

WST is a Willems Family Tradition

Koren Hill

More than 25 productions in 15 years. That's how many plays/musicals Kathy Willems has been a part of. From acting to being back stage manager, Kathy has worn many hats with Warroad Summer Theatre (WST). But there is one hat she has never worn until now - the director's hat. But that will change next week when Kathy makes her WST directing debut with *Let's Murder Marsha*.

But that's not all! After having been involved with just about every other aspect of WST, Kathy was also elected to the WST Board of Directors this past year. "After some friendly nudges, it only made sense that I take the next step and see if I can put what I have learned to the test. Knowing that I have the support of so many WST vets gives me a lot of confidence," explained Kathy.

Being a part of WST is, you could say, in Kathy's blood. Her grandmother, Susie Willems, and father, Steve Willems, were active with WST. And, following suit, Kathy, her sister, Elizabeth,

and brother, Eric, became involved. "It's only natural that I keep the tradition going. And, believe me, I have no intention of slowing down," says Kathy.

Kathy admits that WST is "more than just something fun to do in the summer." For her, it's a passion. Those involved with WST have become her second family. Kathy loves every moment from the start of the season to the very end, from the challenge of "becoming someone else" for two months to seeing the audience's reactions. But the bottom line, she says, "It's being able to bring people out of reality and into our world of make believe. It's an amazing feeling. My mom once asked me why I never took a summer off to do something else... To be honest, it just wouldn't



Kathy Willems will make her directorial debut with Warroad Summer Theatre during the run of *Let's Murder Marsha*.

feel right to me. It is a huge part of who I am." And that's a huge reason to stay!

Let's Murder Marsha runs July 7-10 and July 14-17 in the Warroad High School mini theatre. Show times are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Call 218-386-3435 for reservations and ticket information.