

THE MINOTAUR



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ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter - Volume XII - Issue 3 - November 2003 - Page 1

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Simon Says...

Well, even though many seats sat empty, those that didn't could hardly contain the people who were laughing their collective buffs off. Neil Simon's *Rumors* was a definite hit. And we even made a little money!!!

Kudos to director Norm Cohn, the cast (pictured here), and the terrific crew (consisting of Carol Ault, Jim Parsons,

Christine Neumann and Adam Schein). Honorable mention goes to Celeste Parsons for work above and beyond...

Hello? Is Anyone There?

Ok, I'm afraid it's time again for a little editorial R&R (for the uninitiated, that's Rant & Rave). Excuse me, but doesn't "membership" mean something like "being an active part of" or "participating in"? So where is everybody when there's a membership meeting? Oh, I know that not everyone can make it to every meeting, but how about a couple of times a year? That small group of die-hards that usually show could run the risk of burnout. And it really would be good to get more points of view and more ideas and more general input from more members. By the most recent count the Athenian Players Theatre paid membership stands at thirty-two. That's twenty-three more than the nine that attended last week's meeting. I know you're busy. I'm busy. Everyone is busy. But please make an effort to come to meetings it at all possible.

Ok, I'm done now.

PARTY!!!

It just so happens that the next meeting will actually be a party to kick off the holiday season, hosted by APT vice-president Celeste Parsons and her husband Jim. It really is going to be largely a social event -- no pressure to do anything more than have a good time.

Plan to arrive around 7:00 pm on Friday, December 12. Punch and goodies provided; BYOB and any snackables you'd like to contribute.

Getting there is pretty simple:

Take Route 33 to Nelsonville and turn onto Rt. 691 at the traffic light. Drive past the turns for Hocking College, the Ramada Inn and the Vocational School. Bear right just past the Church of the Nazarene at the "Y" intersection, and then right again onto Wolfe-Bennet Road just past Poston Junior High School. Follow Wolfe-Bennet Road about 2.5 miles to 15085 (on the left, top of a hill, black mailbox with the house number on it).

Special welcome to APT's newest member, ADAM SCHEIN

Auditions

Focus is now on taking a good five or ten minutes to re-group, then set our sights on *The Sound of Music*. Auditions will be Saturday and Sunday, January 3 and 4, at Stuart's Opera House. Times will be announced, so stay tuned. Sylvia Abbott will be dramatic director, with Lynn Sullivan as musical director. This team has worked together in the past with excellent results, and *Music* should be no exception. As usual, auditioners will be asked to read from the script and, since this is the quintessential musical, be sure to tune up your pipes and be ready to make the stage come alive with the sound of your voice!

There are, of course, many roles available -- most are singing roles, a few are not. Nothing in this show is precast, so your chance of landing that prize role is as good as anyone's.

The Sound of Music will open on March 6 for a two-weekend run, and we have every intention of breaking our box office record, set way back in 1993 when we did *Godspell* at the Athens Middle School auditorium.

Please pass the word about auditions to anyone and everyone who might be interested. Ages needed are five to adult (male and female), so nearly everyone is eligible.

The Nutcracker

Eta Hoffman's play that inspired the ballet will be presented by the Drama Club Youth Theater at Stuart's Opera House on December 12 at 8:00 pm and December 13 & 14 at 2:00 pm. This wonderful Christmas story is something that the whole family will enjoy. Call 740-753-1924 to reserve tickets.

Coming Attractions

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

ACTOR'S GUILD OF PARKERSBURG

- *Nun-crackers* - Nov 14 - Dec 6

CAMBRIDGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

- *How The Littlest Angel Got Her Wings* - Dec 6 & 7

COSHOCTON FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS - *Proposals* - Dec 5 - 20

MID-OHIO VALLEY PLAYERS - *The Dresser* - Nov 7 - 22

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

- *13th Annual Tree Benefit* - Dec 12 - 14

HOCKING COLLEGE - *Hamlet's Last Monologue* - Nov 22

LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL - *Our Town* - Nov 20-23

- *Theatre Finals* (4 one-acts) - Dec 18

Picking Brains:

APT's 2004-2005 Season

The play reading committee is now accepting scripts to consider for APT's 13th season. Please contact any of the committee members listed below to submit your suggestion(s):

Celeste Parsons head_winds@hotmail.com

Sylvia Abbott sabbott3@columbus.rr.com

Norm Cohn norm4075@earthlink.net

Ginny Puhl puhl_g@hocking.edu

They're looking for anything; drama, comedy, musical, whatever. As long as it's a script that is do-able in terms of casting and set requirements, it will be given serious consideration. If you are interested in directing, or know someone who is, please let the committee know that, too, whether or not you have a particular play in mind.

OCTA Retreat

by SE OCTA Rep. Joe Balding



The Annual Board Retreat was held the weekend of Oct. 15th. All regions of the state were represented. Attending from the Southeast Region were Sue Barzda, Billie Harmon, Susan Metz Foster, and myself. Each division of the OCTA Board met to discuss future planning leading up to the year 2007. I serve on the Programming Division. We

brain-stormed ideas and came up with several things we would like to have happen:

- Establish a working relationship with the International Thespian Association;
- Investigate the possibility of members being able to earn Continuing Education Units for participation in OCTA events;
- Have each region host two workshops every calendar year.

During the meeting we were given a set of guidelines that explain the role of the member theatres and the delegates to each region in their service to OCTA.

The date for the Southeast Regional in 2004 is June 19, 2004. It will be hosted by The Cambridge Performing Arts Centre in Cambridge, Ohio.

Southeast Region News

Potter Players of East Liverpool, Ohio have been dropped from the roster of the Southeast Region and added to the roster of the Northeast Region. Since East Liverpool is physically located well within the NE quadrant of the state, it makes perfect sense that they be a NE member theatre. They will be able to participate more actively in OCTAfest with fewer logistic obstacles, and we wish them the very best.

OCTA's Southeast two Regional Representatives of Athenian Billie Harmon of Mid-Ohio Community Theatre Association and Joe Balding of Ohio Valley Players Theatre have "divided" the SE Region, with each being the main contact for particular theatres. Joe will be the contact for APT, Ohio Valley Summer Theater, Excalibur Productions, Zanesville Community Theatre and Coshocton Footlight Players, while Billie will handle communications with MOW, Lithe Theatre of Tuscarawas County, Cambridge Performing Arts Centre and Actors Guild of Parkersburg. Steve Haskins is APT's OCTA Delegate, and Jena Blair recently assumed the position of OCTA Delegate for MOVP in Marietta. In addition, Gayle Kreiger, OCTA Delegate for Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County, has been elected as President of LTTC (congratulations, Gayle!), and Lora Cotton (affectionately known as "Loma") has assumed the position of OCTA Delegate in place of Gayle. Welcome, Loma!



Region currently has representatives: our Joe Players Theatre and Ohio Valley Players. the SE Region, with

The Ohio Community Theatre Association has a new web site: www.octanews.org which lists all you want to know about what's happening with OCTA. Please check it out now and then.

Trip to Toronto

An OCTA trip to Toronto, Canada is being planned for Presidents' Day weekend in February 2004. This super trip will include bus fare and hotel accommodations for two nights and three days of theatre fun north of the border.

Your fee includes tickets to *The Producers* and *Mama Mia*, plus an evening at the Comedy Club. The most this trip will cost is \$597 per person, assuming at least 30 people sign up (from all OCTA member theatres around the state), and it may be less depending upon room occupancy (two or three per room).

Just think: party all the way to Toronto and back, stay in a fine hotel (including breakfast buffets), see two terrific professional shows, enjoy an evening at the Comedy Club and leave the driving to them! Anyone even remotely interested is urged to contact your OCTA Delegate (Steve Haskins) or your SE Regional Rep (Joe Balding), both of whom plan to go, for more details.

SE Region OCTAfest 2004

Cambridge Performing Arts Centre will host the 2004 SE Region OCTAfest on Saturday, June 14.

All member theatres are encouraged to participate by performing an excerpt from one of their most recent season's plays. Remember, APT did itself proud with its musical *Is There Life After High School?* at both the Regional OCTAfest in New Philadelphia this past June, and at State Conference in Columbus over Labor Day weekend. Directors: consider taking an excerpt to Regional in June!!!

Wait Until Dark worth the trip

MOVP's Billie Harmon and our own Joe Balding & your editor drove to New Philadelphia on Saturday, November 15, for a delegates' meeting, and stayed to watch Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County's closing night performance of *Wait Until Dark*, just the latest of several shows we've now seen there. We've come to expect good things from this group, and this was no exception. Very good performances graced the stage, and we've seen enough of their shows now that we can appreciate the versatility of many of their core group of actors. This is not to detract from the fine performances of several actors whom we saw for the first time. Also, the set was excellent -- a good entry for the set design competition at State Conference, if they so choose.

ROLL CALL

Here's the list of current paid members of Athenian Players Theatre. If you paid your 2003-2004 dues and your name does not appear here, please notify the editor. If you live in SE Ohio and your name does not appear because you have let your dues go delinquent, please send \$10 to APT at PO Box 283, Athens, Ohio 45701 so that we can continue to keep you on our membership list and continue sending you this much-sought-after rag of a newsletter.

Sylvia Abbott	Carol Ault	Joe Balding
Marvin Bowman	Mary Bowman	Karen Chan
Norm Cohn	Chris Coleman	Mary Cummings-Smith
Travis Del Matto	Lee Ann Dillhoff	Lonny Frazee
Pat Berry Frazee	Kathy Gulino	Steve Haskins
David Hoxworth	Bruce Keeney	Lisa Keeney
Christine Neumann	Celeste Parsons	Jim Parsons
Ginny Puhl	Jane Richter	Shelly Riggs
Connie Roberts	Tawna Rogers	Marda Rose
Adam Schein	Tom Schmitz	Charlie Smith
	Terry Smith	Linda Watkins



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