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Church Basement Ladies

Inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson
including the bestseller Growing Up Lutheran

Written by Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke
Music and Lyrics by Drew Jansen

Director: Greg Holt
Rehearsal Stage Manager: Eryn Hamann
Production Stage Manager: Blake Drinkovsky
Music Director: Luke Overton
Choreographer: Jordan Makinster
Set Design and Costumes : Annette Rubin
Lighting: Jarad Dettman
Technical Director: Scott Schuster

CAST:

Mrs. Snustad (Vivian).....Shawna Brimm
Mrs. Gilmerson (Mavis).....Raechel Sittig-Esser
Mrs. Elroy Engleson (Karin).....Cassidy Tweedt
Miss Signe (Beverly).....Abby Zeets
Pastor E. L. Gunderson.....Dean Messerly

Church Basement Ladies was originally commissioned
and produced by Troupe America, Inc. at the Plymouth
Playhouse, Minneapolis, MN under the direction of
Curt Wollan. Opening night September 8, 2005.

Musical Numbers

Act 1

<i>Closer to Heaven</i>	Pastor and Company
<i>The Pale Food Polka</i>	Ladies
<i>Get Down to Business</i>	Karin and Ladies
<i>Song For Willie</i>	Pastor and Ladies as Backup
<i>My Own Personal Island</i>	Mavis, Vivian and Karin
<i>Closer to Heaven (reprise)</i>	Company

Act 2

<i>Get Down to Business (Reprise)</i>	Karin, Mavis
<i>The Cities</i>	Vivian, Mavis and Karin
<i>This is Most Certainly True</i>	Karin and Signe
<i>Sing a New Song</i>	Signe and Ladies
<i>For Good</i>	Vivian and Signe
<i>Sing a New Song (reprise)</i>	Company



BIOS FOR THE CAST



Shawna Brimm (MRS. SNUSTAD/VIVIAN) is a Patient Care Coordinator at VGM. She has previously appeared in a number of WCP productions including *Nunsense*, *Godspell*, *All Shook Up* and *Diary of Anne Frank*. Shawna has had a variety of unusual hobbies over the years aside from theatre. She has raced sports cars, done cross stitch, sung in the church praise band and is currently passionate about stained glass.

Cassidy Tweedt (MRS. ELROY ENGLSON/KARIN) returns to the Playhouse stage after appearing in *Rocky Horror Show*, *Full Monty*, and *Ring of Fire*. Cassidy is in grad school pursuing a career as a Music Therapist after years of teaching preschool. In her free time she enjoys making body positive Tik-Toks, spending time with her 2 dogs, Penny and Murphy, and her wonderful husband Mike.



Dean Messerly (PASTOR E. L. GUNDERSON) is a rural carrier for the USPS. He previously appeared in WCP's *Beauty and the Beast*. He has appeared in plays at CFCT including *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver* and *Guys and Dolls* for Marshalltown's Community Theatre. Dean pastored a small rural church for 9 years in Union, IA. He has traveled to Belize in Central America several times for church mission trips.

Raechel Sittig-Esser (MRS. GILMER GILMERSON/MAVIS) is a teacher at the Waterloo Christian School. She previously appeared in WCP's *Nunsense* and *Into the Woods* as well as shows at CFCT. She has helped behind the scenes as well with costumes and make up. Raechel is a member, sound person and choir director at the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren.





Abby Zeets (MISS SIGNE/BEVERLY) is a senior at West High School and made her debut at the age of 9. Her most recent WCP performance was in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. She has played many roles, including Snoopy, Little Cosette and Scout Finch. Abby spent last summer training at Circle in the Square Theatre School in NYC and hopes to return for their 2-year Conservatory Program.

CREW BIOS

Eryn Hamann (REHEARSAL STAGE MANAGER) is a Patient Care Coordinator for VGM. She has appeared previously in WCP's *The Full Monty*, *Cabaret* and *Black Comedy*. Eryn also has helped behind the scenes as Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager and with sound and costumes. Eryn also sang in an off Broadway theatre showcase in 2013.



Jordan Makinster (CHOREOGRAPHER) is a bartender and tour guide at SingleSpeed Brewing Company. He has appeared in WCP performances *The Full Monty*, *Spamalot*, and *Annie*. He received the IACT "Best Actor" nomination for his role as Jerry in *The Full Monty*. Jordan Has also been the choreographer for WCP's *The Full Monty*, *Cabaret*, *Rocky Horror Show* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Luke Overton (MUSIC DIRECTOR) is a vocal music teacher at Waterloo West High School. He previously was the Music Director for CFCT's *Bye, Bye Birdie* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Luke is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and National Association for Music Education.





Linda Wiles (ACCOMPANIST/Keyboard) is a musician and retired math teacher. She served as the Music Director/Organist for St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Greenville Baptist Church both in Rhode Island. Linda has recently been on mission reconstruction trips to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico with the American Baptists of Rhode Island. She has also performed a number of solo concerts in Rhode Island.

Megan Drinovsky (Percussion) is a local musician that currently works with UnityPoint Clinic as a receptionist. She has loved playing in shows with the theater, including *Rocky Horror*, *Nunsense*, *Full Monty*, and *Grease*.



Blake Drinovsky (Stage Manager) is a junior at UNI studying to be a high school science teacher. He loves the theatre shows he's been apart of at the WCP include *Grease*, *Night of the Living Dead*, and *the Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. This is his first show stage managing and he's had a blast and loved working with the cast and crew of this show. He welcomes you to the theatre and hopes you enjoy the show.



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Light Board: Caleb Dufel

Sound Engineer: Rebekah Leipold

Set Construction: Scott Schuster, Greg Holt, Dave Hays, Shad Schoonover

Props Crew: Blake Drinovsky, Ardis White, Sarah Young

Special thanks to:

First Congregational UCC for assistance and support; Alter Metal Recycling; Eryn Hamann; Shawna Brimm; Troupe America

DIRECTOR NOTES - CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES

We're delighted to finally have the opportunity to present this show after years of trying to add it to our schedule. Most of us can relate to the characters because we know someone behind the scenes who keeps the church wheels rolling, who are working hard and not expecting any accolades. The first church ladies I knew were my grandmothers: Thelma in Granite City, IL and Clarice in Antlers, OK. They'd sing in choir, lead Bible studies, go to services on Sunday mornings and evenings and Wednesday nights as well. They'd attend Women's Mission meetings, bake for every funeral, wedding and special event, teach Vacation Bible School and still find time to raise money for foreign missionaries. Certain hymns bring back memories of these dear ladies. When I hear lines like, "O Lamb of God, I come, I come..." I feel as though I'm standing next to them still.

This play covers three events in the same year - from November 1964 to April 1965 and the final scene jumps three years to the summer of 1967. We're in a small town in upstate Minnesota where Lutherans and Norwegians go hand in hand.

We hope that this show will bring back memories and connections for you. Let it be an homage to your family members and mentors who influenced your life.

Greg Holt

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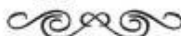
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