

**Lex-Ham Community Theater**  
presents

**ASSORTED**  
**SPIRITS**

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Commodore Bar & Restaurant  
May 12-14, 2016

# Lex-Ham Community Theater

presents

## *Assorted Spirits*

by

### F. Scott Fitzgerald

#### Cast Members

<b>Character</b> .....	<b>Actor</b>
Peter Wetherby .....	Stuart Alger
Dickie Wetherby, Peter's son .....	Derek Dirlam
Cecile Wetherby, Peter's daughter .....	Bailey J. Hess
Madame Zada .....	Barcy Sticker
Miss Spigot .....	Holly Windle
William Chapman .....	Colin Koll Healey
Josephus Hendrix .....	Brandon Holscher
Clara King .....	Brigid Burkholter
Second Story Salle .....	Megan Rowe
Hulda .....	Denise Remak
Svea .....	Mary Martini
Percy, the butler .....	Daniel Hildebrand
Genevieve , the maid .....	Vani Ramakrishnan
Policeman Mulligan .....	Julie Jackson
Policeman O'Flarity .....	Lisette Lilac
Policeman McNamara .....	Erin Malody
Policeman O'Leary .....	Bob McDonald

Setting: the home of Peter Wetherby

Act I .....

9:30 p.m.

There will be a 10-minute intermission

Act II .....

Next morning

Assorted Spirits was first produced by the Elizabethan Dramatic Club  
at the YWCA auditorium in Saint Paul on September 8, 1914  
and at the White Bear Yacht Club on September 9, 1914

*Please turn off phones, pagers, and other devices during the performance.*

#### Production Team

Mary Cutler .....	Director
Jen Thissen .....	Stage Manager
Dutton Foster .....	Set Designer
Judy Larsen .....	Costume Designer
Patricia Eaves, Crystal Therese .....	Costumers
Urban Landreman .....	Producer

## Director's Note

F. Scott Fitzgerald's title for this evening's production—ASSORTED SPIRITS—holds a key in discovering a possible theme. Pro forma, inviting analyses of "spirits" as inspirational/influential "alcoholic beverages," or even as a "sentient part of a person" are definitions which seem too obvious to unlock a meaning of even an early work of our own St. Paulian F. Scott Fitzgerald! Therefore, an ensuing investigation of Fitzgerald's title yields alternate intriguing meanings.

These two words "Spirit" and "Assorted" can be defined in the following alternate ways: spirit = "the activating or essential principle influencing a person." "Assorted" can mean "to group with others of the same or similar kind." Thus, Fitzgerald's title could illustrate the play's theme as "sorting out of similar activating principles" of human beings, especially of those "spirits" this St. Paul native found in his hometown! For in his 1914 play, you will observe that: the spirit of goodness discovers its own; the materialistic spirit finds many fans; a selfish spirit sorts out companions, though it dies; incompetents seek out similar spirits to theirs.

Such themes fuel the melodramatic genre, but in tonight's farce such harsh judgement often found in melodrama is not present. Instead, Fitzgerald CELEBRATES diversity or the process of assortment: immigrants working toward new identities; genuine human beings seeking real connections; misfits fitting in; the socially powerful being humbled. Even more significant than Fitzgerald's interpreted theme of life's assortment of spirits, is that Fitzgerald found the characters for tonight's play in his St. Paul Summit Avenue environment: frustrated debutantes, sons of fortune, captains of industry, the Irish, the Swede, the servant class, and the outcast—all of which comprise the annals of St. Paul's history.

In closing my "exegesis," I believe that as significant as Fitzgerald's heralding our homeland, is that this native son also found a home in the profound characteristic of the great writers of comedy; he finds a negative critique of humanity insufficient to expressing great compassion for us. For this, we must praise, not only the brilliant Fitzgerald writing of his heritage, but for all comic writers who write compassionately of all of us "assorted spirits."

Mary Cutler, Director



Saint Paul Pioneer-Press, Sept 8, 1914

## F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Elizabethan Dramatic Club

In the early 1910s, Francis Scott Fitzgerald lived with his parents, Edward Fitzgerald and Mary "Molly" McQuillan, and his sole surviving sister, Annabel, in various places in the Crocus Hill neighborhood of Saint Paul.

Edward Fitzgerald started out in Maryland, but moved west to Saint Paul as a young man. He started a wicker furniture business which proved to be a financial failure. The Fitzgeralds moved to Buffalo and Syracuse, but Edward was not able to find a situation in either

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city which was financially secure, so the family moved back to Saint Paul in 1908 when F. Scott was 12 years old.

Molly's father, Philip Francis McQuillan, was a successful food wholesaler which meant that the McQuillan family was in the circle of wealthy families in Saint Paul.

## PLAY NETS \$300 FOR BABY WELFARE FUND

**"Assorted Spirit" Scores Hit Before Capacity Audience at Y. W. C. A. Auditorium.**

The Elizabethan Dramatic club, composed of children of prominent St. Paul families, last night presented their fourth annual play, "Assorted Spirits," before a capacity house at the Y. W. C. A. auditorium. Nearly \$300 was netted for the Baby Welfare league.

Scott Fitzgerald, the 17-year-old playwright, whose other three sketches, "A Regular Fix," "Captured Phantoms," and the "Coward" have been presented in previous years by the Elizabethans, turned out a roaring farce and is clever throughout.

### Takes Prominent Part.

He also took a prominent part in the cast and his comedy work as Peter Weatherby, an old man, was good.

"Assorted Spirits" tells the story of the attempts of one Josephus Hendrix to depreciate in value a house which he was about to buy, by making the owners believe it is haunted.

A pretty love theme between two young couples runs through the sketch, also terminating happily.

### Speaks Dialect Well.

Betty Mudge, as Hulda, the Swedish housemaid, handled the dialect well and scored a hit with the audience.

The part of William Chapman, the role of hero, was well suited to Gustave Schurmeler.

Katherine Schulze and Elenore Alair, in the roles of Clara King and Cecile Wetherby made pretty leading ladies.

### Others Appear to Advantage.

James Armstrong as Dickie Wetherby, a sickly youth; John Mitchell as Josephus Hendrix, the designing purchaser of the house; Margaret Armstrong as Miss Spigot, an elderly spinster; MacNeill Seymore as O'Flanagan, a policeman; and Alice Lyon as Madame Zada, handled their parts better than amateurs usually do.

The production was given without a hitch. Miss Elizabeth Magoffin was director.

Previous to the play, Miss Schulze and Mayall Brunner of Castle House, gave their interpretation of the "Maxixe."

It was through the McQuillan connection that F. Scott spent his early teenage years in Saint Paul among a group of friends among Saint Paul's prominent families. Some of these boys and girls would remain friends with F. Scott for years after he left Saint Paul for good in 1922 with many letters going back and forth.

As an adolescent, F. Scott showed an interest in both acting and in writing. By the time he was 10, he would often wear costumes and perform for his family. In 1909, he began attending Saint Paul Academy and wrote several short stories and essays for school publications. It was at this point that he also began writing plays for school or the home of one of his circle of friends.

In September, 1911 F. Scott went off to Newman School, a Catholic prep school in Hackensack, New Jersey. During his two years at the Newman School, he had several short stories printed in the school's publication. But he returned to Saint Paul for the summers and for each summer from 1911 to 1914, he wrote a play that would be performed by his Crocus Hill circle of friends. Elizabeth Magoffin was five years older than F. Scott and lived near his family. Elizabeth was the leader of the Elizabethan Dramatic Club (named after her) and encouraged him to pursue writing plays for the group. The "Elizabethans" would put on plays as events to raise funds for local charities. Fitzgerald wrote and would act in a lead role in each of these plays.

In the fall of 1913, Fitzgerald enrolled at Princeton University. He returned to Saint Paul the next summer and reconnected with his friends and Elizabeth Magoffin. The play he wrote and served as the stage manager for that summer, with Elizabeth Magoffin directing, was *Assorted Spirits*.

The cast again included friends of his from his Crocus Hill neighborhood. The production served as a fund raiser for the Baby Welfare Fund.

The first performance was in the auditorium of the downtown Saint Paul YWCA on September 8, 1914. A second performance was given the following day at the White Bear Yacht Club.

Material came from *F. Scott Fitzgerald and St. Paul "Still Home to Me"* by Lloyd C. Hackl, *F. Scott Fitzgerald's St. Paul Plays 1911-1914*, edited by Alan Margolies, and presentation by Dave Page.

## Cast and Crew



**Stuart Alger** (Peter Wetherby) has appeared in several Lex-Ham Theater productions, including *The Front Page* in 2015, *The First Man* in 2014, and *State of the Union* in 2008. He and his wife Patricia and son Jack performed in *Carousel* for the Como Lakeshore Theater in 2001, and Stuart and Jack performed together in the St. Luke's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Stuart is an attorney with Malkerson Gunn Martin and has appeared in several trial re-enactments with Lakeshore Players at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. *Assorted Spirits* is his first show involving eminent domain. He and his family live in St. Paul in the Lex-Ham neighborhood.



**Brigid Burkholter** (Clara King) is a Theatre Major at Augsburg College and is thrilled to be joining Lex-Ham for the first time. It's been an honor and a blast to explore the wacky world of *Assorted Spirits* that F. Scott built so long ago. As a Minnesota implant, connecting to this piece of local culture has been a real treat. Recent Augsburg credits include *An Enemy of the People*, *Carousel*, and *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. Enjoy the show!



**Mary Cutler** (Director) This is Mary Cutler's second production with Lex-Ham Community Theater, having directed *The First Man* (Eugene O' Neill) at the Hill House in 2014. Cutler pronounced that staging early and unknown works by famed playwrights/authors interests her not only for their places in theatre history, but also to study the playwrights' evolution in writing styles. Some of Cutler's area directing credits also include: *Unraveled* for Theatre Unbound; *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Willy Wonka* for S.O.A.R. Regional Arts; *A Murder is Announced* and *Making God Laugh*-Phipps Center for the Arts, plus many others She will direct *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* for Off Broadway Musical Theatre this summer. A few of her recent acting credits include: *Rapture* at Savage Umbrella; *The Red Velvet Cake War* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Lyric Arts; and Theatre in the Round's *Bedroom Farce*. Further, Cutler teaches acting for the Lex-Ham Community Theater.



**Derek Dirlam** (Dickie Wetherby) has been performing around the Twin Cities since 2004, after receiving his BFA in Theater Arts from the University of North Dakota. This is his first show with Lex-Ham, and he has had a fantastic time working with this Assorted bunch of Spirited actors. Derek will next be appearing in *A Study in Emerald* as part of this year's Fringe Festival.



**Dutton Foster** (Set Designer) At age 12, Dutton built a puppet theater replete with footlights and a fancy act curtain, intended for puppet shows he never actually produced. His first role was Lady Macbeth in grade nine (in a boys' school). Dutton has directed, designed, and built well over a hundred school and community shows, including a number of sets for Lex-Ham. His published plays comprise several melodramas (including the musical *Lurking on the Railroad*) as well as a one-act entitled *Our Rotten Town*, which imports Shakespearean (tragic) characters into a small American town.



**Colin Koll Healey** (William Chapman) made his first appearance with Lex-Ham in 2014 with *The First Man*. His credits include roles with Theater in the Round, Gallery Players in Bloomington, Theater on the Park, Westminster Community Theater, Cromulet Theater and Theater As You Like It. Colin has a degree in Psychology, English and Theater from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.



**Bailey J. Hess** (Cecile Wetherby) is excited to be joining the Lex-Ham Community Theater in *Assorted Spirits*. This is her first farce! Her favorite past roles include Nora in *A Doll's House* and Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. She works for the Minnesota Historical Society as a Historical Interpreter at the Oliver Kelley Farm and the Mill City Museum, and spends the rest of her free time as Assistant Coach for the Mounds View High School Speech Team. Love to Momma, Daddy, and Byrd!



**Daniel Hildebrand** (Percy, the butler) is glad to be back at Lex-Ham for this historic production of *Assorted Spirits*. Previous recent performances include appearances as Earl Williams in Lex-Ham's production of *The Front Page*, and as Ashton Fairfax in Lakeshore Players' staging of *Misplaced*, part of their 2015 10-Minute Play Festival. He was also the subject of a recent documentary, "I Love You, Too," a film by Patty Hall.



**Brandon Holscher** (Josephus Hendrix) Since his debut in 2011, Brandon has appeared in 19 local plays and 6 short films. His favorite was playing Duke Mantee in *The Petrified Forest*. This is his first production with Lex-Ham Community Theater



**Julie Jackson** (Policeman Mulligan) is excited to be back at Lex-Ham after performances in *Pizzazz* and *The Women*. She can sometimes be seen on stages around the Twin Cities, usually playing maids, nuns, or whores. This is her first foray into police work.



**Urban Landreman** (Producer) Urban has been involved with the Lex-Ham Community Theater since its first production of *The Neighborhood on the Hill* 20 years ago. My main role is finding lots of talented people for on- and off-stage, ensuring that everyone is on the same page for the vision for the show, giving them the resources needed to bring that vision to life, and then getting out of their way.



**Judy Larsen** (Costume Designer) has costumed many shows for Lex-Ham, most recently *The Front Page*, *Enemy of the People*, and *The First Man*. She especially enjoys the challenge of costuming period shows.



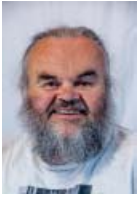
**Lisette Lilac** (Policeman O'Flarity) is thrilled to perform in *Assorted Spirits* in the historic Commodore. She previously acted with Lex-Ham in *Our American Cousin* and in *The Front Page*. She was also in *Hill House Holidays* at the James J. Hill House on Summit Ave.



**Erin Malody** (Policeman McNamara) is an aspiring florist and actress. Erin is looking forward to her third show with Lex-Ham. Erin has also worked with South Saint Paul Community Theater and Children's Castle Theater. Erin is excited about being an Irish police officer. Thank you and enjoy the show!



**Mary Martini** (Svea) Ms. Martini's acting career has included: dancing and singing as a Sharks gang member in an all-Los Angeles high school production of *West Side Story* and a scene in "Judge Dee and the Monastery Murders," a 1974 made-for-TV movie. Then came college graduation in Biology, marriage and children, a career in health care informatics, and board membership in a neighborhood nature preservation non-profit. Channeling her Swedish and Danish ancestors, this role as "Svea" has been one of the highlights of her retirement, with her husband Stu, in South Minneapolis.



**Bob McDonald** (Policeman O’Leary) is in his Second Production with Lex-Ham Theater, as an Irish Cop, in *Assorted Spirits*, having resumed his acting career since his retirement.”



**Vani Ramakrishnan** (Genevieve, the maid) is delighted to rejoin Lex-Ham in this production. By day, she’s a mild-mannered data analyst. By night, she’s a mild-mannered actress playing a piquantly-mannered maid.



**Denise Remak** (Hulda) After a 37-year career of being “on stage” teaching history at Apple Valley High School, Denise is thrilled to be cast in her second Lex-Ham production. Having debuted as a nameless nurse in *The First Man*, Denise is delighted to play Hulda, one of the overworked and underappreciated Swedish maids in *Assorted Spirits*. Many thanks to her family, Bruce, Ingrid and Beret, for their enthusiastic support and good humor.



**Megan Rowe** (Second Story Salle) is excited to be in her second show with Lex-Ham Community Theater, having played Peggy in last fall’s production of *The Front Page*. She has also performed with Morris Park Players, Cross Community Players, and most recently with the Eden Prairie Players as Mrs. Banks in *Father of the Bride*. Additionally, she has performed with the Minnesota Fringe Festival and several U of M student film projects, and has taught theater and directed several shows for elementary school kids. By day, she is a married mom to three terrific sons.



**Barcy Stricker** (Madame Zada) hopes to channel the spirit of F. Scott himself tonight here at the historic, hospitable Commodore. She earned her BFA in theatre from Ohio University, which in turn has somehow allowed her to earn a living in the financial industry - apparently she ACTS like she knows about money - even though she has none of her own. A Saint Paul Midway resident, Barcy thanks Lex-Ham Arts for continuing to provide our community with on-going theatre and music experiences for all.



**Jen Thissen** (Stage Manager) is pleased to once again be stage managing for Lex-Ham; she previously managed *The Front Page*, *The Last Cyclist* and *Lovers*. Jen studied theatre at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. She has participated in dozens of shows as an actor, stage manager, choreographer, light board operator, etc. - frequently wearing 2 or more hats in a single production. During daylight hours, Jen is a grant administrator.



**Holly Windle** (Miss Spigot) started acting in community theatre at the age of seven and has continued intermittently since. She has performed with Theatre in the Round, DayTrippers, Theatre Terra Firma, Gadfly Theatre Productions, Eat Street Players, and others. After 25 years at The Schubert Club, where she was Director of Education, she now does educational role-playing for the Barbara Schneider Foundation’s crisis intervention training program and for the University of Minnesota (where she earned her master’s degree in Speech-Communication). A music lover and an Anglophile, Holly has sung in all the extant Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and is a member of the Northwodes, the Minnesota chapter of The (P.G.) Wodehouse Society. More than 125 of her limericks have been approved for the on-line Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form.

# 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, *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and *Motomorphosis* by Václav Havel.
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *There's Talk in Town* by John Solensten and *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman;
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Women* by Clare Boothe Luce, *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly, and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller; and
- Winning awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor (Shad Cooper) and Sound Design (David Lind) at the 2003 and 2005 Minnesota Association of Community Theatres Play Festivals.

The theater offers many opportunities for people to get involved at any level or time commitment. Opportunities range from attending an evening reading of a play written by Shakespeare or which won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama to enrolling in a beginning or advanced acting class.

To get involved contact [theater@LexHamArts.org](mailto:theater@LexHamArts.org) or [www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

## Upcoming events:

Fall 2016 - William Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*

June 10 - Classic Comedy Series - *Loot* by Joe Orton

July 11 - Shakespeare Reading Series - *Romeo and Juliet*

## Acting classes for Summer 2016 offered jointly with Saint Paul Community Education

Acting for Absolute Beginners

Register on-line at [www.commed.spps.org](http://www.commed.spps.org)

**Producing a play is possible only with the help and assistance of many people and organizations.  
Here are a few that we would like to acknowledge and thank.**

Mari Lyn Ampe

Marge Avoles

Keith Horst

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Dave Page

Mary Beth Redmond

Kay Robinson at Concordia University-Saint Paul

Joe Steger

The Commodore Bar & Restaurant

Fitzgerald in Saint Paul

Ivy Arts Copy & Print

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Minnesota History Center

White Bear Yacht Club

YWCA of Saint Paul

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