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The von Trapp family in a scene from *The Sound of Music*.
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Show Opens



Whenever a community theatre produces a show with a large cast, a built-in audience of a certain size is anticipated, and rightfully so. With some 34 cast members in *The Sound of Music*, family and friends would surely fill a substantial number of seats. Well, they certainly did during the first weekend of the run. But there were many other theatre lovers applauding, too, and more than a few teary-eyed fans cheered at curtain call, which included a standing ovation on Saturday night! Advance ticket sales have been keeping Tim & Erin very busy at the Stuart's Opera House box office, as reservations come streaming in. Walk-ins for the second weekend of the run will very likely have to be seated in the balcony. Not that that's a problem, since almost every seat in the house provides an excellent view of the stage. But it is a testament to both the popularity of the show and the word-of-mouth publicity from attendees at the first weekend of performance.

The orchestra is playing beautifully, providing delicious accompaniment to the wonderful voices in the cast.

Eleanor Wins Award



Eleanor Smith, Executive Director of the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA), has been chosen by the awards committee of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) as the 2004 recipient of the **David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award**. The award recognizes members of AACT for their significant, valuable and lasting service to community theatre.

The award will be presented during the AACT Convention in New York City on Friday, June 25, 2004.



One would be hard pressed to think of a more deserving candidate for such an award. Eleanor is the very lifeblood of OCTA, working non-stop to build and maintain a strong association for community theatre in the state of Ohio. When someone needs to know anything about OCTA, they need look no further than to Eleanor for answers. If she doesn't have what you need, or know where to direct you to find it, then you don't need it, because it doesn't exist.

To quote Oliver Hardy, if we didn't have Eleanor, we'd be in "another fine mess...!"
 Congratulations, Eleanor! Brava!

A Borrower and a Lender Be

It is ironic that, when it comes to community theatre, we intentionally ignore the bard's advice. In order to clothe our actors for *The Sound of Music*, our costumers not only built many costumes, but were able to get some help in the form of costume loans from the generosity of Actors Guild of Parkersburg and Ohio University School of Theater. Why buy, build or rent something when you can borrow it?

In the past, we have loaned some of our props and set dressing pieces to other theatre groups, and it's a, good cooperative community that helps other members to the benefit of all.

Show Opens (cont. from previous page)

A very special thanks goes to Mary Roediger and Phyllis Dean, who both worked extremely long and hard hours to build many wonderful costumes for this production, and went to great lengths to borrow several as well, in order to give the characters the proper look. As if that weren't enough, Phyllis is even in the cast, too!



Musical Director Lynn Sullivan gives pointers to the cast (from behind a "mountain") during a vocal warmup before Saturday night's performance.

Kudos also to the four-member running crew of lighting & sound operators, and to the half dozen stage hands who maneuver the props and set pieces so efficiently.

Coming Attractions

Our region 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 additional local venues:

Actors Guild of Parkersburg

Jesus Christ Superstar -- April 4 - 18
A Streetcar Named Desire -- June 4 - 19
Jane Eyre - the musical -- July 30 - August 14

Cambridge Performing Arts Centre

Death Comes in Threes -- March 5 - 14
Alice in Wonderland -- May 7 - 16

Coshocton Footlight Players

Camping With Henry and Tom -- March 19 - April 3
South Pacific -- May 7 - 22

Deersville Community Players

Musical Revue - "Love is Just Around the Corner"
 -- June 18 - 27

Drama Club Youth Theatre

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory -- April

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Love Sex & The IRS -- April 23 - May 8
The Sound of Music -- July 16 - 31

Mid-Ohio Valley Players

Gypsy -- February 27 - March 13
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest -- April 23 - May 8
The Cemetery Club -- June 17 - July 3

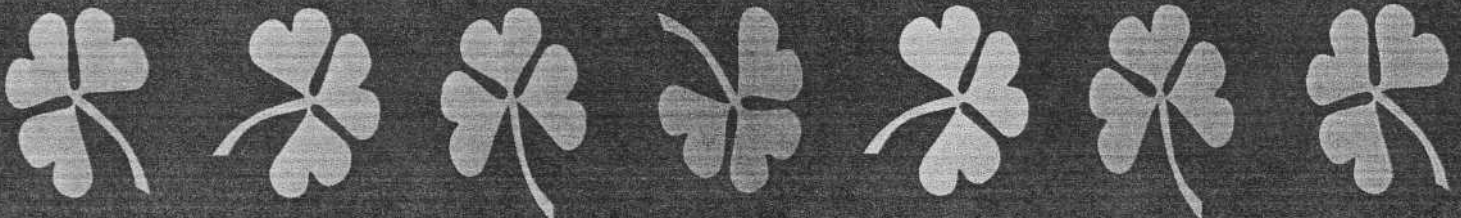
Ohio University School of Theater

The Gods are Not to Blame -- April 28 - May 8
Fullest Vigor -- May 19 - 29

Zanesville Community Theatre

Charlotte's Web -- March 26 - April 4
The Workshop - Baker's Dozen -- May 14 - 23

LIVE THEATRE: IT WON'T KILL YOU



THE MINOTAUR

Theatre Stringer in SC

-by Marvin Bowman

(Editors note: Marvin Bowman was a local hard-working actor, crew member, major funny guy and past President for Athenian Players Theatre for several years until his retirement from Ohio University and subsequent move to Aiken, South Carolina last year. This is the latest in his series of reports from below the Mason-Dixon line.)

Beginners Luck: I was successful in my first audition; then came a string of three rejections. Naturally, I would have been "perfect" for at least two of those plays. I have just been cast in "Boy Gets Girl" which opens April 2. No, I am not the boy...or the girl. Even though Aiken is small, this playhouse does 8 plays, plus there are another 7 plays in Augusta yearly. So, I am lucky to have so many options.

"1000 Clowns" (Aiken Community Playhouse) had seven performances; cost \$15 at the door. The night I attended was about 80% full (285-seat auditorium). This play by Herb Gardener did not hold up well forty years plus after it was written. The acting was "middlin'" with one very well created role. I guess I prefer a curtain. I am tired of seeing prop changes and actors walk off at the end of a scene. Am I old-fashioned?

The TV commercial I did for the Dysart Agency was finally run in the Augusta/Aiken market for three times on Super Bowl Sunday. Those hours on Super Bowl Sunday are heavily watched so I got some exposure. If they get sufficient response it will be shown elsewhere in this region. I question running it just those few times. The spot cost for Super Bowl Sunday is very high even for local commercials. (Since I got so little pay, I get to second guess... in fact I would second guess anyway.)

"Noises Off" (Fort Gordon Dinner Theater in Augusta) I helped with this set for a few hours. They have a paid designer/builder. I helped build several specialty flats. These flats had a luan front which was glued to the frames and then we put two inch screws about every foot. It seemed overkill to inexperienced me. This is the third time I have seen this play. (Again, no curtain and we saw the set changes etc. Probably for most observers this was interesting especially for this play.) It went very well opening night. Steve Walpert, a paid director, has some very funny business and tableaux designs.

Several realized performances; a little distracting with so much happening simultaneously back stage in the second act. All in all this was the best of the three I have seen.

I also was helping host. Getting people to their tables, pouring drinks etc. They almost ran out of food before I got any! It was a full house of about 280. They do five performances. With the dinner and the show (average \$28) they (not me) get a glass of wine.



BULLETIN BOARD

Please join me in a warm welcome to our newest members, Katie Chaney and Bruce Jones. (Insert applause here.) Katie has been cast as Maria in our current production of *The Sound of Music* and wasted no time in joining Athenian Players Theatre. Bruce, as many of you should remember, was Sir Launcelot in last spring's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Bruce plays Admiral von Schreiber in *The Sound of Music*.

AUDITIONS

Come to auditions for our next play, the comedy "DEARLY DEPARTED". Auditions are open to everyone and will be at Stuart's Opera House March 15 & 16 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. There are roles for 8 women & 6 men, ages 18-100. Performance dates are May 6-9, 2004.

Anyone interested in working crew or otherwise helping on the production of *Dearly Departed*, please come to auditions and/or contact director Chris Coleman!

NOTICE: For those who didn't notice, there was no Minotaur last month. And now that I've set that precedent, please don't be surprised if a month or two go by at a time with no Minotaur. You haven't been dropped from the mailing list -- it's just that I've sometimes really stretched it to fill a couple of pages, so I'll wait until there's a reasonable amount of news to print. -Ed.



SE Region OCTA Meeting

-by Joe Balding

The Southeast Region OCTA meeting was held on Saturday, February 28th at the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia at 3:00 pm. Theatre representatives present at the meeting were from Mid-Ohio Valley Players, Coshocton Footlight Players, Cambridge Performing Arts Centre, Athenian Players Theatre and LTTC (the host). Discussion of Regional Conference was a central part of the meeting. The date of May 15th was selected as the deadline for theatres to commit to bringing an excerpt to the SE Regional being held on June 19th at the Cambridge Performing Arts Centre, and May 22nd was named the deadline for submitting entry paperwork.

Several theatres present at the meeting seem to feel they will bring an excerpt to Regional. Theatre delegates were reminded to send theatre update information and any outstanding dues to OCTA Executive Director Eleanor Smith ASAP.

The dates and places for the next two meetings were announced: The April meeting will be held on the 3rd at King Charley's Tavern in Coshocton at 5:30 pm. Those attending this dinner meeting are encouraged to stay on for the performance of *Camping With Henry and Tom* presented by Coshocton Footlight Players. May's meeting will be at Cambridge Performing Arts Centre at 3:00 pm on the 23rd, and will provide directors and casts of Regional excerpts an opportunity to walk the stage.

After the meeting, some of those present stayed into the evening to see LTTC's production of *Victor/Victoria*. It was very enjoyable indeed!

OCTA LOGO CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED

The OCTA Board MPR committee has extended the deadline for the OCTA logo contest to June 1st. The committee will allow an individual to submit more than one entry if they wish. The committee suggests that "1953" be incorporated in the logo along with the outline of Ohio and possibly the comedy/tragedy masks or other theatre items. Sizes are still the same and the logos should be submitted to Executive Director Eleanor Smith. The logo designs will be introduced at the various regional festivals and winning logo selection will be by ballot at the Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Sept 3 - 6, 2004. For further questions, contact Ara Chapman at 740-928-2821 or Eleanor Smith at 614-418-9672 or ask your regional representative or board member.

Mid-Ohio Valley Players is in the midst of their run of *Gypsy*. They have two more performances scheduled, for March 12 & 13. It's a wonderful show with a very strong cast; definitely my new favorite of the many good shows I've seen on the MOVV stage (but then, I'm a sucker for a good musical)!
-Ed.

CREATIVE?

Of course you are! That's one of the reasons you're involved in theatre in the first place. So how about letting your creative juices flow in the direction of writing? As in, oh, I don't know, maybe an article for The Minotaur. Hmmmm? Or a joke. Or a musing. Or a complaint. Whatever you have to share, this newsletter is an outlet just waiting for you. You will be given credit (or blame) for your submission, unless you prefer to remain anonymous, in which case your secret is safe with me...
-Ed.

