

COLDWATER COMMUNITY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS
1979 - May, 1997

A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION
 THE TORCH BEARERS
 PLAZA SUITE
 NIGHT WATCH
 A NICE PLACE TO VISIT
 THE GIRL IN THE FREUDIAN
 SLIP
 CALIFORNIA SUITE
 AND MISS REARDON DRINKS A
 LITTLE
 THE GOOD DOCTOR
 TEN LITTLE INDIANS
 HANG ONTO THE HORSE
 REHEARSAL FOR DEATH
 CHRISTMAS TREE TALES
 WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?*

COOPERATIVE LIVING
 LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE
 CHRISTMAS TREE TALES II
 FOLLY'S QUARTER
 COME BLOW YOUR HORN
 HARVEY
 BIG AL GOES STRAIGHT
 GUYS AND DOLLS
 MISTER ROBERTS
 THE LAST OF THE RED HOT
 LOVERS
 IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY
 NIGHT
 THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY
 BROWN
 CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF
 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
 MURDER MOST FOULED UP
 KISS ME KATE
 WAIT UNTIL DARK
 CHRISTMAS TALES
 ABSURDLY YOURS
 LI'L ABNER

1776
 FOOLS
 TO WIT
 PLAIN AND FANCY
 THE NERD
 GIFT OF THE MAGI/THE MOUSE
 THAT WAS STIRRING
 HOUSE OF WONDERS*
 42ND STREET
 BRIGADOON**
 THE DINING ROOM
 DIRTY WORK AT THE
 CROSSROADS
 MATCH POINT*
 SOUTH PACIFIC
 YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU
 BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
 EVER
 THE HEIRESS
 THE SLOW BURN OF DECEIT
 DAMN YANKEES
 ANGEL STREET
 BABES IN TOYLAND
 M*A*S*H
 THE DEATH AND SALE OF
 ALEXANDER GOLAND*
 SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN
 BROTHERS
 STEPPING OUT
 IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
 THINGS THAT GO BAD IN THE
 NIGHT
 NUNSENSE
 BUCKSHOT AND BLOSSOMS
 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
 THE WILL OF GEORGE
 HOW TO SUCCEED IN
 BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY
 TRYING

* Co-produced with Branch County Hospice

** Co-produced with the Hillsdale Community Theatre

Coldwater Community Theatre is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to bringing the arts to and sharing the arts with members of our community. Those involved participate on stage and off stage, including being part of a supportive audience. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year. If you would like to become a member, please write to us: c/o Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett, Coldwater, MI, 49036.

THE WILL OF GEORGE



A WORLD PREMIERE

by
Steven Packard

1997 winner of
 THE ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD
 FOR PLAYWRITING EXCELLENCE

February 20-21-22, 1997
 TIBBITS OPERA HOUSE

Presented by
 COLDWATER COMMUNITY THEATRE
 in cooperation with
 HOSPICE OF BRANCH COUNTY

HISTORY OF COLDWATER COMMUNITY THEATRE



While it has undergone several name changes, a group of community theatre performers in Coldwater has been active since the 1940's. At that time the group was known as The Coldwater Players. In the late 1960's, the group was revived as Coldwater Community Theatre. Following a lull in the 1970's, Coldwater Community Theatre enjoyed a resurgence in 1979 with the production of Robert J. Pickering's play **A SLIGHT EXAGGERATION**. Since that time CCT has been very active and the membership and number of plays performed has grown.

The **ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD FOR PLAYWRIGHTING EXCELLENCE** was established in 1984, with the first presentation in 1985. In 1984, CCT also initiated a four show season. In the fall of 1990, the group joined with Hillsdale Community Theatre for the production of the acclaimed musical **1776**, and again joined forces in 1992 for a joint production of **BRIGADOON**.

Coldwater Community theatre is made up entirely of volunteers who love applause. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Monroe Street Station in Coldwater. Please join us!



THE ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD FOR PLAYWRIGHTING EXCELLENCE

ROBERT J. PICKERING, for whom the award has been named, was a charter member of Coldwater Community Theatre and a driving force during its early years. He was also instrumental in the Tibbits Opera Foundation and the development of its summer stock program. Bob worked behind the scenes, directed shows, appeared on stage, including 10 seasons of summer stock, and even wrote his own shows.

He moved to Coldwater in 1967. His first love, writing, spanned more than thirty years. While at Indiana University, he wrote various skits for college reviews. When he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, he wrote a musical review, **TAKE FIVE**, which was chosen to tour the East Coast naval hospitals. Later he became involved in radio and commercial writing and started his own production company making commercials for many major advertisers.

Bob Pickering died of cancer in 1984, not long after CCT had produced his final show, **HANG ONTO THE HORSE**. During his final months, Bob was a patient of Citizens for Hospice. It is a natural tie-in that this thirteenth Pickering Award-winning play be presented along with Hospice of Branch County.

Including Pickering's own shows, CCT will, this year, present its sixteenth original play. Proudly, we are the only non-professional theatre group in the state of Michigan to present a premiere production annually.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Steven Packard (playwright, **THE WILL OF GEORGE**) acts, directs, and writes for the theatre. A native of Texas who spent a long interlude in rural Illinois, he loiters with intent in New York City. Steven's plays have been produced nationally, including **FOUR HEARTS** which runs through March 27, at the Attic Theatre in Los Angeles and will open March 6, at the Turnip Theatre Company in New York City. He has received a number of awards for his writing, among them the Critics' Circle Award for **IN WITH ALMA**, which is published by Samuel French, Inc. Steven is a member of The Playwrights' Center of Minneapolis and The Dramatists Guild, Inc.

RECIPIENTS OF THE ROBERT J. PICKERING AWARD FOR PLAYWRIGHTING EXCELLENCE

1985

COOPERATIVE LIVING by Donna R. Sorbello

1986

FOLLY'S QUARTERS by Jack Fournier

1987

BIG AL GOES STRAIGHT by Carol Costa

1988

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT by Tim Kelly

1989

MURDER MOST FOULED UP by Nikki Harmon

1990

ABSURDLY YOURS by Richard Neissink

1991

TO WIT by Joan Garner

1992

HOUSE OF WONDERS by Kate Aspengren

1993

MATCH POINT by Jerry Staggs

1994

THE SLOW BURN OF DECEIT by Lori Greiner

1995

THE DEATH AND SALE OF ALEXANDER GOLAND by Nikki Harmon

1996

THINGS THAT GO BAD IN THE NIGHT by Alex Powers

1997

THE WILL OF GEORGE by Steven Packard

Coldwater Community Theatre
in cooperation with
Hospice of Branch County
presents the winner of the
1997 Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwrighting Excellence

THE WILL OF GEORGE

by
Steven Packard

DIRECTOR
J. R. Colbeck

STAGE MANAGER
Marisue Taylor

PLACE: The library of Rectorwood, the estate of
the Rector family.

THE CAST
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

THE BODY Paul Mastrangelo
EMILY RECTOR Deborah S. Jersey
GEORGE RECTOR, JR. Kurt Pifer
INSPECTOR RAND Charles J. Lillis
LIVINGSTON Irene Grimes-Butdorf
GARDCURRY J. R. Colbeck
CORONER MUDGE Tom Harmon
JIMMY Mike Duke
ELWOOD FOGBURN William J. Butdorf

There will be a short intermission between the two acts.

*A reception and award presentation will be held following the show
on Thursday evening.*

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER Irene Grimes-Butdorf
HOSPICE LIAISON Elaine Foster
LIGHT DESIGN Charles J. Lillis
LIGHT BOARD Larry Todak, Brian Harris
PROPERTIES MGR. Carolyn Stewart-Magruder
PROPERTIES CREW Kim Walczak
COSTUMER Lorna Fuller
COSTUMER ASST. Amanda Fuller
SOUND Ken Delaney
SET DESIGN J. R. Colbeck
SET CONSTRUCTION William J. Butdorf, Sam Cole
Ken Morris, Jerry Fredrick, Eric Fredrick
Larry Todak, J. R. Colbeck, Brian Harris
SET DECORATION Carolyn Stewart-Magruder
PUBLICITY Irene Grimes-Butdorf
PROGRAM Deborah S. Jersey
HOUSE MANAGER Erland Gleason
BOX OFFICE Erland Gleason
USHERS Hospice Volunteers

HOSPITALITY IN THE LOWER LEVEL
FOLLOWING THE SHOW IS GENEROUSLY
PROVIDED BY
HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following for assistance with this production:
Kim Preston of *Kim's Salon*, Coldwater Furniture Gallery, Shemel
Carpet, Coldwater Community Schools, The Museum Gallery,
Diane Harmon, Deborah Jersey, Coldwater Police Dept., and
Hospice of Branch County.

Presented with the support of the
Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council.

HOSPICE

Hospice is an organization that helps the terminally ill and their families deal with death in a dignified and loving way. We have been a part of this community for over ten years helping those who are most in need of help. It is that philosophy that would lead Bob Pickering and his family to seek the help of Hospice and he, like all of our patients, came to realize that Hospice truly is an act of love.



This production is presented in memory of the families with whom we have worked.

District Health Department
Hospice of Branch County
809 Marshall Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561

*Licensing arrangements and theatre
etiquette prohibit cameras or recording
devices in the theatre.*



ADOPT AN ACTOR!!

Tibbits Summer Theatre season is upon us once again. And, once again, we are seeking temporary housing for the actors, crew and staff.

- ★ Actors/crew members are lovable, house broken and generally of good disposition.
- ★ They are usually in town for 6-8 weeks (sometimes less), and require only a room of their own and access to the kitchen.
- ★ Tibbits staff strive to match compatible actors and community members.

To learn more about this interesting species, please call Dawn at 369-4402 or the Tibbits office: 278-6029.

CCT SALUTES PAID MEMBERS AND SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Laurie Adams	Erland Gleason	Bill Milnes, Jr.
Gary A. Adler	Stan Godfrey	Valerie Mitchell
Michael Allyn	Kaye Greenawalt	LeeAnne Nagle
Lute and Mary Lou Ansari	Thomas & Diane Harmon	Albin Obed
Maron Bigler	Brian Lee Harris	Kim Palchak
Trinity Bird	Beverly Hayes	Sally Pfister
Roger Blansit	Don & Kellie Hicks	Al Provot
Soozi Bradshaw	Marita & Joe Hirt	Raeanne Renner
James Brennan, M.D.	David Hodson	Kay Riegel
Irene & William J. Butdorf	Bonnie Hyde	Carl Rifenburgh
Sheryl Case	Cindy Ireland	Michelle Santure
J. R. Colbeck	Deborah Jersey	Carl Sharp
Martha E. Craig	Martin & Faye Jodway	Mrs. Woody Smith
Dale Custer	Kathryn Kenbeck	Jennifer Spaulding
Anne Davidson	Janet Lane	Mary Gail Stevens
Chris & Ken Delaney	Robert & Tami Lenning	Stephanie Stratos
Marybeth DeVries	Charles & Jayne Lillis	Mike Sutton
Dan & Judy Dobson	Lindsay Long	Marisue Taylor
Robert Dowdell	Pat & Caroline Lowe	Carol Tinervia
Duke & Judy DuShane	Carolyn Stewart-Magruder	Larry Todak
Isaac Ellis	Nancy & Paul Mahle	Debra A. Valentine
Diane Epps	Mary McIndoe	Don & Ann Vrablic
Ron & Irene Frambes	Karen E. Metzger	Lisa Vukmirovich
Dawn Gallup	Greg Miller	Waive Wardwell
Tom Garman	Ken & Marilyn Miller	