

The Min taur

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter vol. XVI iss. 1 February 2008

OCTA Institute

Ohio Community Theatre Association 2008 Mid-Winter Institute will be held February 15-17 (Presidents' Day Weekend). Hosted by Mid-Ohio Valley Players in their restored 1914 Vaudeville theatre in historic downtown Marietta, Ohio, this weekend is sure to be educational and fun! The workshops include Directing, Making the Most of Your Voice, Stage Make-Up (includes a free \$10 kit!), and Set Design and Construction. For the reasonable price of \$40, event organizers Jena Lane Blair and Bonnie Rake say you'll **enjoy workshops**, entertainment, games, sing-along, good food, T-shirts/sweatshirts & lots of FUN!!! Get the details and registration information **at** www.movp.org (click on "links" button).

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Special Encore Performance!

The Ash Girl

Wednesday, April 2
7:30 PM

Logan Hocking Middle School Theater

At It Again....

Member **SHELLY RIGGS** and her talented group of thespians at Logan High School have done it again! Their production of *The Ash Girl* was selected to be presented as a full-length feature at the State Thespian Conference in Ashland, Ohio. **Attend their encore performance** to see for yourself why Shelly and her students have received this honor and wish the cast, crew, and director "break a leg" at state!

NEXT APT MEETING

Wednesday, March 12

location will be posted on our web page as soon as it is known

Workshop Review

submitted by Karen Chan

Norman Cohn's second Audition Workshop was held Sunday, December 2, at Stuart's Opera House. I had the pleasure of attending and assisting, along with Dean Barker, and am delighted to say it was a smashing success! **Nine people** (mostly young adults outside of Athens and Nelsonville) and some of us ...mature Athenian Players...met and gleaned the wisdom and protocol of an audition. Some individuals were more prepared than others but all were given an opportunity to do a song, monologue and scene work. And, everyone with a song was able to work with our wonderful and talented Lynn Sullivan. She can be found in the dictionary under **WONDEROUS** and **GENEROUS!**

AUDITIONS!!!

Auditions for *Harvey*
the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by
Mary Chase

Sunday, March 2
1:00 PM
Stuart's Opera House

Rehearsals will begin March 2
Play dates May 8, 9, 10, 11
see our web site for more details

Just A Thought

In the June 2007 edition of the OCTA newsletter, Harold Poppe challenged OCTA member-organizations to "reorganize, clean, and prepare." Reorganize by looking at the way our group is organized to see if we are using our membership to their best ability, deterring burn-out by sharing the load of over-worked members, looking for unneeded procedures in the way we do things and ways to make our procedures more member friendly, and evaluating how we do things - "things that were effective when our fore-thespians set up our rules, but now seem trivial and outdated." Clean by looking at the various rooms in the theater and storage areas, picking up, cleaning up, and clearing out. Prepare by getting things for the upcoming season in order, adopting the new budget, making sure we know who is in charge of what. As I look at our progress, it is obvious that we have excelled at "clean" by culling and organizing the costume/props room, tools, paint and other set-building supplies (as we dealt with the temporary loss of our shop). We are making headway with "prepare" as President Joe is going to appoint committees and is creating a time-line for various chores that will be a handy reference each year. We may be neglecting "reorganize." Perhaps it is time to look at our organization with fresh eyes and explore ways to improve/enhance our collaboration with Berean Community Players and our relationship with Stuart's Opera House.

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 (jarent@columbus.rr.com) or snail mail (P. O. Box 284, Athens, OH 45701). Your editor eagerly awaits your ramblings!!

Workshop *continued*

Norm (our illustrious leader) tutored in stage etiquette, appropriate attire, and preparation. He made the six hours pass like one. Everyone was given attention and guidance and constructive criticism in a friendly and professional way. Thanks to Norm and Lynn, everyone had FUN!!!

Norm also recommended a wonderful **book called** *AUDITIONING: an actor-friendly guide* by Joanna Merlin (an actor). I found it to be an easy read and very instructive in the art of auditioning and what the directors expect and are looking for in you as the actor. My son, Christian, is an MFA student in Acting at Columbia and his Professor, Kristin Linklater*, highly recommends the book.

An hour before the close of the session Norm invited some local directors/actors to answer questions as to what they as directors expect in an audition of the actor. Directors/Actors able to participate in this winter Audition Feedback session were; Lonny Frazee (Actor/Director/Actors Moveable Theater), Penni AlZayer (Actor/Dancer/Director **Vinton** Country Theatre Co. in McArthur), Shelly Riggs (Actor/Drama Director Logan High School) and Karen Chan (Actor).

Norm put together an exciting day on behalf of the Athenian Players Theatre Company and well worth every bit of the ten dollars (which also could go towards APT membership). Everyone, including this writer learned a little treasure to keep and to share! **This audition workshop should become an annual event for the newbie actor and a refresher course for the more experienced actor!**

*Kristin Linklater (born April 23, 1936) is a prominent vocal coach, dialect coach, acting teacher, actor, and director. She is currently Head of Acting in the Theatre Arts Division of Columbia University.

Brought up on the Orkney Isles, Scotland, Linklater trained under Bertram Joseph and Iris Warren at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). During the 1960s, she relocated to the United States and worked with the Guthrie Theater, in Ontario, Canada and the Negro Ensemble as well as training young actors. She was a founding member of Shakespeare & Company which was for many years in residence on the former estate of

novelist, Edith Wharton in Lenox, Massachusetts. Linklater left Shakespeare & Company in the mid 1990s. Linklater developed her own approach to voice for actors, influenced by her teachers at LAMDA as well as the Alexander Technique. Her work is designed to liberate the natural function of the vocal mechanism as opposed to developing a vocal technique. Her writings on voice include *Freeing the Natural Voice* and *Freeing Shakespeare's Voice*.

Linklater has trained many well-known actors, including Patrick Stewart, Donald Sutherland, Alfre Woodard, Mary Tyler Moore, Bill Murray, Angela Bassett, Courtney Vance, Sigourney Weaver, Sam Rockwell and Bernadette Peters.

Her son is actor Hamish Linklater, who currently appears on the CBS sitcom *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. Her father was novelist Eric Linklater, and her mother was social activist, Marjorie Linklater. Her brothers Magnus Linklater and Andro Linklater are

Canino All Hands

Our production of *The Boy Friend* is now in rehearsal. Director Sylvia Abbott and Musical Director Lynn Sullivan are busy whipping the talented cast into shape. Stage Manager Suzanne Ragg is organizing her crew and Choreographer Julie Stout has amputated all the extra left feet and replaced them with fully-functioning right feet. Now is the time for the rest of us to jump in to help with all the rest of the chores. We need ushers, box-office workers, set builders and set strikers, someone to coordinate intermission refreshments, people to donate refreshments, and folks to work during intermission. So, ask not what your theatre company do for you, but what you can do for your theatre company! And remember - many hands make light work! Use the blank space below to create your own exhortations for service.

Now, please contact Carol Ault (jarent@columbus.rr.com or 740.592.6017) to let her know how

Welcome:

Please extend a hearty welcome to our new members, some of whom joined as a result of Norm's audition workshop. From Gallipolis: Sierra Holt and Amanda Betz. From Logan: Davena Parsons. From Rockbridge: Jenny Cook. From Athens: Elspeth McCosker-Doppen, Alison Bartlett, and Valerie Schrader. From Point Pleasant, WV: Elizabeth Finley.

We look forward to seeing you on stage, back stage, in the sound/light booth, at meetings and at parties!



Movin' On Up

On January 7, APT's own PAT ELISAR won 1st place in the Monologue Challenge competition! Pat was one of 30 actors who had one minute to do a monologue in front of casting agents, directors, managers, and audience members. She did "A" from Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women* and WOWED the audience.

Pat, of course, is a long-time resident of Athens and local female actor. She earned her MFA at Ohio University in 1999 and was last seen in Athens as Maurya in Appalachian Regional Theater Company's *Riders To The Sea* (see photo).

As winner of the competition, Pat received 4 months free membership into The Actor's Project NYC, a part in one of the February industry showcases, 2 sessions of private coaching with Bobby Holder (artistic director of The Actor's Project NYC), 2 free premium seats to *Theatre of the Diverse*, a free agent seminar from The Network, a free two-look session with a top New York photographer and half off a full session, 4-hour studio rental from John Chatterton

Presents, and free entry to Small Pond Productions Networking Evening.

The Monologue Challenge is a major networking event sponsored by The Actor's Project NYC, "a unique membership company dedicated to assisting performers acquire agents through industry showcases, plays, acting seminars, and monologue competitions...The company has 10 acting troupes ranging from monologue and scene troupes to sketch-comedy troupes.

Currently, Pat resides in New York City where she is pursuing her acting career. Already reaping the benefits of her prizes, she is reading for some exciting film roles.

BRAVO TO PAT!

Right: Patricia G. Elisar (Hey Pat - send us copies of the photos from your two-look session!)

Below: Pat (L) and Laura Parrotti (R) in a scene from ARTCO's production of *Riders To The Sea*."



MORE THEATER COMING YOUR WAY!

Logan High School
at Logan Hocking Middle School Theater

Annie

March 6-9

740-385-2251 for tickets

The Ash Girl - encore performance

April 2

tickets at door

Actor's Moveable Theater

740.592.3823 for tickets

at Unitarian Fellowship of Athens

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Chapter Two

at ARTS/West

February 15, 16, 22, 23

Athenian Players Theatre & Berean Community Players
at Stuart's Opera House

740.753.1924 for tickets

The Boyfriend

February 29-March 1 and March 7-9

Harvey

May 8-11

Little Theater of Tuscarawas County

Sugar

February 22 - March

Ohio Valley Summer Theater

at ARTS/West

The Minotaur

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