

AURORA COMMUNITY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEADING LADIES

Opens Aurora's 51st Season Oct. 29

AURORA, OH ---- Aurora Community Theatre's 51st season kicks off with Ken Ludwig's hilarious play, *LEADING LADIES*, at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Oct. 29 through Nov. 20.

Two down-on-their-luck actors re-direct their talents to fortune-seeking when they learn that a local dowager is looking for long-lost relatives to inherit her multi-millions. When the posers discover that "Max" and "Steve" are short for Maxine and Stephanie, undaunted, they don dresses and work to woo the widow.

Set in York, Pennsylvania in 1958, this farcical play centers on Leo Clark (**Scott Shriner**) and Jack Gable (**Eric Oswald**). Barely making ends meet performing Shakespeare in Amish country, Clark and Gable take on their toughest roles trying to convince the ailing matron Florence (**Dixie Benschhoff Ludick**), that they are her "nieces" who were whisked away to England as infants. Trouble and romance ensue when Leo falls for Florence's vivacious niece, Meg (**Amy Pelleg**), a star-struck thespian-wannabe who's engaged to the sedate local minister, Duncan (**Kevin Horak**). Jack's dreamy affection for the millionaire's part-time aide Audrey (**Emily C. Haseltine**) helps thicken the mischievous plot. Completing the cast are **Bob Fortlage** as Doc and **Jon Gellott** as Butch.

Award winning **Barbara L. Rhoades** directs this laugh-out-loud production with **Marianne S. Paul** as producer. **Marc C. Howard** takes dual duties as assistant director and stage manager. **David Cooper** is in charge of costumes.

Don Arbuckle and **Paul Chechak** co-chaired the stage construction crew that built the two-story interior of a millionaire's mansion featuring Chechak's elegant, curved staircase. The team included **Tom Dean**, **Greg Fetzer**, **Daniel White**, **Bernie Keister**, **Bob Levy**, **Joe Lykins** and **Joe Vero**.

Jean Arbuckle led the set decoration effort with creative assistance from **Barb Trueman** who is painting original art work on the walls.

Dave Sherman designed the lighting which will be run by **Kristie Siders**.

Andrew Bores, in charge of props, will receive help from the running crew including: **Luisa Herrmann**, **Lauryn Hunter**, **John Bores** and **Sarah Gajewski**. Adding their talents to a successful show are **Dorothy Edwards**, house manager, **Jean Myers**, program coordinator, **Vicki Rizzo Prato**, hospitality, and **Linda Balwinski**, board liaison. **CPH Communications** managed publicity and marketing.

LEADING LADIES premiered at the Cleveland Play House in September 2004, directed by the author.

In his Sept. 13, 2004 review, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* critic Tony Brown wrote: "Ludwig's script, developed last season at the Play House's Next Stage Festival, is more consistently funny than his *Lend Me a Tenor* and *"Moon Over Buffalo...."*

"An evening full of comical, belly-laugh, yummy treats."
Cleveland Plain Dealer

"Ken Ludwig's "Leading Ladies" is a laugh riot! ...One heck of a lot of fun!"
The Ottawa Citizen

"This is a crowd-pleaser if there ever was one...the comedy is ferocious!"
Vancouver Province

Tickets at \$16 for adults, \$11 for youth 18 and under, are available online, including seat selection, at www.auroracommunitytheatre.com, or call the box office at 330-562-1818. Group discounts are also available by calling the box office.

Aurora Community Theatre gratefully acknowledges **The Lawrence E. and Sheila Rowan McHale Foundation** for their generous sponsorship support of **LEADING LADIES**, which is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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ACT, celebrating 51 successful seasons in 2010-11, annually presents three regular season shows, a summer stock production plus two children's summer workshops, reaching an annual audience of nearly 7,000. ACT showcases the region's top actors, musicians, costume and set designers, construction, lighting, sound and backstage crews -- all of whom generously donate their time and talent.