

L
O
N
G

L
A
K
E

T
H
E
A
T
E
R

P
R
E
S
E
N
T
S

Leaving Iowa

By Spike Manton and Tim Clue



THE PLAY

ACT I

Intermission (15 minutes)

ACT II

Produced by special permission from Dramatic Publishing

CAST and CREW



Juliann Kjenaas (*Director*) Juliann is well known to Long Lake Theater audiences. Originally from Wisconsin, she has acted in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, and began her directing career in Los Angeles. Juliann moved from LA -LA land to Park Rapids with husband, Aaron and daughter, Emily in November, 2000. Julie has directed and acted in many of LLT's July productions, including last year's *Dixie Swim Club*. You will find Julie during the long winter months pursuing her other passion, directing the talented students of Park Rapids Area High School. She gives thanks for her wonderful family that understands her habit of living a theater life and also for having the opportunity to work with the talented LLT group.



Brian Hobson (*Dad Browning*) Brian is a two -season veteran on stage at Long Lake Theatre with past roles including Paul in *Barefoot in the Park* (2012) and Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple* (2013). You may have also seen him appearing in several of the Voice of the Prairie Radio Theatre shows at LLT as well as this past December in *A Christmas Carol*. Brian spends his professional time teaching elementary technology, and working with technology at the Menahga schools. "Thanks all for coming to the show."



Lisa Ann Davis (*Mom Browning*) Lisa lives and works in Park Rapids. After drinking the "limelight" kool-aid in 2011, she has learned to love the adrenaline rush that comes from being on stage. You may have seen her playing the newlywed, Corie Bratter (*Barefoot in the Park*) or the nun gone bad, Jeri Neal McFeeley (*Dixie Swim Club*). Lisa also loves the sheer silliness of the mock radio shows at LLT (Voice of the Prairie Radio Theater). She thinks that filling the role of Mom for *Leaving Iowa* will be a fun ride and says, "I hope you all wore clean underwear, for heaven's sake! RBTL!"



Bryan Gallagher (*Don Browning*) Originally from South Carolina, Bryan has been involved in all aspects of theatre since middle school. Bryan made his Long Lake Theatre acting debut last summer as Roy in *The Odd Couple* and is very excited to be back this summer. Bryan would like to thank Julie for this opportunity and for her guidance; the cast and crew for their hard work and talent, and of course, his family for their continued love, support, and understanding. "Enjoy the show..."



Jennifer Hildebrandt (*Sis Browning*) Jennifer Hildebrandt is excited to make her debut on the Long Lake Theater Stage as Sis in *Leaving Iowa*. As a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota/Duluth in Vocal Music Education, her past acting experiences were mainly chorus roles in operas and musicals. After a wonderful year of teaching Elementary Music in Menahga, Jennifer is looking forward to an awesome summer on the stage! "Enjoy the show!"

CAST and CREW



Ray Niedzielski (*Multiple Character Guy*) Ray played the role of Doc in the *Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch* in 1973 at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. At Long Lake Theater, he has played the roles of Speed in *The Odd Couple*, and Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. He is one of the voices in the Voice of the Prairie Radio program. Canoeing, birding, golfing and goofing off fill Ray's time away from LLT. He's delighted to have you join us for *Leaving Iowa*. "Thanks for being with us and enjoy."



Karen Welte (*Lighting and Sound Coordinator*) & (*Multiple Character Gal*)

As a local resident of Park Rapids for the past 20 years, Karen has enjoyed becoming involved with Long Lake Theatre both on-stage and behind the scenes. Her favorite hobbies include the arts, reading, gardening and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Her previous theater work includes roles in *Fruitcakes*, *Over the River*, and *A Christmas Carol*, Light Coordinator for *The Odd Couple* and *Dixie Swim Club*. "Thanks for coming and enjoy the show!"



Cheryl Atkins aka Fabs (*Costumes and Props*) Cheryl is from Park Rapids.

She is in her second year at Long Lake Theater. She has worked with the director, Julie Kjenaas, in the Park Rapids High School Drama Department for over 6 years and says, "I would follow her to Iowa and back! She and her actors make theater fun! Enjoy my handiwork of costumes and props. That's my gig here at LLT."



Barbara Shaffer (*Stage Manager*) Barb lives and works in Park Rapids. She became involved with Long Lake Theater in 2011 which she says, "has widened my universe where I have made many new friends." She enjoys being both on-stage and behind the scenes. Her hobbies are gardening, reading, sewing and spending time with family. Her previous theater work includes roles in

Fruitcakes, *Over the River*, and *A Christmas Carol*, Stage Manager for *A Christmas Carol*, Stage Hand for *Dixie Swim Club*, and ticket booth for both *The Odd Couple* and *Dixie Swim Club*. "Enjoy the show!"



Alvin Brown (*Lighting and Sound Technician*) Alvin is a graduate of Park Rapids High School, where he was active in choir and theater. He currently

works for McDonald's as a new trainer and star assistant. His previous theater work at Long Lake Theatre include Light/Sound for *Fruitcakes*, and *Over the River*, the Repairman in *Barefoot in the Park*, Vinnie in *The Odd Couple*, and Young Ebenezer & Ghost of Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol*. "I hope you enjoy the show....."

A SPECIAL "Thanks" to **Kate Westphal** (*Scenic Painter*)

Director's Notes – Leaving Iowa

When I first read "Leaving Iowa" my mind flooded with memories of my own family road trips to leave Wisconsin. We piled into our side paneled station wagon, with two of the so called "Greatest Generation," sharing parenting advice from the front seat and four kids sprawled out in various ways throughout the back. We were living on the wild side, no seat belts or car seats, with bare feet pressed up against the windows. A sibling sitting backwards waving at the people with the blank stares in the car behind us with another yanking an imaginary horn to try and get the truck driver we were passing to sound off. All this while playing slug-bug until our arms were black and blue and intermittently screaming "are we there yet?" I immediately connected with this funny and touching story about families of modest means heading out on that precious one week, summer vacation. This story meanders its way into your heart with truisms hidden in the humor of the dialogue. We're given the opportunity to reminisce about sibling rivalry and parental tyranny. With humor it illustrates the complexity of family relationships, the regret of unfinished business and things unsaid, the motivation of guilt and finally the blessing of unconditional love. We are all on a journey of discovery and reconciliation. We love to spend summer evenings with our families recalling times gone by that have probably become a little more colorful than they actually were.

Here's a toast to the idealism and character of the parents of "Baby Boomers" and their undying dedication to the classic family road trip. These family car trips may or may not survive but "Leaving Iowa," this comedy with a deep soul, is here to memorialize them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the excursion this talented LLT family has taken together these past few months. And even though we never actually traveled outside the walls of this theater, our journey together has been exceedingly fun not to mention, "fascinating and unpredictable." I have always believed that the journey is as important as the destination. I hope you leave our show today happily appreciative of the ordinary experiences in your own lives. You betcha!

Special Thanks to:

Jonathan Harrison

Audra Hill

Akeley Regional Community Center Thrift Store

Park Rapids Area High School

Fabs' Co-workers of District 309

Marie Helfrich

Playbills Provided by:

The Jewel of the Northwoods Bed and Breakfast

www.jewelofthenorthwoods.com

Open All Year - Available for Brunches and Special Occasion Events

Conveniently located near the Long Lake Theater

39050 Twin Lakes Road, Menahga, MN

218-564-6162