

Lex-Ham Community Theater  
presents

The Memorandum by Václav Havel

Directed by Mark Monfils

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:30 p.m., Feb 29 - CSPS	7:30 p.m., Mar 1 - CSPS	2:00 p.m., Mar 2 - CSPS
7:30 p.m., Mar 7 - CSPS	7:30 p.m., Mar 8 - CSPS	2:00 p.m., Mar 9 - CSPS
	7:30 p.m., Mar 15 - NP	2:00 p.m., Mar 16 - NP

**CSPS: CSPA Hall - 383 Michigan St (near St. Clair & W 7th), St. Paul**  
**NP: New Prague Middle School, 721 Central Ave N, New Prague**

The production is a partnership with the  
Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,  
Curtain Call Theatre, New Prague Arts Council, and New Prague Community Education.

[www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

# The Memorandum

by  
Václav Havel

## Cast and Crew

Gross, Managing Director . . . . .	Brian Casey
Ballas, Deputy Director . . . . .	Meg Moynihan
Ms. Pillar . . . . .	Jessica Buelow
Hana, Secretary to the Managing Director . . . . .	Rebecca Aurit
Lear, Teacher of Ptydepe . . . . .	Larry Kaplan
Thumb . . . . .	Christine DeZelar-Tiedman
Clerk . . . . .	Joyce Johnson
Clerk . . . . .	Sally Ackerman
Otto Stroll, head of the Translation Centre . . . . .	Aaron Wlaschin
Alex Savant, Ptydepist . . . . .	Anthony Frick
Helena, Chairman . . . . .	Natasha Crupko
Maria, Secretary at the Translation Centre . . . . .	Jennifer Amaya
Georgette, the Staff Watcher . . . . .	Patience Hughes
Mr. Column . . . . .	Jessica Buelow
Understudies: . . . . .	Christine DeZelar-Tiedman/Georgette; Joyce Johnson/Thumb; Patience Hughes/Otto Stroll
Director . . . . .	Mark Monfils
Assistant Director/Stage Manager . . . . .	Tiffany Niehaus
Assistant Stage Manager/Choreographer/Props Coordinator . . . . .	Erin Howlett
Set Designer . . . . .	Dutton Foster
Costume Designer . . . . .	Ed Quirin
Seamstress . . . . .	Terri Winter
Sets . . . . .	Matthew Haugen
Props . . . . .	Kathy Super
Photography . . . . .	Lila Lee Taft
Associate Producer/Lights & Sound . . . . .	Jack Rose
Producer . . . . .	Urban Landreman

## Scenes

### Act I

1. Managing Director's office
2. Ptydepe classroom
3. Translation Center
4. Managing Director's office
5. Ptydepe classroom
6. Translation Center

### Act II

7. Managing Director's office
8. Ptydepe classroom
9. Translation Center
10. Managing Director's office
11. Ptydepe classroom
12. Translation Center

10-minute intermission

2 NOTE: There will be tobacco products smoked during this performance.

Please  
remember to  
turn off all cell  
phones or pagers  
during the  
performance.



## Cast and Crew

**Sally Ackerman (Clerk)** Sally hails from the Midway area of Saint Paul. She was heavily involved in theater many years ago, acting on stages in Minneapolis, New York, and Cambridge, England, where she played the title role of Solome on the ADC stage. Sally has been living abroad in the Republic of Georgia for the past year and is delighted to be home again and reconnecting with her theatrical roots with the production of *The Memorandum*.

**Jennifer Amaya (Maria)** Jennifer would like to think she received training in method acting during her first job as a church secretary at the sweet age of sixteen. She also credits John Townsend with helping her stroke her aura in the realm of theater. Last but not least, her eighth grade typing teacher prepared her well for secretarial work. Jennifer would like to thank her husband for his love and support.

**Rebecca Aurit (Hana)** This is Rebecca's first show with Lex-Ham. She has also appeared in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Grapes of Wrath* with The Holy Trinity Theater Circle in Minneapolis. She would like to thank her husband, friends and family.

**Jessica Buelow (Ms. Pillar/Mr. Column)** This is Jessica's first onstage role since completing her degree in Dramatic Arts at Macalester College. Since then, Jessica has worked as a stage manager on various productions at SteppingStone Theatre as well as Walking Shadow Theatre Company. She has enjoyed working with the cast and crew of *The Memorandum* and is thrilled to be back on stage.

**Brian Casey (Gross)** Brian has been familiar with the stage from an early age. His most notable roles include the parts of Trigorin in Chekhov's *The Seagull*, and of Alceste in Moliere's *The Misanthrope*, both of which were on the Saint Mary's University stage in Winona, MN. He is very excited to be in his first performance with the Lex-Ham Theater. Thanks to my parents, my professors, and all the other friends & family who have influenced me over the years.

**Natasha Crupko (Helena)** This is Natasha's first role with Lex-Ham. She has had roles in *Le Petit Prince*, *My Fair Lady* and two short films entitled *Electra* and *Natural Glow*. Happy to be back on the stage, she thanks her family, her boyfriend and her incredible friends for their love, encouragement and support. These performances are dedicated to the late Blaise Croskey who came to every performance he could and would have been at this one.

**Christine DeZelar-Tiedman (Thumb)** Christine has performed in several previous Lex-Ham shows, most recently *The Women*. Other recent Twin Cities appearances include *Perhaps They're French* (Minnesota Fringe Festival), *Romeo and Juliet* (Rosetown Playhouse) and *The Comedy of Errors* (Cromulent Shakespeare Company). Christine enjoys attending plays almost as much as acting in them, and also enjoys reading, watching movies, and traveling. She also likes learning new languages, preferably less difficult than Ptydepe.

**Dutton Foster (Set Designer)** Dutton has directed, designed, and built high-school and middle school shows since 1961. In recent years he has retired from directing and teaching high-school English, but continues to design and

“We refuse to be bullied by facts!”

- Ballas

build for St. Paul Academy and Summit School, his former employer. Dutton is also a published playwright; his most successful opus has been a one-act melodrama, *The Wild Flowering of Chastity*, or *Chaste Across the Stage*, published in about 1970. Since the turn of the century Dutton's set work has included (among others) *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Peer Gynt*, *Into the Woods*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *City of Angels*, and *Pippin*. Dutton recently designed the sets for Lex-Ham's productions of *The Women*, *All My Sons*, and *The Fantasticks*.

**Anthony Frick (Alex Savant)** This is Anthony's first appearance with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. Anthony is an Alumni of UW - Eau Claire where he received his B.F.A. in Theatre Performance. You may have seen him in commercials around the metro area and hopefully on more stages. Anthony would like to take this moment to thank those that have supported his dreams, mistakes, and good decisions. This performance is dedicated to those who are watching but are not here to enjoy it, especially Jen and J.D.

**Matthew Haugen (Sets)** Matt is a recent graduate of the College of St. Scholastica, and now works in the Technology Services department of Target Headquarters. He was active in college theatre, and is looking forward to getting more involved with theatre here in the Twin Cities. Matt enjoys movies, playing guitar and broomball, and attempting to navigate the one-way streets of downtown Minneapolis.

**Erin Howlett (Assistant Stage Manager/Choreographer/Prop Coordinator)** This is Erin's second production with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for *The Belle of Boolavogue* at last summer's Irish Fair in St. Paul. Erin has been dancing all of her life, but this is her first attempt at choreographing for a production.

**Patience Hughes (Georgette)** Patience is happy to be working with Lex-Ham. Her most recent Minneapolis appearance was with Top Hat Productions' newly adapted *Hansel and Gretel*. She most recently understudied for Starting Gate Productions' successful show, *Anton in Show Business*. Patience hails from Nebraska where she worked with several companies including Nebraska State Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, and Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre. Among her favorite roles are Charlotte in *Oliver!*, Katrina in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and Mary Aldin in *Towards Zero*. Patience is also a singer and has performed with the Omaha Symphony, Choral Arts Society, and Voices of Omaha.

**Joyce Johnson (Clerk)** Joyce is making her first Lex-Ham show and Minneapolis stage debut. Her previous experience has been as a spokesperson in corporate videos and as Little Red Ridding Hood's mother in a Webster Groves, MO production of *Fairy Tales*. Working on this production has been a great experience and she thanks everyone for coming.

**Larry Kaplan (Lear)** Larry has been active in the Twin Cities' theater and film scenes for the past five years. He is thrilled to be working with the Lex-Ham Community Theater in this very funny and cautionary play. He asks the audience to imagine a world of vision, peace, and understanding.

**Urban Landreman (Producer)** Urban has been involved with Lex-Ham productions since its initial work, *Neighborhood on the Hill* in 1996. His primary role is to help assemble a crew of very talented and creative people, give them the resources they need, solve problems that come up, and then get out of their way. Urban hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does.

**Mark Monfils (Artistic Director)** *The Memorandum* is Mark's first production with Lex-Ham Community Theater. He most recently directed *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* for a virtually "sold out" run at Applause Community Theatre, his 5th production for that group. Mark is returning to the delightful world of Community Theater after an intended "sojourn" that became 15 years traveling the country and this wonderful world as a business "Road Warrior". He has directed, acted in, and stage-managed more than 60 shows, plays, and musicals in the metropolitan area over the past 40 years, including directing several productions for the Minnesota Shakespeare Company, Eden Prairie Community Theatre and Applause Community Theatre where he will also return this summer to direct a rollicking rendition of



Disney's *High School Musical* in July 2008. Mark also loves working with the seemingly boundless energy and freshness of kids! He directed and helped develop a new adaptation of *Alice In Wonderland* for Osseo Senior High School MSHSL One-Act Play Competition entry.

**Meg Moynihan (Ballas)** Meg was involved in lots of community theatre in the Lansing, Michigan area but, apart from one Minneapolis Fringe Festival show, has been on hiatus since moving to Minnesota six years ago and thanks all in the audience who ran lines with her for this one. By day, Meg works as a mid-level functionary in a public agency. Sometimes she found *Memorandum* rehearsals eerily reminiscent of her workday. She is a rabid Green Bay Packer fan and an aspiring dairy farmer.

**Tiffany Niehaus (Assistant Director/Stage Manager)** This is the second production with Lex-Ham Community Theater that Tiffany has worked on. She stage managed *The Belle of Boolavogue* at last summer's Irish Fair on Harriet Island. Tiffany began stage managing with her high school's productions of *Red Noses* and *Hamlet* in Sao Paulo, Brazil and continued with *Heaven* while she attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.

**Ed Quirin (costumes)** This is Ed's fifth show with Lex-Ham, having previously worked on *The Frog Prince*, *Sylvia*, *All My Sons*, and *Motomorphosis*. When not working on costumes, Ed is pursuing his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding/Plant Genetics at the U of M. He would like to thank the cast and crew for giving him this opportunity. He would also like to thank James for putting up with him whenever he works on costumes.

**Jack Rose (Associate Producer/Lights & Sound)** Jack became involved in community theater fifty years ago, when at age 17 he was the orderly in John Patrick's *The Hasty Heart*. Since then he has been a bartender (*Bye Bye Birdie*), a sea captain (*Carousel* and *Anything Goes*), a judge (*The Crucible*), an ashcan dweller (*Endgame*), a father (*The Fantasticks*), a psychiatrist (*Harvey*), the Earl of Kent (*King Lear*), the President of the United States (*The Mouse That Roared*), a mayor (*The Music Man*), and a gangster (*Pal Joey*). Jack serves on the boards of Lex-Ham Community Arts and the Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA). In his free time he enjoys Minnesota's hundreds of miles of paved bike trails, and a little piano improv once in a while.

**Lila Lee Taft (Photographer)** Lila Lee is a nurse turned amateur photographer. She began her photography career with pictures of a variety of themes that she has framed - from lady slippers and loons, eagles and deer, lighthouses and butterflies, to barns and tractors. More recently Lila Lee has begun doing portraits of children, families and senior high graduates.

**Terri Winter (Seamstress)** Terri is a self-taught seamstress and has been sewing since she was 15. By day Terri is an Office Manager at a dental clinic and by night, a pedal-to-the-metal seamstress.

**Aaron Wlaschin (Otto Stroll)** This is Aaron's second show with the Lex-Ham Theater. He previously appeared as Buster Winslow in 2007's *There's Talk In Town*. Aaron would like to thank Urban for the fruit snack every night, Britney Spears for the fruits of inspiration, and his wife for allowing him to act like a fruitcake on stage. He promises to her that he went straight to rehearsal every night, and never to the bar downstairs. Except once or twice.

“Because I can not be expected to give personal registration documents to every Tom, Dick, and Harry...”

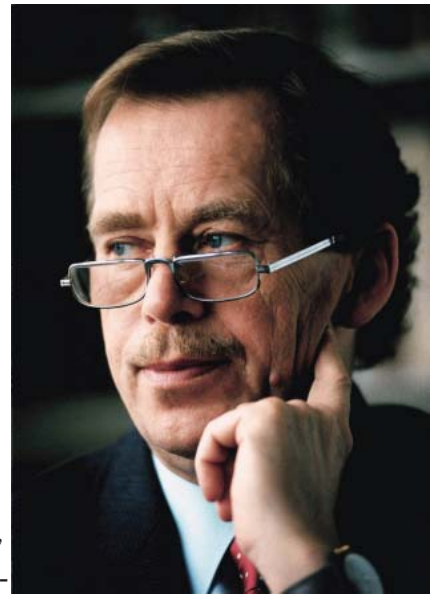
- Helena

# Václav Havel

Václav Havel grew up in a well-known entrepreneurial and intellectual family, which was closely linked to the cultural and political events in Czechoslovakia from the 1920's to the 1940's. Because of these links the communists did not allow Havel to study formally after having completed required schooling in 1951. For political reasons he was not accepted into any post-secondary school with a humanities program; therefore, he opted to study at the Faculty of Economics of Czech Technical University. He left this program after two years.

Following his return from two years of military service, he worked as a stage technician - first at Divadlo ABC, and then, in 1960, at Divadlo Na zbradli. From 1962 until 1966, he studied Drama by correspondence at the Faculty of Theatre of the Academy of Musical Arts.

From the age of twenty years, Václav Havel published a number of studies and articles in various literary and theatrical periodicals. His first works were presented at the Divadlo Na zbradli; amongst these was the play *The Garden Party* [*Zahradní slavnost*] (1963). It soon became a component of the revivalist tendencies of Czechoslovak society in the 1960's. This civic self-awareness culminated in the historic Prague Spring of 1968. During this time Havel also produced other plays, such as *The Memorandum* [*Výrozumění*] (1965) and *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* [*Ztížená možnost soustředění*] (1968).



Following the suppression of the Prague Spring by the invasion of the armies of the Warsaw Pact, Havel stood against the political repression characterized by the years of the so-called communist "normalization". He was imprisoned three times for his civic views, and spent nearly five years behind bars.

Due to his unyielding political stance through the years of communist totality, Václav Havel became a recognized moral authority. The depth of his perception of the problems of civilization and his contemplation of their formulation enabled him to become very well respected, even in the framework of his new function as Head of State, and outstanding amongst politicians.

During the course of his second term in office as President of the Czech and Slovak Federation, however, a rift between the Czech and Slovak political representatives over the future organization of the state began to emerge. Václav Havel eventually resigned the Presidency in 1992.

After leaving office, Havel retired from public life for a while, but on January 26, 1993, the Chamber of Deputies elected Václav Havel to be the first President of the independent Czech Republic and was re-elected in 1998.

Under difficult political circumstances, he was re-elected to the Presidency by both Chambers of Parliament on January 20, 1998.

Since leaving office as President of the Czech Republic in 2003 he has focused his activities on the respect of human rights worldwide, particularly in Cuba, Belarus and Burma, as well as on his literary work.

For his literary and dramatic works, for his lifelong efforts and opinions, and for his position on the upholding of human rights, Václav Havel is the recipient of a number of state decorations, international awards and honorary doctorates.

Source: [www.vaclavhavel.cz](http://www.vaclavhavel.cz)

## Special Thanks Go To

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
Curtain Call Theatre  
New Prague Arts Council  
New Prague Community Education  
Theater Space Project  
Concordia University - St. Paul  
St. Paul Fire Marshal  
Firefighters Hall and Museum  
AARCEE Party & Tent Rental  
Jim Ed Poole - Minnesota Public Radio  
Cadenza Music

“I place the struggle for the victory of reason and of moral values above a peace bought by their loss.”

- Gross

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## Artificial Languages

While Ptydepe is a fictional language invented by Václav Havel for *The Memorandum*, there have been many other artificial or “planned” languages created by others. A few of these include the following:

**Esperanto** The name derives from Doktoro Esperanto, the pseudonym under which L. L. Zamenhof published the first book of Esperanto, the *Unua Libro*, in 1887. The word esperanto means ‘one who hopes’. Zamenhof’s goal was to create an easy and flexible language that would serve as a universal second language to foster peace and international understanding.

**Ido** Ido was developed in the early 1900s, and retains a sizable following today, primarily in Europe. It is largely based on Esperanto. After its inception, Ido gained support from some in the Esperanto community at the time, but following the sudden death in 1914 of one of its most influential proponents, Louis Couturat, it declined in popularity.

**Interlingua** Interlingua is an international auxiliary language (IAL) published in 1951 by the International Auxiliary Language Association (IALA). It is the most widely spoken naturalistic auxiliary language. Interlingua was developed to combine a simple, regular grammar with a vocabulary common to the widest possible range of languages, making it unusually easy to learn.

**Klingon** The Klingon language (tlhIngan Hol in Klingon) is the constructed language spoken by Klingons in the fictional Star Trek universe. Deliberately designed by Marc Okrand to be “alien”, it contains many peculiarities, such as Object Verb Subject (OVS) word order. The basic sound (along with a few words) was first devised by actor James Doohan (“Scotty”) for Star Trek: The Motion Picture.

Source: Wikipedia.com

Photos by LilaLee Taft

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# Lex-Ham Community Theater

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by

- Selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes, *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; and *Motomorphosis* by Václav Havel.
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *There's Talk in Town* by John Solensten and *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman;
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Women* by Clare Boothe Luce, *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly, and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller; and
- Winning awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor (Shad Cooper) and Sound Design (David Lind) at the 2003 and 2005 Minnesota Association of Community Theatres Play Festivals.

The theater offers many opportunities for people to get involved at any level or time commitment. Opportunities range from attending an evening reading of a play written by Shakespeare or which won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama to enrolling in a beginning or advanced acting class.

To get involved contact [theater@LexHamArts.org](mailto:theater@LexHamArts.org) or [www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

## Upcoming events:

April 27 - Reading of Jeannine Coulombe's *Beakers*, St. Anthony Park Library

May 17 - Steppin' Out with Lex-Ham fund-raiser, Commodore Hotel, St. Paul

June 20-28 - *State of the Union* by Russel Crouse and Howard Lindsay, Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center, St. Paul

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## Czech and Slovak Cultural Center

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota is a non-profit organization serving since 2002 both as resource for Minnesotans interested in Central Europe and as point of contact for people from Czech and Slovak Republics. CSCC develops and sponsors Czech and Slovak symposia, courses, exhibits, literary circles, artists, performing groups and speakers. CSCC also promotes business and cultural relationships between Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Republics.

## Curtain Call Theatre

Curtain Call is "the Community Theatre of Czech Country", serving New Prague, Montgomery, Lonsdale and the surrounding areas in Minnesota since 1994. Our next show will be *Annie Get Your Gun* - July 11-20, New Prague High School.

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is affiliated with American Sokol, which grew out of an international movement founded in 1862 by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs. We are a social, cultural, educational and gymnastic organization. Through our many social activities and educational programs, we seek to preserve and transmit the vitality of our Czech, Slovak and immigrant heritage to future generations.

The historic Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek (C.S.P.S.) Hall at 383 Michigan Street in Saint Paul has been our home since its construction in 1887, and the focal point for our activities in Saint Paul. It was declared a National and State Historic Site in 1977, placed on the National Register of Historic Sites, and is the longest serving Czech-Slovak cultural center in the United States.

## New Prague Community Education

Community Education provides life-long education opportunities for learners of all ages. The programs and services offered to all residents of the school district are designed to meet expressed and emerging interests of community members and to enhance the quality of life for youth, parents, adults and senior citizens. Collaborations and partnerships with a variety of local, area, and state organizations help to provide events and linkages for people as well as a network of information sources available in the area.



The Memorandum is an English translation of the 1965 play *Vyrozumění*, by Czech playwright Václav Havel. Englishwoman Vera Blackwell first published this translation in 1967. In 2006, American translator Paul Wilson published a new translation, titled *The Memo* at Havel's request. [1]. Havel wrote *Vyrozumění* prior to the Prague Spring of 1968 as an ironic satire dissenting communist rule. Despite its veiled themes, the play was approved by government censors and published. memorandum definition: 1. a short written report prepared specially for a person or group of people that contains information. Learn more. Both in the brief memorandum of his services written around 1796 and in later correspondence there is no reference to the episode. From Cambridge English Corpus. This memorandum re-emphasized issues addressed at the inaugural meeting, specifically those of terminology, registration, taxes, child welfare, education and a census. From Cambridge English Corpus.