



Athenian Players Theatre Newsletter January 2004 Vol. XII Iss. 5

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We're Ten

In November's Minotaur it was reported that Potter Players of East Liverpool was moving (figuratively speaking) from OCTA's Southeast Region to the Northeast Region. This resulted in the membership of our region shrinking from ten theatres to nine. Well, it didn't take long for our region to grow back to ten!

We happily welcome the Deersville Community Players of Deersville, Ohio into the fold. Deersville is located a few miles northeast of Cambridge and likewise southeast of New Philadelphia, each of those cities being home to another of our current sister theatres.

According to Executive Director and OCTA Delegate Joyce Lannum, the Deersville Community Players began in 1987 and now perform two shows each year in the beautiful Deersville Community Hall, which was built in 1913. They fondly refer to their venue as the "Unique Antique Theatre". DCP's June show alternates with a musical revue ("Follies") one year and a fully staged musical the next. This June will see an original musical revue whose theme is "Love is Just Around the Corner". Watch upcoming issues of The Minotaur for more details.

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The Hills Are Alive

Auditions for *The Sound of Music* really brought them out of the woodwork. And that's a good thing, since a very large cast is needed for this beloved musical.

At least sixty people came to audition, the majority of them being new faces to APT/BCP, and although it was a casual atmosphere, there was a lot of very serious talent on display.

After much discussion and some hard decisions, directors Sylvia Abbott (acting) and Lynn Sullivan (music) settled on what promises to be a fine cast. Here's the list of actors & singers: Katie Chaney, Lisa Keeney, Sonja Coble, Linda Watkins, Ann Rathbun, Matthew Griffin, Adam Gibson, Celeste Parsons, Christine Beam, Dayton Willison, Laura Dakin, Corina Dalzel, Sam Witmer, Emily Tompkins, Kelly Schiabach, John Stiens, Christine Neumann, Joe Balding, Greg Feldman, Patrick Horne, Bruce Jones, Mikki Brooks, Cecelia Rinaldi, Phyllis Dean, Nikki Moeller, Megan McCoy, Jennifer Cochran, Nicki Mazzocca, Kathy Gulino, Alli Purcell, Lou Ann Jones, Heidi Mender, and Laura Werger. That's thirty-three (count 'em, thirty-three) lovely ladies and gents! We haven't had a cast this big since *Into The Woods*!

Logo Contest

You, too, can be famous! OCTA is planning a facelift. After 50 years the Ohio Community Theatre Association is having a contest to design a new logo. This is the last month to submit your entry, as the deadline is February 1st.

Here are the rules: Entries can be in any form, but must be camera ready. Two forms are needed, one with "OCTA" and one with "Ohio Community Theatre Association". They should be no smaller than 1.5" and no larger than 2.5". Simplicity is the key. Send your entries to Eleanor Smith, 4042 Blendon Point Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43230 or to Aara Chapman, PO Box 1506, Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008.

Finalists' entries will appear on OCTA's web page for everyone to vote on (www.octaweb.org). The winning logo will be unveiled at Regional OCTA-fests in June, with new logo items available at State Conference in Cincinnati over Labor Day weekend.

Now go put on your thinking cap, grab your pencil and get to work on that design!



Notes from a Stringer

(This article was submitted by former APT denizen Marvin Bowman in December, after that month's Minotaur went to print. He now lives in Aiken, South Carolina. -ed.)

Theater Stringer in SC

Fort Gorden Dinner Theater (Augusta, Georgia) has 3/4 annual plays. Anyone can audition. There appears to be the same number (three/four) of my category auditioning but seemingly more experienced actors. The first play I saw was sold-out for all performances. They appear to have about 200 seats; \$32 was the highest rate for civilians; the buffet dinner was good. The play "Mousetrap" was also good; of course I could have done the Paravicini role a little better if I had been cast! Their next play is "Noises Off".

Augusta Theater Company is a professional group. They have had several delays with their first play of the season: "Arsenic and Old Lace". They blame it on one of their vendors. The highest price is \$20. Since it is now about a month since the first play was to open, I wonder if they are having some financial problems. This is to be their fifth season. They are scheduled to do four plays..

The Augusta Players have been around for 58 years. I did not see "Annie" which just closed. They are to have three other musicals. Those of you that know me remember that my skills, if any, do not extend to dancing and singing.

The Dysart MTC Agency (Augusta and Atlanta) got me a commercial that is to air in several TV markets in this area later this month and extend into 2004. I hope to do more. The pay so far means that this will still be a hobby. The commercial was for a group of lawyers seeking clients to share in the federal fine of 1.4 billion dollars to 10 brokerage houses. "Don't accept a mere apology. Tell them you want your money back."

Aiken Community Playhouse has auditions for "It Runs in the Family" next week. I will send an update about that theater if I get a part.

I hope your holidays were great. I'll bet mine were warmer.

Marvin

Crew Call

OK. members, your theatre is counting on you to come through with a little participation here. We'll need some folks to help build the show (set crew, painters, tailors & seamstresses for costumes), to help run the show (lights operator, backstage running crew, ushers) and to help publicize the show (distribution of posters, fliers & restaurant table tents).

Please check your calendar of obligations and start making plans now to see what you can do to help out. If we all help in some capacity, we can make *The Sound of Music* our biggest success yet!

Coming Attractions

This winter offers many opportunities to take in some theatre. Following is a list of shows you can see at OCTA's other Southeast Region theatres, as well as other local venues:

Actors Guild of Parkersburg

Deathtrap — January 16 - 31

The Wind in the Willows — February 20 - 28

Athens High School

One-Acts — February 20 - 21

Cambridge Performing Arts Centre

Death Comes in Threes -- March 12 - 21

Coshocton Footlight Players

Amateurs -- March 5 - 20

Drama Club Youth Theatre

A Little Princess — January 22 - 25

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Victor, *Victoria* -- February 13 - 28

Mid-Ohio Valley Players

Gypsy -- February 27 - March 13

Mid-Ohio Valley Players (Youth Theatre)

The Clumsy Custard Horror Show -- January 23 - 25

OU Performing Arts Series

Seussical the Musical -- February 5

Fame - the musical -- February 26

Ohio University School of Theater

A View from the Bridge -- February 4 - 14

Romeo and Juliet -- February 25 - March 6

Zanesville Community Theatre

Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead

-- January 23 - February 1

APT's next meeting will be at 7:00 pm
on Tuesday, January 13,
at The Plains public library.
Get involved!

