



Athenian Players Theatre Newsletter April 2004 Vol. XII Iss. 7

Athenian Players Theatre
 PO Box 283
 Athens Ohio 45701

President - Norm Cohn
 Vice-President - Celeste Parsons
 Secretary - Linda Watkins
 Treasurer - Sylvia Abbott

Minotaur Editor - Steve Haskins
 aptminotaur@earthlink.net

Men, Women & Children, Oh My!

They came in droves. Droves, I tell you! *The Sound of Music* was our best attended show to date at Stuart's Opera House. Throughout the 5-performance run each successive audience seemed bigger than the last, until folding chairs had to be added for the matinee that ended the run. The fact that this particular show is arguably the most popular of musicals didn't hurt our numbers any.

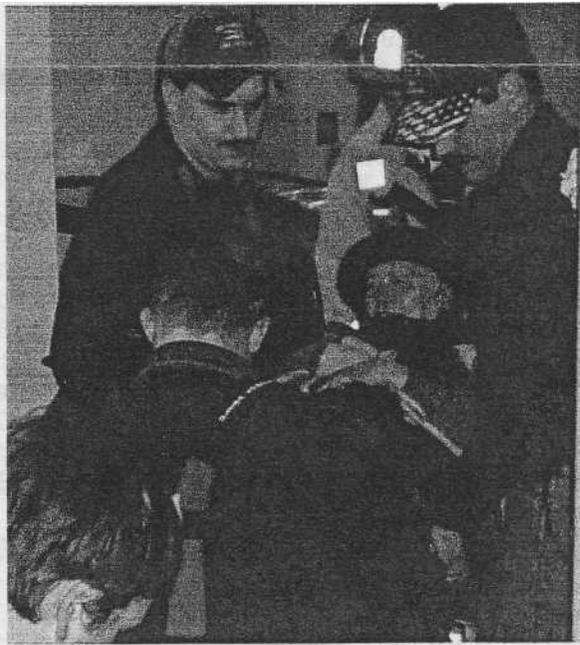
NFD To The Rescue

There was a little post-show excitement that no one had planned on. Just after the final performance, the elevator decided to stop working. And since it wasn't clear whether or not anyone was actually stuck inside it, the Nelsonville Fire Department was called. They opened the elevator and found that, luckily, no one had been trapped.

Two of our patrons, however, were unable to negotiate the stairs down from the auditorium and received royal treatment in the form of modern-day sedans as the NFD heroes carried them on chairs down the long staircase to the lobby. The elevator was restored to its proper working condition the next day. The firemen were very prompt in their response to our call, and were cheerful in their duties. We owe them thanks.

THIS ISSUE'S NEWS

Men, Women & Children, Oh My!	page 1
NFD to the Rescue	1
Coming Attractions	2
Spring Show Is Cast.....	2
Never Again.....	2
Bad News, Good News	3
National Library Week.....	3
OCTAfest	3
Next Meeting	4
ARTCO Presents	4
Watch Us Grow	4



Nelsonville Firemen assist Amy Chan (left photo) and Anne Slattery (right photo) after elevator fails to function.

Coming Attractions

Here are some upcoming shows you can see at OCTA's other Southeast Region theatres, as well as 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

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

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory -- April 21 - 25

Federal Hocking High School

An Evening of Edgar Allen Poe -- April 3 & 4

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

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

Mid-Ohio Valley Players

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

Spring Show Is Cast

Director Chris Coleman held auditions for the May production of *Dearly Departed* the two evenings following the close of *The Sound of Music*, and had a good turnout. His cast will consist of several current APT members and a couple of newcomers: Ginny Puhl, Linda Watkins, Joe Balding, Shelly Riggs, Greg Feldman, Ted Alexander, Heidi Mender, Nicki Mazzocca, Connie Roberts, David Hoxworth, Tom Schmitz, Carol Ault, Emily Taulbee and Dustin Lee.

This very funny play centers around the funeral of the patriarch of the Turpin family, said patriarch not necessarily having been everyone's favorite person. **THE STORY:** In the Baptist backwoods of the Bible Belt, the beleaguered Turpin

family proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and always hilarious. Despite their earnest efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpin's other problems keep overshadowing the solemn occasion.

Dearly Departed will run May 6 - 9 (one weekend only), so mark your calendars now!

Never Again

-by Charlie Smith



(Editor's note: The following was written by Charlie during his stint as stage manager for *The Sound of Music*)

Never again will I be able to step onto a stage without realizing how much work goes on behind the scenes of a production.

Never again will I underestimate the running crew.

Never again will I think that actually being on stage is the hardest part of a play.

Never again will I sit backstage and gab knowing it drives the stage manager nuts.

Never again (having said the above) will I whisper under my breath about said stage manager for asking me politely to "hush".

Never again will I think that children and high school students are hard to work with.

Never again will I offer my two cents on how a production could be smoother if only it were ran this way or that.

And finally, never again will I say "Thank You" and not really mean it when a stage manager says 2 minutes.

This is my way of thanking all crew I have worked with in the past and your hard work and dedication may have been only partially appreciated. Please realize though, it was through ignorance and only now can I truly say thank you. Having said this, I want to thank an exceptional running crew: Kelly, Mandi, Samantha(s), Tim, Shelly, Tawna, Adam, Terry, Steve, Jim and Chris. Remember without you, this show could not have been so successful and I would have no hair left. THANK YOU.



Stage Manager Charlie backstage with Jennifer Cochran and Miki Brooks

Bad News, Good

Just as there are two sides to every coin, there is usually a good side and bad side to most surprises.

Well, here's the bad news: after 12 years (now going on 13), I received a call from Kent Knudson (who, along with his wife Dia, owns Athens Mini Storage on East State Street) saying that because of the recent increase in demand for local storage space (who knew?) they find it necessary to amend their contract with APT. In fact, there never has been a contract. They have always just let us use one of their storage garages for free all these years.

The "good" news: they are offering us a substantial discount on rent. Instead of the normal \$100 / month that they usually get for a 10'x20' garage like ours, they are willing to let us have it for \$50 / month. This cost will not take effect until May, so we have a few weeks to decide whether we can afford to keep our stuff stored there or to move it elsewhere. We really can't complain, since they've given us \$15,000 or so worth of free storage space over the years. In case any of you have ever wondered why there is always an ad in our programs for Athens Mini Storage, or why they're listed as a "Benefactor", now you know.

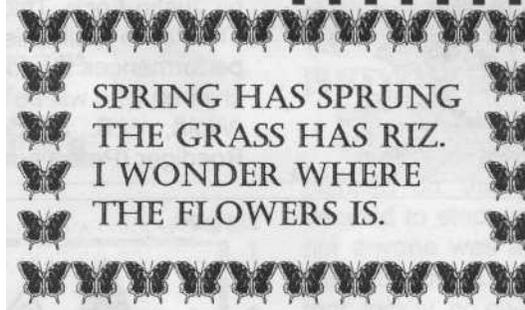
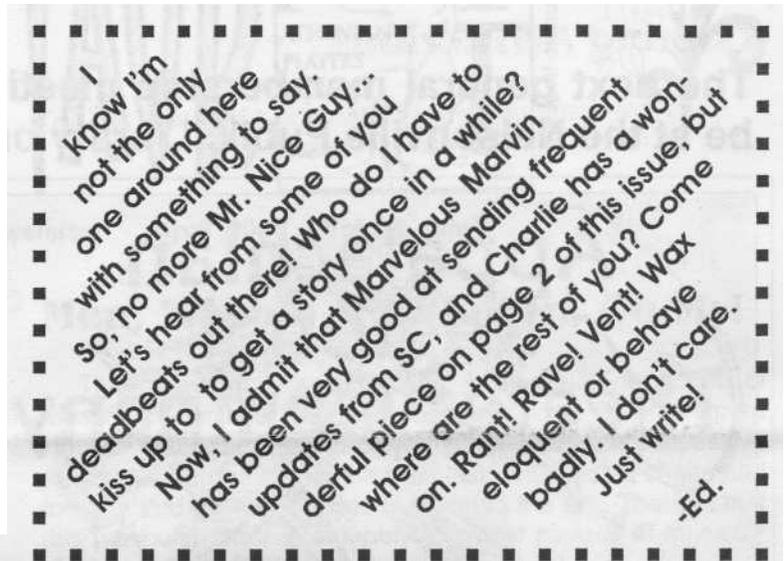
The *really* good news, however, is that this whole story is BS and you've been taken for an April fool's ride again. Our storage space is still free. Thank you, Kent and Dia! So there.

National Library Week

Sandy McConnell, branch manager of the Nelsonville library, has enlisted the help of APT/BCP in setting up a special feature for their participation in National Library Week, April 19 - 24. Her plan is to set up a "community front porch" inside the library, complete with rocking chairs. The idea is that local writers can use the porch as a stage to read from their books, thus creating an interactive setting for children and adults in the community to learn about and enjoy the books originating in our own area.

An extended version of the idea might include occasional loan of set pieces from our most recent show(s) used as displays (and possibly even play areas for children) to pique the interest of library patrons and to advertise our upcoming productions.

As it happens, this type of cooperation is exactly the kind of outreach activity that enables Athenian Players Theatre to continue to fulfill its commitment to community service.



OCTAfest 2004

Don't forget that this year's SE Region OCTAfest will be on Saturday, June 19, at Cambridge Performing Arts Centre in Cambridge, Ohio. It's a full day of theatre with play excerpts, workshops,



and networking with other thespians from our region. This will be the first chance most of us will have to meet the folks from the newest theatre group to join the Southeast Region, the Deersville Community Players. It remains to be seen whether or not they will bring an excerpt, but some of their members will no doubt show up either way, just for the chance to meet folks from the rest of the region, and to start learning about all the great things OCTA has to offer.

On a related theme, the OCTA Board MPR committee has extended the deadline for the OCTA logo contest through the end of June. 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 comedy/tragedy masks or other theatre items. Other guidelines are still the same (one logo with "OCTA" and one with "Ohio Community Theatre Association", each logo's size between 1.5" and 2.5" and photo-ready) and the logos should be submitted to Executive Director Eleanor Smith, 4042 Blendon Point Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43240. The logo designs will be introduced at the various regional festivals and the winning logo selection will be by ballot at the Annual Conference in Cincinnati - Sept 3-6, 2004. For further questions, contact Aara Chapman, PH: 740-928-2821 or Eleanor Smith, PH: 614-418-9672.



THE MINOTAUR

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter April 2004 Page 4

The next general membership meeting for Athenian Players Theatre will be at the Nelsonville Public Library on Wednesday, April 21, 5:30-7:00 pm.

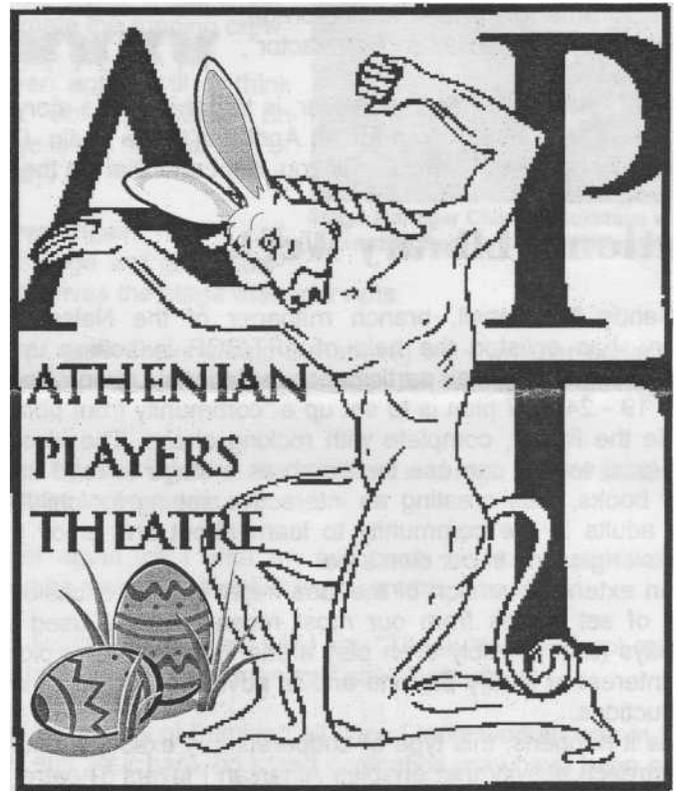


FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd Appalachian Regional Theater Company presents a staged reading of local playwright Bill Allen's play, *THE TRUTH ABOUT THE UNIVERSE* (a tragicomedy with science) at the Donkey Cafe at 8:30 pm. Starring: Ron Luce, Karen Chan, Carol Ault, Laura Parrotti and Bill Allen Cook. Directed by W.R. Smiddie.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th Appalachian Regional Theater Company, in conjunction with the Southeast Orchestra under the musical direction of Ray Fowler and the dramatic direction of Ron Luce, will present *PETER VS. THE WOLF* by Justin Lock. This production will take place at the Ariel Theater in Gallipolis at 7:00 pm. There will also be 3 to 4 performances the following Monday and Tuesday for school children who will be bussed to the theater. CAST: Ron Luce (Wolf), W.R. Smiddie (Judge), Norm Cohn (DA), Thad Roediger (Peter) and Karen Chan (Narrator).

Watch Us Grow!

Lately Athenian Players Theatre has been growing at an unusual pace. Our membership has increased by 5 (count 'em, five!) so far this season, and we hope to continue the trend. As you will remember, Katie Chaney joined our ranks when she became part of the cast of *The Sound of Music*. During the run of that show, we also recruited Bruce Jones, Chris Petersen, Tim Taulbee and Dayton Willison. Please join me in a rousing round of applause for all our new members! Welcome!



HAPPY SPRING!