

Athenian Players Theatre
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THIS MONTH'S NEWS

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New Logo Contest

At the Board Retreat in October, it was decided to hold a contest to design a new logo for OCTA. Just as shows are readily identified by their logos, we have found that OCTA has been immediately identified by the Ohio shape. but we it might be time to "jazz" it up a bit. The logo may be submitted in any form to either Eleanor Smith or Aara Chapman and must be camera ready. You need to submit two copies, one with "OCTA" and one with "Ohio Community Theatre Association", not smaller than 1.5" nor larger than 2.5". A committee will choose 3 - 5 entries and place them on the web page for everyone to vote. The new logo will then be unveiled at regionals with new logo items available at Conference 2004. Entry deadline is February 1, 2004.



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OUR TOWN, revisited

Our Town has become a standard. At one point or another it seems to be produced by practically every high school drama club or community theatre in the country. On November 20, 22 & 23 Logan High School presented Thornton Wilder's classic play, directed by Shelly Riggs (who appeared in APT's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and *Rumors*) and Lynn Avery. Shelly absolutely loves her students and, judging by the results she gets, it seems the feeling is mutual.

The cast was a very talented bunch, several of whom had come to Stuart's Opera House to see Shelly in *Rumors* a couple of weeks before their own show opened. It seemed only fair to return the favor and see what they had to offer, and it was not a disappointment. The students had a pretty good handle on miming mundane tasks, which is necessary in this minimal-set, almost propless play. And their stage presence was strong, demonstrating their confidence. A few of the actors were a bit soft-spoken at times, but most projected well and all gave very convincing performances. Particularly strong were the two mothers; Hannah Martin as Mrs. Gibbs, and Jordan Meadows as Mrs. Webb. And George Saines did a terrific job in the very demanding role of the Stage Manager.

But credit must be given to every cast member, each of whom knew their role and played it well, whether a major character or walk-on. Likewise, the crew had their work cut out for them, and did not let the audience down. One fun thing was to see the kitchen tables of the Webb and Gibbs families -- tables which, in a previous life, were built for the Connecticut yankee who took over a certain king's court...

It's good to see our members in their real-life roles, and a special treat to see the result of Shelly's efforts in her day (and often night) job. It makes one envious, knowing that we'd all rather be doing theatre full time!

Tidbits

Your editor has hit the big time! Check out this web site: www.naturealmanac.com. Look for the "Frost Flowers" photo page. OK, so with the Internet *anybody* can get published, but it's still kinda cool.

Anybody else have something on the net that they'd like to share? Something you wouldn't be ashamed to show your mother, that is. Get word to The Minotaur and we'll share your glory!



Auditions

Dates and times for the much-anticipated auditions for March's *The Sound of Music* have been announced! The dates are amended to Sunday, January 4th and Monday, January 5th, 2004. Here's the deal:

Please bring one prepared song (with sheet music). An accompanist will be provided. Also be prepared to read from the script. Scripts will be provided and the director will choose the scenes.

Children ages 5 - 15 :
Sunday, Jan. 4 12:00 noon - 3:00pm

Ages 16 - adult :
Sunday, Jan. 4 3:30 - 6:30pm

Callbacks :
Monday, Jan. 5 6:30 - 8:30pm

Anyone who wishes to audition but absolutely cannot be there on Sunday, please call director Sylvia Abbott at 593-5427 to arrange an audition time. Be sure to call before January to make such arrangements!

None of the roles are precast, and there are many singing and several non-singing roles available. Please remember that performance dates are March 5, 6, 12, 13 and 14, 2004.

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):

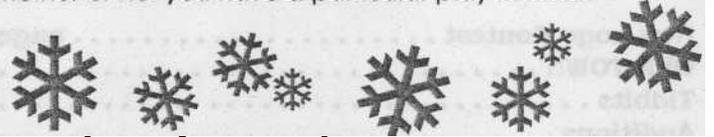
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They're looking for anything; drama, comedy, musical, whatever. As long as it's a script that is do-able in terms of casting and set requirements, it will be given serious consideration. If you are interested in directing, or know someone who is, please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



coming Attractions

Here's a quick look at what else is in store theatre-wise in our area for the rest of 2003 and in early 2004:

ACTORS GUILD OF PARKERSBURG

- *Deathtrap* - Jan 16 - 31
- *The Wind in the Willows* - Feb 20 - 28

COSHOCTON FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS

- *Proposals* - Dec 5 - 20

LITTLE THEATRE OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

- *Victor/Victoria* - Feb 20 - Mar 6

MID-OHIO VALLEY PLAYERS

- *The Clumsy Custard Horror Show* - Jan 23 - 25

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

- *13th Annual Tree Benefit* - Dec 12 - 14
- *Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead* - Jan 23 - Feb 1

LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Chicken Breast with a side of Murder, please...

On November 2nd Hocking College Drama Club offered a dinner to die for. A banquet room at the Ramada Inn became a crime scene when *Hamlet's Last Monologue* took place amidst chaos on stage and laughter around the dinner tables. Good old Bill Shakespeare was no doubt rolling in his grave for the better part of the evening, as the cleverly botched "*Hamlet*" tried desperately to unfold in spite of a bickering, bumbling cast. By the time dessert was served, the audience was invited to guess who perpetrated the melodramatic deaths of three of the cast members during the performance.

This casual, loosely-scripted and largely-improvised play was just the latest of this annual event, and if one didn't know better, one might think that the cast and crew were doing it just for fun, and the fact that it also entertained an audience was merely a bonus.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!