

## ***From the Director***

You probably remember “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” as a very popular 1975 motion picture, which the American Film Institute rates as one of Hollywood’s twenty greatest films. The film won an Academy Award for Best Picture and is one of the few films to win five top-category Academy Awards. Jack Nicholson as R. P. McMurphy and Louise Fletcher as Nurse Ratched both received Oscars for their portrayals.

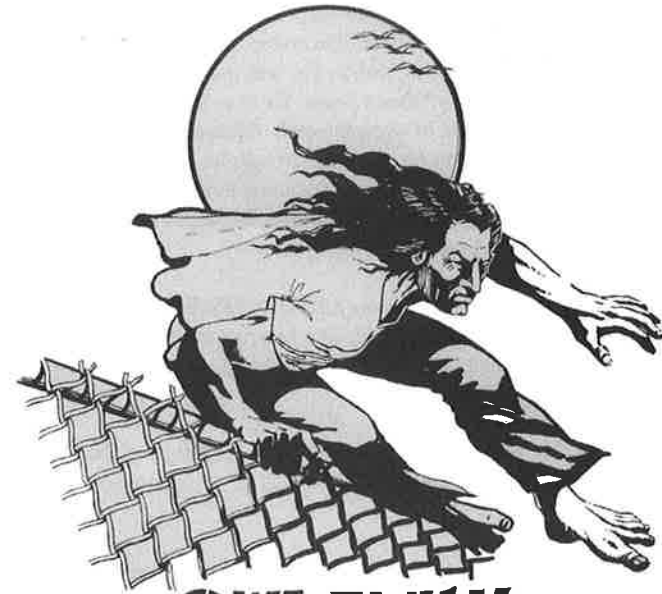
Consequently, I feel it is important to stress that the story you are about to see is not the same story that was told in that film. The plot lines are essentially the same; the characters, their dialogue and behavior often is not. Ken Kesey’s (1935-2001) novel, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” published in 1962, is a powerful, frank, sometimes even brutal story. Dale Wasserman adapted it into a successful stage play of the same name. We have adapted Wasserman’s play for the FSLT stage with the goal of remaining faithful to the essence, spirit, and message of Kesey’s novel.

Bob Wanslow’s set and Ray Coleman’s coaching and experience as director of FSLT’s 1983 production of “Cuckoo’s Nest” add solid dimension to the production. Clara Jane Rubarth and Margo Cameron are steady, stable, and problem-solving co-producers. A round of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow” for Technical Director Art Corey and his crew, who deserve a curtain call all their own - this show is a technical nightmare for a community theater totally dependent on volunteered time and talent. Each “Cuckoo’s Nest” performance is a technical adventure - hope yours is a “good ‘un”.

Leslie, my daughter, as stage manager? Well, she’s done a better job of keeping up with everyone than I’ve done trying to keep up with her. The cast? Great women to work with and this many men (a community theater rarity) created spark, laughter and teamwork. [Side note: John Schnitzius (George) received a brain stem injury in an automobile accident over twenty-three years ago. This is the first time he’s performed before people since his crowd-pleasing days as a junior-high athlete. His sister, April (Candy) is in the play with him. YES!]

And you, the audience? It’s you that gives a story life in another place, another time. You are the essence - and, as Shakespeare wrote, “The play’s the thing.”

Places everyone . . . .Brad Kidder



# **ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST**

by

Dale Wasserman

Based on a novel by Ken Kesey

Produced under Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Artwork Design by Leo Costez

Directed by Brad Kidder

June 3-12, 2004

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**Set in Early 1960's**

**A Play of III Acts**

**Intermission between Act I and Act II**

## Cast

**CHIEF BROMDEN** (*Bill Stephens*): Chief Bromden, the narrator, is a Columbian Indian, born of a White mother and an Indian father. He was the first patient in the ward and now has been in the hospital for nearly fifteen years. He is a chronic paranoid schizophrenic, diagnosed as incurable and afraid of even his own shadow. Although he is six feet and seven inches tall, he imagines himself to be small and weak; he also pretends to be deaf and mute. His lack of self-confidence is due to his domineering mother, who destroyed her Indian husband by reducing him to an impotent alcoholic. Throughout his childhood, the Chief's mother also ignored him, causing his mental instability.

**ORDERLIES WILLIAMS** (*Donald Brown*) AND **WARREN** (*Donald Carter*): Chosen carefully over the years by Nurse Ratched. She has preyed on their hatred and trained them carefully. They help in keeping the ward organized and under control by passing on most of their menial chores to the chronic patients.

**NURSE RATCHED** (*Wendy Quick*): The Big Nurse in charge of the patients on McMurphy's ward. She turns the patients against each other while succeeding in having the authorities on her side.

**NURSE FLYNN** (*Sharon Turner*): A nurse somewhat sympathetic with the patients but not willing to face the ire of Nurse Ratched on their behalf.

**BILLY BIBBIT** (*Wesley Rester*): A young man who is Nurse Ratched's stammering little puppet. Billy has been virtually castrated by his mother, with the help of the Big Nurse. He is unsure of himself and is always fearful of being rejected by others.

**CHESWICK** (*Ron Stice*): Ardent follower of McMurphy; headstrong; fussy; easy to irritate.

**SCANLON** (*Vernon Reid*): A deluded cynic who has decided the best way to solve the world's problems is to eliminate it with a bomb he is constantly working on, yet he develops a strong loyalty to McMurphy.

**DALE HARDING** (*Mike Brinkman*): The former president (Chief Bull Goose Looney) of the patients' council. He voluntarily committed himself because he thinks he is not man enough for his wife, who has psychologically "castrated" him.

**MARTINI** (*Ray Moore*): A deluded patient who sees things that no one else can.

**RANDLE P. McMURPHY** (*Wolf Grulkey*): A con artist; goodlooking, charming, shrewd, tough, and free-wheeling. He is tired of weeding peas at the Pendleton Prison Farm, so he feigns insanity and is committed to a mental hospital. A natural leader, he is used to having his own way.

**GEORGE** (*John Schmitzius*): A patient with a morbid fear of dirt and of being touched. His reluctance to be deloused leads to a fight between McMurphy, the Chief, and the orderlies.

**FREDRICKS** (*John Davis*): An epileptic patient who imagines himself an injured football star and will willingly take double doses of medicine as he is afraid of having a fit.

**BANCINI** (*Kevin McConnell*): A Chronic who comes in as an Acute. He was given an overdose of shock treatments and is permanently disassociated from reality.

**RUCKLEY** (*James Kirkendall*): A Chronic who comes in as an Acute. He, too, was overloaded at the Shock Shop. He fancies himself as one of the thieves crucified with Jesus and remains nailed to whatever surface he is in contact with. He often wets himself as he stands.

**DOCTOR SPIVEY** (*Pat Mayo*): A weak man, addicted to morphine. He is dominated and manipulated by Nurse Ratched and afraid to act without her approval.

**MASTERSON** (*Ron Watson*): The oldest Chronic in the Ward. He was a cavalry soldier in the First World War, now able to speak only in disconnected metaphors.

**CANDY STARR** (*April Hays*): A lady of, shall we say, easy morality who has previous "experience" with McMurphy and is talked into another "adventure" – relieving Billy Bibbit of his virginity at the Institution.

**VERA HARDING** (*Nancy Moon*): A woman with big needs, married to a man who never has enough of what it takes to meet them.

**TURKLE** (*Jack McMaster*): The night watchman who helps McMurphy – after being bribed.

**FIRST TECHNICIAN** (*Art Corey*)

**SECOND TECHNICIAN** (*Tim Randolph*)

**THIRD TECHNICIAN** (*Sherry Toliver*)

**SANDY** (*Margo Cameron*): A sassy hooker with a heart of gold and a slightly tarnished crown.

**INSTITUTIONAL SECURITY** (*Tim Randolph*): Outside security for the mental hospital; you have to have a ticket to get in.

## Crew

Director - Brad Kidder

Co-Producers - Clara Jane Rubarth, Margo Cameron

Associate Director/Character Coach - Ray Coleman

Assistant Director - Bob Wanslow

Technical Director - Art Corey

Stage Manager - Leslie Kidder

Set Design - Bob Wanslow

Set Construction - Art Corey, Vernon Reid, Wesley Rester, Chad Summerhill, Blake Young

Diction Coach - Robin Mink

Lights and Sound - Mike Tickler, Rham Cunningham, Adam Neihouse, Dustin Westfall

Wardrobe - Kaye Birkhead, Phanita Williams, Wilma McCauley, Mary Beth Koprovic, Kevin McConnell

Props - Jeanne McKim, Melissa Webb, JoAnn Johnson, Kevin McConnell

## Special Thanks

Area Agency on Aging

Arkansas Glass & Mirror

Carl Davis of Davis Iron & Metal

Carole Rogers, FSLT Board Liaison

Cathy Libby

Central Discount Pharmacy

Chris Newberry

John Schnitzius

Kevin McConnell

KISR and Rham Cunningham

Michael Richardson

Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop

St. Edward's Mercy Hospital

Woody of Andrews Pharmacy