

THE MINOTAUR

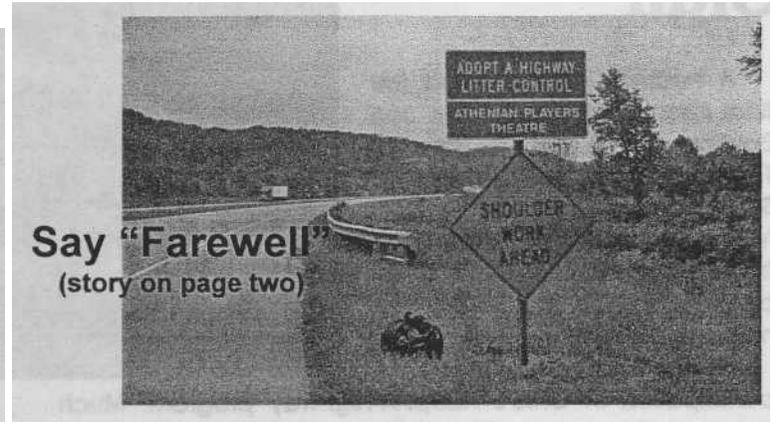


ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter - October 2003 - Page 1

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Greetings From The President

A little late, and I apologize for that, but I HAVE been busy! I know, no excuses.

It is fun being president, SO FAR! I have attempted to dictate a number of changes, but have scored only about 30% on them, thanks to diligent members and acute listeners and speakers among them. The only REAL change is that we now have a different arrangement with Stuart's Opera House. This year we will rent the House for \$2000 per show, for a total expenditure of \$6000. Of that, we will collect 90% of all advance ticket sales, the other 10% going to the House to pay for the printing and selling of tickets. This year the tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, a continuation of last year's charge schedule. We are optimistic that the income will cover all expenses, including not only the rental fees, but also publicity, royalty fees, scripts, costumes and sets. It ain't cheap to run a railroad, as you all know!!!

The excitement of the season begins in November with Neil Simon's farce *Rumors*, followed in March by *The Sound of Music* and continuing in May with *Dearly Departed*.

We hope that many of you will lend a hand not only by buying tickets, but also by pitching in on production needs, like set building. THAT begins for *Rumors* at 1 pm on October 26th.

Happy Theatre - Norm

And There Was Light And It Was Good -by Steve Haskins

Many people probably don't realize it, but there are actually just twenty-five years between the 19th and the 21st centuries. Consider this: in 1977 I bought a 40-acre piece of hilly wooded heaven in Athens County. This property is nearly a mile off the county road, and there were no utilities. In 1978 I built an 8'x12' uninsulated wooden shack to live in while saving enough money to start building a house. I figured that the money otherwise spent on apartment rent should go toward the house fund, bringing the reality of a permanent abode that much closer. For four years a Coleman campstove was my kitchen, with first a nearby spring and later a cooler and block of ice as my refrigerator. My shower was a wooden pallet to stand on and a pan of Coleman-heated water & a tin cup, all outside behind the shack. My toilet was a post hole. For four years I spent spring, summer and fall there. Thank goodness for my nearby friends and neighbors, who put me up for the winter months, as the shack was not only without insulated walls (in fact it had no interior walls at all), it was also without a heat source.

I broke ground for the house in 1981 and was able to finally move into the first finished room in 1982. Still no utilities. A wood stove provided uneven heat and a cooking surface. Eventually the wood stove was replaced with a propane heater, and I celebrated the good life with an actual refrigerator. It was a below-the-counter model that also ran on propane.

In the following years, I caught up with decades of progress as I tapped into the neighbor's natural gas well for heat, cooking and refrigeration, and actually had a telephone line buried up the drive so I could be in

(continued on next page)

Farewell My Highway Sign

A beautiful day greeted the final litter patrol on Sunday. Joe Balding, Jim & Celeste Parsons, Tawna Rogers, Shelly Riggs and Steve Haskins (with a little help from Tawna's new four-legged friend Riley) collected fourteen bags of trash in just a very few hours.

This patrol concludes our participation in Ohio's Adopt-A-Highway program. Much thanks to the many APT members and friends who have pitched in over the past four years to be part of what is truly a noble effort: community service. Conflicting schedules and busy lives have rendered it very difficult to arrange litter pick-up times when any but a very few could participate, so it was decided to end our relationship with the Ohio Department of Highways at this, the end of our second two-year contract.

It's likely that the highway sign bearing the name of Athenian Players Theatre will come down before long, in order to recognize whatever group takes over that stretch of State Route 50 east of Athens. Let's just hope they keep it at least as clean as we did.

Coming Attractions

Here's a quick look at what's in store theatre-wise in our area for the rest of 2003:

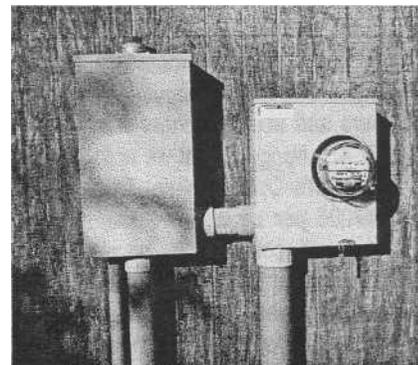
- ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE - *Rumors* - Nov 5-9
 OU SCHOOL OF THEATER - *Lord of the Flies* - Oct 15-25
 - *Top Girls* - Nov 5-15
 ACTOR'S GUILD OF PARKERSBURG - *Nuncrackers* - Nov/Dec
 CAMBRIDGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
 - *Little Shop of Horrors* - Oct/Nov
 - *The Littlest Angel* - Dec
 COSHOCTON FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS - *Proposals* - Dec
 LITTLE THEATRE OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY
 - *Wait Until Dark* - Oct/Nov
 MID-OHIO VALLEY PLAYERS (Marietta)- *The Dresser* - Nov
 ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE
 - *Little Shop of Horrors* - Nov
 HOCKING COLLEGE - *Hamlet's Last Monologue* - Nov 22
 LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL - *Our Town* - Nov 20-23
 - *Theatre Finals* (4 one-acts) - Dec 18
 ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL - *M*A*S*H* - Nov 14 & 15



And There Was Light -continued from page one

contact with the world. I even installed a cistern and had a pitcher pump to provide cold running water in the kitchen. At this point I also had a real outhouse. Life was getting tolerable. No more crapping in the rain for me!

Things really improved when Joe moved in in 1987. With his help a deck grew out of the back door, effectively doubling the living space. Solar panels graced the wood



Belly Acres' new mail boxes

shed roof, and the associated batteries gave 12-volt lights to supplement the kerosene lamplight. Finally a generator permitted sporadic use of decadent things such as power tools and small appliances. My god, I was selling my soul! In 1995 the West

Wing addition tripled the size of the house from 800 to 2400 square feet. It was actually possible to walk several steps in one direction and still be in the same room.

But now, the icing on the cake: American Electric Power has come to Belly Acres! We have arrived. The new furnace is being installed, complete with central air conditioning, thank you very much. A home computer has also taken up residence. Look out, Flash Gordon, we're headed your way!

This whole story has been a roundabout way to say that a new email address is here for The Minotaur, and it is apminotaur@earthlink.net.

Rumor Has Jt..

The rumors are flying and, although it might seem confusing to an onlooker, everyone is actually enjoying it. And that's only the rehearsals! Just wait until the audience gets a load of this show. Neil Simon's fast-paced farce *Rumors* is taking shape in the rehearsal space beneath the stage at Stuart's Opera House, and even though it sometimes seems as chaotic as the script itself, it's coming together nicely.

Audiences will be warned that this is an adult comedy containing some strong language, but the emphasis is certainly on the comedy.

The cast includes Sylvia Abbott, Chris Coleman, Steve Haskins, Ginny Puhl, Shelly Riggs, Tawna Rogers, Marda Rose, Tom Schmitz, Charlie Smith and Linda Watkins, with direction by APT president Norm Cohn.

Remember that *Rumors* will run for one week only, November 5th through the 9th, so be sure to make plans to see it. The first four shows will have an 8:00pm curtain, while the November 9th performance will be a 2:00pm matinee. Tickets for the "Preview Performance" on the 5th (a Wednesday) will cost just \$5 each, while the rest of the run

will be \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. You can reserve your seats by calling the Stuart's Opera House box office at 740-753-1924.

Pitch In

Roll up your sleeves, there's work to do!

With *Rumors* opening in just a few weeks, duty calls: your member status in APT assumes that you want to be involved, so there are many things needing attention as we approach opening night.

Take your pick:

- publicity (distributing posters, table tents, etc.)
- set construction
- lobby ticket sales
- house manager/usher
- serving intermission refreshments

Other categories may arise, so there's lots to do. Please contact stage manager Carol Ault to find out where you're needed most. Carol can be reached at 592-6017 or jlarent@frogn.net.

BULLETIN BOARD

Press Release

On any given night there are over a million homeless children on the streets of America. Local playwright and potter W. R. Smiddle puts a spin on this revelation through the eyes of two homeless teenagers who convince a middle class middle aged professional to take them in for ONE night. The cast is comprised of local community actors and School of Theater students.

If you are looking for an alternative to the Halloween scene, come join Appalachian Regional Theater Company in their staged dramatic reading of "Welcome Home" Friday, October 31st at 8 pm, Saturday, November 1st at 2 pm & 8 pm and Sunday, November 2nd at 2 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship of Athens, 184 Longview Heights. Parental discretion advised due to language.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. For information call Karen Chan at 594-8604.

JOYFUL NOISE

Come to the Coffee Cup Restaurant in Nelsonville on Saturday, October 18 between 6:00 and 8:30 pm to enjoy dinner accompanied by Joyful Noise, presenting "Love (and what comes after)". It's a lovely musical evening with two of the area's best kept secrets, Celeste Parsons and Amy Abercrombe. You'll be glad you were there.

Next Meeting

The November meeting for Athenian Players Theatre will be at the public library in The Plains at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 11.

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