Reno Little Theater in partnership with Hug High School presents

The Unexpected Guest

by Agatha Christie

directed by Kathy Easly

March 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 8:00 pm
March 7, 14, and 21 at 2:00 pm
2004

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Best wishes for a successful season.
The Unexpected Guest

The action takes place in Richard Warwick’s study in South Wales near the Bristol Channel.

The will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

---

Agatha Christie

Taught at home, as a child, by tutors and a governess, Agatha Christie never attended school. At a very young age, she became adept at creating games to keep herself occupied. A shy child, unable to adequately express her feelings, she first turned to music as a means of expression and, later in life, to writing.

In 1914, at the age of 24, she married Archie Christie, a World War I fighter pilot. While he was off at war, she worked as a nurse. It was while working in a hospital during the war that Christie first came up with the idea of writing a detective novel. Although it was completed in a year, it wasn't published until 1920, five years later.

*The Mysterious Affair at Styles* gave the world the inimitable Hercule Poirot, a retired Belgian police officer who was to become one of the most enduring characters in all of fiction. With his waxed moustache and his “little grey cells,” he was a “meticulous, a tidy little man, always neat and orderly, with a slight flavour of absurdity about him.” Christie wrote more than thirty novels featuring Poirot.

Another of Christie’s most well-known and beloved characters was introduced in *Murder at the Vicarage* in 1930. Miss Jane Marple, an elderly spinster in the quaint English village of St. Mary Mead, solved all manner of mysteries with intense concentration and intuition. Featured in twelve novels, Miss Marple exemplified the cozy style, a form of mystery fiction that became popular in, and ultimately defined, the Golden Age of fiction in England during the 1920s and ’30s.

In all, Christie wrote over 66 novels, numerous short stories and screenplays, and a series of romantic novels using the pen name Mary Westmacott. Several of her works were made into successful feature films, the most notable being *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974). Her work has been translated into more than a hundred languages. In short, she is the single most popular mystery writer of all time.

In 1971 she was awarded the high honor of becoming a Dame of the British Empire.
Cast
(in order of appearance)

Richard Warwick ------------------------- Evan Gadda / James Cashell
Laura Warwick -------------------------------------- Rhiannon Biel
Michael Starkwedder -------------------------- David Hodges
Miss Bennett ------------------------------------- Sue Higley
Jan Warwick ------------------------------------- Will Austin
Mrs. Warwick ------------------------------------- Nancy Podewils
Henry Angell ------------------------------------- John Maes
Sergeant Cadwallader -------------------------- Jeff Burres
Inspector Thomas ------------------------------- James Kleckner
Julian Farrar ----------------------------------- George Randolph

If you would like to meet the members of the cast, please stay in the auditorium for a few minutes after the final curtain.

Behind the Scenes

Director ---------------------------------------- Kathy Easly
Assistant Director ----------------------------- Joan Treptow
Stage Manager ------------------------------- Patrick Crabb
Stage Crew --------------------------- Amber Myrick, Shannon Wilson
Set Construction ------------------------- Diana Carter, Cast
Costumes ----------------------------- Marnie Frank
Props -------------------------------- Rosemary Walmsley

Special Thanks To

Guy Falk, Interim Principal; Jim Studer, Vice Principal; and Keith Roberts, Theater Director, all with Hug High School, for their support of this performance.

Reno Little Theater is supported, in part, by a grant from Sierra Pacific.
the team you know and trust

Tad Dunbar

Terri Hendry

NEWS CHANNEL 8
**Biographies**

**Cast**

**Will Austin** (Jan Warwick) made his Reno Little Theater acting debut as Vinnie in *The Odd Couple* last fall. He played Shere Kahn in The Tahoe Players production of *The Jungle Book*. He was Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Sir Osgood Fielding in *Sugar*, both productions of North Tahoe Drama. He played Dr. Einstein in Funtime Theater’s production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Will is excited to be part of another Reno Little Theater production and looks forward to future productions.

**Rhiannon Biel** (Laura Warwick) is returning to the stage after many years as an audience member. Previously, she entertained the masses as a tour guide at Disneyland. In her free time, she enjoys reading and playing with her two cats. She would like to thank her boyfriend, Josh, for his inspiration and support. (Editor’s note: Joshua Jessup is a Reno Little Theater star in his own right.)

**Jeff Burres** (Sergeant Cadwallader), a Reno resident since 1993, has performed in the Reno Little Theater productions of *Curses, Never to be Foiled Again* and *California Suite*. Jeff has also appeared in many musicals and plays in New York, San Francisco and elsewhere, in movies and commercials, and has directed commercials and plays. During the day, Jeff is a chiropractor at Burres Chiropractic. He has received many professional awards, including the Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence.
James Cashell (Richard Warwick) started in theater at the age of five or six as Peter Rabbit in *The Easter Bunny* in Pecos, Texas. His appearance here, as a corpse, follows his participation in Reno Little Theater’s 1974 production of *Vivat Regina*, and twenty or so plays since. He directed *The Little Foxes*, *The Heiress*, *Ladies in Retirement*, *A Doll’s House*, *Angel Street*, and one big flop, *Light Up The Sky*. He performed with the Nevada Repertory Company for twenty years, appearing in up to five plays per year.

Evan Gadda (Richard Warwick) has been acting in the Reno-Sparks area for twenty two years. He first met Mrs. Easly in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* at the Pioneer Theater in 1990. He is also very pleased to be back at his childhood home, RLT, where he was in two stage productions, *Harvey* and *A Trip to Bountiful*. He wishes to dedicate his performance as a dead body to his students and invites the audience to pray that he doesn't get the giggles. Sit back and enjoy the genius of Agatha Christie and try to figure out who killed him.

Sue Higley (Miss Bennett) has been performing in Reno for over five years, appearing in Reno Little Theater’s productions of *Boys & Ghouls Forever*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Jake’s Women*, and *All My Sons*. She also performed in *Other People’s Money* for Gothic North, *Now & Then* and *Cheaters* for Funtime Theater, and in two *Sheep Dip* productions. She truly loves the theater! In her “other life” she has a wonderful husband, Mel, who is her biggest support system, two great children, and three perfect grandchildren.

David Hodges (Michael Starkwedder) is new to Reno Little Theater. He previously starred in productions of the Bay Area’s Saratoga Drama Group, including *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Sugar*, the musical adaptation of *Some Like It Hot*. He enjoys songwriting and is working toward a promising career in songwriting and music. One of his dreams is to write a complete stage musical. He looks forward to future Reno Little Theater productions.
John Maes (Henry Angell) has enjoyed all aspects of theater for thirty years: Setting up/taking down sets, working props, selecting and making costumes, doing set design, and creating either a character or a production (acting, producing, directing). He has also enjoyed being on community theater boards—being part of the decision-making process of selecting plays and directors.

Nancy Podewils (Mrs. Warwick) is thrilled to be in this play and back in the theater after too many years away—in her last role, she played a page in As You Like It at Cornell. In her “real life”, she is a psychotherapist with Washoe LifeSkills, a watercolorist, and the author of a self-help book. She would like to thank her husband, daughter, and co-workers for their unfailing support, with special thanks to her colleague Kristen Davis-Coehlo, who encouraged her to audition for The Unexpected Guest.

George Randolph (Julian Farrar) started with Reno Little Theater in 1972, playing the eccentric professor in The Mouse That Roared. Since then, he has had the good fortune to play a long line of eccentric judges, doctors, majors, and clergymen. He was most recently seen in Reno Little Theater’s We Hold These Truths and Brüka Theatre’s True West.
Peep (Mascot) is Reno Little Theater’s youngest participant, having broken out of her shell four days before the auditions for this show. Peep, a Zebra Finch, abandoned her nest two days later, having discovered that being the director’s pet was a good life. She attended every rehearsal and refrained from commenting on the acting except when it interfered with dinner. Peep is perfecting her character acting in preparation for a leading role in Lonesome Dove.

**Director**

Kathy Easly (pictured with Peep) is a Life Member of Reno Little Theater. With RLT and other organizations, she directed Play On, Sing On, Cheaters, 10 Little Indians, Sheep Dip, Mousetrap, Curses, Never to be Foiled Again, Ravenscroft, and many murder mystery dinners. She acted in Radio City Sparks, Dream Lover, Boys and Ghouls Together, Laura, and many other plays. She also played the Widow of the Silver Terrace during tours of the Virginia City Cemetery. By day, Kathy is a Traffic Manager at KOLO-TV and the Business Manager for the Funtime Theater.
Reno Little Theater
Board of Directors

Chairman ---------------------------------- Diana Carter
Vice-Chairman ---------------------------------- Carol Pevney
Secretary ---------------------------------- Judy Mosher
Treasurer ---------------------------------- Julie Douglass
Board Members -------------------------- Jack Beaman, Sam Coleman, Paul Dancer, Michael Peters, Candace Wheeler

345 Parr Circle
Reno, NV  89512
775-788-8800

Reno Little Theater would like to thank Mr. Frank Bender for his continuing support.

UNR’s Nevada Repertory Company presents
Six Characters in Search of an Author
directed by Jim Bernardi
April 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, May 1 at 7:30 pm, May 2 at 1:30 pm
in the Redfield Studio Theater

WEB HOSTING/DESIGN
E-Commerce Business Solutions
Expert Design Team Available

COLOCATION
Your Server at Our Secure Facility
Dedicated Connection

LONG DISTANCE
As Low as 2.5 cents, anytime minutes
International Rates Available

EXTRAS
Spam Filter—Remove unwanted emails
Packaged Deals Available
A Lifetime of Memories

Reno Little Theater Life Members

We thank them for their continuing interest.

Frank Bender
Bruno and Edna Benna
Peter S. Bing
Mrs. Karl Breckenridge
Mrs. Robert Brigham
Diana Carter
Sam and Carol Coleman
Lester Conklin, Jr.
Gregory D. Corn, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. K. Cowan III
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Cusick
Mrs. Jack Douglass
Robert and Kathy Easly
John Flanigan
Robert and Cathy Gabrielli
Kirk Gardner and Julie Douglass
Bert Goldwater
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gorrell
Art and Caryn Hawman
Mrs. Helen Heppner
Patrick and Mary Hughes
Mrs. Martin Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kirk
Joan Long
Mrs. Eve Loomis
Mr. George Manilla
Mrs. H.E. Manville
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas McCleary
Mrs. Rollan Melton
Mrs. Fran Merrell
Mrs. Lilika Newman
Carol Pevney
David and Kelly Radu
Mr. and Mrs. George Randolph
Mrs. Warren Richardson
Mrs. Sidney Robinson
Mrs. Edwin Semenza
Donald Stanke
Anne Stewart
Mrs. Joyce Sweger
Mrs. Hewitt C. Wells
James and Dani Woods
The Reno Little Theater
2003—2004 Season
(Reno Little Theater’s 69th season)
continues with

The Beverly Hillbillies

based upon the television program created by Paul Henning
adapted by D.D. Brooke
directed by Paul Dancer

America's most famous hillbilly family in a delightful and uproariously funny comedy. You'll follow them from their simple mountain cabin, where oil is discovered, to the swank hills of Beverly, where their plain country ways result in considerable hilarity.

May 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 8:00 pm
May 9, 16, and 23 at 2:00 pm
2004
at Hug High

For group tickets or other information, leave a message at 329-0661 or ask at the box office.