

COLLEGE THEATER PRESENTS

THE GAME'S AFOOT

By Ken Ludwig
Directed by Amelia Barrett

NOV 6 - 23, 2025



Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez
Executive Director
McAninch Arts Center



“Great theater is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to.”

—Willem Dafoe
renowned American actor

Welcome to College Theater at the MAC

From the inception of planning College Theater productions, each season is built with the idea that both escapism and engagement theater are important for students to experience and our audiences to enjoy. Escapism theater allows us to escape from our daily turmoil and daily life, offering pure entertainment. Engagement theater focuses on the human condition and the burning quest for a solution—it is theater we do not easily forget and that changes us in some way, forever.

The mission of both escapism and engagement theater is to expose everyone to the great theater of the past as well as important theater of today. We’ve chosen an eclectic season including both escapism and engagement theater, culled after considering countless titles and varied genres. Above all, we’re most interested in training our students as artists, both on the stage and behind the curtain, engaging with students and community in our audience, as well. That is the power of live theater, which does not exist except in this live, ephemeral moment—it is an art that celebrates interaction—on stage, but also between stage and audience.

The 2025–2026 College Theater season is a perfect example of this exciting mix: *The Crucible*, *The Game’s Afoot*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Fight Girl Battle World*.

Thank you so much for supporting the voices of our talented students and power of live theater. We hope you join us again and again.

The Theater Faculty at College of DuPage

College Theater presents

The Game's Afoot ***(or Holmes for the Holidays)***

Director and Theater Department Chair

Amelia Barrett

*Scenic Design &
Co-Properties Design*

Sabrina Zeidler

*Lighting Design &
Co-Properties Design*

Richard Arnold, Jr.

Costume, Hair & Make-up Design

Kimberly G. Morris

Sound Design

Fisher Parsons

Presented by arrangement with **Samuel French,**
an imprint of Concord Theatricals Corp.

KEN LUDWIG'S *THE GAME'S AFOOT; OR HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS* was first presented by Cleveland Play House at the Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, opening on December 2, 2011, under Artistic Director Michael Bloom, featuring scenic design by Daniel Conway, lighting design by Thom Weaver, sound design by James C. Swonger, costume design by Linda Roethke, stage management by Shannon Habenicht, and technical direction by Erik Seidel. The director was Aaron Posner.

Support is made possible by a generous gift from the College of DuPage Foundation's **Dr. Donald and Helen (Gum) Westlake Fund for Student Productions.**

In an effort to support our students, \$2.00 of each ticket goes to the John Belushi/Second City Scholarships for Theater and Music students.

Please note: This production contains mature themes and language.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones and watches.

Nov 6 - 23, 2025 | Studio Theatre

CAST LISTING (in order of appearance)

William Gillette/Holmes.....	Alexander Wood
Martha Gillette.....	Lynn M. Borge
Felix Geisel/Moriarty.....	Vinny Scanio
Madge Geisel/Marian	Jamiya Haynes
Simon Bright/Zerlinsky.....	Jimmy Knapp
Aggie Wheeler/Alice	Alexis Schiro
Daria Chase	Emily Loera
Inspector Goring	Lucien Feldman

Time: December 1936

Place: The living room of the mansion of William Gillette on the Connecticut River near East Haddam, Connecticut.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Morgan Erickson+
Assistant Stage Managers	Lynn M. Borge, Vinny Scanio, Alexander Wood
Fight Captain	Lucien Feldman
Intimacy/Violence Director	David Gonzalez
Technical Director/Scene Shop Manager.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Technical Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Run Crew	Mack Lechtenberg, Gi Nascimento, Connor Welker
Scene Shop Crew.....	MeiXi DiBernardo, Mack Lechtenberg, C.J. Morris, Gi Nascimento, Violet O'Connor, Vinny Scanio, Harry Smith, Connor Welker
Costume Shop Manager.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Gretchen Woodley
Costume Shop Assistants	Lynn Borge, Natalie Cross, Noor Khankan, Simeon Shama, Crystal Shearrill, Chris Yee
Wardrobe	Noor Khankan

+ Fall 2025 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient

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AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS

College of DuPage Theater is holding auditions for spring productions:

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Daniel Millhouse

Fight Girl Battle World

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Amelia Barrett

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23 at 1 p.m.

Callbacks: Saturday, Jan. 24 at 12 p.m. (if necessary)

For more information, see AtTheMAC.org/auditions



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Game's Afoot embraces a delightful blend of humor, suspense, and theatrical flair—perfect for anyone who loves a good mystery with a twist of comedy. On the surface, it offers all the trappings of a classic Agatha Christie-style thriller: a secluded mansion on a snowy night, a cast of eccentric characters, and—of course—a shocking murder.

But this play gleefully turns our instinct to make order out of chaos against us, spinning a tale that is as *murderously funny* as it is suspenseful. Playwright Ken Ludwig, known for his sharp wit and theatrical imagination, balances comedy with intrigue. His work often celebrates the magic of theater itself—and this play is no exception.

The story centers on Broadway star William Gillette, known for playing Sherlock Holmes on stage. When real-life danger strikes, Gillette begins to channel his iconic role, blurring the lines between performance and reality. As the mystery deepens, Gillette and his fellow *theater folk behaving badly* treat the unfolding murder as a kind of play-within-a-play, leading to hilarious and unexpected consequences.

The characters are larger than life—each with dark secrets, inflated egos, and melodramatic flair that make every twist all the more entertaining.

The title phrase, “the game’s afoot,” has a figurative meaning: an exciting endeavor or challenging situation is underway. It originates from Shakespeare’s *Henry V* and was later popularized by Sherlock Holmes, signaling the start of a thrilling hunt or unfolding drama.

At its core, *The Game's Afoot* is pure escapism—a fast-paced, laugh-filled mystery that invites audiences to sit back and enjoy the ride. Our production aims to bring this theatrical comedy to life in all its over-the-top glory.

Join us as the mystery of this "whodunnit" unfolds—you won't want to miss a clue!

~AB

CAST PROFILES

Lynn M. Borge (Martha Gillette/Assistant Stage Manager) Third COD production; *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Abby Brewster) and *A Christmas Carol* (Londoner). Favorite credits include Bristol Renaissance Faire (Mistress Blanche Perry, member of the Queen's Court), *You Can't Take It with You* (Penny Sycamore) and *West of Pecos* (Mrs. Powers) with The Oakbrook Academy.

Lucien Feldman (Inspector Goring) First COD production. Favorite credits include *Alice in Wonderland* (Humpty Dumpty), *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Strangers on a Train: The Radio Play* (Radio Host).

Jamiya Haynes (Madge Geisel/Marian) Fourth COD production; *The Mousetrap* (Mollie), *Our Town* (Ensemble), and *Cinderella* (Ensemble). Favorite credits include College of DuPage Juneteenth Diversity Celebration.

Jimmy Knapp (Simon Bright/Zerlinsky) Third COD production; *Good Kids* (Landon) and *It's Only a Play* (Frank Finger). Favorite credits include *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Dr. Einstein) at Galaxy Theater, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Billy) and *Orphans* (Philip) at Parker Players Theater Company.

Scott Kucera (Broadcast News Reader): Fifth COD production; *The Crucible* (John Willard/Hopkins, Assistant Stage Manager), *Alice in TV-Land* (The King of Hearts), *A Christmas Carol* (Mr. Caspar), and *Our Town* (Simon Stimson). Favorite credits include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), *Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston), and *Footloose* (Reverend Shaw) all at The School of Expressive Arts and Learning.

Emily Loera (Daria Chase) Fourth COD Production; *A Christmas Carol* (Londoner/Fezziwig Dancer), *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs), *Cinderella* (Ensemble). Favorite credits include: *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs) at College of DuPage, *Clue: On Stage* (Newswoman) and *James and the Giant Peach* (Aunt Sponge/Ladybird) at Hinsdale Central High School.

Vinny Scanio (Felix Geisel/Moriarty/Assistant Stage Manager) Tenth COD production; *Scenes from an Execution* (Admiral Suffici), *The Living* (Lord Brounker), *Badger* (Chester), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Perch Perkins), *A Christmas Carol* (Mr. Fezziwig), *The Curious Incident of the*

CAST PROFILES

Dog in the Night-Time (Ed), *Born Yesterday* (Stage Manager), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Durdles), and *Cinderella* (Jean Michel). Scanio is a 2022 John Belushi/College Stage Management Scholarship recipient.

Alexis Schiro (Aggie Wheeler/Alice) Seventh COD production: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Posh Woman), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Emily/Lady in Waiting), *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Ensemble), *Good Kids* (Madison), *A Christmas Carol* (Ursula), and *Cinderella* (Ensemble).

Alexander Wood (William Gillette/Holmes/Assistant Stage Manager) Second COD Production: *Cinderella* (Ensemble). Favorite credits include *Cabaret*, *Violet*, and *The Pajama Game* at Elmhurst University.

PLAYWRIGHT PROFILE

Ken Ludwig has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by *The Washington Post*. *Crazy For You* is currently running on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical. In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year.

He was born in York, Pennsylvania. His father, Jacob S. Ludwig, was a doctor, and his mother, Louise Rabiner Ludwig, was a former Broadway chorus girl.

Ludwig was educated at York Suburban Senior High School, York PA. He received a BA in Music Theory and Composition from Haverford College, where he also studied Shakespeare with Ralph Sargent. At Harvard University, he studied music with Leonard Bernstein. He received his JD from Harvard Law School and an LLM from Cambridge University.

Amelia Barrett (Director, Theater Department Chair) is a professor of theater at College of DuPage. Barrett has most recently directed COD productions of *Our Town* and *Cinderella*. Professionally, she has directed multiple Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, where she was Associate Artistic Director for 22 years and Interim Managing Artistic Director for the previous year, in addition to being a member of the acting ensemble. As an actor, she has appeared with other local, regional, and international companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis.

Richard Arnold, Jr. (Lighting Design) is excited to be part of the creative team at the College of DuPage. Prior to coming to COD, he spent 15 years teaching Theatre Design and Technology at Elmhurst University. Beyond teaching, he has designed over 100 theatre productions around the Midwest. Additionally, he spent several years working in other areas of the entertainment industry, designing and producing corporate events, concerts and television commercials, as well as exhibits for several Chicagoland museums. He is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Illinois Theatre Association.

Kimberly G. Morris (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD, she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.

Fisher Parsons (Sound Design) is an Audio Production Specialist for the McAninch Arts Center. Before making the jump to working at College of DuPage, he was a Production Manager and Audio Engineer at Evanston Rocks and the Arcada Theater where he engineered sound for various artist. When not mixing audio or recording, you can find him on stage at

CREATIVE PROFILES

The Second City or in the pit orchestra on guitar for various theatrical productions throughout the Chicagoland area.

Sabrina Zeidler (Scenic Design & Co-Properties Design, Technical Director) is thrilled to be working with the MAC as the Technical Director of College Theater. Her previous work at COD has been seen as the Technical Director and Properties Designer for the DuPage Opera Theatre, Technical Director for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and various design roles for College Theater. She is the former Stage Manager for New Philharmonic Orchestra. Zeidler was previously the Technical Director and a resident designer for Hinsdale South High School. She is a graduate of Elmhurst University with a BA in Theatre - Stage Management, Design and Technology, and Theatre Arts Administration.

Morgan Erickson+ (Stage Manager) Seventh COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander); *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Principal Who); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Ensemble), *Good Kids* (Deirdre), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), and *Alice in TV-Land* (Tweedle-Dah). Favorite credits include *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Lizzie) and *Into the Earth with You* (Quinn) with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's Shadow Program. +Erickson is a 2025 John Belushi/College Stage Management Scholarship and 2025 Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Stage Management Scholarship recipient.



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but we can't do it without you!



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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.

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 DuPage Art League
 DuPage Children's Museum
 Eaglewood Resort & Spa
 Entree Kitchen
 Escapology
 Miles Evans
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 Karen Ferraro
 The Field Museum
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 Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
 & Wine Bar
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 and Mr. Howard Girovich
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 The Graceful Ordinary
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Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator
Rob Nardini: nardinir@cod.edu | (630) 942-3705.

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Graphic Design Assistant	Claudia Mah Eng Muzuquiz
Student Clerical Assistant	Kate Cadag

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka



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