



ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE **Newsletter** July 2004 Vol. XII Iss. 10

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that day included Linda Watkins, Carol Ault, Pat Berry Frazee and Joe Balding, along with the aforementioned Connie, Tawna, Celeste and Ginny, plus David & Jim.  
 (see "Crusade" on page 4)

### Create The Season - by Celeste Parsons

Ahhh, summertime! Time to sit on the front porch with a glass of iced tea and something you've been meaning to read for a long time. But soft--could that something be a script? In the relief and release of coming to the end of another successful season, it's easy to forget how quickly we will start into the whole cycle again. The beginning of that cycle is determining the plays that we want to present. And we need YOU to be a part of that process.

If your summer activities include reading or attending plays, keep in mind that the Script Reading Committee is eager to receive your suggestions. These come in three flavors:

**1. Script Category.** Would you love to see APT/Bereans perform melodramas, plays with parts for children, or Shakespearean histories? Pass the word to the Script Reading Committee.

**2. Specific Script.** Do you have a favorite play you'd like to see us present? Let us know.

**3. Specific Script You'd Like To Direct.** Next year's season includes one offering using the talents of four novice directors. Have you had the hankering to direct a particular play? Don't be shy--there are plenty of helpful books in the public library and experienced directors who will be happy to lend their advice. Tell us what you're thinking.

If any of these ideas pop into your head this summer (or afterwards), the Script Reading Committee wants to know. Send an e-mail or make a phone call to any of the members: Celeste Parsons, Ginny Puhl, Norman Cohn, and Sylvia Abbott. This is your community theatre--help create your 2005-2006 season.

P.S. Would you like to be a part of the Script Reading Committee? This group reads suggested scripts, rates them, and proposes the plays to present during a given season. Call (753-2034) or e-mail ([head\\_winds@hotmail.com](mailto:head_winds@hotmail.com)) Celeste Parsons to join the group.

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### Cleaning Crusade

Next time you're at Stuart's Opera House, take a minute to check out the costume/prop room and the basement under the lobby. We have discovered that, contrary to popular belief, both places actually do have real floors! The fact that they've been buried under mounds of pure stuff for years gave growing credence to the misconception that the old tales of so-called "floors" were mere legends, not to be taken seriously. Well, au contraire!

In three short hours on Saturday, June 12th, the miracle team of Connie Roberts, Tawna Rogers, Celeste Parsons and Ginny Puhl tackled the costume/prop room, while the equally determined David Hoxworth, Jim Parsons, Christine Neumann and Steve Haskins waded unafraid into the basement to do battle with unknown denizens of the deep. Both teams emerged triumphant, having purged the evils lurking within.

It must be noted that on May 22nd the first attack upon the costume/prop room was launched. The intrepid crusaders

## A Reunion in Paradise

Many readers will remember Andy and Cheryl Manuel, who were members of APT several years ago while Andy was attending OU as a grad student. While in Athens, Andy appeared in *Working*, and Cheryl appeared in *Godspell* and directed *Cinderella* and *Working*, in addition to serving as APT's Secretary for a couple of seasons.

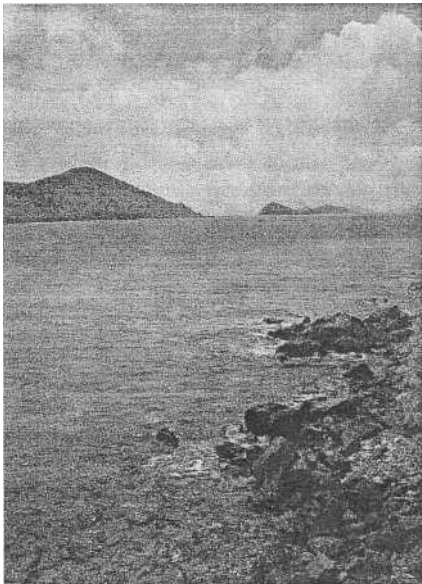


Anyway, back in 1994 Andy & Cheryl went on a cruise in the southern Caribbean Sea and got married on St. Thomas Island. Last month, in celebration of their tenth wedding anniversary, they took the same cruise, but this time on Royal Caribbean's newest and largest ship, the magnificent "Adventure of the Seas". They invited family and friends to join them, so Joe Balding and yours truly did just that. It was our first cruise, and it was spectacular! Seven days & nights in paradise was not too hard to endure. It was great fun spending time with Andy & Cheryl, and we were able to get well acquainted with their parents and a few other relatives and friends who were along for the ride.

One of the favorite amenities on board (aside from the casino and various bars, pubs & nightclubs) was the incredible 1,350-seat Lyric Theatre, with a different show every night, including music, dance and comedy. The "Adventure" also boasts the only ice rink on board a cruise ship. Yes, you read that right. The 700-seat arena was home to a mini Ice Capades type show on Thursday evening. During the days they offered lessons and open skating.

We saw some beautiful islands with beautiful people and fascinating wildlife. Where else can you hold a jellyfish in your hand or watch dozens of flying fish actually take flight?

Each evening at dinner the various segments of the anniversary party would compare notes and share stories of their escapades of the day. We decided that maybe next time we'll do the Mediterranean...



## BELLY ACRES BASH!

You are cordially invited to a Summer Celebration at Belly Acres, home of Joe Balding and Steve Haskins.

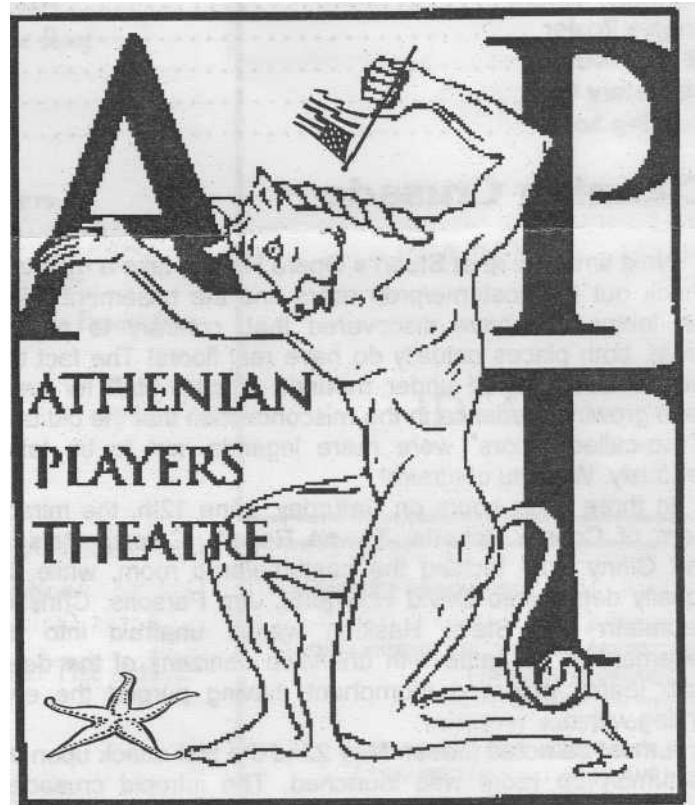
-Saturday, July 24  
-2:00 pm until you're kicked out  
- Rain or Shine (It's a big air-conditioned house)

Take SR 50 east from Athens, past Super 8 Motel. Turn right on CR 24A.

Turn left onto South Canaan Rd. and go 3 miles to drive on the right.

Follow the signs from there.

740-594-4061 or [aptmintaur@earthlink.net](mailto:aptmintaur@earthlink.net)



## Trivia

How good are you at remembering details? Test your memory of APT things small. Answer the questions and name the show referred to in each case. You get one point for each correct answer, for a possible total of ten points. Answers are on page 4, but try not to cheat!

- 1 - Who played Wally Ferguson?
- 2 - What was our Milky White made of?
- 3 - Where did Al (Tom Schmitz) hide in Act I Scene 1?
- 4 - Why had Babe (Dianna Loudner) been arrested?
- 5 - When did the voice say she would "be back"?

## New Sibling

OCTA's Southeast Region has a new sister theatre! River City Players of Pomeroy, Ohio has joined the Ohio Community Theatre Association, bringing our SE Region membership to eleven theatres. Say it with me: "Yea, River City Players! Yea, Southeast Region! Yea, us!"

RCP's OCTA Delegate is Julie Howard. Julie says that RCP is in its fourth year, and produces just one musical each summer, although they plan to expand their season as soon as possible. This year it's *Annie Get Your Gun*. The play will run this month. RCP also plans to begin offering theatre workshops to both children and adults.

We welcome River City Players to the southeast region!

## OCTAfest Results

Hosted by Cambridge Performing Arts Centre on June 19th, SE OCTAfest 2004 was somewhat smaller than in recent years, but some terrific talent was on the stage. Three theatres performed excerpts, and all were noteworthy.

Starting the morning was Mid-Ohio Valley Players of Marietta with *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which earned an Excellence in Acting award for Ray Ryan's performance as Anthony Martini. Three other MOVP actors won Merit in Acting awards, including Alison Cauthorn as Nurse Ratched, Asker Doak as Billy Bibbitt and Natalie Fitch as Candy.

The second excerpt was from Actors Guild of Parkersburg (WV), who gave us *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Kudos to Stephanie Dudley for her Outstanding in Acting award as Stella Kowalski. Another very strong performance came from Maureen Olander, who played Blanche Dubois, earning herself an award for Excellence in Acting. In fact, excellence was everywhere as the entire cast won for Excellence in Ensemble, Charlie Matthews picked up Excellence in Directing, and Actors Guild got the nod for Excellence in Creation of Environment.

Hot on *Streetcar's* heels was Little Theatre of Tucarawas County (New Philadelphia) with Blake Edwards' *Victor/Victoria*. Outstanding in Acting awards went to Grady Provance as Toddy and Lora Cotton as Norma Cassidy. All their other awards were for Excellence: Bart Herman for Choreography, Missy Spinell & Gayle Krieger for Costuming and each member of the Dance Ensemble, including Jessie Douglas, Missy Spinell, Laura Shupbach, Josh Larkin, Tony Vesco, Sarah Downes and Katie Cush.

Actors Guild was the OCTA State Conference Invitee with *Streetcar*, and LTTC was chosen as the Alternate with *Victor/Victoria*.

Congratulations to all for their fine excerpts!

## Rookie Roster

Two new SE OCTA Representatives have come on board to help lighten the load for Billie Harmon and Joe Balding. Sally Ann Holmes of LTTC in New Philadelphia and Steve Haskins of APT were voted in during the delegates' meeting at the Regional OCTAfest on June 19th.

In related news, John D. Powell is taking over the OCTA Delegate post for CPAC in Cambridge, previously held by Sue Barzda. Sue is currently serving as Secretary on the OCTA Executive Board, so John's assumption of the delegate post will ease Sue's burden a bit. Add to the delegate list Julie Howard of the new member theatre River City Players, and that rounds out the Rookie Roster.

## Win A Trip To The Big Apple

OCTA is offering a limited number of raffle tickets for sale at \$10 each. The winner of the drawing will get a trip for two to New York City, valued at \$2,000 and arranged through Slater Travel. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold.

The winner has a whole year to take the trip, but it must be between 10/1/04 and 10/1/05. Imagine the shows, the restaurants, the museums! Tickets are still available. Contact your theatre's OCTA Delegate

or your Regional Rep. If any tickets remain unsold by September, they will be available at State Conference over Labor Day weekend, where the drawing

will take place. Don't miss this chance for a fantastic free visit to the Big Apple!



## SE Callboard

Still to come from OCTA's SE Region theatres:

### Actors Guild of Parkersburg

*Monky Business*

-- July 30 - August 14

### Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

*The Sound of Music*

--July 16 - 31

### Ohio Valley Summer Theater

*Annie Get Your Gun*

-- July 14 - August 1

### River City Players

*Annie Get Your Gun*

-- July

## Cemetery Club is One Worth Joining

Congratulations to Marietta's Mid-Ohio Valley Players for their excellent production of *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell. This editor was fortunate enough to make it to the closing performance on July 3rd. Ron Harmon's set design was just right for the wonderful cast to deliver a show that ran the gamut from hilarious to poignant. Billie Harmon did a wonderful job of directing a terrifically talented cast. Having neither read nor seen this play before, I found it both funny and moving, and not without surprises. With a cast of four women and one man, it's a play that APT should consider for possible future production.



### Crusade (continued from page 1)

Special thanks must also go to Jim Pickett and Jason Moore, two hapless souls who innocently volunteered their services in our endeavor, hauling away several loads of conquered carcasses into the hinterlands.

We are the champions!

## Coming Soon

Here's what some of the Southeast Region member theatre's will be offering in the upcoming 2004-2005 season:

### Actors Guild of Parkersburg

Sep-Oct: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Nov: *South Pacific*

Jan: *Night Watch*

Feb-Mar: *42nd Street*

Apr: *In The Beginning*

Jun: *The Dinner Party*

Jul-Aug: *Seussical the Musical*

### Athenian Players Theatre

Nov: *The Farndale Avenue Housing*

*Estate Townswomen's Guild*

*Dramatic Society Murder Mystery*

Mar: *California Suite*

May: *Ten Little Indians*

### Little Theatre

#### of Tuscarawas County

Oct-Nov: *The Odd Couple*

Feb-Mar: *Fiddler on the Roof*

Apr-May: *Angel Street*

Jul: *Teddy and Alice*

### Mid-Ohio Valley Players

Aug: *Metaphasia (Junior Players)*

Sep-Oct: *Swinging on a Star*

Nov: *MOVP Youth Theatre Production*

Jan: *Grace and Glorie*

Mar: *Life Goes On*

Apr-May: *Carnival*

Jun: *Proof*

### Zanesville Community Theatre

Sep: *84 Charing Cross Road*

Nov: *Blithe Spirit*

Dec: *14th Annual Angel Tree Benefit*

Jan: *The Odd Couple*

Apr: *Working*

May: *Grace and Glorie*

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SPACE  
FOR  
YOUR



ANY

IDEAS?

### APTrivia answers

- 1 - Terry Smith (1940's Radio Hour)
- 2 - Paper-mache (Into The Woods)
- 3 - In an old trunk (Cahoots)
- 4 - She had shot her husband. (Crimes of the Heart)
- 5 - "...before midnight" (I'll Be Back Before Midnight)