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## Wheaton native directs fun, film noir mystery Red Herring

By **NobleFoolTheatricals**

The Red Herring cast includes (from left to right): Elena Ernst, Sean Bolger, Rebekah Ward-Hays, Alex Hugh Brown and Danon Dastugue. Photo by Kimberly G. Morris.

Just after directing the remount of The Gift Theatre Company's *The Ruby Sunrise* at Theater on the Lake, which was named one of the Top Ten shows of 2009 by TimeOut Chicago Magazine, John Gawlik of Wheaton is ready to jump into another project -- directing Michael Hollinger's clever whodunnit called *Red Herring*. This murder mystery comedy is produced by Gawlik's own Noble Fool Theatricals, the in-residence nonprofit theater company (in which he serves as Artistic Director), located within Pheasant Run Resort.

Written by Michael Hollinger and winner of the 2000 Barrymore Award for Outstanding New Play,

*Red Herring* combines three love stories, a murder mystery, and a nuclear espionage into one clever Cold War-era romantic comedy done in the style of film noir. The year is 1952: America's on the verge of the H-bomb, Dwight Eisenhower's on the campaign trail, and I Love Lucy's on Monday nights. Meanwhile, Senator Joe McCarthy's daughter just got engaged to a Soviet spy, and Cost detective Maggie Pelletier has to find out who dumped the dead guy in the Harbor – or else lost out on a honeymoon in Havana. The end result is a blunt-nosed, sharp-eyed look at love and tying (and untying, and retying) the knot.

Other recent directing credits for Gawlik include Noble Fool's *Over the Tavern*, smash hit *Altar Boyz* and the holiday classic *A Christmas Story*, as well as the Jeff Nominated production of *W;t* for The Gift Theatre and *Dated: A Cautionary Tale for Facebook Users* for Collaboraction's Sketchbook Festival (Festival Best Director). Additional directing credits include *Sylvia* at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, the Jeff Recommended Gift production of *Blithe Spirit*, and the Jeff Award winning production of *The Good Thief*. Other Noble Fool directing credits include *Every Christmas Story Ever Told!*, Glen Berger's *Underneath the Lintel*, the Midwest premier of *The Complete History of America: Abridged*, *Western Civilization The Complete Musical: Abridged* and *Vikings! A Musical in Two Axe*.

The cast of *Red Herring* features (in alphabetical order): **Naperville native** Sean Bolger, Alex Hugh Brown, Danon Dastugue, Peter DeFaria, Elana Ernst and Rebekah Ward-Hayes.

*Red Herring* opens on Thursday, September 2, 2010 and runs through Sunday, October 24, 2010. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Thursday performances are available on September 2 and 9 at 8 p.m.; September 16, 30 and October 7 at 2 p.m. *The show is rated PG-13 due to mature situations and 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](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Additional performance information may be obtained at [www.noblefool.org](http://www.noblefool.org).