

The Minotaur



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Minotaur Rounds Southeast Sightings The Corners

By the age of thirteen, most folks are going through some rather noticeable physical changes. And so it is with the Minotaur that is the logo and standard bearer for Athenian Players Theatre.

With the talented guiding hand of his creator, the Minotaur has matured and grown smoother, stronger and more versatile. His appearance has made sudden changes, as most of us have experienced some growth spurts at some point in our lives.

"Simple" and "strong" have been descriptions already mentioned for our newly approved logo.

Many thanks go to artist Kevin Morgan, who designed both the original and this new grown-up version.

Well, the old one was just a bit "square"...



Have you ever witnessed something that you just couldn't explain without somebody thinking you're nuts? Something that relatively few people have seen, but you wish you could share with everyone you know?

Maybe it was a bizarre show of lights or strangely moving objects, or unusual actions by otherworldly beings.

Or it could be that you've just been to our regional OCTAfest. Come to New Philadelphia on June 4, 2005 to witness some rare sightings! What you probably thought were normal people will surely amaze you as they reveal their true selves, transforming into totally different life forms and revealing a story you only thought you knew.

Be sure to be there to witness *Southeast Sightings of the Theatre Kind*. It's our regional OCTAfest leading up to State Conference 2005, *Close Encounters of the Theatre Kind*, which will occur over Labor Day weekend in Perrysburg, Ohio, USA, Planet Earth.

Flight Commander Jerry Zimmerman has set his coordinates for Space Station OCTACONF2005 and will take us where no thespians have gone before! Be prepared for an out-of-this-world Galaxy Hop and more! Plan now to join all the fun at *Southeast Sightings* and then again at *Close Encounters*.



New News

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How Suite It Is

California Suite opens March 10th at 8:00 pm for a short four performance run, dosing with a 2:00 pm matinee on March 13th. Give yourself a break and lots of laughs by coming to the show.

Remember, this is the directing debut of Charlie Smith, Linda Watkins, Joe Balding and Tawna Rogers, so don't miss it!

Call Stuart's Opera House at 740-753-1924 for tickets.

New Address... Read All About It!

It never rains but it pours. Here's another major change for the better. Through the efforts of Karen Chan, along with help from David Kurz at WOUB, APT's new web address is:

athenianplayerstheatre.org

See the new pics under "All Seasons"

Theater in Aiken, SC

• by **Marvin Bowman** *Editor's note : Marvin is a past president of APT and appeared in many of our shows (Flowers for Algernon, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Funny Girl, Wild Honey, Bedroom Farce, Night of January 16th, The Long Christmas Dinner, 1940's Radio Hour). He is now retired from Ohio University, but not from theatre, and living in Aiken, South Carolina.*

A. Aiken Center for the Arts -- In October, the Center for the Arts held a fundraiser: "Tony n' Tina's Wedding". About 112 of the cast came from NY or elsewhere and the others were local. I played Uncle Luigi who had to rush to the bathroom in the middle of the wedding and I got to curse in Italian. This "Italian wedding" and reception was a wild interactive event with a drunk Irish Priest, gum-chewing pregnant maid of honor, fights, etc. Some of the NY cast had been doing this event off-Broadway for several years. It was well-received - over 650 people paid \$75 each. One of the cast parties was held at a prestigious location. You could tell that because the large house was on the corner lot of two dirt streets. One of the unique things about Aiken is the several dirt roads to protect the many steeplechase and polo horses that are in Aiken. The local Dogwood Stable had a horse in the last Kentucky Derby. Also, there is a Thoroughbred Hall of Fame here.

B. Black Box -- On Halloween weekend, the Aiken Community Playhouse held a coffee house event with an open mic and readings. I was on this committee and we read from "The Monkey's Paw". We plan to do several more of this type of event in our rehearsal hall. This black box is about 30' X 50' space with basic lighting /sound and black curtains.

C. Aiken Kidney Benefit -- AKB has been doing some musical event as a fundraiser for over 15 years. I helped with painting and moving stuff. They had to have at least 3 locations for rehearsals before they moved for the final week to the Aiken campus of the University of South Carolina. (Sound familiar?) This year they did "Annie Get

Your Gun" for four performances. I was to have had a small non-singing (of course) role but a schedule conflict arose with the next ACP play.

D. Aiken Community Playhouse -- I appeared in the "Out of Order" British Farce in November. We had a good run of five performances. We were to have had seven performances but the lead was in the hospital with a bleeding ulcer. We rehearsed with the director on book but there was not enough time for him to get the blocking/timing. This Ray Cooney play (he has done several that have many of the same elements and even some of the same lines) is very dependent on pacing. Lots of comings and goings, window slamming, dead body, and my pants are pulled down, etc. Neither the Playhouse (in 52 years) nor myself (in X years) had been involved in a cancellation. The audience was given a pass for a future show and those that made it to the theater were given free wine and cheese. The Board Members had called most people for the final "sold out" performance.

Olcott Update

Editor's note: Past APT member, one-time Facilities **Coordinator** and many-times actor Neil Olcott (I'm About to **Develop** an Attitude, Working, Death of the Old Man, Black Comedy, Flowers for Algernon, Baby, Squabbles) has since moved to Florida with his wife Kuei-mei Liu. Neil recently emailed that he's keeping busy:

"...Incidentally, I don't know if I've shared with you that I got a supporting role in Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," to be put on in March and April by Mad Cow Theater in Orlando, a professional company. It's nice to be able to say I'm gonna get paid for it for once, though the stipend won't even pay my gas and parking to schlep up there (75 mile round trip each time I go)."

NEXT MEETING

April 12
time & place TBA

Travis Travels

Travis Del Matto (A *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*) is, as some of you know, in the Army Reserves, having already served three years active duty. He is currently in Texas getting additional training, and expects to return home in late March. He will then continue his studies at Ohio University and, with luck, get back on our stage some time shortly after that.

SE Callboard

Actors Guild of Parkersburg

42nd Street Feb 25 - Mar 5
In The Beginning Apr 8 - 23

Berean Community Players

California Suite Mar 10 - 13

Coshocton Footlight Players

Once Upon A Mattress Mar 5 - 20

Deersville Community Players

All Kinds of People Jun 17 - 26

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Hello Dolly Feb 18 - Mar 5
Angel Street Apr 22 - May 7

Mid-Ohio Valley Players

Life Goes On Mar 4 - 19
Carnival Apr 22 - May 7

River City Players

A Little Princess Mar 19 - 20

Zanesville Community Theatre

Working Apr 8 - 17

Open Auditions
for Agatha Christie's
And Then There Were None
(Ten Little Indians)
will be held Sunday, March 20
from 1:00 to 5:00 pm
at Stuart's Opera House.
Roles for 6 men & 4 women.
Performances will be May 5 - 8.