

The Min taur

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter vol. XV iss. 1 March 2007

"Mattress" a Hit

Congratulations to director Celeste Parsons, talented cast, crew, and musicians for the highly successful production of *Once Upon a Mattress*, which played to more than 630 enthusiastic audience members! One audience member said he was "blown away by the beauty of the set, the richness of the costumes, and Queen Aggravaine's 'power headwear' in the opening scene" (Our Aggravaine, Cecilia Rinaldi, says the headpiece was the biggest thing on the set, other than the wall behind the thrones!). We are strongly encouraging Celeste to enter her set design in OCTA's annual set design contest - who else could create a "stack of 20 mattresses" out of cloth tubing stuffed with plastic grocery sacks? (continued on page 3)

Special Encore Performance!

And Then There Were None

Thursday, March 29

7:30 PM

Logan Hocking Middle School Theater

Next Season

What plays would you like to see produced next season???

At the April meeting we will be selecting the plays for our upcoming season, and we are still accepting play proposals. Anyone who is a paid member is eligible to propose plays and vote on which ones will be produced - but you must be present at the April meeting to cast your vote.

Karen Chan and Pat Elisar have graciously volunteered to facilitate this important aspect in the life of our theater. So far the proposals include: *Chapter Two* by Neil Simon, musical *The Boyfriend*, Pulitzer Prize winner *Harvey*, and *Never Too Late* by Sumner Arthur Long.

To propose a play, please complete a Play Proposal Form (available on our web site) and submit it (via e-mail is fine - kmchan@intelliwave.com) to Karen Chan by April 5th.

Active APTers

As mentioned in the last edition, member SHELLY RIGGS directed Logan High School's production of *And Then There Were None*, which was screened by the State Thespian Board and invited to perform at the conference in a full-length, main stage slot! Come see for yourself why Shelly and her students have received this honor and wish the cast, crew, and director "break a leg" at state!

TRAVIS DEL MATTO is serving in Iraq. He has requested our assistance in providing treats for him to give to local children. Suggested items include gum, lifesavers, sour balls or other wrapped hard candies, and travel-size packs of facial tissue. Please - NO CHOCOLATE! There will be a (continued on page 3)

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Read about our next production

AN EVENING OF COMEDY

directed by

David Bower

(details on back page)

NEXT APT MEETING

One of the most important meetings of the year!

PLAY SELECTION

for the
2007-2008 SEASON

Come cast your vote!

Tuesday April 10 6:00-7:00 PM
ARTS/West

Active (continued from page 1)

"Travis Box" at each meeting until Travis returns safely to our fold.

MARVIN BOWMAN's article "Preserving Your Theatre's History" was printed in the March-April issue of *AACT Spotlight* magazine. The condensed version published last year in *The Minotaur*. Remember, you saw it here first, folks!

DAVID WHEALEY announces his engagement to Heather Jane Johnson, who appeared in our production of *The Night of January 16th*. The nuptials are scheduled for May 27. Best wishes to the happy couple!

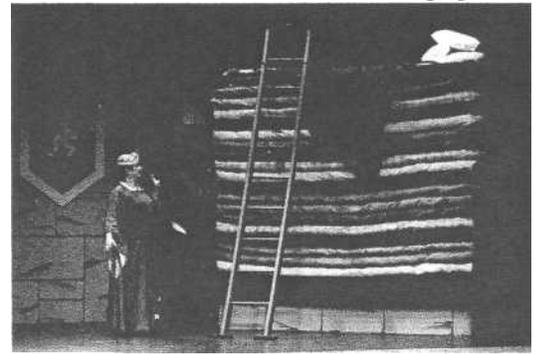
Vinton High School recently produced *High School: The Musical* and JOE BALDING was the acting coach. Karen Chan tells us, "it was a great production and brought tears to my eyes to see the future thespians of the world singing, dancing and acting their hearts out. Joe should be very proud of his actors."

Mattress (continued from page 1)

We wish OCTA had a contest for costume design, because Patty Witmer would be a shoe-in (no pun intended) for her fabulous and colorful assortment of costumes. David Whealey says "I rather liked *Once Upon A Mattress*, in particular the costumes." He adds, "The Prince was definitely more reminiscent of Charles than William or Harry, so I can understand why the court was so eager for him to get married!."

The cast and crew included a number of first-timers. TANYAH STONE (Lady Merrill and the Nightingale of Samarkand) and ANNAH ABETTI (Lady Larkin) had so much fun they became new members of APT!

All in all, *Once Upon a Mattress* was a terrific example of the quality productions we prize. Thanks and congratulations to everyone who helped send the audiences away smiling and humming!



Above: Inspecting the mattresses. Below: Jim Parsons paints by number the designs Celeste has drawn. Check our web site for the color versions of these photos and many more - courtesy of Chan, Fischer, and Parsons.



Cast from right to left - First Row: Doreen Rinehart, Tanyah Stone, Molly Jo Stanley, Joe Balding, Annah Abetti, Tom Schmitz; Second Row: Sylvia Abbott, Sam Witmer; Third Row: Becca Farley, Emily Tompkins, Sandra Russell, Bruce Jones, Cecilia Rinaldi, Dean Barker, Stephanie Hunter, Christine Neumann, Neil Nesbitt

Just A Thought

An APB has been issued for BabyMonitor, employed as a mechanical liaison between the stage and the green room during APT productions at Stuart's Opera House. Ms. Monitor was last seen November 4, 2006 at the end of her afternoon shift for *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Baby failed to report as assigned to the March 2, 2007 evening shift for *Once Upon A Mattress*, at which time a general thorough search of the premises proved fruitless. This valued employee is assumed missing and there is concern she may be a victim of foul play. Stuey remains a suspect, but continues to profess his innocence. If you have any information as to the whereabouts of Baby Monitor, or can provide testimony that will help vindicate Stuey, please contact Chief Celeste Parsons, or leave a message with our colleagues in the office at Stuart's Opera House, immediately. Help us avoid a miscarriage of justice!

This space is a forum for the opinions, thoughts, and pithy remarks of the members of Athenian Players Theatre. Submissions are accepted via e-mail (jlarent@columbus.rr.com) or snail mail (P.O. Box 284, Athens, OH 45701). Your editor eagerly awaits your ramblings!!

Election of Officers!

Mark your calendar now! Our May 8th meeting is one of the most important of the year, as we elect officers for 2007-2008. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, location TBA (check the web site for information).

Fulfilling her duties as vice president, Karen Chan is chairing the nomination committee. At this time,

the slate includes the following candidates: **Joe Balding** for President; **Linda Watkins** and **Cecilia Rinaldi** for Vice President; **Sylvia Abbott** and **Celeste Parsons** for Secretary; and **Jim Parsons** for Treasurer.

The members of our executive board provide the leadership, vision, guidance, and "glue" necessary for a successful organization. Come to this important meeting to elect YOUR officers for the upcoming year!

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## You might be in APT if . . .

- ... your bookshelves have a lot of really thin paperbacks.
- ... some of your furniture has been more productions than you have.
- ... you call your portable drill a "screw shooter."
- ... your yard is the neighborhood eyesore during certain seasons.
- ...many of your clothes were originally purchased as costumes.
- ...you think "left" when normal people think "right."
- ...you have a pet who has appeared on stage.
- ...you purchase items at yard sales because "They would be terrific props some day."
- ...you are a man who has worn makeup.
- ...you are a woman who has deliberately made yourself up to look older.
- ...when you hear "OCTA," you don't immediately think of an eight-legged sea creature.
- ...the word "strike" has no connection with organized (union) labor.
- ...you frequently walk around mumbling both sides of a conversation to yourself.
- ...a "good house" has nothing to do with either real estate or construction.
- ...you feel privileged to know a group of very talented and creative people.

Thanks, Celeste - and apologies to Jeff Foxworthy.

*Now it's your turn! Contribute some "might be" lines of your own for the next Minotaur by e-mailing them to your friendly editor: jlarent@columbus.rr.com*

## George Fever

One of our sisters to the south, TAWNA ROGERS, has reported a virulent case of George Fever in South Carolina. Apparently George Clooney has been in Anderson filming for his new film *Leatherheads* and Tawna, her sister, nephew, and thousands of others turned out for the event. Too bad work prevented her from being an extra in the movie! Tawna says, "You can go to [www.smileandsaycheezphotography.com](http://www.smileandsaycheezphotography.com) and click on the 'Celebrities' link then click on 'online ordering' & go to thumbnail #17, which I think is the best. You get good shots on thumbnails #9, 10, 14, 16 & 18, too. Have fun George-gazing!"

You can view more photos, as well as a local news clip featuring an interview with Tawna's nephew and a fleeting glimpse of our favorite redhead and her sister at:

<http://www.whns.com/Global/story.asp?s=6130037>



## A Party!

Our sister organization, Berean Community Players (BCP), is sponsoring a wine tasting event at 8:00PM, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at The Coffee Cup Restaurant in Nelsonville. Linda Watkins, president of BCP, tells us the event is planned to boost membership in BCP. Wine, cheese and snacks will be served by BYOLS (bring your own lamp shade). The Bereans extend a special invitation to all APT members. Everyone is welcome, so plan to be at The Coffee Cup on April 13<sup>th</sup> and bring a friend or 3!

~~~**Our Next Production**~~~

An Evening of Comedy

May 10, 11, 12, 13

Directed by David Bower

Join us for three hilarious one-act comedies: *ADAPTATION* by Elaine May, *ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE* by Christopher Durang, and *FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL* by Jake Frakes.

740.753.1924

~~~**More Theater Near You**~~~

**And Then There Were None**

March 29 ~ 7:30 PM ~ Logan Hocking Middle School Theater

Produced by Logan High School (see related article on page 1)

**Impossible Marriage**

April 13, 14, 20, 21 ~ ARTS/West

Produced by Actors' Moveable Theater

740.592.3823

**The Civil War**

April 20, 21, 22, 26, 28 ~ Smoot Theater

Produced by Actors Guild of Parkersburg

304.422.PLAY

**I Hate Hamlet**

April 20-May5

Produced by Little Theater Tuscarawas Co.

330.343.4012

**The Miracle Worker**

April 20-May 5

Produced by Mid Ohio Valley Players

740.374.9434

**Romance, Romance**

May 4-19

Produced by Footlight Players

740.622.2959

**Our Town**

May 11-20

Produced by Zanesville Community Theatre

740.455.6487

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