



# Summer Preview



# Contents

- 3 . . . . . State of the Playhouse
- 4 . . . . . *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*
- 7 . . . . . *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*
- 10 . . . . . How to Become Involved
- 11 . . . . . Audition Notice



## **Main Street Productions, Inc.**

PO Box 702 (for mail)  
1836 SR 32 West (playhouse)  
Westfield, IN 46074  
[westfieldplayhouse.org](http://westfieldplayhouse.org)

*Member of the Encore Association — [encoreassociation.net](http://encoreassociation.net)  
Visit Hamilton County Indiana — [visithamiltoncounty.com](http://visithamiltoncounty.com)  
Westfield Chamber of Commerce — [westfield-chamber.org](http://westfield-chamber.org)  
Westfield Arts Alliance — [www.facebook.com/WestfieldArtsAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/WestfieldArtsAlliance)*

## **Thanks to our 2019-2020 WPH Season Co-Sponsor**



## **Thanks to our Sponsor for *The Adventure of the Speckled Band***



# State of the Playhouse

*“Community theater.”* The very name implies both the magic of theater and the closeness of community. Westfield Playhouse has spent many years striving to make ourselves closer to the Westfield community . . . literally in the past several months, as we continue our work to construct a new playhouse in downtown Westfield.

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of effort and resources to erect a whole new building. At the time of this writing (early July), our capital campaign fundraising efforts are ongoing. Many of our patrons and members have opened their hearts and donated to the CapCap fund for the new building. We are applying for many not-for-profit Arts grants, but your help is much appreciated (and we can have indoor plumbing). In the new building, we will be expanding our educational programs in theater arts to all interested and will have varied educational and entertaining functions for your interests.

We at Main Street Productions firmly believe that everyone who loves theater has a part to play in helping us fulfill our mission. From the core audience who comes to our shows; to the creative people who volunteer their efforts in front and behind stage to bring plays to life; to those to whose generous donations — monetary and otherwise — that we rely on.

This isn't an appeal for money . . . although our needs are always great, and we won't turn away whatever you might consider!

Rather, this is an expression of appreciation. This newsletter is part of our commitment to get closer to you . . . and we'd be honored if you would do what you can to help the community get closer to us: If you attend a Westfield Playhouse performance and enjoy yourself, we would be grateful if you told a friend. Word-of-mouth “advertising” is by far the best, most-effective way for us to grow. In fact, if there's a forthcoming show that looks interesting, consider inviting a friend or two to attend with you! Performances are always more fun when you have someone you can talk about it with afterwards.

Westfield Playhouse began its life 27 years ago — in 1992 — with a commitment to interesting, thoughtful theater. As we come close to the end of an old chapter and the beginning of a new one, we earnestly hope that you'll remain part of the “community” that helps make this happen.

**Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents**

A production sponsored by O.W. Krohn & Associates, LLP

*Encore Rising Star Youth Production of*

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's**

# **The Adventure of the Speckled Band**

**Adapted by Tim Kelly**

**Directed by Veronique Duprey**

**July 26th & 27th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm**

**July 28th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm**

**August 2nd & 3rd, 2019 @ 7:30 pm**

**August 4th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm**

## **AT A GLANCE**

*The Adventure of the Speckled Band*

July 26-28, August 2-4

**Perfect for:** Fans of mysteries, Sherlock Holmes, Victorian period pieces, and battles of wits

**Watch out for:** Secret passageways, strange creatures, and a whole slew of interesting characters

# The Game Is Afoot This Summer!

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most iconic characters in literature, film, and television. From his creation (birth?) in 1887, the world's greatest detective has appeared in countless forms throughout the ages, including stage adaptations as early as 1899.

Part of what makes the character — along with his long-suffering sidekick Watson — so appealing is how versatile the character is, while also being firm in concept. We all know who “Sherlock” and “Watson” are, but we can also be surprised by actors and creators putting their own interpretations on these stories, ranging from the classic Basil Rathbone personification in film and radio in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to the dynamic 2009 *Sherlock Holmes*, to the gender-bending “Joan Watson” portrayed by Lucy Liu in the 2014 *Elementary* TV series.

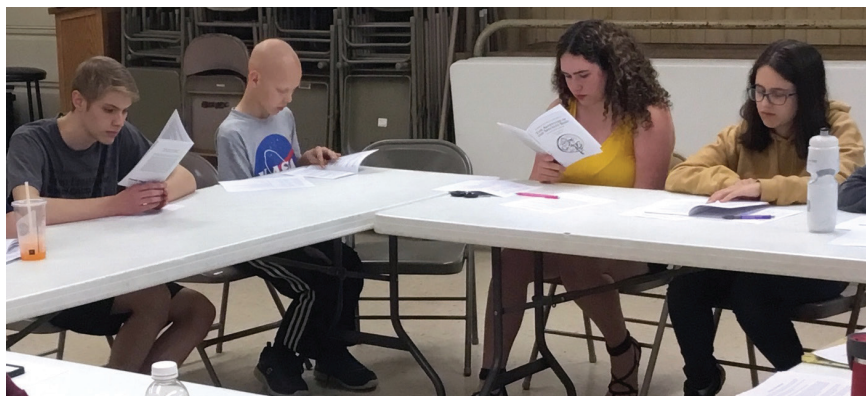


But unlike perhaps more dramatic classic fare like Shakespeare's tragedies, Sherlock Holmes remains fun . . . for audience and cast alike. So it's a perfect fit that Westfield Playhouse's Rising Star production for summer 2019 offers a new generation of young actors the chance to put its own stamp on Sherlock Holmes, with *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, an adaptation by Tim Kelly of the classic Sir Arthur Conan Doyle short story.

This adaptation expands on the original story, as the audience gets to know the inhabitants of Stoke Moran Manor, from the scowling stepfather Grimesby Roylott, to the worried Helen, to the ex-convict housekeeper. The initial investigation falls to Watson, with Sherlock Holmes joining several weeks later. With a cast of memorable characters, this show is sure to delight young and old alike.

The performers — all young actors ranging in age from 10 to 16 — assembled for their first readthrough of this play on June 9, 2019. Rehearsals are taking place throughout the summer, and these young thespians will soon make their own marks on these historical roles.





***If you could have the deductive powers of Holmes, would you want that?***

**Evan Wolfgang (Holmes; top photo, on left):** I would love to have the deductive powers of Sherlock Holmes! Although it could sometimes be a burden, Holmes’s intellect is almost always used for good. I’d like to believe that, like Sherlock Holmes, I would use my deductive powers to better the lives of others; not to mention it would be a great party trick.

***What do you think is the most-important element that Watson provides to Sherlock Holmes?***

**Audrey Duprey (Watson; bottom photo, on left):** Watson brings a human side to the famous duo. He shows empathy, and is generally more reassuring than the “machine” that is Holmes. In this play, he also provides some comic relief!



Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

# THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE

By Jethro Compton

Based on the short story  
by Dorothy M. Johnson

Directed by Veronique Duprey

September 27th & 28th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

October 4th & 5th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

October 6th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm

October 11th & 12th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

October 13th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm

2019-2020 WPH Season is Co-Sponsored by Horizon Bank

## AT A GLANCE

*The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*

September 28-29, October 4-6, 11-13

**Perfect for:** Fans of Westerns, love stories, “good vs. evil” tales, character dramas

**Watch out for:** A surprising amount of Shakespeare, both in the school that’s established as part of the plot as well as quoted several times throughout.

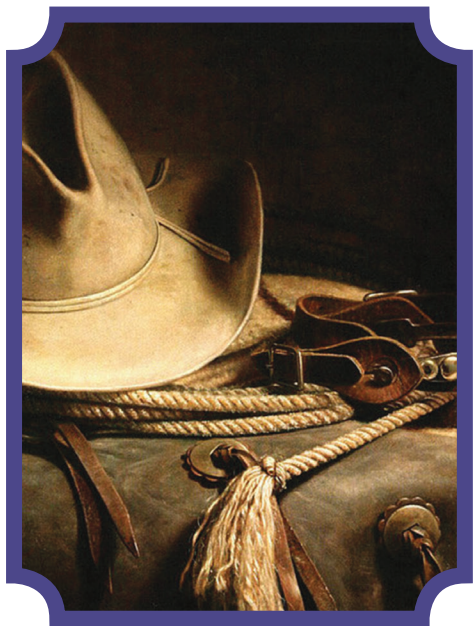
# This Fall, We Put the “West” in “Westfield Playhouse”

Western stories were the “superhero epics” of their day, where legendary heroes faced strong-jawed enemies, with the fate of innocents hanging in the balance. *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* is both familiar and subversive. Although at first it seems to tell a familiar story of a final showdown against a good man standing up to the lawless West, the questions it asks are far more intriguing: Does the law have meaning if the people themselves don’t give it life? How far will a man go for principles — or for love? Is violence ever the answer . . . and, if so, what is the *question*?

Westfield Playhouse will soon present *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. It’s based on a short story by Dorothy M. Johnson, an acclaimed author who specified that her gravestone be marked “PAID.” (As she said in an interview shortly before her death, “God and I know what it means, and nobody else needs to know.”)

*Liberty Valance* was adapted into a well-regarded film directed by John Ford in 1962, starring James Stewart and John Wayne. This stage adaptation — written by Jethro Compton and premiering in 2014 — returns to the source material, placing the action in a single saloon and amping up the character drama.

This fall, lives change forever, hearts are broken, and yesterday’s future is forged in an instant. Westfield Playhouse invites you to discover *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.





# Q&A With the Director

At the time of this writing, Director Veronique Duprey was working with the cast of *Speckled Band*. However, as the director of both *Speckled Band* and *Liberty Valance*, she was able to spare a few moments to answer some questions.

***As the director of both Speckled Band and Liberty Valance, it's interesting that both are set in the same rough timeframe (the latter half of the 19th century). Is it coincidence, or is there something about this era that's appealing to you?***

The time period settings was just a coincidence, as the Sherlock Holmes script was submitted almost two years ago; I thought *Speckled Band* was particularly well-suited for a youth production, with the play written more as an ensemble show than the usual “Sherlock and Watson” adventure. It gives more significant parts to more actors.

***So, what it is about Liberty Valance that spoke to you as a director?***

Growing up watching westerns with my father, I truly enjoyed reading this script and was excited to submit it to the Playhouse. Younger generations — perhaps not as familiar with the western genre — should also enjoy this quick-witted adaptation, with a much-more developed female character.

***Indeed! Fans of traditional Westerns and even the 1962 movie might be surprised at how strong a voice Hallie is in this version.***

Yes! She's Hallie Jackson in the play; the original short story just called her “Hallie.” There are also other significant changes to make it a play. They condensed the number of characters, and placed it entirely in the saloon. Also, the characters are younger. It's a good adaptation for a modern audience, with some quick repartees, an evil guy who is less brutal, more business-like, and even a couple of verses of songs . . . but it's not a musical!

# How to Become Involved

For each production, we must budget for royalty costs, props, building materials, costumes, etc. All of this is in addition to our annual facility maintenance costs.

MSP asks for your support and participation to allow us to continue to bring excellence in theatre to the community. Please consider becoming a MSP Patron or Member and donating you time/skills.

## *General Membership*

\$25.00 for 1-year membership (cost good through September 2019) Includes 1 complimentary ticket, opportunities to help with theater maintenance and preparing for shows, invitation to the annual meeting, and the opportunity to vote in the annual Westie Awards.

## *MSP Patron Sponsor*

If you'd like to help even more, consider being a Patron Sponsor! Levels are:

- **Corporate Sponsor** — please contact MSP
- **Director** — \$1000: 1 year membership and name in each program
- **Producer** — \$500-\$999: 1 year membership and name in each program
- **Leading Role** — \$250-\$499: 1 year membership and name in each program
- **Supporting Role** — \$100-\$249: 1 year membership and name in each program
- **Tech Crew** — \$50-\$99: name in each program

## *Donate to MSP*

Main Street Productions, Inc. gratefully accepts donations. If you wish to donate, please use the PayPal button on the web site, under “Membership and Donate.” Designated funds are Capital Improvement and Scholarship.

# Audition Notice

## *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*

Written by Jethro Compton, based on the short story by Dorothy M. Johnson, directed by Veronique Duprey.

### **Audition Dates and Location**

Auditions for *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* will be held August 5-6 at the Westfield Playhouse at 7:00 p.m.

**Performance Dates:** September 27 to October 13.

### **Synopsis**

Looking for a rugged-looking cast for the Indiana premiere of this Western set in 1890!

When a young scholar from New York City travels west in search of a new life, he arrives beaten and half-dead on the dusty streets of Twotrees. Rescued from the plains, the town soon becomes his home. A local girl gives him purpose in a broken land, but is it enough to save him from the vicious outlaw who wants him dead? He must make the choice to turn and run or to stand for what he believes, to live or to fight; to become the man who shot Liberty Valance.

### **Roles to Be Cast**

Character descriptions (from the playwright):

**Ransome Foster** – 30-35 – From New York. Well-read and well spoken. He is stubborn and often arrogant but always well meaning. *Some kissing*

**Hallie Jackson** – 25-35 – She’s a strong-minded, rough talking girl. Underneath her rough exterior is a beautiful and caring individual. *Some kissing*

**Bert Barricune** – 40-50 – Bert is a true gunslinger. He is worn and battered-looking but clearly handsome. He speaks only when he must. *One kiss*

**Jim “The Reverend” Mosten** – 20-30, AA – Jim is a young black swamper. He is kind, enthusiastic, well-mannered, full of energy and easy to fall in love with. *One song*

**Liberty Valance** – 30-40 – Liberty is a Southern gentleman, but his polite manner doesn’t disguise the scars on his face. He is terrifyingly unpredictable.

**Marshal Johnson** – 50-60 – The Marshal talks the talk. When it comes down to it, he’s a coward.

**Narrator** – 40-75 – could be either on stage or a recorded voice.

**Jake Dowitt** – 20-35 – Jake is an enthusiastic reporter for a small local paper

**Mourners** – any age, who sing at Barricune’s funeral; some of them may also play the following roles:

**Deputy** – 25-40 – the Marshal’s deputy

**Students** – local townsmen attending the “school”

**The Gang** – a few of Liberty’s men

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

# Over the River And Through The Woods

By Joe DiPietro

Directed by Doug Davis

Our Holiday Show !!

November 15th & 16th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

November 22nd & 23rd, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

November 24th, 2019 @ 2:30 pm

November 29th & 30th, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

December 1st, 2019 @ 2:30 pm

2019-2020 WPH Season is Co-Sponsored by Horizon Bank



**Westfield Playhouse**

1836 W. St Rd 32, Westfield, IN - (317) 402-3341

For reservations, call or visit our website:

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



**2020 Shows**

*Lie, Cheat, and*

*Genuflect* by Billy Van  
Zandt & Jane Milmore

**Jan. 17 to Feb. 2**

*A Raisin in the Sun* by  
Lorraine Hansberry

**March 20 to April 5**

*Rumors* by Neil Simon

**May 8-24**

*30 Reasons Not to Be in  
a Play* by Alan Haehnel  
(Youth Production)

**July 17-26**

*Hedda Gabler*

by Henrik Ibsen

**Sept. 18 to Oct. 4**

*Annie* — Music by

Charles Strouse, Lyrics

by Martin Charnin,

Book by Thomas

Meehan

**Holiday 2020**

*(if license available)*