

# THE MINOTAUR



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**ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter    May 2004    Vol. XII Iss. 8**

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their last. It is, however, the last appearance for both Ted Alexander and Heidi Mender, *so don't miss it!*



## Lucky 13

Athenian Players Theatre's 13th Season promises to be another winner! The theme for 2004-2005 is "Mystery and Misery". Each show will run for four performances on one weekend, Thursday through Sunday.

The season opens with *The Farnedale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery*, a farce of total madness (November 4-7), directed by Chris Coleman.

The late winter show will be Neil Simon's *California Suite*, featuring a different director for each of the four acts (March 10-13).

The season will end with Norm Cohn directing Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery *Ten Little Indians* (May 5-8).

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## OCTAfest Coming Soon!



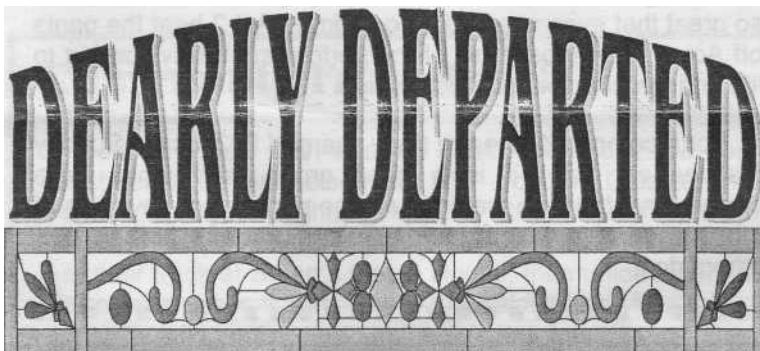
Southeast Regional OCTAfest is only weeks away! Cambridge Performing Arts Centre will host the 2004 event on June 19.

This is our regional preliminary to State Conference, which will take place in Cincinnati over Labor Day weekend. Every year in June all five regions in Ohio hold their own OCTAfests with play excerpts, workshops, networking and fun.

Independent responders choose the top regional excerpts to perform at State Conference, which then puts the best community theatre productions of the entire state of Ohio on the stage. Athenian Players Theatre has participated in past regionals several times, with *Shirley Valentine* (1999), *A Christmas Memory* (2000), *Crimes of the Heart* (2002) and *Is There Life After High School?* (2003). *A Christmas Memory* and *Is There Life After High School?* were both chosen to go on to State, and both won awards there.

Although APT will not be taking an excerpt to Regional this year, several members plan to go anyway, as everyone should consider doing. It is always great fun, and it's good to see friends (and meet new ones) from our sister theatres.

Please feel free to contact Joe Balding at 594-4061 or [jobb@earthlink.net](mailto:jobb@earthlink.net) for more information. He's open to carpooling...



If you need a good laugh -- no, make that LOTS of good laughs -- be sure not to miss *Dearly Departed*. APT's current show runs ONE WEEKEND ONLY, May 6 - 9. Directed by APT veteran Chris Coleman, this show features Linda Watkins, Ginny Puhl, Joe Balding, Shelly Riggs, Ted Alexander, Nicki Mazzocca, Greg Feldman, Heidi Mender, Dustin Lee, Connie Roberts, David Hoxworth, Emily Taulbee, Tom Schmitz and Carol Ault, with a cameo by Steve Haskins. And you didn't think funerals could be funny!

This will be the first appearance on the APT stage for Dustin Lee and Emily Taulbee, and you'll be hoping it's not

## Coming Attractions

Check out these shows! Aside from APT's own *Dearly Departed*, which runs May 6 - 9 at Stuart's Opera House, there are many productions hitting the stages of theatres all over southeast Ohio. Here are some of them:

### Actors Guild of Parkersburg

*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

*South Pacific* -- May 7 - 22

### Deersville Community Players

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

### 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

### Ohio Valley Summer Theater

*Jabberwock* -- June 16 - July 3

*Annie Get Your Gun* -- July 14 - August 1

### Zanesville Community Theatre

*The Workshop - Baker's Dozen* – May 14 - 23

**Remember:  
If you can't find live theatre  
nearby, you're not looking very hard.**

## A Costume Boutique

- by APT President Norm Cohn

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* was the musical we saw recently in Sarasota, Florida at THE PLAYERS THEATRE. The company has its own theater and has been in business for 74 years. The theatre itself is terrific, holding about 500 people on one floor. The lobby is large enough to have about 5 tables where people can drink coffee before the show and during intermission.

Of particular interest to me was their Costume Boutique, located in the lobby and open to the public 10-4 Monday to Friday and 10-1 on Saturday and, of course, at all performances. They sell (mostly women's clothes) costumes that they apparently no longer want as one means of raising money. Some are slightly wild, but all are attractive. It gave me the idea of our trying something like that (at least at performances) if we have any stuff (not only costumes) that would be salable. Seems like a good way to help "clean out" our closet. (I have a copy of their ad and one of their Minotaur-like newsletters, called *The Players Marquee*, if any one is interested. It has some other interesting ideas as well.)

Another thought (one we have tried before) is to ask audiences what plays/musicals they would like to see in the future. It may be helpful to our playreading committees.

By the way, the show was fun, but rather uneven. Of the 6 singers, only three were quite good. The setting was fine, although simple. The direction was only fair. He added six dancers to a show that does not have any dancers, and it was distracting, with very weak choreography. But Brel's music is so great that everyone had a good time. Act 2 beat the pants off Act 1, largely because of the performers finally coming to life and the director finding his way.

For a community theatre (they charged \$22 for the Sunday matinee we saw) it is a good group, somewhat more professional than we are because the performers have lots of other stage experience and training. Always fun to see how others do it.

### APT Trivia

How many of these Athenian Players do you recognize? Name the actor, the character and the show. You get one point for each correct answer, with a possible total of 12 points. The answers are on the next page. No cheating!!!



## AP Trivia

### Quiz answers:

- #1 - Travis Del Matto as Sir Sagrator in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.
- #2 - Steve Haskins as Gardner Church in *Painting Churches*.
- #3 - Linda Watkins as The Witch in *Into The Woods*.
- #4 - Tawna Rogers as Cassie Cooper in *Rumors*.

...and just in case you think you're clever, don't get cocky. You're getting off easy this time. Next issue will have a tougher quiz.

## Win Some, Lose Some

Few things in life are truly static, and that includes our membership list. This month we can celebrate the addition of Greg Feldman (*The Sound of Music* and currently *Dearly Departed*) to our roll call. Greg recently completed his EMS training at Hocking College. Congratulations, Greg, and welcome to APT!

We also, however, bid farewell to Ted Alexander and Heidi Mender. Ted (*Moon Over Buffalo*, *1940's Radio Hour*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, *The Sound of Music*) and Heidi (*Funny Girl*, *See How They Run*, *Night of January 16th*, *Into The Woods*, *Wild Honey*, *The Sound of Music*) will be moving to Lansing, Michigan in mid-May. Ted has landed a job there as chief engineer for a six-station "cluster" for radio giant Citadel Communications. The cluster includes four FM stations and two AM stations. Both Ted and Heidi are appearing in our current production of *Dearly Departed*, so this is a perfect opportunity to see their farewell performances for Athenian Players Theatre and wish them well in Michigan.

## May Meeting

Athenian Players Theatre's next meeting will be at 7 pm on Wednesday, May 19th, at the Athens public library. This is an important meeting, as we will be electing officers for our 2004 - 2005 season. Especially encouraged to attend are those of you who have been conspicuous in your absence at recent meetings. You know who you are. Your participation is important to a strong APT. Please make every effort to come.

## Kristin Makes Her Move

Kristin DaWalt (*Sherlock's Last Case*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*) has been hired by Stuart's Opera House to fill the vacancy created when Erin Cameron-McElroy recently left her position there. Kristin will be doing lots of computer work, sometimes answering the phone to take ticket reservations. She'll also give opera house tours and basically help keep the place running efficiently and effectively.

## Community Front Porch

Saturday, April 10th was, for about one and a half hours, a construction day in Nelsonville. APT troopers Celeste and Jim Parsons, both still slightly gimpy from their most recent bicycle misadventure, helped load platforms, columns and lattice panels into their truck at Stuart's Opera House, then unload them at the Nelsonville public library. Then Joe Balding and Steve Haskins took over and built a porch in the middle of the library. This was to fill a request from Nelsonville library branch manager Sandy McConnell. After enjoying our production of *The Sound of Music* Sandy approached Celeste with her idea for this year's National Library Week: "Front Porch of our Community", so we created an in-house venue for local authors to read from their works. The porch also served as an instant favorite place for children to sit and read their favorite books.

After the porch was in place, Nelsonville's newest flower & garden shop, Sandy Ridge Greenhouse, brought plants to complete the setting. The porch remained at the library through the month of April.



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