

The Game's Afoot

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Keith White
Recommended for patrons 13 and up.

**November 12-14
& Nov. 18-21**

Tickets on sale Oct. 25, 2021

Showtimes

7:30 pm Performances: Thursday, Fridays, & Saturdays

Matinees: 3:30 pm on Second Saturdays
& 2:30 pm on Sundays

Ticket Prices

Adults \$13 Senior/Students \$12
Lewis Students \$3 Group rates are available

Philip Lynch Theatre Box Office

Monday-Friday 1:00-4:30 pm

Phone: (815) 836-5500

Email: boxoffice@lewisu.edu

Website: www.lewisu.edu/plt

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LEWIS UNIVERSITY

PLOT:

It is December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role playing Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. It is then up to Gillette himself, as he assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

BACKGROUND:

The Games Afoot (also known as *Holmes for the Holidays*) was first produced in December 2011 at the Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio. Critics loved it:

"A wild and funny ride... gives you everything you love about great live theatre!" – *Cleveland Examiner*

"*The Game's Afoot* is Murderously Funny!"

– *Broadway World Cleveland*

"A hilarious, quirky and thrilling alternative to your standard holiday entertainment. *The Game's Afoot* is the perfect gift for the holidays... a fantastically fun night out at the theatre." – *ClueintoCleveland.com*

It went on to become the winner of the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Play in 2012.

PLAYWRIGHT KEN LUDWIG:

Ken Ludwig has had 6 shows on Broadway, 7 on the West End, and many of his works have become standard in American repertoire. His 28 plays and musicals have been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages and are produced throughout the United States every night of the year. Some of his other works that have appeared on the Philip Lynch Theatre stage are *Leading Ladies* (2019), *The Beaux Stratagem* (adaptation--2013), *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (2011), and *Moon Over Buffalo* (2003).

He is a graduate of Harvard and Cambridge and is a frequent guest speaker for groups as varied as The Oxford-Cambridge Society, The Jane Austen Society of North America, The Folger Shakespeare Library, and The Baker Street Irregulars.



5 QUESTIONS WITH DIRECTOR KEITH WHITE

We are very pleased to have Emeritus faculty member Keith White back with us this season, helping out by teaching and Acting 1 and directing two shows.

What is your favorite aspect of theatre?

Creating something with people something from scratch and the collaboration nature of working with the actors and the designers. And all within with a small amount of time makes it exciting.

*Apart from **The Game's Afoot**, what has been your favorite production to direct?*

I can't pick. It also not a show but the cast and crew that makes a production stand out and be memorable.

How does directing a play by Ken Ludwig differ from directing works of any other playwright?

It's the genre he writes. Its fast pace, it's not a farce but very close to it. Teaching the student comedic timing is a lot of fun.

*Do you have a particular favorite line, exchange or scene from **The Game's Afoot**?*

The séance is fun and all the characters are theatrical, meaning each character is an actor or wannabe actor so it's very over the top.

*What's next after **The Games Afoot**?*

Preparing for *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, It will be nice to finish it, we were once a week and half in rehearsal when Covid hit.

That and a bathroom remodel.



CONGRATULATIONS

to **Alex Schedel** and **Zac Birgin** on your Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination for *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)*!



COVID INFORMATION

Our plans are to produce in-person theatre for the entirety of this academic year. We are eager to return to an audience in the Phillip Lynch Theatre. With the possibility of mandated changes in capacity and delivery method, we want to have the utmost flexibility to adapt to the conditions each show will be performed under.

COVID procedures that are in effect for *The Game's Afoot*:

- No season tickets subscriptions this year. Tickets will be offered two weeks before each production opens, in person at our box office or online.
- All audience members will have to complete a visitor screen before attending a performance. This screening will be available both online or via paper in person at the theatre.
- Masks are required for all audience members, regardless of vaccination status, are to be worn for the entirety of your attendance, in accordance with state requirements and CDC recommendations.
- Audience distancing will be in effect. The first row of the theatre will be closed. Audience entrance through the stage door will be strictly limited to those using wheelchair assistance seating.
- Performers will be wearing transparent masks and face shields during all performances.

If you cannot comply with these requirements, for the safety of our students and other audience members, we ask that you return to the theatre when these requirements are no longer in effect.



MEET OUR NEW THEATRE MANAGER!

Roxiana M. Fuqua from Joliet is no stranger to the stage. Exposed to the world of professional dance when she was young, she went on to earn her bachelor degrees in Fine and Applied Arts/Dance and Bachelor of Liberal Arts/Business from the University of Illinois. She began her own dance studio, Generation Dance Company, rising from the humble beginnings of a class of 15 students in a church activities room, as Will County's only African-American owned and operated dance studio for over 22 years, which serves for over 250 students annually. Her great instincts are quickly proving to be a great asset to our department and we look forward to her contributions toward how we can develop and produce even better theatre for you.

What is your favorite visual medium (written works, art, shows, movies, etc) to consume?

I'm an avid reader. I enjoy going to the theatre especially any and all live dance shows/productions and musicals.

What is your favorite music genre?

It's an eclectic collection that I enjoy. From classical, R&B, jazz, pop, etc. all types of music except for rap: it's lyrics are too degrading to women; and hardcore (old school/twangy) country though I do enjoy on occasion some of the modern country artists.

What's your favorite content genre (horror, sci-fi, rom-com, etc)?

I'm all about a good story so most genres I enjoy. No horror, I don't allow anything demonic shown in my house, plus I get bad dreams with horror. Suspense and thrillers I will watch, just no horror. Comedies are the most watched overall. I love a good documentary, as well.

What is an essential part of your daily routine?

Having a peaceful, quiet house upon waking up. It just sets the right tone to start my day from.

What's your favorite way to spend a day off?

I'm all for relaxing, shopping, having brunch with friends, and hanging out with family

What's your favorite way of treating yourself?

Spa day, get a manicure, pedicure, the whole spa experience is nice

What production that you have seen or taken part in stands out as being memorable?

Going to see Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre at the Auditorium Theatre when I was 16. My dance instructor took me so I could see people that looked like me on stage. That production was what started me on my path to pursue dance as my profession.

What causes are you passionate about?

Both breast cancer awareness and Alzheimer's awareness are very dear to me due to family. Minority participation and inclusiveness in both theatre and dance is a cause I'm extremely passionate about as well. Leveling the difference between dancers and actors of color within a very biased industry is a long and intricate fight, but an important one to bring awareness and change for the next generation.

What is something you're excited about right now?

My new job! I am extremely happy to be here at Lewis University. I hope my arrival can help to usher in a new era for the Philip Lynch Theatre. I hope to honor tradition, while helping to create an exciting future. From a personal standpoint, I am very excited about the new home that my family and I are building to begin our new life together.

What is something about you that people would be surprised by?

I would love to do Missionary work, in possibly Haiti or Cambodia, one day in the future. Spend a whole summer or season helping out where needed.

PHILIP LYNCH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

February 11-13 & Feb. 17-20

Directed by Kevin Trudeau

Recommended for patrons 13 and up.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 24, 2022!

Veronica's Room

by Ira Levin

This chilling mystery thriller by the author of *Rosemary's Baby* explores the thin line between fantasy and reality, madness and murder. Students Susan and Larry find themselves as guests enticed to the Brabissant mansion by its dissolute caretakers the lonely Mackeys. Struck by Susan's strong resemblance to Veronica Brabissant, long-dead daughter of the family for whom they work, the older couple gradually induce her to impersonate Veronica briefly to solace the only living Brabissant, her addled sister who believes Veronica alive. Once dressed in Veronica's clothes, Susan finds herself locked in the role and locked in Veronica's room. Or is she Veronica, in 1935, pretending to be an imaginary Susan?

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

by Bob Carlton

April 1-3 & Apr. 7-10

Directed by Keith White

Recommended for patrons 13 and up.

Tickets go on sale March 14, 2022!

Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, this jukebox musical is packed with rock 'n' roll classics such as *Head it Through the Grapevine*, *Young Girl*, *Good Vibrations*, and *Gloria*.

Blast off on a routine flight and crash into the planet D'Illyria where a sci fi version of *The Tempest* set to rock and roll golden oldies unfolds with glee. The planet is inhabited by a sinister scientist, Dr. Prospero; his delightful daughter Miranda; Ariel, a faithful robot on roller skates; and an uncontrollable monster, the product of Prospero's Id, whose tentacles penetrate the space craft.

Ticket Prices

Adults \$15 Senior/Students \$14 Lewis Students \$3 Group rates are available

UPCOMING ARTS&IDEAS EVENTS

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

MATTHEW MCCRIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 • 7:30 PM

St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall

Matthew McCright's performs a piano concert, "Forward Looking Back," at Lewis University. Recently performed by McCright at Carnegie Hall, the titular work by Dorothy Hindman serves as the anchor point to this program that explores the cycles of time —both of the future and our collective pasts. Andrea Mazzariello's *As Far As You Can Stretch a Web* visits his remembered past in relation to the piano while Mike McFerron loops us through the infinite series in *...apprehension of the eternal will*. The pianist's own past and current love of jazz swirls through works by Terry Riley and Laura Caviani, flanked by the persistence of Rob Voisey's work and the 25th Anniversary of Paul Dresher's masterpiece *Blue Diamonds*.



ART GALLERY SHOW

Mark Swain Artificial Perceptions November 1– 23

Art Reception & Gallery Talk Thursday, November 18
Wadsworth Family Gallery

Mark Swain is an Illinois artist. After graduating from Lewis University in 1993, with a BA in Art, he went on to complete his MFA in Painting at Northern Illinois University. Mark's work is representational in nature, portraying the play of light on a variety of surfaces. Mark has been at Lewis for 23 years,

where he teaches primarily painting and drawing.