

New Century Players presents

THE GIN GAME

by D.L. Coburn

Directed by Julie Akers



July 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30pm

July 14, 21, 28 at 2:00pm

Rose Villa Performing Arts Center
13505 SE River Road, Portland, OR 97222

New Century Players Welcomes you to the show!

New Century Players is a not-for-profit community theatre company. Our mission is to build community by providing opportunities for artistic expression through live performances.

New Century Players Board of Directors

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We're Proud!

New Century Players is proud to partner with the City of Milwaukie and the North Clackamas School District and to be a member of the following organizations:

- ◆ Oregon Cultural Trust
- ◆ American Association of Community Theatres
- ◆ Portland Area Theatre Alliance
- ◆ Oregon Community Theatre Alliance

Acknowledgements

Our special thanks to:

- ◆ The City of Milwaukie
- ◆ North Clackamas School District
- ◆ Rex Putnam High School
- ◆ Clackamas County Arts Alliance
- ◆ Rose Villa Senior Living Community

From the Director...

When he was thirty years old, D.L. Coburn began writing short stories for his own gratification and discovered that he had a talent for dialogue. After seeing a particularly funny one-act play called *Diary of a Madman*, he decided to try his hand at playwriting. It took him several years to put pen to paper, and after only eight pages, he put aside his first attempt, *The Gin Game*, for two more years. At the urging of his young son, he finally went back to the project and finished the play in four months. After contacting a director he knew, the play was produced in September of 1976 in a very small theater in Los Angeles. *Variety* magazine carried a review of the play that caught the attention of the Actors Theatre of Louisville. In their subsequent production, the play was introduced to the actor Hume Cronyn, who instantly wanted to act in it and sent it to the noted director Mike Nichols. Remarkably, on October 6, 1977, only thirteen months after its debut, *The Gin Game* opened on Broadway. The play was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1978 and was nominated for four Tony Awards: Best Play, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director. Jessica Tandy won for her portrayal of Fonsia. The play ran for 516 performances on Broadway in its first production and then went on tour around the country with its stars, Tandy and Cronyn. The play has since been revived on Broadway with Charles Durning and Julie Harris in 1997 and again in 2015 with James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson.

It has been a joy to direct *The Gin Game*.

— Julie Akers, Director

Julie Akers has been teaching acting, directing and theater history at the university level for the past twenty five years. She received an MFA in Theater Direction from University of British Columbia and has worked as a Professor in universities and colleges throughout the NW and SW.

She has worked as a director in professional, semi-professional, academic, community and youth theaters. Some favorite directing experiences include: Fiddler on the Roof, The Importance of Being Earnest, Wit, The Bald Soprano & The Lesson, Lysistrata (the musical), The Glass Menagerie, Our Town, and Spoon River Project. She also loved directing The Cemetery Club at Rose Villa for New Century Players last Spring.

**During the show we ask that you
please respect the actors and
your fellow audience members
by turning off cell phones
and other electronics.**

No flash photography or videography please.

**Follow us on Facebook
or online at
www.newcenturyplayers.org**



Benefactor Support Program

Thank you for your support of New Century Players! We are proud to represent the greater Milwaukie and North Clackamas areas by producing quality entertainment at an affordable price!

We are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this community!

We want to thank the following donors who have contributed greatly to making our season possible.

Producer's Circle (\$1,000+)

Labyrinth Farms,
*(sponsors of A
FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS)*

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David Deutsch
George Janis
Dorice Jones
Kyle Rossi
Michael Toth
Barbara Tuck
Edgar Wales

Cast for The Gin Game

Weller Martin Ron K Palmblad
Fonsia Dorsey Pia Shepherd

There will be two acts with a 15 minute intermission

Setting

On the back porch of a retirement home.

Act One

Scene 1: Sunday afternoon, visitors' day, Springtime.

Scene 2: Sunday afternoon, one week later.

Act Two

Scene 1: The following evening shortly after dinner.

Scene 2: The following Sunday afternoon.

Production team for The Gin Game

Director..... Julie Akers
Stage ManagerAudriana Meucci
Sound Designer/OperatorWalter McNaughton
CostumesEllen Spitaleri
Box Office Elisabeth Goebel
Program Greg Prosser
Poster Art Mark Schwahn



Pia Shepherd (Sarah Goldman)

Pia Shepherd is happy to be working once again with Julie Akers who has directed her in several plays in the past. Pia's Portland credits include 2 seasons of the Fertile Ground Festival and performances at the Portland Civic Theatre Guild and Readers Repertory Theatre. In New York she appeared in the revival of *New Girl in Town*. She toured the US and Canada in *The Music Man* and appeared in a Los Angeles production of *Funny Girl* with Stephanie Block. She currently resides

in Cannon Beach where she has played numerous roles at the Coaster Theatre and The River Theatre in Astoria. She loves to play GIN, Goddamnit!



Ron K Palmblad (Weller Martin)

Ron is happy to be returning to the stage with NCP. He was last seen as Chris Athens in Ken Ludwig's *A Midsummer/ Jersey*, a NCP collaboration production with Rex Putnam High School. Ron has worked with many theatre companies from Portland to Salem. Some of his favorite roles have been Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Sancho in *Man of La Mancha* and Joe Keller in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. He has directed several

productions including *Witness For the Prosecution* and the musical *I Do, I Do*. He would like to thank Julie for this opportunity, Pia for her talent and willingness to endure his shouting and his wife Marilyn for her eternal patience and love.



Preview of New Century Players 2019-2020 Season

The 2019-2020 season will be a Spotlight on Women. New Century Players will be presenting 5 great plays celebrating Divas & Dames, Mothers and Daughters, and 8 kooky Sisters.

Suite Surrender

By Michael McGeever
Sept. 13-29
Rex Putnam Black Box Theater

The Octette Bridge Club

By PJ Berry
Nov. 15 - Dec 1
Rose Villa Performing Arts Center

Don't Talk to the Actors

By Tom Dudzick
February 7 - 23
Rose Villa Performing Arts Center

Broadway Bound *(staged reading)*

By Neil Simon
April 17 - 19
Rose Villa Performing Arts Center

Memory House

By Kathleen Tolan
June 5 - 21
Rex Putnam Black Box Theater