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## Young Elgin Actor Returns to Noble Fool in Family Comedy OVER THE TAVERN

By: NobleFoolTheatricals  
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Gabriel Harder as Rudy and Renee Matthews as Sister Clarissa. Picture by Kimberly G. Morris

Elgin's 12-year-old resident, Gabriel Harder, stars in Noble Fool Theatricals production of Over The Tavern playing at Pheasant Run February 4 through March 28. Over The Tavern follows the Irish-Catholic Pazinski family of six in New York during 1959 – a time where Elvis, drive-ins, and The Honeymooners made life fun and simple for most families. Not for the Pazinki's though! Hardworking Chet and Ellen live in an apartment above their tavern with their four teenagers, each questioning family values in their own mischievous ways.

Harder plays 12-year-old Rudy Pazinski, a wise-cracking boy getting ready for his Confirmation. And when he questions the Roman Catholic Church to ruler-cracking Sister Clarissa (proclaiming, "I read where there are over thirteen hundred religions in the world. I'd like to shop around!"), the outcome is a hilarious yet touching comedy that would even make the Cleavers at a loss for good advice!

"Rudy's great because he has no problem speaking his mind, no matter who he's talking to," says Harder, age 13. "His family has huge problems, and Rudy kinda just sinks into the background. He himself knows how serious his school problems are, but he always faces it with a smile and a joking attitude. Really the only thing he takes seriously is his spaghetti!"

Harder was last seen on the Pheasant Run Mainstage in last holiday's A Christmas Story as Ralphie Parker. "It's really great to work with NFT on their professional shows," says Harder. "I learned a lot, made some great friends, and I'm excited to be here again – it's like a second home!"

In the past year, Gabriel was also seen in our Youth Ensemble production of It's A Wonderful Life Radio Play on the Pheasant Run Studio Stage. He recently was in a short film called "It Started With Lights" and played John in Kane County CYT's "Peter Pan".

The cast of Over the Tavern features (in alphabetical order): Alex Adams (age 16, St. Charles; previously in every NFT Youth Ensemble production since its debut in 2006), Scott Cummins (Chicago), Gabriel Harder (age 13, Elgin; previously in NFT's A Christmas Story), Renee Matthews (Chicago; previously in NFT's Ruthless), Stacy Stoltz (Irving Park), Katrina Syrris (age 16, South Elgin) and Dan Velisek (age 16, Geneva).

Over the Tavern opens on Thursday, February 4, 2010 and runs through Sunday, March 28, 2010. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Thursday performances are available on February 4 and 11 at 8 p.m.; February 18, March 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. The show is rated PG, with some mild adult language.

Tickets are priced at \$29 on Fridays (and additional Thursday performances), and at \$39 on Saturdays and Sundays. Dinner show packages are available at \$46 on Fridays and \$59 on Saturdays and Sundays. Group Rates, Student Discounts, and Overnight packages are also available.

Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. For tickets, call the Pheasant Run Box Office at 630-584-6342, or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Additional performance information may be obtained at www.noblefool.org.

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