols. His numerous Off-Broadway and regional theatre productions include works at the Baltimore Center Stage, Goodman Theatre in Chicago, Manhattan Theatre Club, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In films, Mr. Alexander appeared in DEATH WISH and Bob Fosse's ALL THAT JAZZ. His television credits include the running character of Zac Richards in NBC's daytime serial ANOTHER WORLD. He portrayed Bernard Lee in THE MARTIN LUTHER KING STORY starring Paul Winfield and Cicely Tyson. Most recently, he played Luke in the ABC Sunday Night Movie ANGEL ON MY SHOULDER.

VICTOR ARNOLD  Moose

Mr. Arnold has appeared in Broadway in THE DEPUTY, MALCOLM, WE BOMBED IN NEW HAVEN and FUN CITY. Off-Broadway, he created the role of Rocky in the original New York production of FORTUNE AND MEN'S EYES. Some other roles he has played in regional theatre include Jerry in THE ZOO STORY, Eddie Carbone in A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, Stanley in A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, Sidney Brustein in THE SIGN IN SIDNEY BRUSTEIN'S WINDOW and most recently Foxwell J. Sly in SLY FOX. On television, he has appeared on such shows as ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE, ROUTE 66, N.Y.P.D., KOJAK, BRONC, and co-starred in the pilot film of EASTSIDE, WESTSIDE which starred George C. Scott. His film credits include THE INNOCENT, SHAFT, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, and he was Roy Scheider’s sidekick in THE 7-UPS. Born in Herkimer, New York he attended UCLA and graduated from NYU after a four year Navy hitch. He will be seen in WOLFEN with Albert Finney and THE 1ST DEADLY SIN with Frank Sinatra, both soon-to-be-released films.
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CHRISTINE BARANSKI  Connie Weaver

Christine Baranski recently made her Broadway debut in HIDE AND SEEK which starred Elizabeth Ashley. Just prior to that she appeared as April in the Playwrights' Horizons revival of COMPANY and was chosen to appear with Vanessa Redgrave in the CBS Television movie PLAYING FOR TIME. During the past two seasons, she has performed Off-Broadway at the Phoenix Theatre in SAYS I, SAYS HE; ONE CRACK OUT; and THE TROUBLE WITH EUROPE. She has toured with Dick Cavett in OTHERWISE ENGAGED (as Davina Saunders) and portrayed Beatrice in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, which played the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia and the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Connecticut. In 1977, she created the role of Miss Scoons in the world premiere of ANGEL CITY by Sam Shepard at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton. Miss Baranski has been featured at Baltimore's Center Stage as Billie Dawn in BORN YESTERDAY, Dorine in TARTUFFE, and Lina in MISALLIANCE. Miss Baranski made her acting debut at the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, succeeding Carole Shelley as Lady Capulet in ROMEO AND JULIET and understudying Elizabeth Ashley in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF. She is a graduate of the Julliard School. A native of Buffalo, this is her first appearance on the Studio Arena stage and her first professional appearance in her hometown. Miss Baranski grew up in Cheektowaga, where she attended St. John Guilbert's Elementary School and Villa Maria Academy. She was also a member of the Buffalo Theatre Workshop and the Company of Man, both experimental theatre groups in the city during the late '60s.
LYNN COHEN  Mom (Clara Kocinski)

Miss Cohen recently appeared at the Guthrie Theatre in YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. Prior to that, she played Maggie in THE SHADOW BOX at Ford's Theatre. She played Ruby in Marsha Norman's GETTING OUT, winner of the Outer Circle Critics Award. She created the role for Actors Theatre of Louisville's New Playwright's Festival, where she appeared in Ms. Norman's CIRCUS VALENTINE. She has appeared in DON JUAN and THE ARBOR at the Manhattan Theatre Club and at the Goodman Theatre, Missouri Repertory, PAF Playhouse, Loretto-Hilton Repertory and the New Jersey and Maine Shakespeare Festivals, she has played such roles as Martha in WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, Regan in KING LEAR, Gertrude in HAMLET and Meg in THE HOSTAGE. Miss Cohen appeared in the opera STREET SCENE at the Lincoln Center and IMPRESSARIO at the Kennedy Center, directed by Jack O'Brien. She was recently seen on the daytime soap opera ONE LIFE TO LIVE.

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ROBERT DARNELL
Hap "Coach" Farrell

Mr. Darnell is no stranger to the Studio Arena having played Wild Bill Hickock in INDIANS during the 1971-72 season. He has performed over one hundred shows in regional theatres across the country having worked at the Washington Theatre Club, UCLA Theatre Group under John Houseman, the Pittsburgh Playhouse and most recently, as a resident actor at the Loretto-Hilton Theatre in St. Louis. Some of his favorite roles have been Eddie in A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, Hickey in THE ICEMAN COMETH, Old Jim in Arthur Miller's MEMORY OF TWO MONDAYS, Vincent in Lanford Wilson's THE GINGHAM DOG and Glogauer in ONCE IN A LIFETIME. He has appeared on Broadway in several productions including LUV, IRMA LA DOUCE, . . . WATERS RUNNING and others. Off-Broadway audiences have seen him in the original production of THE THREEPENNY OPERA, IN WHITE AMERICA, WHO'S HAPPY NOW? and many other shows. His
television credits include NAKED CITY, THE DEFENDERS, KOJAK, HALLMARK HALL OF FAME and GUNSMOKE, although theatre is his first and lasting love. Professionally, Mr. Darnell has stage managed, designed lights, directed and worked as a stagehand.

BRIAN DeMARCO  Groundskeeper

Mr. DeMarco was recently seen in the role of Nathan Detroit in the Committee for Youth and Arts production of GUYS AND DOLLS presented this summer at Studio Arena. Last season, he played a houseboy in Studio Arena’s production of THE LETTER. He appeared as Felix in THE ODD COUPLE and as the prosecuting attorney in THE RUNNER STUMBLES both for the Town Players Theatre and in the Kenmore Musical Theatre’s production of OLIVER, he played the role of Fagin. He has also appeared in an industrial film for National Fuel Gas. A graduate of Canisius College, Mr. DeMarco worked at Studio Arena last season as a production intern.

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JOHN GOODMAN Bomber

Mr. Goodman has been seen on Broadway as Phil in the play LOOSE ENDS and Off-Broadway he played Oberon in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM at Equity Library Theatre. At the Center Stage in Baltimore, he played Roy in LONE STAR and at Ford's Theatre in Washington, he was Little Harp in THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM. His other credits include GODSPELL, 1776, SUMMER AND SMOKE, THE FANTASTICKS, SCAPINO, INDIANS, THE THREEPENNY OPERA, A MEMORY OF TWO MONDAYS, THE INDIAN WANTS THE BRONX, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI, LITTLE MURDERERS and THE BALD SOPRANO. Mr. Goodman is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University.

PHILIP KNOERZER Groundskeeper

Philip Knoerzer has been seen in many area productions for the past seven years, notably during his four years at Buffalo State College. He is an alumnus of the Williamstown Theatre Festival and made his professional debut in Studio Arena's production of SEMMELWEIS during the '77-'78 season. Mr. Knoerzer can be seen serving frinks in the Stage Left Lounge after this evening's performance.

TIMOTHY MEYERS Sportscaster

Mr. Meyers has worked on and Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. Some of his favorite performances were Sir Timothy Bellboys in A PENNY FOR A SONG directed by David Frank at St. Louis' Loretto-Hilton Theatre, Phil Murray in COMEDIANS at Washington's Arena Stage, Frank in the

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American premiere of CHARLIE AND ALGERNON at the Kennedy Center and Puck in the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. In New York City, he has been seen at the Phoenix Theatre and the Manhattan Theatre Club most recently, under Patricia Birch's direction in Jake Holmes' SIDEWALKIN. Mr. Meyers originated the role of Kenickie in Broadway's longest-running show GREASE, for which he gleefully received a Tony Award nomination.

MARK MISSERT  Batboy

SAT's batboy for LADY OF THE DIAMOND is a 12 year-old seventh grader at Hamburg Junior High. He enjoys baseball, hockey and soccer. He attended SAT's school this past summer, and it would seem that his interest in acting runs in the family — his grandfather trod the boards in vaudeville.

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Mr. Polis abandoned a budding pitching career in the summer of '62 when a rival from Camp Tuckahoe blew him off the field with a dazzling array of tosses that won the league championship for Tuckahoe. However, he soon won a scholarship in gymnastics to USC and there began a serious affair with the theatre. In New York City, he has performed at Playwright's Horizons, the Phoenix Company's Marymount Theatre, and created the role of Jerry Stein in the Off-Broadway hit FAMILY BUSINESS at the Astor Place Theatre. Last season, he played the young actor in Mamet's A LIFE IN THE THEATRE and Tom Kent in the American premiere of David French's JITTERS at the Long Wharf Theatre. His other regional credits include Rodney in BOY MEETS GIRL, Simon, the Olympic diving medalist in Martin Sherman's PASSING BY, Patroclus in TROILUS AND CRESSIDA, and Nick, the lascivious bellhop in Joe Orton's WHAT THE BUTLER SAW. Mr. Polis is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and like all native Philadelphians a die-hard Phillies fan.
CARL SCHURR  Hedly Wooster

Mr. Schurr comes directly to Buffalo from his third summer at Totem Playhouse and the title role in THE GOOD DOCTOR. Previous work for the Pennsylvania theatre includes COUNT DRACULA, LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE and BROADWAY. This past season, he toured coast to coast with Jean Stapleton in the revival of George Kelly’s DAISY MAYME which followed his Los Angeles premiere of Alan Ackybourne’s ABSENT FRIENDS. Mr. Schurr appeared in a variety of roles during his three years at Baltimore’s Center Stage (THE TRIAL OF THE CATONSVILLE NINE, THE BEAUX STRATEGEM), at the Loretto-Hilton Repertory in St. Louis (THE FRONT PAGE) and Michigan’s Meadowbrook Theatre (SCHOOL FOR WIVES). At the Missouri Repertory Theatre he was seen in THE HOSTAGE and Cyril Ritchard’s production of THE MISANTHROPE. Summer theatre work has taken him to St. Michael’s Playhouse (SCAPINO, RHINOCEROS) and Allenberry Playhouse (LET ME HEAR YOU SMILE, CALIFORNIA SUITE). A director as well as actor, the versatile Mr. Schurr has staged seventeen productions for
Washington's Hayloft Theatre, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WANDA JUNE for Center Stage and THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES and CANTERBURY TALES for the Loretto-Hilton. When not acting or directing, Mr. Schurr writes musicals for young people. His work has been produced by Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Center Stage and Long Wharf Theatre. He is making his Studio Arena debut.

ROBERT SPENCER  Vendor

Mr. Spencer has appeared on Broadway in BYE, BYE BIRDS, ENTER LAUGHING, VIA GALACTICA and SEXTET. Off-Broadway, he was in THE FANTASTICKS and SING MUSE. He has been a resident actor at the Loretto-Hilton Theatre for the past six years where he played a number of roles including Billy Budd, Puck in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, George Lewis in ONCE IN A LIFETIME and Ebenezer Scrooge in A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Four years at the Washington Theatre Club brought him major assignments in over thirty productions. Mr. Spencer has also played many of the summer theatres throughout the country. Some of his favorite roles are J. Pierpoint Finch in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, Nick in WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, and Albert Peterson in BYE, BYE BIRDS. He is not a complete stranger to Buffalo audiences as he appeared in the 1972 Studio Arena production of RING-A-LEVIO, in which he played a variety of roles. He has done numerous radio and television commercials. His directing credits include COMPANY, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER and several musical revues.

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JACK O'BRIEN  Director

Jack O'Brien received a Tony Award nomination for his recent direction of PORGY AND BESS on Broadway. He began his career at the National Shakespeare Festival in San Diego, for whom he directed a COMEDY OF ERRORS, THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, HAMLET and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. He has also directed numerous productions for other prestigious theatre groups in the country including the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, Trinity Square and the Loretto-Hilton in St. Louis. As associate artistic director of John Houseman's Acting Company at Juilliard, Mr. O'Brien directed Beckett's PLAY, THE ORCHESTRA and THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE. Some of his more recent assignments include the Westwood Playhouse production of THE HEIRESS starring Marsha Mason, the musical production of NEFERTITI and the Ahmanson Theatre's A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS starring Charlton Heston. Mr. O'Brien's opera credits are numerous including productions for the Dallas Civic Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the Houston Grand Opera, the Santa Fe Opera, the Washington Opera and the recent successful revival of Weill's STREET SCENE for the New York City Opera and televised for LIVE FROM LINCOLN CENTER. On television, he directed the Theatre in America production of THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE and the NET adaptation of Neil Simon's THE GOOD DOCTOR. In collaboration with jazz artist, Bob James, he wrote the musical, THE SELLING OF A PRESIDENT. Mr. O'Brien's recent assignments include MOST HAPPY FELLA for Michigan Opera, television, and Broadway and ROMEO AND JULIET for the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. He is currently preparing THE TROJAN WAR WILL NOT TAKE PLACE for the American Conservatory Theatre and MARY STUART for the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles.

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Mr. Morgan comes to Buffalo from ten years of Professional Design work on the West Coast. As principal costume designer for San Francisco’s Tony Award-winning American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.), he has created designs for over twenty productions ranging widely in style from the classics to contemporary drama and including the world premiere of Tennessee Williams’ THIS IS... AN ENTERTAINMENT. For the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, he has designed costumes for a variety of productions including the American premiere of Thornton Wilder’s THE ALCESTIAS, and for the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, he has designed the Jack O’Brien productions of HAMLET, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM and ROMEO AND JULIET. For the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, he has produced costumes for DOCTOR FAUSTUS and again for Mr. O’Brien, he created costumes for the Ahmanson Theatre’s A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS, for which design he won a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award. This season, Mr. Morgan’s work will be seen in revivals at A.C.T., at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, where he designed three of last season’s offerings, and in a gallery exhibit in San Diego. Mr. Morgan was educated at Dartmouth College and Stanford University. He currently resides in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom with his wife Wendy, an attorney.

Studio Arena Theatre is for rent from May to September after the close of the season. Any part of or the entire theatre is available... the Stage Left Lounge, the lobby, the main theatre, etc. Call 856-8025 for further information.
JOHN McLAIN Lighting Designer

Last season, Mr. McLain designed two premiers for SAT, MY HUSBAND'S WILD DESIRES ALMOST DROVE ME MAD and I WON'T DANCE and now returns for his third world premiere. He has worked at most of the major regional theatres in the country including the Tyrone Guthrie in Minneapolis and the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego where he has worked previously with Jack O'Brien. He designed the lighting for the largest show of its kind in the world in HELLO HOLLYWOOD HELLO at the MGM Grand in Reno and is currently designing the lighting for the MGM Grand's spectacular 1980 opening in Las Vegas in which he will “sink the Titanic.” On Broadway, he has done the lighting for such productions as SAINT JOAN, TARTUFFE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST and MAJOR BARBARA. Next year, Mr. McLain will go to Paris where he will design lighting at the world famous Lido.

Call ARTSLINE 847-1444 for a daily listing of cultural events in the area prepared by the Arts Development Services.
DUKE McGuire  Special Consultant

Duke McGuire, Studio Arena's technical consultant for LADY OF THE DIAMOND has added coaching to his long list of accomplishments in professional sports. Mr. McGuire, Director of Promotion and Marketing for the Buffalo Bisons and former pro ballplayer, has been teaching the cast of SAT's latest world premiere the rudiments of America's favorite sport. Buffalo-born McGuire began his baseball career at Amherst High. Drafted by the New York Mets, he decided instead to attend Cornell University. After a season there, he was again drafted, this time by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He transferred to SUNYAB, and in 1972 was drafted by the Detroit Tigers. Duke spent three years in the Tigers' organization, playing in the outfield and at first base, before his promising career was curtailed by injury. He returned to his home town to coach at Bishop Neumann High, and has managed the Niagara Falls Pirates of the New York-Penn League. He keeps his skills sharpened by playing for the Voyagers of the Buffalo Muny League, whom he helped to the 1979 National Amateur Baseball Federation Championship.

DOCTORS AND PARENTS: If you expect calls during performances, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager and the number 856-8025 with your telephone service or babysitter.

Household appliances and kitchen items are needed to furnish the living quarters of the actors appearing in Studio Arena productions. If you have anything you would like to donate please call Rosemary Sheldon at 856-8025.

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