

BIG AL GOES STRAIGHT

By Carol Costa

Director: J.R. Colbeck

Producer: Michele Brodene

CAST (In order of appearance)

LOUIE Ken Wolfe
 MAX BENNET Bill Shoop
 OFFICER WALTER O'MALLY Tom Harmon
 BLANCHE BENNET Marty Craig
 BARNEY Tim Brodene
 SISTER SUE Pam Bagwell
 BIG AL Nancy Olmsted
 ROSA Wendy Gager
 RATS BRANIGAN Lance Houck

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Time: 1933 - Prohibition Days

Place: A mortuary, somewhere in Chicago.

ACT I

Scene 1: The Mortuary
 Scene 2: The Next Day
 Scene 3: A Week Later . . . Night

ACT II

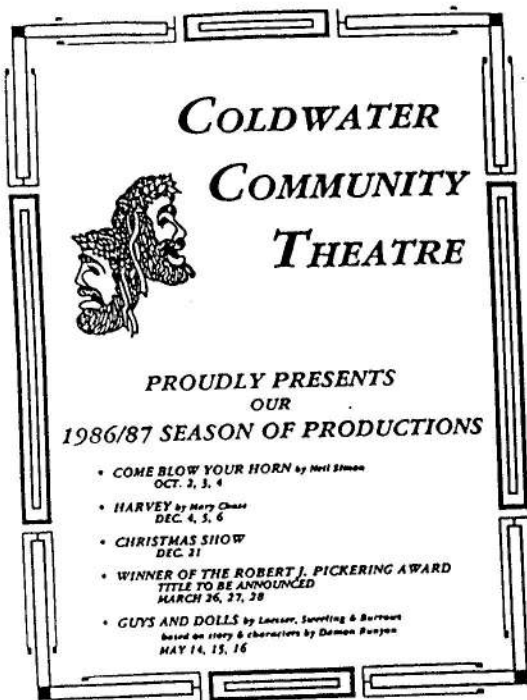
Scene 1: The Next Day
 Scene 2: Later That Day
 Scene 3: The Next Day
 Scene 4: Two Days Later
 Scene 5: A Week Later

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS.
 - REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN LOWER LEVEL -

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Christine Wright	Light Board Operator	Mary Lou Wolfe
Set Design	Gary Adler	Costumes	Chris Wallace Colbeck
Set Construction	Gary Adler, Bill Shoop, Ed Nofz, Neal Dantes, Ken Delaney Rick Duncan, Mike Ritter	Properties	Georgiana Holcomb, Mary Jo Johnson
Sound	Ken Delaney	Programs - Posters - Tickets	Sharon Duchi-Bloom Connie Elliget, Pat Pavelko
House Manager	John Shea	Publicity	Ken Delaney
Light Designer	Obie Burch	Program Coordinator	Sharon Duchi-Bloom, John Shea
		Advertising Manager	John Shea

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Colbeck Law Office for tickets,
 WNWN/WTVB, and St. Charles Catholic Church.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carol Costa was born and raised in Chicago, where she began to write at an early age. Her first published work was a high school essay telling of her love for books.

Carol has been married to Frank Costa since 1965, and they have four children, Christopher, 20, Lisa Marie, 18, Joseph, 15, and Maria Lynn, 8.

The Costa family moved to Tucson in 1973 and Carol resumed a career in public accounting. It was here that she met a director from the community theater who coaxed her into writing her first stage piece, a ten minute comedy skit about vampires. The skit was produced as part of a variety show. The audience laughed in all the right places and Carol has been hooked on live theater ever since.

After a few years of writing skits, acting and directing with local groups, Carol enrolled in a creative writing class at the University of Arizona. It was 1979, time to take her writing more seriously, so she learned how to market her work and began to send it out.

The sale of a short story in April, 1980, led to other short fiction sales and numerous non-fiction assignments. Within the year, she completed her first full length play, "Death Insurance", a murder mystery laced with humor.

Four years passed and six more plays were completed. Some received local productions and one of them, a children's Christmas play was published in 1982. However, the opportunities and financial rewards for playwrights seemed to be few and far between, so Carol turned her efforts to novels, radio scripts, and screenplays, and succeeded in having one of the radio scripts produced by a Los Angeles radio station.

Then in 1986, the impossible happened. Carol submitted "Death Insurance" to a New York theater that specialized in murder mysteries and it was accepted.

An exciting trip to New York and a lot of local publicity prompted Carol to write a new play. The original concept was a murder/mystery set in the roaring twenties, but the zany characters that began to parade across the pages of the script refused to take the plot seriously, so Carol let them have their way and the new play, "Big Al Goes Straight", became more comedy than mystery.

Six months after it rolled out of her typewriter, Carol was overjoyed to learn that "Big Al" was to receive the Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting Excellence.

Like any writer, Carol faces rejection on a daily basis, but in the last six months, the year's have begun to overshadow the no's, and several exciting projects are in the works.

In addition to her job as the Club Accountant of Elks Lodge #385, Carol works with a local theater group, conducts a comedy writing workshop and a playwriting class at Tucson's Author's Resource Center, and is treasurer of the local chapter of the Romance Writers of America.

Carol is also a member of the Dramatists Guild which she feels is a "must" for any playwright.

Carol is looking forward to seeing "Big Al" produced in Coldwater, and is currently looking for some nice warm clothes to take on her trip.

KEN WOLFE

Ken Wolfe has been a resident of Branch County for 35 years. This is his first appearance on stage since he graduated from Bronson High School in 1970. He has been employed as a tool & die maker at Douglas Components Corp. in Bronson for the last 14 years. He enjoys singing and holds a degree in computer programming.

BILL SHOOP

Bill Shoop is a long time member of C.C.T. Recent credits include direction and settings for the fall production of "Harvey" and the role of Pericles in the original play "Cooperative Living" two seasons ago. Bill is a self employed woodworker. Other interests include tennis, antique cars, and travel.

TOM HARMON

Tom Harmon is making his fifth C.C.T. appearance. He previously appeared in "California Suite", "The Good Doctor", "Little Mary Sunshine" and "Come Blow Your Horn". His first appearances were in high school with "She Stoops to Conquer", "A Christmas Carol", and a comedy which shall go unnamed. Tom and his children Andi and Jon live in Coldwater.

MARTHA (MARTY) CRAIG

In addition to helping back-stage, Marty enjoys being on the Tibbits stage. Her first role with C.C.T. was in Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite". She has appeared in several productions since that time, including "The Good Doctor", "Ten Little Indians", Robert Pickering's original play "Hang Onto The Horse" and most recently "Harvey". Marty also had parts in the Hospice production of "Whose Life Is It Anyway" and the re-dedication of the Branch County Library. A former teacher, Marty owns Craig Hallmark.

TIM BRODENE

A newcomer to C.C.T., Tim first appeared in the Christmas Show as "Frosty". He now feels he is ready for a speaking role and is looking forward to many more appearances.

NANCY OLMSTED

Returning to Coldwater after a twelve year absence, Nancy and her husband, Norman, are enjoying the renewal of old community ties, including ones with the Tibbits Theatre. Nancy has appeared on the Tibbits stage in "The Mikado" and performed with the Sweet Adelines. Other stage credits previous include the Wicked Witch in "Snow White" and Aunt Polly in "Tom Sawyer" during school days in Jackson, Michigan.

WENDY GAGER

This is Wendy Gager's first appearance on Tibbits' stage playing the man-hungry daughter of Big Al. Although this is Wendy's first experience in the footlights, she has worked backstage on other productions and looks forward to becoming more involved in C.C.T. A native of Greenville, Wendy has lived in Coldwater for nearly two years and works as a reporter at the Coldwater Daily Reporter.

PAM BAGWELL

This is Pam's second appearance with C.C.T; she was most recently seen as Connie in "Come Blow Your Horn". Pam says she enjoys the chance to get on stage and play make-believe with her friends. An editorial staffer at the Coldwater Daily Reporter, Pam makes her home at Coldwater Lake with her husband Mike, and children Lara and Joel.

LANCE I. HOUCK

Lance makes his second appearance on the Tibbits stage. He was most recently seen in "Harvey" as Judge Omar Gaffney. Lance, his wife Kathy and six children have lived in Coldwater for 9 years. Lance holds an A.A. degree from Kellogg Community College and is employed with the Michigan Department of Corrections.