

The Minotaur

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter vol. XIV iss. 3 December 2005

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Auditions

One of the most popular musicals ever will hit the Stuart's Opera House stage in March 2006, and you can be part of it! Open auditions for *Oliver!* will be held at Stuart's from **1:00 - 4:00 pm** on **Saturday, January 7th** and at the same time on **Sunday, January 8th**. The Saturday session is for young people ages 8 - 17, and the Sunday session is for adults 18 & over. No parts have been pre-cast, so director Sylvia Abbott and musical director Lynn Sullivan are looking for actors and singers for both leading and supporting roles. Be dressed for movement.

If you want to audition but absolutely cannot make it that weekend, be sure to contact Sylvia *well in advance*, so other arrangements can be made. Her phone number is 740-593-5427.

Julie Stout will be choreographer, and Dean Barker will design the set. Performance dates will cover two weekends: March 3, 4 and 10, 11 & 12.

Anyone interested in working crew for *Oliver!* is encouraged to come to auditions as well, or contact either Sylvia Abbott or Lynn Sullivan as soon as possible, so that this production can get off the ground with a running start. *It's going to be great fun!*

Preservation of Theater History

- by Marvin Bowman

I have had an interest in history, big and small, since I graduated from the historic College of William and Mary in Virginia in the early 1960's. In almost every state and country where I have lived I try to leave some historical record. For example, in the mid-late 1990's, I helped preserve some history of the Athenian Players Theatre.

Presently, I am doing some preservation for the Aiken Community Playhouse in SC. ACP has a rich history of over 50 years. However, we have not always been good about keeping a record of the Playhouse. It is so easy for the historical record to slip away. It might be understandable to be missing some material from our earliest years, but I haven't yet found a few Playbills or pictures of plays we did in the 1990's!

For the past several months, we have been gathering all of the playbills, pictures, articles etc. We have been scanning them and burning on CD's. So far we have 8 CD's almost filled with our 53 year history. We plan to update these CD's at the end of every season; adding the past season and any other material we find during that year. For example, after we had burned the first set one of our Board members found

several boxes of pictures etc. on top of an elevator shaft housing. He was crawling around nooks and crannies looking for something else. This space above the shaft is not easily accessible and most other people had not even realized it was there. Evidently, those boxes had been moved from the old theater (just in 2002) and "stored" there by some unknown, well meaning volunteer.

The way we approached this preservation was to scan the playbill cover; title page; cast page(s); Board members; newspaper articles and any associated pictures. So far we have made five copies of these CD's and they are stored in different places. Over the years, we have found that we "lose" some material by individuals moving away, retiring etc. Of ACP's first 55 plays, we at present can only find 14 that have even one picture and we are missing 27 playbills. It is important to save material at the time it is generated and keep multiple copies. Also, we are now adding items to our web site

www.aikencommunityplayhouse.com as a way of communicating our history. We held a public contest (a few free tickets) to encourage people to search their attics and submit pictures and playbills. We hope to use selections of this preserved history for public presentations at community events; during our membership campaigns, for new Board members and in our lobby as we open our doors for plays and during intermissions. However, historical preservation is enough justification for me.

Oral History is another way to preserve our theatrical past. In the past several weeks we have begun to record personal memories. We have been recording peoples thoughts about the organization, acting, directing, costuming etc. I have had several people say, "oh, if only we had recorded such and such before..."

-see "Preservation" on page 2

APT MEETING

There will be a general APT meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 10 at the Nelsonville Public Library. Bring a friend and be involved!

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ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter December 2005 page 2

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/1100th of a second.
A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
A snail can sleep for three years.
Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
Almonds are a member of the peach family.
An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
Butterflies taste with their feet.
Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.
"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.
It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.
The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.
The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.
The words 'racecar', 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

This is an equal opportunity newsletter. Your article (funny, serious, critical, coherent or otherwise) is always welcome.

Preservation -continued from page 1

We have taped one woman who shared some memories of the first meetings in the Spring and Summer of 1952 and an anecdote or two about a few of our first seasons and our early directors. In early 2006, I hope we will do a little editing and complete a 20 minute program on anecdotes of our past 53 years. Then what will we do with the more than two hours we will have on tape on all of those other beautiful memories?

One can't do this overnight and it is frustratingly slow but it is worth it when you find that "lost" picture or playbill.

Your theater heritage is worth it!!

-Marvin Bowman

ACP Board Member and history buff



LOOK FAMILIAR? Picture him with a beard... It's ex-APT member Neil Olcott in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* at Orlando, Florida's professional Mad Cow Theatre.

Tools Replaced

APT's power tools that were among the items stolen from Stuart's Opera House during the break-in several weeks ago have now been replaced. McFadden Insurance sent a check following a claim filed for coverage of the nail gun, cordless circular saw and screw shooter (cordless power drill). The tools were originally purchased with grant money from the Athens Foundation and have been invaluable in use for construction of our sets.

SE Callboard

...here's what's happening around our region:

Actors Guild of Parkersburg

Ten Little Indians Jan 13 - 28
Peter Pan Feb 24 - Mar 3
Cotton Patch Gospel Apr 14 - 29
Noises Off Jun 16 Jul 1
Nonsense Aug 4 - 20

Athenian Players Theatre

The Man Who Came to Dinner
May 11 - 14

Berean Community Players

Oliver Mar 3 - 12

Coshocton Footlight Players

A Few Good Men May 5-20

Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County

Fiddler on the Roof Feb 17 - Mar 4
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Apr 21 - May 6
Harvey Jul 14 - 29

Mid Ohio Valley Players

Jerry Finnegan's Sister Jan 13 - 28
The West Side Waltz Mar 3 - 18
The Heiress Apr 21 - May 6
The Miracle Worker Jun 9 - 24

River City Players

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
Mar 25 - 26

Zanesville Community Theatre

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof Jan 27 - Feb 5
Seussical the Musical Mar 24 - Apr 2
Gershwin By George May 12 - 21

Get out there and see some theatre!



www.athenianplayerstheatre.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!