

No Business Like Show Business: The Evolution of Community-Based Theater in Hinman
By Brent Gotsch

“Upstate New York in the middle of October. You can’t get more beautiful than that.”

“Once in a while you get a moment of clarity-an inspiration-and they don’t come frequently.”

“I was having the best time of my life.”

*-Paul Reiser
Class of 1977*

Prologue

With perhaps the exception of Hinman College Council or Co-Rec football there is no more venerable an institution in Hinman College than the Hinman Production Company (HPC). Since nearly the very beginning of the Hinman experience, students and residents within this little community’s borders have been entertained by a determined, tireless, and selfless group of individuals whose sole purpose is to provide for the enjoyment of themselves and their peers. Something happened along the way though. These brash, rebellious students, dissatisfied with the university’s theater department decided to create a theater without that department’s strict rules. All they wanted was to have the opportunity to act, most importantly to have fun, and maybe, just maybe entertain the audience. What started off with these ambitions in mind accomplished those goals-and so much more. It became not only a group full of fun and rowdy students, but an organization dedicated to its cause that would create lifelong friendships and priceless memories. It is an association that has lasted for well over three decades, with no end in sight.