

# OUR NINETIETH YEAR OF COMMUNITY THEATER IN EAST AURORA

*Picture it: a joyful community theater* in a lovely historic park in a beautiful small town. A place where, for a few hours on a weekend, you can let go of the cares and worries of modern life and be transported to another world. Well, picture it no more and experience it in person by joining us at Aurora Players in Hamlin Park in East Aurora, NY. A short stroll two blocks south of the Roycroft Inn on South Grove Street brings you to shady Hamlin Park with its towering trees and the historic Roycroft Pavilion. Here you will find Aurora Players – in this hidden gem that is home to East Aurora's own community theater group. Built on a legacy of volunteerism and celebrating our 90th year, more than three generations of audiences have enjoyed first-class productions in our charming, 200-seat theater.

*If you've seen our performances*, you already know of our dedication to providing a welcoming place for people who enjoy quality, live theater. If you are new to Aurora Players, please consider joining us this year to experience all that we have to offer. Your mind, heart, and soul will thank you.

*Our 2023-24 season* begins in October and takes us to 1963 Brighton, England, for our fall farce, **One Man, Two Guvnors**. Join us for some splendidly silly, fourth-wall breaking in this 'play with music' that has been described as "Benny Hill meets Austin Powers." In April, we present **Proof**, winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award® for Best Play. Family drama, love, and reconciliation add to the intricate puzzle in the search for the truth behind a mysterious mathematical proof. We wrap up the season with **Deathtrap** in late spring, the cat-and-mouse suspense play made famous by the 1982 film of the same name.

*Read on for synopses* of these fantastic shows, and please join us for a performance or two. We also welcome all as Members, Volunteers, and Patrons! Information about season ticket packages and membership is on the back panel of this brochure.

*We can't wait to share our 90th season* of memorable productions with you. **On with the show!**

OCTOBER 6-8, 13-15, & 20-22, 2023

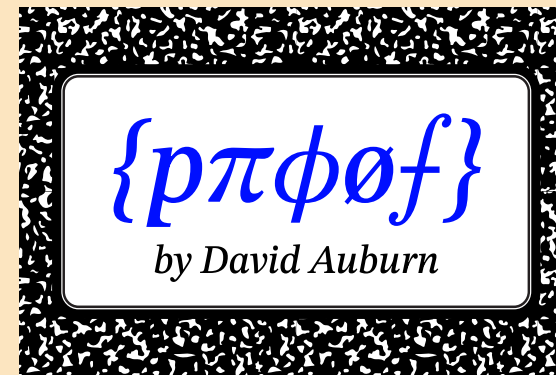


*Directed by Marc Ruffino*

*Set in 1963 Brighton, England*, where the mood is very hip, the play tells the story of Francis Henshall, a hapless man recently fired from a skiffle band, who finds himself employed by two bosses at the same time. One boss is a small-time gangster, Rosco Crabbe, who is in town to collect a fee from his fiancée's gangster father. But Roscoe is really his twin sister, Rachel, in disguise. That's because Roscoe has been murdered by Stanley, with whom Rachel is in love! When Stanley becomes Francis' other "guvnor," Francis must twist himself into knots to serve both bosses without them discovering each other. Added to this are Francis' insatiable appetites for food and the love of a beautiful woman, which get in his way. It's a madcap farce filled with hilarity, physical comedy, a little audience participation, slightly bawdy humor, and a live skiffle band on stage.

*Marc Ruffino* has been involved in theater for over 25 years. He has been an English teacher since 1995 and a high school drama director since 2000. Marc has performed in numerous plays for Aurora Players, earning three acting awards for his roles in **Grease**, **Present Laughter**, and **Amateurs**. He has appeared on stage with Lancaster Opera House, Desiderio's Dinner Theatre, Rocking Horse Productions, and Shakespeare In Delaware Park.

APRIL 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21, 2024



*Directed by Patricia Hoefler*

*The play opens on the eve of the 25th birthday of Catherine*, an extremely intelligent but troubled young woman. She is struggling to come to terms with the recent death of her father, Robert, a brilliant but mentally unstable mathematician whom she cared for until his death. While grappling with grief and her own identity and aspirations as a mathematician, she must now deal with her estranged sister, Claire, who has come back for the funeral with a view towards "saving" Catherine. There's also Hal, a former student of Robert's, who arrives to review the 103 notebooks he left. When a groundbreaking mathematical proof is discovered among her father's papers, Catherine must confront the legacy of genius and madness that runs in her family. The play won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for drama and a Tony Award® for Best Play. It was also adapted into a feature film in 2005 starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Anthony Hopkins.

*Patricia Hoefler* has been very active with Aurora Players. Her direction of **Amateurs** in 2021 was recognized with a TANYS award for Excellence in Directing. Prior to that, she directed **She Loves Me** and Neil Simon's comedy, **Barefoot in the Park**. She also directed a number of shows in Rhode Island, where she pursued her MFA theater degree in Performance and Society, with a focus on directing and playwriting.

JUNE 7-9, 14-16, & 21-23, 2024



*Directed by Christine Estabrook*

*Sidney Bruhl, a washed-up playwright*, receives a manuscript written by a former student, Clifford Anderson, which would be a perfect play to revive Sidney's reputation on Broadway. The plan to get possession of that script, change its author's name, and present it as his own is only the beginning. To say any more would give away the maniacal and sinister twists and turns that accompany this rollercoaster of a black comedy. Critics have praised **Deathtrap** as one of the greatest thrillers ever written, with Cue Magazine calling it "Two-thirds a thriller and one-third a devilishly clever comedy."

*Christine Estabrook* has starred in hit Broadway shows, won accolades and acting awards for Off-Broadway performances and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale Drama School. While in New York City, she starred in numerous plays, winning a coveted Obie Award for her work in **Pastorale** and a Drama Desk Award for **The Boy's Next Door**. From 2007-2009, she performed in the Tony Award-winning musical **Spring Awakening**. Ms. Estabrook has had memorable roles in both film and television, among them: **Mad Men**, **American Horror Story**, **Penny Dreadful**, **City of Angels**, **Designated Survivor**, and **Desperate Housewives**.

# TICKET INFORMATION ::: SHOW TIMES

## Season Tickets are back and available through October 31, 2023

*Each 3-Ticket Flexible Package is just \$50, a savings of \$10!*

- :: **Save** – You receive \$10 off the same number of general admission tickets if purchased separately.
- :: **Flexibility** – Use your tickets however you choose for any of our three regular season productions.
- :: **Early Access** – Secure your seats before tickets sales open to the general public.
- :: **No Limit on Savings** – Buy unlimited Season Ticket packages through October 31, 2023.

### Single Ticket Prices:

Adults..... **\$20**  
 Seniors (62 & over)..... **\$18**  
 Students (18 & under) ..... **\$16**

### Show Times:

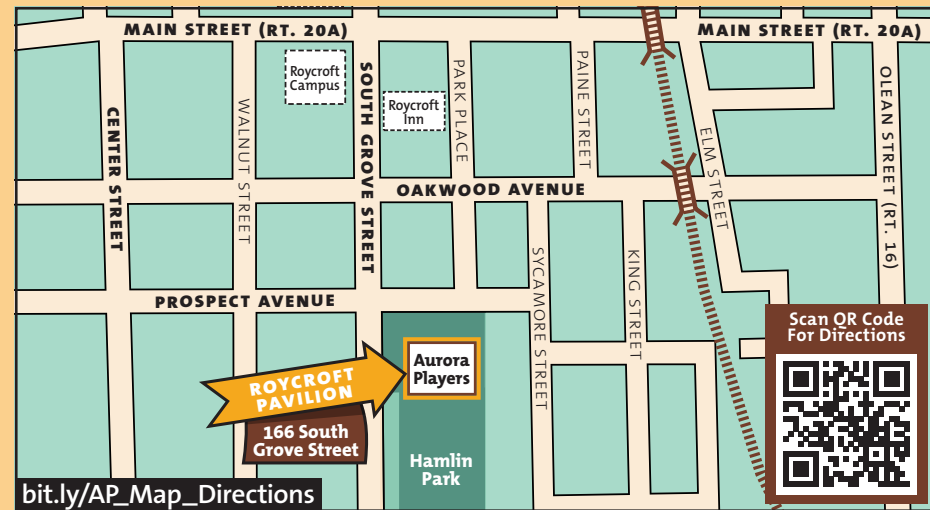
Friday, Saturday..... **7:30 p.m.**  
 Sunday Matinée..... **2:30 p.m.**

**To purchase** Season Tickets, single tickets or membership, please visit our website: [auroraplayers.org](http://auroraplayers.org). You may also leave a message with our Box Office at **716-687-6727**. A volunteer will call back within 24-36 hours.

**Free parking** is available surrounding Hamlin Park. Special arrangements for front-door drop off can be made with the Box Office by calling **716-687-6727**.

**Aurora Players, Inc., PO Box 206, East Aurora, NY 14052**

## Welcome to the historic Roycroft Pavilion – theater home of Aurora Players!



*Located at the northern end of Hamlin Park at 166 South Grove Street, the historic Roycroft Pavilion is home to Aurora Players and its productions. It's a picturesque 30-minute drive from downtown Buffalo and 15-30 minutes from most surrounding suburbs.*

# DIRECTIONS ::: CONTACT INFORMATION

# PARTICIPATE IN AVRORA PLAYERS

*Join us in ensuring that live theater continues to thrive in our community, just as it has for more than three generations. There are many ways you can contribute:*

**Become a Patron!** Our partially tax-deductible Patron Level packages include multiple Season Ticket packages, access to ticket reservations before the general public, recognition in each program, and additional tickets at a discounted price. Call us at **716-687-6727** or visit [auroraplayers.org](http://auroraplayers.org) for more information.

**Become a Member!** We are a non-profit, membership-based organization, which means that members have voting privileges that help guide the future of the organization. As a Member, you'll also be invited to our annual banquet, receive our quarterly newsletter, and advance notice of ticket availability and auditions. Information is available through the home page "Opportunities" tab at [auroraplayers.org](http://auroraplayers.org).

**Volunteer!** We're always looking for Volunteers to help with special projects, be on committees or work during shows. Contact us at [volunteer@auroraplayers.org](mailto:volunteer@auroraplayers.org).

*Join the legacy of Aurora Players. You can play a special role in continuing to bring live theater to the Southtowns!*



# 2023-24 SEASON



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