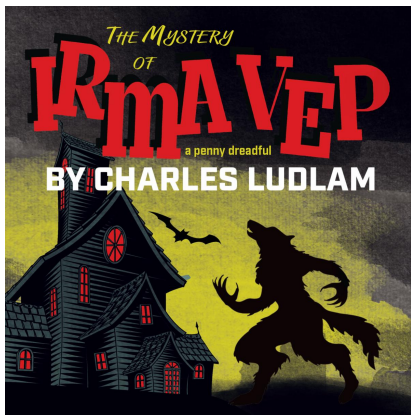


October 2, 2023

WHAT'S ON AT TAP



[Buy Tickets Now!](#)

A quick-change, gender-bending comedy! On stage October 4-22

Lord Edgar, an Egyptologist, is newly married to Lady Enid, and comfortably residing in Mandacrest Estate. However, Lord Edgar has yet to recover entirely from the passing of his first wife, the eerie Irma Vep.

Two nimble actors quickly change back and forth between roles of both genders in a world filled with vampires, ghosts, mummies and werewolves. Charles Ludlam's groundbreaking satire pokes wicked fun at several genres, including Victorian melodrama, Wuthering Heights and Hitchcock's film Rebecca.

CAST & CREW VIDEOS



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Q&A With *The Mystery of Irma Vep* Director Marcella Kearns



Why should our patrons see *The Mystery of Irma Vep*? To celebrate the season! As cornstalks and pumpkins go up on porches, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* is perfect for a fun fall outing. *Irma Vep* is a penny dreadful, a sensational thriller, that pits a dashing pair of newlyweds against classic monsters and hidden plots against them. At the same time, though, playwright Charles Ludlam is poking fun at all the tropes of thrills and chills. There's as much zany comedy as there is danger and romance. It's Mary Shelley meets Mel Brooks, so it lets us laugh at our fears.

As playgoers, what should we watch for that would help us enjoy it even more? Like Frankenstein's creature, *Irma Vep* is a deliberate patchwork of many sources. All ages can enjoy the play at face value, but classic suspense, monster movie, and Shakespeare fans alike will also be treated to sly references and nods, if not outright quotations, throughout. (I'd call them Easter eggs, but what do you call those during spooky season?)

Apart from that, I don't want to give anything away! Enjoy the ride through this haunted estate and talk with your fellow theatregoers afterwards about what classic character types, Gothic plot twists, and brazen comic bits you remember.

What are the largest challenges of directing this play? Publicity for the show touts it as a quick-change comedy, and that's spot on! Those swift shifts are one of the largest challenges. I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that though it's a two-actor play, it's a multiple-character play with at least 46 full changes! This play is as much about the fun and adrenaline of theatre magic as it is about the story. That means a lot of detailed plotting of brain-scrambling routines behind the scenes as well as onstage. I have to give all the credit to actors who are thinking five steps ahead, designers and technicians who have built that racetrack, and stage management and crew who are tracking and executing everything they need to do to help the actors tell the story. Spreadsheets and repetition are our friends.

The other major challenge for me is not to pull something in my gut laughing so hard in rehearsal.

Why did you enjoy directing this show? See above! I've never had such a good ab workout just sitting in a chair.

Laughs aside, this art form needs a lot of humans working in sync, and this play needs all hands on deck working at their peak. I've been really lucky to land at TAP with such an open-hearted, endlessly inventive team of humans. Door County's getting a special treat this fall. (No tricks, I promise, other than what hijinks may happen next on the set!)

UPCOMING EVENTS



THIRD AVENUE
PLAYWORKS

COMMUNITY PARTNER

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL PREVIEW

Wednesday, October 4th, 7:30PM
All proceeds benefit Open Door Pride!

POST-SHOW CONVERSATION

Friday, October 13th after the 2pm matinee

OPEN
DOOR
PRIDE

THE MYSTERY
OF
IRMA VEP
a penny dreadful
BY CHARLES LUDLAM

Play Reading Club
Wednesday, October 18 at 3:30pm
Door County Library, Sturgeon Bay

*Dinner and
a Show*
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20
Limited tickets available!

Purchase tickets for the Oct 20
performance of Irma Vep and select the
Dinner add-on, or call (920) 743-1760 to
make your reservation today.

THIRD AVENUE
PLAYWORKS **drömfus**

[Full List of Events](#)

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[Learn More](#)



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Add a commemorative plaque to a seat and become a part of our history. Give this as a unique gift, or share your support!

[Learn More](#)

Sponsorship

There are many opportunities throughout the season for sponsorship! Businesses and individuals can sponsor a show, an event, or the season.

Your support makes theatre possible and allows us to elevate the level of our work each year. A sponsorship of \$2500 would help cover the costs of the set or costumes for a production. If you are interested, please contact info@thirdavenueplayworks.org.



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