

Department of Fine and Applied Arts  
proudly presents

# DROP DEAD!

by Billy Van Zandt  
and Jane Milmore

Director: Christian Aden  
Scenic Designer: David Dillman  
Lighting Designer: Todd Schwartz  
Costume Designer: Erica Hess

April 25, 26, May 1, 2, 3 at 8 p.m.  
April 27 at 3 p.m.

PARKLAND COLLEGE THEATRE  
1997

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Phillip .....            | Aaron Matthew Polk |
| Chaz Looney .....        | S. Douglas Albers  |
| Brent Reynolds .....     | Anthony J. Gaudio  |
| Candy Apples .....       | Kara (Bob) Hart*   |
| Sol Weisenheimer .....   | Warren Frank       |
| Dick Shalit .....        | C. Michael Lurie   |
| Victor LePewe .....      | Christian Aden*    |
| Mona Monet .....         | Margaret Mannion   |
| Constance Crawford ..... | Melody Ann Long    |
| Alabama Miller .....     | David G. Dillman   |

\*Theatre scholarship student at Parkland

*Drop Dead* is presented in two acts.  
There will be one 15-minute intermission.  
Refreshments will be available in the lobby.

*This is Parkland's Sixth Annual Student Production.  
Ticket sales from this production are donated to the  
Randall A. Millas Theatre Scholarship Fund. Parkland  
College offers theatre scholarships annually to  
support the education of students who plan to  
pursue a career in theatre. For information on  
scholarships, call 217/351-2529.*

## Production Staff

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Director .....                  | Christian Aden*   |
| Scenic Designer .....           | David G. Dillman  |
| Lighting Designer .....         | Todd Schwartz   |
| Costume Designer .....          | Erica Hess*   |
| Video Concept Coordinator ..... | Aaron Matthew Polk  |
| Stage Manager .....             | Jennifer Burman   |
| House Manager .....             | Debbi Dillman   |
| Properties Head .....           | Kim Aldridge*   |
| Scenic Painter .....            | Sam White   |
| Light Board Operator .....      | Todd Schwartz   |
| Scenic & Lighting Crew .....    | Tina Collins, Carol Diss, Jeff Durbin*,<br>Rachael Kerekes, Dori Phelps |
| Stage/Prop Run Crew .....       | Ann Hollwedel*, Kris Kirkwood*  |
| Costume/Make-Up Run .....       | Erica Hess*   |
| Make-Up/Hair Run Crew ..        | Jessica Van Gorden*, Summer King*                                       |
| Asst. House Managers .....      | Amber Wightman*,<br>Gwendolyn Wilson*                                   |

\*Theatre scholarship student at Parkland

## Director's Notes

*The author of Drop Dead, Billy Van Zandt, played the role of the director, Victor Le Pewe, in the original production. I decided to emulate his actions and play the role in this production. I received stern cautions against such a daring act. However, I was also supported at every turn and wish to thank the entire cast and crew whose talents have made this show possible. I would also like to thank everyone at the hospital, and especially Dr. Blanskie, whose "leave passes" allow me to be here today. Thank you all.*

— Christian Michael Aden

## Cast and Staff Profiles

**Christian Aden** (*Director, Victor LePewe*) This is Christian's directorial debut. He's never directed before....this is his first time. But he has acted!

**S. Douglas Albers** (*Chaz Looney*) Doug is very excited about his role in *Drop Dead*. He has most recently been seen in P.I.G.S. (the Parkland Improv Group). He is currently listening backstage to everyone saying "Parkland has an Improv Group?"

**Jennifer Burman** (*Stage Manager*) Jennifer is pleased to be stage managing another show here at Parkland. Her current involvements are working, school, and the ever most popular improv group P.I.G.S. She would like now to thank all of those people who have been influential to her. You know who you are...those that just suck and she can't stand...NO thanks to you.

**David G. Dillman** (*Alabama Miller, Set Designer*) David is happy to be back on the Parkland stage. He has appeared as Magnus in *The Real Inspector Hound*, as Adam in the original production of *Stories Like Ours*, as the Fireman in *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and most recently as Pa in *Mrs. Coney*. He is looking forward to this show. "To me, acting is like a drug, I just can't get enough." This is also David's second time as set designer. His first was the ever popular *Talk Radio*. He is hoping to finish his bachelor's degree in scenic design at the U of I starting in the fall. Thanks to my wife as always for being so supportive in every one of my many endeavors.

**Warren Frank** (*Sol Weisenheimer*) Warren (as Uncle Bob in *Mrs. Coney*) was never allowed to have a moment with Aunt May. Warren has worked on two shows this year with rabbit themes. He uses the drive to the theatre from Danville to attempt to learn his lines. He's happy to have been considered enough of a student to get a part in this auspicious production.

**Anthony J. Gaudio** (*Brent Reynolds*) Recently finishing *Iago's Plot* at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and a well-balanced dinner, Anthony hopes to continue working in theater as well as provide nine essential vitamins and minerals.

**Kara (Bob) Hart** (*Candy Apples*) I'm a rambler. I'm a gambler. I'm a long way from home. And if you don't like me, you can leave me alone. I eat when I'm hungry and I drink when I drive. If the moonshine don't kill me, I'll live till I die. When I'm not doing all that, I can be found around C-wing. Sometimes I clean dinosaur bones. Shhh! Top secret.

**Erica Hess** (*Costume Designer*) Erica is graduating from Parkland this May and will be attending Illinois State University this fall. She would like to thank her mom and Craig for their continuing support and her managers at Cracker Barrel for putting up with her erratic schedule.

**Melody Ann Long** (*Constance Crawford*) Having found a "place to be home," Melody is happy to have been given a chance to perform again at Parkland. Mel was previously seen as Aunt May in *Mrs. Coney*. In Wisconsin, she performed with several community theater groups, enjoying especially the roles of Olive in *The Odd Couple* - female version, and Mary in *Mary, Mary*. Thanks to husband John for support, both emotional and financial! What?

**C. Michael Lurie** (*Dick Shalit*) C. Michael Lurie has recently done *Beyond Therapy*, where he played the sleezy Dr. Stuart Framingham. Other than that he is 5'9" with brown hair and green eyes, and is fun to dance with. He will be playing the part of the scene stealing Dick Shalit.

**Margaret Mannion** (*Mona Monet*) Margaret is happy to have this job on stage in this role as a "washed up actress" but hopes it isn't a typecast. She is working very hard on her characterization which is the exact opposite of her personality. As we all know she is "so loved by everyone."

**Aaron Matthew Polk** (*Phillip*) Aaron Matthew Polk is pleased to announce this is the 32nd show that he has been involved in. He has lurked backstage on *Laborers of Love*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and *Stories Like Ours* (among others). He was last seen this past fall in *Quilt* as well as in *Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver!*, and the Parkland Improv Group. Thanks to Michelle for being patient with all my time constraints.

**Todd Schwartz** (*Lighting Designer*) This is Todd's fifth production in the Parkland College Theatre and yet another step in his quest to become a theatrical "jack-of-all-trades." In previous productions he has participated as actor, crew member, light board operator, assistant director, stage manager, set designer, and director. When not involved in a theatrical production, Todd studies cloning technology in the hope that someday he can wear even more hats at the same time.

## Acknowledgments

Parkland College Department of Public Safety  
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WPCD  
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Tom Crook  
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Darrin Cheney  
John Page

## Contributors

The following individuals are very important participants in the financial success of Parkland College Theatre. We proudly acknowledge our contributors.

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Dorothy Wiseley  
Bernhard R. and Nancy M. Works  
Roger and Doloris Yarbrough

**For information about how to join  
this special group, please call  
351-2476.**

## Theatre Staff

Artistic Director ..... *Randi Jennifer Collins Hard*  
Technical Director ..... *Martin M. Bluestein*  
House Manager ..... *Debbi Dillman*  
Special Events Technicians ..... *Darren Cloud, David Dillman, Jeff Durbin\*,  
Ford Twaranovica, Theresa Van Wakeman*

## Theatre Advisory Board

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| <i>Martin Bluestein</i>             | <i>Karen Keener</i>              |
| <i>Isabel Castro</i>                | <i>Summer King, student rep.</i> |
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| <i>Randi Jennifer Collins Hard</i>  | <i>Bernie Works</i>              |
| <i>John Hedeman</i>                 |                                  |

## Tickets

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. Telephone reservations may be made by calling 351-2528. Discount prices are available to students, school children, senior citizens, and organized groups of fifteen or more. Inquire about our special group rates by calling the theatre's house manager at 351-2476.

## Parking

Parking lots C4 and M1 are adjacent to the theatre.

## House Policies

Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.

Please, no eating, drinking, or smoking in the theatre. Cough drops are available from the ushers as a courtesy to our patrons.

## Contributions

Donation of clothing, furniture, hats, jewelry, shoes, and other accessories are appreciated for use in our theatre productions and may be arranged by calling 351-2531.

For additional information about performance events, directions, tours, and parking, please call the theatre at 351-2476.

## Comments

Your opinions are very important to us! If you have a compliment, criticism, or suggestion, please call us at 351-2529 or write to Parkland College Theatre, 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.