



ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter June 2004 Vol. XII Iss. 9

Athenian Players Theatre
 PO Box 283
 Athens Ohio 45701

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

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Bonfire

Shelly Riggs (A *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *Rumors*, *Dearly Departed*) is hosting a bonfire party at her home on Friday, June 18, starting around 7:00 pm. She lives at 6130 SR 312 in Logan. Following are directions from Shelly herself (if you get lost, call her at 740-385-7971):

Take Rt. 33 to Logan, the Rt. 93 exit (where Wendy's is). Off the exit, turn towards town, follow the signs to stay on Rt. 93. It will turn right and then left before leaving town (right onto Hunter Street, then left onto Zanesville Ave at Mace's grocery). About 4 1/2 miles out of town, turn left onto St. Rt. 312 (you can only turn left there). Our house is 3 1/2 miles on the right. We have a very long driveway, so you won't see the house from the road. The driveway sits across from a gray trailer. Start watching as you pass Griggs Road on the right, we're a half mile further. If you get to the old barn that says "Gods Hills" you've gone too far – we're a half mile back. Tell folks it's byob (bring your own beverage :-). Well have snacks and such there. Hope ya'll can stop by! (Hey, I make the trip to Nelsonville for rehearsals and Athens for a meeting -- ya'll can come to Logan for a party. <grin>)

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New Officers Elected



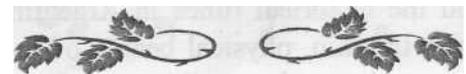
Elections for the APT Executive Board were held at the May 19 meeting, resulting in two new officers for our 2004-2005 season. Likewise,

the other two Executive Board members retained their positions.

The candidates whose terms will commence on September 1st are:

- President - Carol Ault
- Vice-President - Celeste Parsons (incumbent)
- Secretary - Katie Chaney
- Treasurer - Sylvia Abbott (incumbent)

Special thanks go to outgoing board members Norm Cohn and Linda Watkins, who have served us well as president and secretary respectively.



OCTAfest Looms



SE OCTAfest 2004 will be here before you know it! June 19 is the date. Cambridge Performing Arts Centre is the place. At this point it looks as though at least five of the ten SE Region member theatres will present an excerpt from a play from their current season. Responders for this year's SE Regional will be Bonnie Froelich, Steve Froelich and Jerry Zimmerman.

At least two cars of APT members will be going up for the day, so if you'd like to join them, please contact this editor asap. Registration is just \$10 per person, and can be paid at the door.

And don't forget to plan on attending State Conference 2004 in Cincinnati over Labor Day weekend! It's an extravaganza of community theatre with workshops, parties, networking and 15 play excerpts from the best Ohio has to offer! Email aptminotaur@earthlink.net for more details.

Theater Stringer in SC

-by Marvin Bowman

(Marvin was, for several years, a very active member of Athenian Players Theatre. His participation included the positions of actor, set builder, running crew and friend, not to mention a couple of stints as president He has retired from CU and now lives in Aiken, South Carolina. He periodically sends reviews of the local community theatre groups there. This is his latest installment. -Ed.)

"It Runs in the Family" by Ray Cooney (Aiken Community Playhouse) had seven performances. This was a great show. Very good performances. I was pleased to note that this one did not use body microphones as several previous ones had done. I like the real, projected (from the diaphragm, please) sound. The one performance that could have been improved was "Bill". I believe the English accent he used did not carry well. (Or, it could be that "Bill" was the part I wanted.)

"Evita" by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber (The Augusta Players)

This was the first performance I have seen of this group. They have been producing plays since 1945. It appears from the slick, extensive playbill that they have four paid staff. It was a very good performance. The staging included many projected pictures of the real Evita Person and the historical times in Argentina. The lead did not have the thin, physical beauty of Evita. She did have a commanding voice as did most of the performers. Body mikes were used and this theater would require them. The Imperial Theater seats about 700. I wonder how often they sell the 100 cheapest seats (\$12) in the nose bleed balcony. No one was there the second of the three performances. The highest price was \$36 plus tax. The house was about 3/4 full. The orchestra had 18 members in tuxes and gowns! This year they are doing four well-known musicals: "Grease", "Annie", "Evita", "The Wiz". Evidently "Annie" was a repeat from last year with most of the same cast. Their season sponsor categories are \$25-\$10,000. They have three organizations in the \$10K and eight in the \$5K categories. Augusta is between the populations of Akron and Dayton. They call themselves a community theater but as you can tell they are in a different league when compared to Aiken and Athens.

"Boy Gets Girl" by Rebecca Gilman (Aiken Community Playhouse)

Seven performances over three weekends. Most small community theatres would not perform this stalker drama. It has six distinct sets in the 18 scenes. ACP had four scenes on roll-on platforms which were too loud and slow for me. Also, this play has 'adult situations and strong language'. The "F" word was used multiple times and other graphic language from several characters including a porno filmmaker who my character (Howard) calls *"a connoisseur of women's breasts, a diehard fan of mammary glands, a breast buff from way back.."* and that is mild language. Some of us were especially concerned with the traditional older matinee audience but we survived. We believe there were some walkouts in several performances. The audience size was down significantly from the comedies ACP has done but that was expected. The house did get to be about 200 the last night. This group seems committed to do newer, sharper-edged dramas at least once per season. My role went well and I was pleased with most but not all performances. The female lead was very good. She was on stage 90% of the time and must have had at least 12 costume changes. Again, a pet peeve, the audience watched in low blue light many of the set changes.

The Playhouse has a very large (at least three times bigger than Stuart's) prop and costume space. It is mostly organized with an indexed catalog identifying numbered plastic bins for sheets; books etc. Their next season of seven plays has just been announced. There are to be two musicals. I hope there is at least one non-singing/dancing "mature" male role.

Hocking College Start Theatre Program

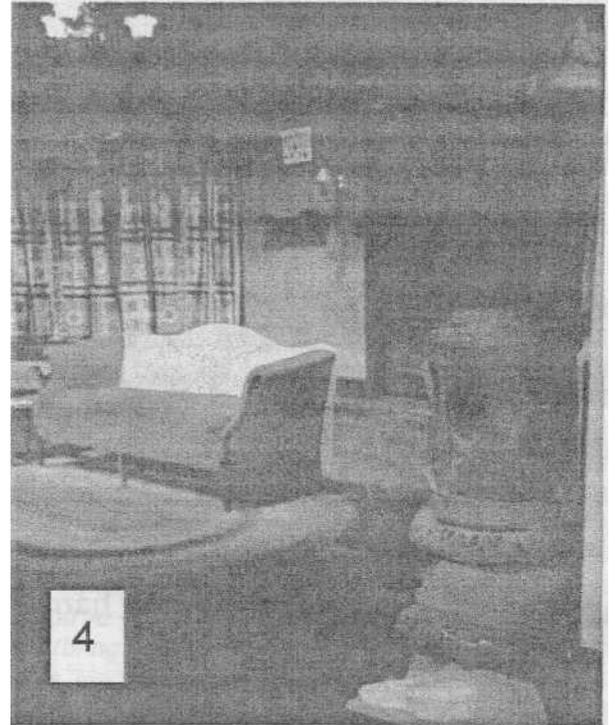
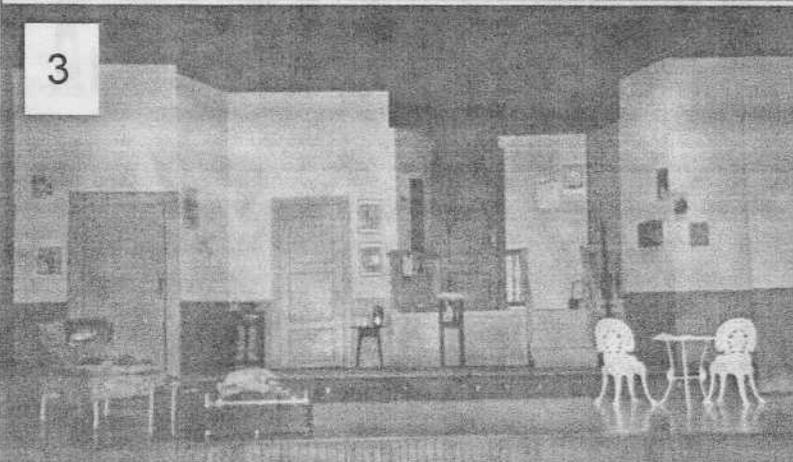
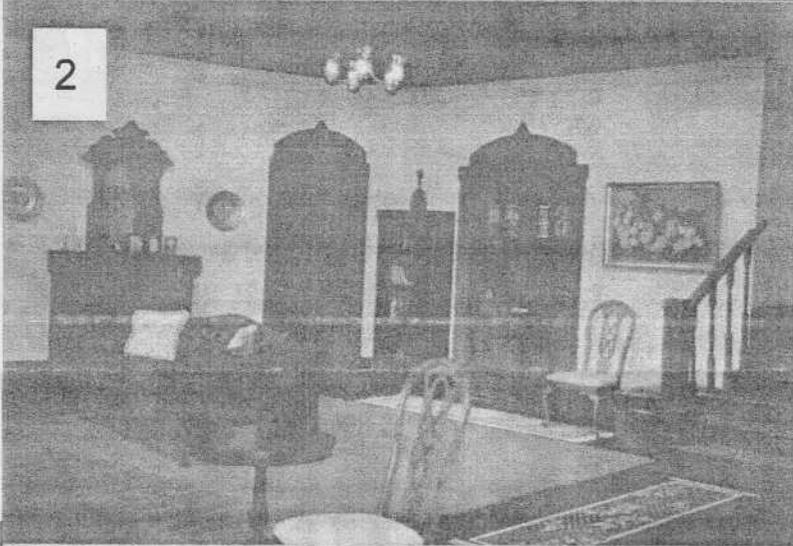
Beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year, Hocking College in Nelsonville plans to have a program on theatre, especially the technical aspects. It is hoped that, as the program develops, the students will be able to earn practicum credits for working with Athenian Players Theatre and Berean Community Players on productions at Stuart's Opera House. We look forward to the mutual benefits that such an arrangement might provide. The Minotaur will keep you posted.

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APTrivia

Take a good look at the photos below. All four sets are from shows we've performed at Stuart's Opera House. Your task is to name the show and the set designer. You get one point for each correct answer, for a possible total of eight points. The answers are on page 4. By the way, just consider the poor quality of the pictures as an added challenge...



CD Release

Norman Cohn, president of Athenian Players Theatre, has just released a CD of songs he recently recorded with the accompaniment of the very talented Lynn Sullivan. Although he has been involved in many APT/BCP plays before and since, the last time some of us heard Norm sing was as Pseudolus in our March 1999 production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. And as it happens, Lynn Sullivan was the musical director for that and many other productions.

Norm's new CD is called "They Say It's Wonderful" and can currently be purchased at Little Professor Book Center on South Court Street in Athens and at The Big Chimney Baking Company on Mine Road in Canaanville.



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Coming Attractions

Check out these shows! There are still 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

Deersville Community Players

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

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

The Sound of Music -- July 16 - 31

Mid-Ohio Valley Players

The Cemetery Club -- June 17 - July 3

Ohio Valley Summer Theater

Jabberwock -- June 16 - July 3
Annie Get Your Gun -- July 14 - August 1

Remember:

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

APTrivia Answers:

- #1 - Romantic Comedy - Set design by Michael Biddle
- #2 - See How They Run - Set design by Steve Haskins
- #3 - Moon Over Buffalo - Set design by Chris Coleman
- #4 - I'll Be Back Before Midnight - Set design by Michael Biddle



Help clean up our mess! Please come to Stuart's Opera House between 9:00 am and noon on June 12 and 19 to sort stuff in the lobby basement and costume/prop room.

Have a Great Summer!

