

Local troupe plans Aug. 7-9 shows featuring 'The Curious Savage'

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



The Curious Savage will be on stage in Holyoke and Haxtun this weekend, in a Phillips County Arts Council-sponsored event.

The play will be performed Friday, Aug. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Haxtun Community Center.

Dinner theatres will be featured in Holyoke at KarDale's restaurant Saturday, Aug. 8, with a 6:30 p.m. meal and 7:30 p.m. show; and Sunday, Aug. 9 with a 1 p.m. meal and 2 p.m. show.

Tickets to the weekend performances and dinner theatres are available at the Phillips County Extension Office, from cast members or by phone at 854-3378.

Doug Kamery is directing *The Curious Savage*. He is especially pleased to have Holyoke and Haxtun working together in this event. Performers in this weekend's play are not only from Holyoke and Haxtun, but also Amherst and Wray.

Cast members from Holyoke include Jes-c Brandt as Lily Belle Savage, Eric Conklin as Dr. Emmett, Jerry Brandt as Hannibal, and Nicole Brandt as Miss Wilhelmina. From Amherst are Janismarie Oberle as Mrs. Paddy and Ty Glittenberg as Jeffrey.

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Haxtun cast members are Jonathan Phillips as Samuel Savage, Karen Swan as Mrs. Ethel P. Savage, Danielle Conklin as Fairy Mae and Hannah Conklin as Florence. Also performing is Eldon Valdemar of Wray as Titus Savage.

The Curious Savage is the warm-hearted tale of Mrs. Ethel Savage, a slightly eccentric, extremely wealthy widow. Being the recipient of her deceased husband's estate, she wants to make the best use of it, despite her greedy stepchildren's selfish attempts to get their hands on it.

Mrs. Savage, however, has put her wealth into negotiable bonds in the hopes of establishing a fund to help others realize their hopes and dreams, much to the siblings' chagrin.

They then commit her to a sanitarium in the hopes of shocking her to her senses. There she meets a variety of social misfits, all needing exactly the kind of help Mrs. Savage can provide and who eventually appear more sane than those outside the walls of the institution.

These wonderful individuals immediately endear themselves to Mrs. Savage. With the help of her new-found friends, Mrs. Savage leads her step-children on a merry chase!

It's a lovely story about what it means to be a family. This warm, funny, classic play is perfect for the entire family.

Kamery is no stranger to directing plays. He has assisted Jeri Anderson in co-directing the Haxtun High School musical for 14 years. He also directed community theater in Haxtun in 2002 when *Fiddler on the Roof* was performed.

Kamery took performing arts classes at McCook Community College in McCook, Neb. in 1978-79, where he met his wife Pat. They were married in 1981 and moved to Phillips County in 1984.

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Doug worked at Jack & Jill, owned and operated the Kountry Krock restaurant, worked at the Holyoke Post Office and then worked for a year and a half as an appraiser in the Phillips County Assessor's office before being elected County Assessor in 2002.

He has acted in college and community theater, and in fact is one of the founding members of Phillips County Players.

Kamery is writing a revue including a medley of songs to be performed at Haxtun's Corn Festival Saturday, Sept. 26, commemorating Haxtun's 100th year. It is titled "In My Merry Oldsmobile—An Historic Trip Down Memory Lane with Roots of Music and Dance and a Comedy Detour."