

Image actor carves out busy career in character roles

By Nancye Tuttle, Sun Correspondent
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COMMENTS

David Sullivan is an Image Theater Company success story. He stars as Manny, the bar owner, in Karla Sorenson's Tapped Out, having its world-premiere Nov. 6-14 at the Old Court in Lowell.

Earlier this year, he played Amos in Greater Lowell Music Theatre's Chicago and was Nathan Detroit in the company's Guys and Dolls in 2013. He's made his film debut, too, in Memories for Sale, a critically-acclaimed short film based on Image co-founder Jerry Bisantz's award-winning play.

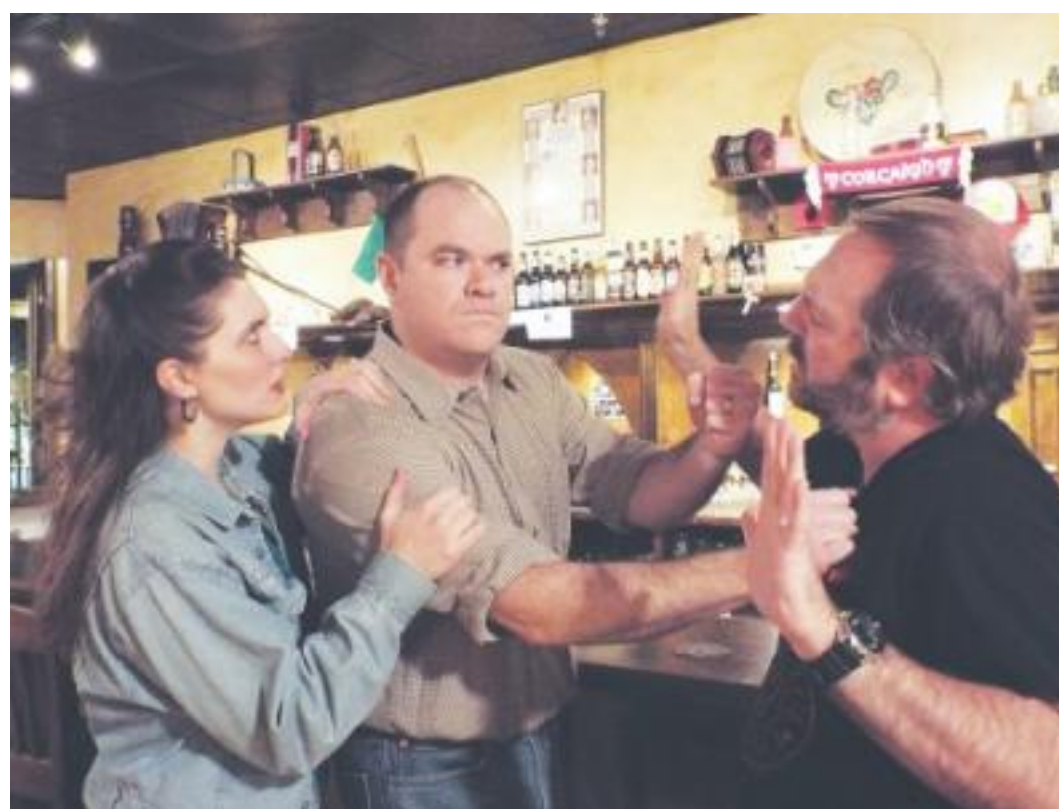
Not bad for a Lowellian who works as a security guard at Massachusetts General Hospital and draws political cartoons for the Valley Patriot newspaper.

"Things seem to be falling into place," said Sullivan, 39, a Lowell native who lives in Dracut.

He'd acted with a couple of other companies -- Play by Players, Nashua Theater Guild, Actors Inc. and Ghostlight Theater -- in the early 2000s. But when Image came to town in 2005, he turned his attention to the small professional troupe and never looked back.

"I did Mill City Minutes and Naughty Readings, but Memories for Sale really helped. Jack Neary (GLMT co-founder and artistic director) came to the premier and asked me to audition for Guys and Dolls. I told him 'I don't do musicals,' but ended up getting the lead (Detroit)," said Sullivan.

Landing the part of Manny, the nice-guy barkeep with a past, is another feather in his cap.



David Sullivan, center, stars as Manny in Tapped Out from Image Theater.

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"He's a life-long Lowellian with a checkered past. A Golden Gloves winner, he's been in the military, and now he's bought a bar and wants to make a go of it," said Sullivan.

The play, he said, reveals the conflict that was rampant in Lowell in the 1980s, when changes were afoot, but diehards, like Manny's pal, Tucker, balked at it.

"Karla's hit it out of the park with this script," said Sullivan. "She knows who these guys are, she's been in these bars with them and she's talked with them."

Sullivan hopes to hit it out of the park with his performance, too. And he sees a rosy future as a character actor.

"I went at it as an avocation, since I'm not ready to uproot my family, but there is work out there for character actors," he said.

And he hopes it involves work on another Lowell stage.

"I'd love to do something at the MRT. It's on my bucket list," he said -- spoken like a true Lowellian.

Tapped Out plays Nov. 6 and 13, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 7, 8 and 14, at 8 p.m., upstairs at the Old Court, 29 Central St., Lowell. Tickets \$20 at image theater.com or call 978-441-0102.



Tallie Maggs is Alice and Jesse Waks is Tony in You Can't Take It With You at Acton-Boxborough High School

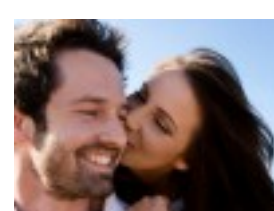
On the marquee

- **MURDER MYSTERY:** Littleton's Cannon Theatre, 410 Great Road, Littleton opens its production of Alan Ayckbourn's It Could Be Any One of Us, a comedy whodunit, on Halloween. The farce's twists and turns gives the audience the chance to decide who the culprit is. Performances are Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 20 21, 22, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 8, at 1 p.m. Wear a costume on opening night for a free concession. \$20, adults; \$15, seniors/students; \$10, 10 and under at MKTIX.com; by check to The Cannon Theatre, 410 Great Road, Littleton, MA 01460; call 978-456-0060 and leave message or email tickets@thecannontheatre.org.
- **CLASSIC SHOW:** Proscenium Circus at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School brings You Can't Take It With You, a 1930's classic comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufmann, to life Oct. 30-Nov. 8. It involves the eccentric Sycamore family and what happens when Alice S. falls for a Tony Kirby, whose family is straight-laced. The families meet for dinner and hilarity ensues. Performances Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 2 and 8, at 3 p.m. \$14, evening; \$12, matinee at abdrama.org or MKTIX.com.
- **BROADWAY REVUE:** A Broadway-style revue, featuring Sacred Heart parish friends and neighbors, including playwright/actor/director Jack Neary and SRO Players founder Michael Lally, highlights the Sacred Heart Scholarship Reunion and Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m., at the UML Inn and Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell. The event kicks off a new fund founded by Sacred Heart and UMass Lowell alums to preserve the memory of the Sacred Heart School through educational opportunities. Food, dancing, raffles and silent auction. Tickets \$50 at <http://alumni.uml.edu/sacredheartfundraiser>. Purchase before event.

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