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Edited by Linda Watkins

HIGHLIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

ATHENIAN
PLAYERS
THEATRE
LAUNCHES 10TH
SEASON

2001-2002
SEASON

2001 OCTAFEST

ADOPT-A-
HIGHWAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2001-2002
OFFICERS

President:
Joe Balding

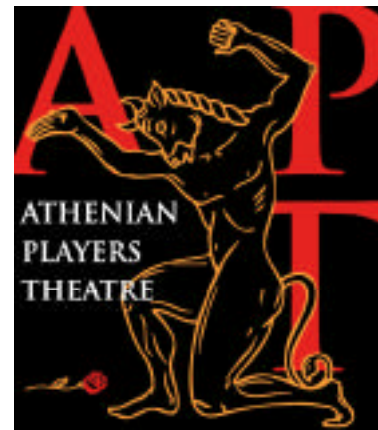
Vice President:
Christine
Neumann

Secretary:
Linda Watkins

Treasurer:
Sylvia Abbott

Ticket Information: 740-753-
1924

A LITTLE
COMMUNITY
THEATRE IN
ATHENS COUNTY
OHIO
Established in 1992



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Joe Balding - APT President

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY APT

Wow, I can remember the night that Beth, Spence, and I first talked about forming a community theatre. It was during rehearsal for OVST's On Golden Pond. Beth and Spence had just moved to the area and were looking for a group to get involved with. When I told them that there wasn't one, they said, "Let's start one then." The rest, as they say, is history.

Ten seasons is something to celebrate! Tawna Rogers and I think APT should invite the community to join in our celebration....details to come.

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE LAUNCHES ITS TENTH SEASON

By Steve Haskins

With thirty-three shows to its credit, Athenian Players Theatre proudly begins its tenth season in November with Ken Ludwig's comedy MOON OVER BUFFALO, another joint production with the Berean Community Players. Play dates are November 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8pm, with a matinee on the 18th at 3pm. To fill out the season, we will present the musical comedy The 1940's RADIO HOUR in April, 2002, and the black comedy CRIMES OF THE HEART in May. All performances will be at the beautiful Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville, Ohio.

APT was born at a meeting in August, 1992, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Athens, Ohio. A handful of theatre enthusiasts from the community responded to an open invitation printed in the newspaper. With the early guidance of community theatre veterans Beth and Spence Watson, APT presented its first show in December, 1992, delighting audiences with THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER.

Doing our best each year to offer a balance of comedies and musicals, along with the occasional drama, we have involved hundreds of hard-working theatre lovers both on stage and backstage. Our first five years saw performances in several venues, including the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, the Athens Senior Center, the Athens Middle School auditorium, the McArthur Community Center and the Friends' Meeting House in Chauncey. Beginning with our sixth season in the fall of 1997, we have been fortunate to offer joint productions with the Berean Community Players at Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville.

Ours is truly a community theatre. We have always been, and continue to be, a totally volunteer theatre. All of our actors, directors, designers and stage hands have given their time and talent to make Athenian Players Theatre a success. For that APT is ever grateful, for without these selfless, hard-working volunteers, there would be no Athenian Players Theatre. Additional credit must be given to the many area businesses who have donated generously, both in goods and services, to ensure APT's continued success.

Be sure to join in celebrating our tenth season. Whether you're on stage, backstage or in the audience, you are welcome to be part of Athenian Players Theatre!

2001-2002 SEASON



Celebrating Our 10th Season



"MOON OVER BUFFALO"

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by Christopher Coleman

November 9,10, 16,17 - 8:00 p.m.

November 18 - 3:00 p.m.

This farcical comedy tells the story of an ordinary repertory theatre troupe performance turned upside down. George and Charlotte Hay

are performing repertory theatre in Buffalo. They find out that legendary director, Frank Capra, will be in the audience and he is considering them for a movie, if he likes their performance. In the meantime, there are a few other challenges thrown at them. Love affairs, parent/children conflicts and everything in between. Will Charlotte and George get the movie break they want, or will the moon go out over Buffalo.



"The 1940'S RADIO HOUR"

by Walton Jones

Directed by Sylvia Abbott

Musical Director -

Lynn Sullivan

Swing back to the 1940's with Walton Jones's big band swing musical, "The 1940's Radio Hour." This nostalgic trip down memory lane includes such songs as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", "Ain't She Sweet", "That Old Black Magic," "Our Love Is Here to Stay," and "Blue

Moon." Walton Jones's play is part comedy, part musical revue. By making a mock radio broadcast the central event of the show, he has an excuse to use more than a dozen World War II-era tunes. The action takes place in the studio of radio station WOV in December, 1942. Available roles include those for nine men ranging in age from 18 - 60, and for four women ranging in age from 17 - 50.

April 21,22,28,29 - 8:00 p.m.

April 30 - 3:00 p.m.



"CRIMES OF THE HEART"

by Beth Henley

Directed by Steve Haskins

Beth Henley's CRIMES OF THE HEART is a black comedy about three Mal-adjusted sisters set in the small town of Hazelhurst, Mississippi. After opening on Broadway in 1981, CRIMES OF THE HEART won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for

best new American play and the Pulitzer Prize for drama. Henley also received a Tony Award nomination for best play and, five years later, an Academy Award nomination for best adapted screenplay.

The three central characters in the play are the Magrath sisters: Lenny, the eldest, unmarried and desperate; Meg, just back from a futile attempt to land a singing career in Los Angeles; and Babe, the youngest, trapped in a bad marriage and suffering from depression. The play opens with the news that Babe has shot her well-to-do husband because, as she puts it, "I didn't like his looks." The sisters talk, argue, laugh and cry their way through this amazing play, as they discover truths about each other and themselves.

CRIMES OF THE HEART will close Athenian Players Theatre's tenth season with performances on May 9,10 , 11 - 8:00 p.m. and May 12 - 3:00 p.m.

All Performances will be in the beautiful, newly restored Stuart's Opera House on the Square in downtown Nelsonville, Ohio

For reservations call 740-753-1924

Ticket Price: \$8.00



*OHIO COMMUNITY THEATRE
ASSOCIATION STATE OCTAfest*

by Steve Haskins

OCTAfest 2001:
A MAGICAL ODYSSEY

A very small but very enthusiastic contingent of members of Athenian Players Theatre attended this year's State OCTAfest convention. This three-day annual event takes place each year over Labor Day weekend, being hosted this year by the Worthington Players at the beautiful Holiday Inn Convention Center in Worthington, Ohio.

OCTAfest 2001 was attended by 645 community theatre members from all around the state - an increase of about 25% over last year.

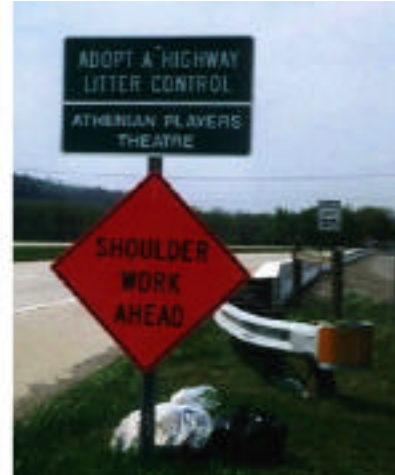
The event is overflowing with entertainment and educational & social opportunities. It is everything theatre. From the opening night parties & games to the 15 half-hour

play excerpts to the dozen or so various workshops right on through to the Sunday evening banquet & Masked/Formal Ball and Monday morning brunch & Awards Ceremony, there was not a dull moment. Participants were offered all the excitement they could hope for, yet there was time to occasionally relax and catch one's breath.

APT member and frequent director Lonny Frazee gave an extended Directing Workshop, in which Pat Berry Frazee and Steve Haskins assisted by playing out a scene for Lonny's instructional purposes. Additionally, APT President Joe Balding gave two one-hour workshops on beginning tap dance, attended by eager conventioners.

Although Athenian Players Theatre did not enter a play excerpt in this year's competition, we did not come home empty handed. Linda Watkins took some honors as editor of our newsletter. She won Awards of Merit in Layout & Design and Effective Presentation of Information. Steve Haskins won an honorable mention for his set design for ALL BECAUSE OF AGATHA, APT's March show by Jonathan Troy, directed by Christopher M. Coleman.

The opportunities to learn more, experience more and enjoy more great theatre (and yes, to party more!) are practically endless. The workshops are very informative, offered by experienced persons, and the play excerpts are very entertaining, showcasing an incredible amount of professional level talent. One would be hard put to pay top dollar for better shows than some of those seen on the OCTAfest convention stage. Next year's convention, OCTAfest 2002: FUN IN THE SUN, will happen in Akron, Ohio, again over Labor Day weekend. All APT members are strongly urged to give serious consideration to joining in on next year's convention! Yes, we all have jobs and/or school and pretty much full schedules, and yes, community theatre is a hobby for us, but hobbies are an important part of who we are. We deserve to get the most enjoyment out of life (hobbies or not) that we can, so here is a great chance to raise our enjoyment level! Simply put: it's FUN!



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

APT's participation in Ohio's Adopt-A-Highway program has completed its two-year contract with the litter pick-up on October 6th. We will extend our involvement in this community service with a second two-year contract, thus making the commitment to schedule litter pick-up days four times each year through 2003. Following the schedule we have established, we will hit the road on a morning in April, June, August and October of each year. Many thanks to all of you who have participated, especially those intrepid members who, despite your busy lives, have made the effort to join us multiple times. It is a noble task which, in its own way, betters our community in the name of Athenian Players Theatre. In an attempt to increase participation, members' input is encouraged in order to schedule the best dates and times to

maximize convenience for those who wish to help. For those interested, please call 594-4061 or e-mail shaskins@frognet.net to suggest your availability for participation in this program.

Thank you so very much, and I hope I can count on many of you to continue helping in this program, or to join us for the first time. Everyone's participation is appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

We would like to extend our congratulations to Connie and David Hoxworth on their recent marriage.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday,
November 20, 2001
7:00 PM
The Plains Public Library
The Plains, Ohio

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the 2001-2002 Season can be paid anytime. Our next General Meeting will be November 20th. You may pay your dues at that time or you can mail them to Sylvia Abbott (Treasurer). It's still a bargain at just \$10.

Mail dues too:

Athenian Players Theatre
P.O. Box 283
Athens, Ohio 45701

To become a member of APT, all you have to do is express an interest, be at least 14 years old, and have \$10.

There are two categories of membership:

1. Supporting Members receive all mailings regarding auditions, meetings, and upcoming shows.
2. Guild Members are recognized by the APT Board of Directors as demonstrating active support by participation. These members receive all mailings for the season and have the privilege of voting on elections of APT board members. Guild members can also be involved in choosing the plays that APT will produce.

For both categories of membership, the \$10 fee covers the cost of printing and postage for the season's mailings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTORS' MOVEABLE THEATRE

"The Beauty Queen of Leenane"
October 26 - November 10

"The Nerd"
February 22 - March 3

Both shows will be at The Friends Meeting House in Chauncey, Ohio at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. For Reservations call 740-594-9928

OHIO UNIVERSITY THEATER

"As You Like It"
October 31 - November 10

"Dancing At Lughnasa"
February 6 - February 16

"The Government Inspector"
February 27 - March 9

For reservations call: 740-593-4800.