

## Lex-Ham Community Theater

The Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven since 1996 to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul.

### Upcoming Events

#### September 9

Shakespeare Reading Series

*Much Ado About Nothing*

1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper

7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

#### September 23-24

24-Hour Play Festival

Teams have 24 hours to write, cast, design, block, memorize, and perform a play. The audience votes for the People's Choice Award.

Concordia University-St. Paul

#### September-October

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes for both children and adults in conjunction with both St. Paul Community Education and St. Paul Parks and Rec.

#### November 4-19

*All My Sons*-Arthur Miller

Check out the theater's Web site at:

[www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

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#### Special Thanks To

University of St. Thomas

Lakeshore Players

CostumeRental

## Lex-Ham Community Theater

presents



## O'Flaherty V.C.

by

George Bernard Shaw

## Cast and Crew:

Dennis O'Flaherty .....Paul Brutscher  
Sir Pearce .....Brad Donaldson  
Mrs. O'Flaherty .....Kathleen Lomax  
Teresa .....Amber Bjork

Director .....Kevin T. Houle  
Stage Manager .....Tara Nielson  
Costumer .....Judy Larsen

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### Director's Note:

War is tragic, trying, and full of both peril and potential. The same could be said for relationships and family life. As Irishman Denny O'Flaherty discovers in this WWI "recruiting poster in disguise" by George Bernard Shaw, the two aren't necessarily mutually exclusive.

After distinguishing himself in battle, O'Flaherty is awarded the Victoria Cross and sent home to Ireland and the estate of his patron and long-time family landlord, British Army General and baronet Sir Pearce Madigan, with a new assignment: recruit his fellow Irishmen to fight for England and help defeat the Germans. With the historic discord between England and Ireland working against him, and the complexities of duty, honor, and national patriotism clouding his thoughts, homecoming encounters with his mother and girlfriend don't help O'Flaherty with his mission. Or do they? "Some likes war's alarums; and some likes home life. I've tried both," he says after discovering that the perils of one may not be quite as bad as the perils of the other.

### Setting:

1916; the front yard of British Army General and baronet Sir Pearce Madigan's Irish country house

**Kevin T. Houle** (Director) Kevin T. has been active in community, educational and professional theatre for over 25 years as an actor, educator, technician, administrator, stage manager and director. He has an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Utah and a B.A. in Drama from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. He previously directed *The Dining Room* for Lex-Ham, and will also be directing their upcoming production of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. Kevin and his wife Heather are proud Saint Paul East Siders.

**Amber Bjork** (Teresa) After dealing with blokes like Shakespeare and Beckett, this is Amber's first foray into the workings of Shaw and Lex-Ham alike. She is happy to be here. And she's happy to be Irish....or at least playing one onstage.

**Paul Brutscher** (Dennis O'Flaherty) Paul is 1/8 Irish and has had a grand time working on this production. He most recently performed in *The Comedy of Errors* with the Cromulent Shakespeare Company and will receive his BA in Theatre from Concordia University this year.

**Brad Donaldson** (Sir Pearce) Brad is very excited to join this great group. He has been seen in such roles as Rumbles in *Snowflake's Story*, Lee Harvey Oswald in *Assassins* and Osric in *Fortinbras* at The Chameleon Theatre Circle among others. Special thanks to Joy, his parents and this fun group whom he still questions "Are you human beings or are you wildebeests?"

**Kathleen Lomax** (Mrs. O'Flaherty) Kathleen is happy to be participating in her second production with Lex-Ham, having appeared as Avalaine in *Talley and Son* in 2004. She has several other community and college shows under her belt and most recently played Mickey "the cop" in *The Odd Couple: The Female Version* with the Chameleon Theatre Circle in Apple Valley. Kathleen would like to thank her family and friends for their unending support and Urban for his rollicking laughter.

**Tara Nielson** (Stage Manager) Tara has always had a love for the theatre, but has just recently made it a part of her life. She's enjoyed taking acting classes which in turn led to becoming the Stage Manager for Lex-Ham's production of *Sylvia*. She continues to be amazed at what she has learned and looks forward to the road ahead.