

Lex-Ham Community Theater

presents

General Products, Corp
Annual Report
and program for its annual stockholders meeting

featuring our newest product line



THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC

By Howard Teichmann and George Kaufman

7:30 p.m. July 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24

2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 18 2004

Highland Park Junior High School
975 S Snelling Avenue, St. Paul

About the Authors

George Kaufmann - 1889–1961, American dramatist and journalist, b. Pittsburgh. As a drama critic for various New York newspapers he was influential in raising the standards of criticism in the theater. He collaborated on more than 40 plays including *You Can't Take It With You*, *June Moon*, *The Royal Family*, and *Of Thee I Sing*.



“Satire is what closes on
Saturday night.”
—George Kaufman



Howard Teichmann—1916-1987, wrote and produced shows for radio, TV, movies, and the stage, winning a Peabody Award as a broadcaster-writer. He wrote biographies of George Kaufman and Henry Fonda.

Director's Notes

Corrupt corporate America does affect all of us. The millions and billions they skim off filters down. By paying higher prices as a consumer we are supporting their enormous salaries, vacations, and elaborate lifestyles. Stockholders have invested hard-earned savings and have nothing to show for it because of the greedy unsupervised executives. This story may enlighten the everyday person to know that they can make a difference no matter how large the "Big Boys" are.

Enjoy this wonderful cast filled with veterans of the stage and first timers. They have brought great energy and talent to a story that has art imitating life.

Lori J. Ness

Play Setting

The play takes place primarily around the corporate offices of the General Products, Corp. a large conglomerate that has its hands in almost every industry with a side excursion to the offices of Edward McKeever, a department head in Washington D.C. and former head of General Products.

Play Notes

Teichmann and Kaufman first produced the show in 1953. The show includes a few references which might be somewhat obscure to the contemporary audience:

Clyde Fitch—an American playwright (1865—1909) whose approximately 40 plays included *Barbara Frietchie*, *Beau Brummell*, *The Girl With The Green Eyes*, and *The Last of the Dandies*.

Mann Act—a Federal law authored by Rep. James Mann (R-IL) and passed in 1910 which forbade, under heavy penalties, the transportation of women from one state to another for immoral purposes.

Florence VanDamm—a famed photographer of the Broadway theater scene who was active from 1919 until the 1960s.

Robert W. Service—an American poet (1874-1958) who was described as a “people’s poet” famous for such poems as “The Shooting of Dan McGraw” and “The Cremation of Sam McGee”

Please remember to turn off
all cell phones or pagers
during the performance.



The Solid Gold Cadillac

Cast

NarratorDon Shelby
T. John BlessingtonBruce Heskett
Marta MetcalfRuth Youngblood
Kate Gillie Christiana Clark
Clifford Snell.....Dan Kirkham
Laura Partridge Joanne Fox
Amelia Shotgraven Karla Nweje
Mark JenkinsJeffrey J. Brenner
Miss L'Arriere..Erin McCawley-Richeson
Edward McKeever.....David Schliep
Miss LoganLori Martin
Bill Parker John Townsend
Prompter Julie Smith
Delilah Brookfield..... Linda Berglund
Estelle Evans Christina Sohlstrom
Reporter Chris Newton
Reporter Kelly Frillman
Reporter Laura Liknes
Stockholders Linda Berglund
..... Kelly Frillman
..... Urban Landreman
..... Laura Liknes
.....Lori Martin
.....Erin McCawley-Richeson
..... Chris Newton
..... Julie Smith

There will be a 10 minute inter-
mission between Act I and Act II

Production Staff

Director Lori Ness
Stage Manager Matt Quinn
PropsKathy Super
Costume Design Mandi Johnson
Lighting Leah Steinberg
Sound Design.....Jim Schnobrich
Sound Operator Sheila McMahon
Stage Crew Zak Forde
..... Ma-Eyongerie Frambo
..... Heidi Medlicott
PublicityJack Rose
PhotographyLila Taft
ProducerUrban Landreman

*Produced by special arrangement with
The Dramatists Play Service*

Please consider becoming a
Friend of the Lex-Ham Theater

Support the activities of the Lex-Ham Community Theater: quality theatrical productions which also build community, acting classes from beginning thru advanced for children and adults, free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events including a potluck supper.

Donations of any amount will be accepted and are tax-deductible. No contribution is too small or too big. Become part of this vibrant arts organization.

Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946

When Teichmann and Kaufman wrote *The Solid Gold Cadillac* in 1953 the issue of lobbying had been a hot topic for some time. There had been a series of scandals involving lobbying Congress throughout the first half of the 20th Century. Both the House and Senate passed legislation to control lobbying in 1936. The Senate's bill, authored by Sen. Hugo Black (D-AL) was broader than the House bill authored by Rep. Howard Smith (D-VA). The House voted down the bill which came out of the conference committee. In 1946, as part of LaFollette-Monroney Legislative Reorganization Bill, the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act became law. The Act was drafted quickly and was quite similar to the conference committee bill from 1936. This law required those who secured or attempted to secure the passage or defeat of legislation to register and to submit reports on their activities. The Act came under severe scrutiny of the courts in the early 1950s reaching the U.S. Supreme Court. The court, in the *U.S. vs Rumely* case, came down in favor of the lobbyists, but the case made public many of the activities of lobbyists such as the National Association of Manufacturers.

“My expense account is beginning to look outrageous”
—Blessington

Congressional Lobbies: A Chronic Problem Re-examined

By Senator John F. Kennedy (D-MA)
Georgetown Law Journal, Summer 1957

That interest groups, operating through their legislative agents or counsel, have been a persistent problem for Congress is attested to by the frequent investigations into abuses of the right to petition the government which have been undertaken by Congress during the past century and the self-protective measures advocated and ultimately adopted by Congress.

Lobbyist Do Well Under the New Law

By Samuel H. Tower
New York Times, June 1, 1947

Almost a year old now, the lobby-control law can be described as only a limited success, despite the fact that nearly 800 lobbyists appeared in the recently published quarterly list and acknowledged purposes and operations in pushing or blocking bills, the credit for which had hitherto been accorded to grem-lins.



Some practitioners of the pressure play shown by the registration lists to be a multi-million dollar annual business state frankly that their organizations are “no longer in the dog house,” and that they have encountered a greater receptivity from people “who speak our own language.” The labor lobbyists do not share this view.

Linda Berglund (Delilah Brookfield) is in her second production with Lex-Ham Community Theater. She previously stage managed the 2000 production of *George Washington Slept Here*. She has a BFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Jeffrey Brenner (Mark Jenkins) is appearing in his first Lex-Ham production. Jeffrey has had a life long interest in theater. He appeared in high school and college productions and returns to the stage after a long absence. He hopes to appear in future Lex-Ham productions.

Christiana Clark (Kate Gillie) trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood. Credits include Ruth Younger in *A Raisin In The Sun*, Mother Superior in *Agnes Of God*, two years touring Minnesota as an actor-educator with CLIMB Theatre, and, most recently, acting with The Mystery Café. Christiana can be seen next in Theatre Unbound's Fringe Festival production of *Women! Live On Stage*.

Joanne Fox (Laura Partridge) is on the Lex-Ham stage for the first time. When not in the "Cities" she resides in Austin with her husband, Marty. Other venues played were Sommerset Theatre, Matchbox Children's Theatre, Minnesota Festival Theatre, Albert Lea Community Theatre, 17 Street Players and the Turtle Dove Players. Favorite roles were in *Love Always Patsy Cline*, *Little Women*, *Anything Goes*, *Cheaper By the Dozen* and *Hansel and Gretel*. In real life she is a piano teacher and artist. She would like to dedicate this performance to Marty who lived the "corporate life". Hello to her four children and two granddaughters who will miss this performance but will be here in spirit.

Kelly Frillman (Reporter) loved the theater since she was a child, participating in many school and community plays over the years such as *Wizard of Oz*, *MacBeth* and short improv. She's delighted to be a part of Solid Gold Cadillac and Lex Ham Community Theater. She'd like to thank her father and Monica for their unconditional support

"Because if you're not honest down here they catch you at it and then you do get hell"
—McKeever

Bruce Heskett
(T. John Blessington)

is making his first appearance with the Lex-Ham Theater. Migrating to the Twin Cities from Chicago in 2002, Bruce appeared in *Dear Ruth* and *1940's Radio Hour* (TRP) and in Chameleon Circle Theater's production of *The Boys Next-door*. While in Chicagoland, Bruce appeared as Dr. Boyle in *Prelude to A Kiss* and Joe Keller in *All My Sons*, plus others. Other favorite roles include *Wooden Shoes* (*The Front Page*), Chief of Police (*Sly Fox*) and Seldson (*Noises Off*), Big Daddy

(*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Herman Von Dann (*Diary of Anne Frank*) at the Attic Playhouse, Orson (*Arrangements*), Orgon (*Tartuffe*) and Mr. Stanley (*The Man Who Came To Dinner*).

Mandi Johnson (Costume Design) is participating in her first show with Lex-Ham, but has worked at Theater in the Round on *The Mikado*, and has worked several shows for the theater at the College of St. Catherine, where she will be a senior in the fall with a major in technical theater. Special thanks go to Carol Ann Winther for her support and encouragement on this project, as well as many others.

"You can't do things with figures the way you can with words"
—Snell

Dan Kirkham (Clifford Snell) is excited to be appearing in his first Lex-Ham show. In the non-summer months, he teaches English at Rosemount High School and coaches for their speech team. He would like to give a special shout-out to his

beautiful wife.

Urban Landreman (Stockholder, Producer) has acted in many previous Lex-Ham shows including the touching portrayal of the voice on the radio in *The Mice Have Been Drinking Again*.

Laura Liknes (Reporter, Stockholder) is in her first Lex-Ham production. She has performed with the Minnesota Repertory Theater, Sioux Falls Community Playhouse, Britton Community Theater, Pawnee City Players, and the Lower Dakota Corn Growers Interpretive Dance Theater. Favorite roles: *Alexandra Cafuffle*, *Chastity Wildflower*, *The Woman*, *Sylvestro*, and *Third From the Right Dancing Cob #4*. Laura would like to give a shout out to her neighbor's cat, *Puzzle*, and would like to dedicate this performance to all of the carb lovers in the audience. A petition will be available after the show to once and for all rid this world of bunless, lettuce-enshrouded hamburgers.

Lori Martin (Miss Logan) is excited to be making her acting debut with Lex-Ham theater. Lori won a free trip to NY as part of the WLTE Musicman promotion, which included acting lessons with Bobbi Berger. She returned home to pursue acting classes thru Community Education, which taught her the skills and gave her the push to step out of the box and follow her desire. She would like to thank her sons, Neil & Carl, her nieces, Jenny, Jolene & Jamie, and all her friends for their encouragement and support over the years. Also a special thanks to the staff and instructors of the St. Paul Community Ed. program, and last but not least, Lori Ness you are AWESOME! Have you ever thought of becoming a dentist?

Erin McCawley-Richeson (Miss L'Arriere) hails from Wyoming and leaves her dent here with Lex-Ham. She has been in several productions abroad (i.e., Nebraska) as well as here in Minnesota. Now she's trying her hand at sales.

Lori Ness (Director) is directing her first production for the Lex-Ham Theater. She also has directed for Albert Lea Community Theatre, Austin's Sommerset Theatre, the Duluth Playhouse and Plymouth Community Theatre. She has performed on stage in regional and professional theatres including Albert Lea, Austin, Duluth, Chanhassen and Oops Theatre in St. Paul. She has worked on feature films, commercials and is a freelance casting director. Special kudos to her 4 daughters for all the missed events in their lives due to "the call of the stage." Thank you Matt for the dance on and off stage!

Chris Newton (Reporter) A Harvard-educated businessman and philanthropist, Chris has spent the past decade improving the U.S. and global economy at Fortune 500 companies. Recently he has decided to pursue his true love, stage acting, full-time. This production marks his first appearance on the stage and simultaneously satisfies 40-hours of community service work required as part of his guilty sentence.

Karla Nweje (Amelia Shotgraven) is appearing in her second Lex-Ham production, having played the Narrator in *James and the Giant Peach*. She is a performing artist, instructor, and literary artist whose second collection of poems, *The Whispers of A Timeless Groove*, will be in print next month and will soon be offered through her company, IZORA Innovations, Inc. Having worked with dozens of choreographers, dance companies, and arts/educational organizations, Karla came to Lex-Ham to satisfy a renewed zeal for one of her earliest passions – acting.

Matt Quinn (Stage Manager) has been involved in theatre from an early age in many different areas including acting, singing, back stage, stage manager, director and teaching. He has work with the Denver Center Theatre Co., Albert Lea Community Theatre, Minnesota Festival Theatre, Duluth Playhouse, and the newly formed Plymouth Community Theatre. His favorite roles include The Baker in *Into the Woods* Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and Scapino in *Scapino*. He can be seen now thru August as the 'Genie' in OOPS Theatre of St. Paul, production of *Ole and Lena go to the Lake*. Matt's real job is as a property manager of a luxury apartment building in the warehouse district of Minneapolis.

“Well, it'll look good in the annual report”
—Gillie

David Schliep (Ed McKeever) Big Ed is David's third appearance with the Lex-Ham theater. He's also appeared at Theater in the Round and with Starting Gate Productions. The other theater hat for David is sound designer with productions for Minnesota Shakespeare Company, Starting Gate, Lakeshore Players as well as Lex-Ham. Thanks to family for putting up with loud music and other eccentricities for a lot of years.

Don Shelby (Narrator) is the WCCO 4 News anchor and reporter Don joined the WCCO staff in 1978. and has won all five of the nation's top journalism awards, including three national Emmys, the Columbia duPont Citation, the Scripps-Howard Award and the Society of Professional Journalists Distinguished Service Award. In 1997, Don was honored with a second Peabody Award for his ongoing work with the youth of Minnesota. He has received several honors for his work in the community, including Minnesota Sportsman of the Year; Martin Luther King Humanitarian of the Year in 1993 and 1995; Minnesota Broadcaster of the Year; and the coveted Josten's Mr. Basketball ring, an honor rarely given to an adult.

“Cultivate friends and attend to financial matters”
— Partridge

Julie Smith (Stockholder) is appearing in her first Lex-Ham production. She began her theater career this winter, playing the brother Zebulon in Theater of the Spirit's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Julie recently moved to the Twin Cities area from Jackson Hole, Wy, and is enjoying her first summer of heat, humidity, mosquitoes and especially Twins Baseball!

Christina Sohlstrom (Estelle Evans) is excited to be a part of her first Lex-Ham show, as well as her first Twin Cities area production. She was previously involved in a number of shows at North Park University in Chicago, including *The Cherry Orchard*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Tales of the Lost Formicans*.

Kathy Super (Props) You need it I will find it. Favorite pastimes...shopping, shopping, and more shopping ... garage sales...antique stores...dollar store... thrift stores...outlets...craft stores and all other retail stores. My friends will call if they need to know where to buy something cheap or odd. If I can't find it maybe I can make it...never without an idea. Don't do grocery or clothes shopping...to mundane for this personality. Need help call... BUY-ODD-SALE.

John Townsend (Bill Parker) appeared in Lex-Ham's 2002 productions of *Sunny DeRee's Life Passes Before His Eyes* and *Through A Glass, Darkly*. He directed Lex-Ham's 2003 production of *The Trojan Women*. John holds a B.A. in Theater and English from the U of MN and a post-grad certificate from the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. He teaches beginning acting for Lex-Ham and St. Paul Community Education for adults

Ruth Youngblood (Marta Metcalfe) is appearing in her first Lex-Ham show. Some previous roles have been with the "Theater of the Spirit" through Aldersgate United Methodist church in St. Louis Park, and the theater at UW River Falls where she appeared in several of her first plays along with Mike Nelson of Mystery Science Theater 3000.

Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. These include the following contributors to the 2004 fund drive:

Angel
(\$251 or more)
 Urban Landreman
 Jack Rose

Soulmate
(\$100 to \$250)
 Dr. Richard and Mary Davis
 Joy Lindsay
 Cris Tibbetts and John Pikala

Good Buddy
(\$51 to \$100)
 Michele and Mark Forde

Pal
(\$26 to \$50)
 Stuart Alger and Patricia Eaves
 Bonnie Beverly
 Michele and Jerry Cromer-Poire
 Christine DeZelar-Tiedman
 Karen and David Minge
 Gene and Nancy Recibe
 Pam Scott

Chum
(up to \$25)
 Linda Sue Anderson
 Bill and Lorraine Delehanty
 Ken and Barbara Ford
 Suzanne Gaines
 Minerva Takis
 Jean Trudeau
 Holly Windle
 David and Mary Woodward

Special thanks go to

- Highland Park Junior High School
- Concordia University - St Paul
- College of St. Catherine
- St. Paul Community Education
- William Mitchell Law School
- Kowalski's Market on Grand Avenue
- KFAI radio
- WCCO TV
- Lisa Lee and Mark Stevens
- Rep. Betty McCollum
- Caribou Coffee
- Dunn Brothers Coffee

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of:

Henry VI, Part 1

Friday, August 20, 2004
 1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper
 7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.

(Please bring your own copy of the play)

Lex-Ham Community Arts Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Urban Landreman, Chair | Stuart Alger |
| Michele Cromer-Poire, Vice Chair | Jack Rose |
| Cris Tibbetts, Secretary | John Townsend |
| Joy Lindsay, Treasurer | |

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry and *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly.

All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Check out the theater's website at:

www.LexHamArts.org/theater

Upcoming Shows

November

Working
based on the book of
Studs Turkel
Auditions: August 21 & 23



2005

Short Play Festival—April
“Things That Go Bump In The Night”
Where The Wild Things Are—Maurice Sendak
The Actor's Nightmare—Christopher Durang
Sorry, Wrong Number—Lucille Fletcher

July

Sylvia—A.R. Gurney

November

All My Sons—Arthur Miller

Acting Classes

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes for both children and adults in conjunction with St. Paul Community Education. The next session will start in September and October 2004 as follows::

- Beginning Acting
- Advanced Beginning Acting
- Shakespeare for Beginners
- Passion Plays Performance
- Acting Comedy
- Improvisation
- Audition Skills

To register for children's classes, call 651-325-2672

To register for adult classes, call 651-293-8811 or see www.commed.spps.org.