

# *In memory of Mark Adams*



We here at College of the Mainland and the Houston theater community will miss our friend and "Admiral" very much.

Article by Christopher Smith Gonzalez, of the Galveston Daily News

Mark Adams, an actor and the Artistic Director of the College of the Mainland's Theater Programs, died Saturday, March 14, of a heart attack. He was 54.

Adams had worked at College of the Mainland in Texas City leading and acting in community theater productions for the past 20 years. He was involved in all kinds of productions and was a well-known and loved member of the greater Houston theater community.

"Adams created a welcome environment for everyone who worked with him," said Amber Bennett, who has acted in Adams' productions for the past eight years.

"He really let you find your process," Bennett, who played Patsy Cline in a recent production, said. "He never said 'Say it this way or do it this way.' He let you be very organic and let you discover things you needed to discover."

Mark was able to bring talented actors and designers to Texas City just with the pull of his charisma and the welcoming atmosphere he created. Mark trained and worked in New York, London, Utah and Nebraska before coming to College of the Mainland, and picked up the nickname "Admiral" after being named an admiral in the Nebraska Navy.

## **Shows Mark Adams directed at COM:**

1995 – DON'T DRINK THE WATER (his directing debut at COM, October 1995)  
1996 – THE BABY DANCE / CAROUSEL / MORNINGS AT SEVEN  
1997 – ONCE IN A LIFETIME / ANNIE WARBUCKS / I HATE HAMLET  
1998 – WAITING FOR THE PARADE / ANYTHING GOES / THE ODD COUPLE  
1999 – BEDROOM FARCE / MAME / YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU  
2000 – THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME / PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE  
2001 – THE TAMING OF THE SHREW / THE EXACT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE / THE FOREIGNER / LOVE LETTERS  
2002 – THE TAFFETAS / INSPECTING CAROL / OUR TOWN  
2003 – FOREVER PLAID / WAIT UNTIL DARK / THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER  
2004 – MASTER CLASS / NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH / COMIC POTENTIAL  
2005 – ALWAYS ... PATSY CLINE / FLIGHT / STALAG 17  
2006 – SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN / PROOF / A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM  
2007 – MY WAY / OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS / FIDDLER ON THE ROOF / GLORIOUS!  
2008 – THE SPITFIRE GRILL / DROWNING ON DRY LAND / THE RUBY SUNRISE  
2009 – HENRY V / RED HERRING / DOUBT  
2010 – MY FUNNY VALENTINE (conceived by Mark Adams) / CABARET / HARVEY  
2011 – THE LADY SWIMS TODAY / CHICAGO (one of his favorite musicals) / THE 39 STEPS  
2012 – SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL / BILL W. AND DR. BOB / DALLY WITH THE DEVIL  
2013 – PRELUDE TO A KISS / THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE / BOEING BOEING  
2014 – FASCINATING RHYTHM: A GERSHWIN CELEBRATION (conceived by Mark Adams) / LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE / ARSENIC AND OLD LACE  
2015 – ALWAYS ... PATSY CLINE

## **Shows Mark acted in at COM:**

1996 – THE HOTHOUSE (Roote) – His Texas acting debut  
1997 – LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR (Max Prince) – This was one of his favorite roles, and he dedicated his performance to the funniest person he had ever known, his late father, Bill, who brought love and laughter to every floor.  
1998 – NIGHT AND HER STARS (Dan Enright)  
1999 – BOX THIRTEEN (Congressman Lyndon Johnson) – World premiere, written and directed by Jack Westin  
2000 – A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (Pseudolus) – His first musical performance at COM and another of his favorite roles  
2002 – A FLEA IN HER EAR (Victor/Dodo)  
2004 – THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR (Sir John Falstaff)  
2007 – SLY FOX (Foxwell J. Sly/The Judge)  
2008 – BIG RIVER (The Duke)  
2010 – THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (Lady Bracknell) – The role he most wanted to play  
2011 – THE SUNSHINE BOYS (Willie Clark)  
2013 – MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Dogberry)  
2014 – ROUNDING THIRD (Don)



# Mark Adam THE ADMIRAL







College of the Mainland®

# ★ Front Row ★

April 9 – 26, 2015

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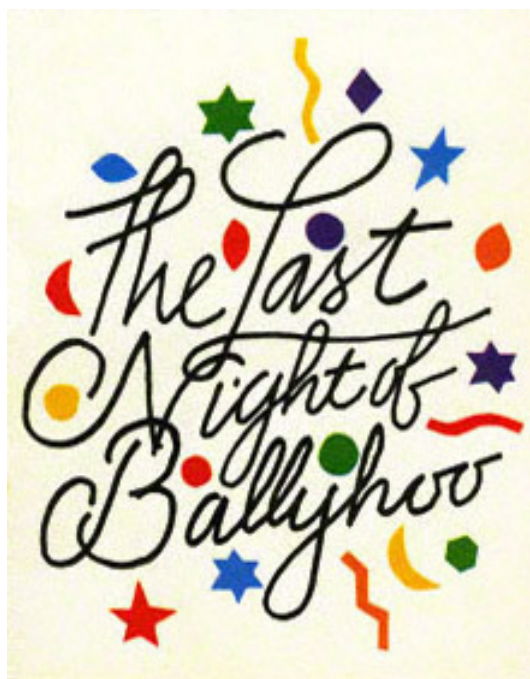
## Hurry! "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" ... You don't want to miss it!

Hurry! "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" is nearly here and you don't want to miss out on the social event of 1939!

All Southern Jewish families in 1939 put up Christmas trees and decorate them with stars, right? Well, they do if they are the Freitag's. This wealthy, multi-layered family lives together in their community of Junior Leaguers and WASPs in Atlanta, where they are the only Jews on Habersham Road. They are not self-haters, but are somewhat ill-informed of their own heritage, and often enticed by the elite culture around them. Boo, (played by Zona Jane Meyer) doesn't know what Passover is, but is quite excited for Ballyhoo, a country club cotillion for well-to-do Jews in town.

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo" takes place in Atlanta, Georgia, in December of 1939. Gone with the Wind is having its world premiere, and Hitler is invading Poland, but Atlanta's elitist German Jews are much more concerned with who is going to Ballyhoo, the social event of the season. Especially concerned is the Freitag family. The family gets pulled apart and then mended together with plenty of comedy, romance and revelations along the way. Events take several unexpected turns as the characters face where they come from and are forced to deal with who they really are.

Theatergoers, who enjoyed College of the Mainland Community Theatre's 1991 production of "Driving Miss Daisy," won't want to miss this season's "The Last Night of Ballyhoo," written by the same author, Alfred Uhry. "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" earned a Tony Award for Best Play.



The sweet family comedy will be featured as the fourth play in the College of the Mainland Community Theater's 2014-2015 season.

The show runs from April 9 – 26. Call the Theatre Box Office for tickets or information at 888-258-8859, ext. 8345 or 409-933-8345 or online at [www.com.edu/theatre](http://www.com.edu/theatre).

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# The Last Night at Ballyhoo Cast

**Ryan Cochran (Joe Farkas)** Ryan Cochran is thrilled to be making his COM debut in "The Last Night of Ballyhoo." Ryan has performed in several venues and shows over the Houston area including at House of Blues, Standing Room Only Productions, Island ETC and Art Park Players. He would like to thank Mark Adams and Steve Garfinkel for this opportunity and his family for their generous love and support.

**Shawna Glad (Reba Freitag)** Shawna is very excited to return to the COM stage. She was last seen here in "Love, Loss and What I Wore." Originally from Pittsburg, she now lives in League City with her husband and her three children. She also teaches theater at St. Claire of Assisi Catholic School in Clear Lake. Some of her favorite roles include: "Sylvia" (Sylvia), "The Rainmaker" (Lizzie), "Misery" (Annie), "Steel Magnolias" (M'Lynn) and "The Dixie Swim Club" (Jeri-Neal McFeeley and Vernadette Simms). She would like to thank Mark and Steve for this opportunity. She dedicates this performance to her husband, Rick.

**Chaney Moore (Lala Levy)** This is Chaney's first show at COM. Some of her other credits include "Godspell," "Into the Woods" (Baker's Wife), "Seussical the Musical" (Gertrude) and "Grease" (Marty). She'd like to thank her family, friends and boyfriend for their love and support.

**Zona Jane Meyer (Boo Levy)** Zona debuted at COM as Florence Foster Jenkins in "Glorious!" She has been acting and singing in the Houston area for more than 20 years. Other venues include Country Playhouse, Theatre Southwest, Island ETC in Galveston, Stages, Theatre LaB Houston, Main Street Theater, Main Street Youth Theater, A.D. Players and Unity Theatre. She has done readings and original productions with playwrights in Houston at Obsidian Arts Space and CPH. During rehearsals of this show, she fondly remembered acting at the historic Dock Street Theatre (built in 1809) in Charleston, South Carolina, in another southern-based play.

**Molly O'Neal (Sunny Freitag)** Molly is beyond jubilant to once again be performing at COM. You may remember Molly appearing in some of your favorite childhood classics such as "The Diary of Anne Frank" (Margot Frank) and "The Sound of Music" (Nun) at COM. Additional productions include "A Midsummer's Night Dream," "The Jungle Book" and "Chicken Little" (which really started it all). Auditor by day, lounge singer/songwriter by night, Molly holds a BBA in accounting from Sam Houston State University. She dedicates this show to Linda O'Neal for her continuous love and support.

**Matthew Poole (Peachy Weil)** "Ballyhoo" is Matt's second appearance on the COM stage after last fall's "Arsenic and Old Lace." He is thrilled to be returning and included in such a tremendous ensemble cast of old and new friends alike. Some of Matt's favorite roles include Mortimer in "Arsenic and Old Lace," Mark Cohen in "Rent," Seymour in "Little Shop of Horrors," Claude in "Hair," Nicky in "Avenue Q," and Igor (that's Eye-Gor) in "Young Frankenstein." In his daytime life, Matt works as a file manager for a law firm in Galveston, where he also resides. He dedicates his performance tonight to Him, Her, Them and You.

**Roger Stallings (Adolph Freitag)** Roger is excited to be back on the COM stage after a couple of years. Since he last appeared in our production "The Lady Swims Today," he has retired from College of the Mainland where he served as a speech communication faculty member for 36 years. He has, however, come back to work part-time at COM as a speech tutor. Roger has always considered COM to be his "theater home." He has also enjoyed getting to work again with guest director Steve Garfinkel. They haven't worked together since 1981 when they both appeared in COM's production, "The Jerome Kern Review."

## Guest Director: Steve Garfinkel

While Steve Garfinkel has appeared onstage in several COM productions, Houston audiences also know him for his work as director of such hits as "Time Stands Still," "Mary, Mary," "Julius Caesar," "Cakewalk," "The Last Night at Ballyhoo" and over 15 other plays at Main Street Theater, and "The Odd Couple" at the Jewish Community Center.

His favorite COM role remains his work opposite Mark Adams' Al Lewis as vaudevillian Willie Clark in "The Sunshine Boys." Other than at COM, Steve's major stage work has been at Houston's Main Street Theater, where he has written, directed or appeared in approximately 100 plays.

# The Last Night at Ballyhoo

## CALLBOARD

[www.com.edu/theatre](http://www.com.edu/theatre)

*"The Last Night at Ballyhoo"*

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April</b>				<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>9</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>10</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>11</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.
<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>12</sup> at Ballyhoo 2:30 p.m.				<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>16</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>17</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>18</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.
<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>19</sup> at Ballyhoo 2:30 p.m.				<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>23</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>24</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.	<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>25</sup> at Ballyhoo 8 p.m.
<i>The Last Night</i> <sup>26</sup> at Ballyhoo 2:30 p.m.						

**Don't miss out on the next production ...**



*May 21 - June 7, 2015*

**Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m. and  
Sundays at 2:30 p.m.**

For reservations, call the Box Office at  
888-258-8859, ext. 8345 or 409-933-8345, or  
purchase tickets online at [www.com.edu/theatre](http://www.com.edu/theatre).

**THE DRAWER BOY**  
by michael healey

# The Last Night at Ballyhoo



**We want you to  
Like us!**

**Really Like us!**

College of the Mainland Community Theatre has finally bowed to teenage peer pressure and launched its very own Facebook page. Now we're allowed to sit with the cool kids. You should sit with the cool kids, too, and click "Like" on our page. We won't clutter your news feed with a bunch of junk, but we will keep you posted on shows, auditions, special events and any announcements that directly affect the audience/actor experience.

So give us a click at <https://www.facebook.com/the-biggestlittletheatre>. It'll help us expand our little theater's visibility and give you a coveted space at the lunch table next to the varsity quarterback and the homecoming queen. Everybody's doing it.

## COM Community Theatre Ticket Information

### FOR TICKETS

409-933-8345 or 1-888-258-8859, ext. 8345

### TICKET OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
with extended hours on performance days.

### TELEPHONE RESERVATION

during regular office hours

### TICKET PRICES

Sections: "A"/\$23, "B"/\$18, "C"/\$13  
Discount for students and senior citizens.  
Children must be four years old to attend.

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Join us for the exciting  
remaining season of thrills,  
laughs, touching moments and  
captivating theater!

## COM Community Theatre's 2014-2015 Season

"The Drawer Boy" by Michael Healey

**UPDATE**

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber  
of Fleet Street"

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by Hugh Wheeler

## We Need Your Help!

College of the Mainland Community Theatre is always in need of backstage help for the performances. If you've ever had an interest in seeing how a play really works and don't mind making some new friends and having some fun, we'd love to add you to our list of potential volunteers. You don't need any experience (we'll teach you what you need to know!), just availability for the performances and a few rehearsals. If you might be interested and available to work on any of our shows this year, please contact our Technical Director, Curt Meyer, at 409-933-8371. *Join us!*

## Online Ticket Sales

COM Community Theatre now offers online ticket sales right from the theater's home page. Pick your date, pick your section, charge your credit card through our secure payment system and the tickets are yours – no waiting! Visit [www.com.edu/theatre](http://www.com.edu/theatre). Then just look for the big green *Buy Tickets Online* button, click it and you're off and running.