
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 8

February 11, 2002

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note from the President

To say my taste in music is eclectic would be a gross understatement. I grew up on live gospel music. The challengers, Lavern Tripp and the Gospel Harmony Boys, The Blackwoods, etc, and yet when I first heard KISS play their rock ballad BETH I was blown away! Springsteen told me it was alright to be depressed, Blondie woke up my hormones, Chapin taught me to care and John Denver made me want to be a better man. From Jolsen to Elvis, Croce, Willie and BB, Johnny Cash, Dr. Hook, Sheryl Crowe, Elton John and Long John Bladry - I love them all and the list is nearly endless. Blues, country, jazz, pop, and rock and the whole time I've been singing show tunes along the way. I'm fortunate. I've seen some of the greatest performers of all time from Little Richard, The Eagles, Alanis Morissett to Garth Brooks and nearly everything in between, you can't beat live music. I've been called a "Concert Whore" and that may be a fair assessment. So take it from somebody who's jammed with the best. Take a chance, come to the Spire's Concert. See and hear some of Americas's Finest Musicians and experience live magic. You won't be disappointed. Don't decide its not your cup of tea until you taste it.

Rich Tolliver, President

An Evening with Family & Friends

Saturday, February 15 is winding closer and closer. The band has been jamming and the interest is gaining momentum! This concert will be the event of the Valentine's Day weekend and at a great price!!! \$10.50 for Adults and \$7.50 for Seniors and Students.

The band members include Don Haines of the Don Haines Trio of Columbus on Keyboards, Gary Frey on the Drums, Jonathan McConnell on Banjo and the Dobro, Kenny Joseph playing Bass, Kenny Sidle with the Fiddle, and David Spires on the steel guitar.

Want more info on our players? How does this grab ya...Kenny Joseph played the pedal steel guitar for 22 years at Dolly Wood, you may recognize him from C.A. House Music where he teaches Bass. Gary Frey - he recently did a little show at ZCT called BIG RIVER playing the drums. Want a sneak peek of his rhythm? He's playing drums for GODSPELL! Opportunity is knocking! Still want more??? Tune in to WHIZ on Thursday, January 30th! Chuck Spires will have his guitar with him to display some of his musical talents! Be prepared to be impressed! Then grab the phone and dial Secrest at 454-6851 and get your tickets! I'm telling ya, you don't want to miss this concert!!!

Happy Valentine's Day!



Concert Program Thanks!

Thanks to Roger Touvell for leading the call to collect Program Ads for the Concert! Angel Palmer swung into action, too. Rich Tolliver and his Dad, Richard have also worked their buns off to welcome participants into the concert. A thanks to Daniel Shuey who left us messages of his quest. Undaunted - he tried and tried and unfortunately was "blown off". Amy Ritchey too, got turned down a lot.... Richie appreciates the effort very much!

Those who turned down the opportunity will feel it later. These programs will be cherished for eons! Talent like this just doesn't appear together everyday. Sometimes I think Zanesville doesn't know its own backyard. What a shame! I hope this concert changes that! I've been to the rehearsals - they are awesome!!! Each musician is a jewel in a platinum crown!

Thanks again everyone!

Surgery Updates

I'm thrilled to report that Angel was dancing to the GODSPELL tunes...(for some reason the spotlight she was running carried a rhythm with her) She showed me a tiny red line that was one of the surgery points. Its amazing! Its good to see her our and about!

Sarah Andersen, in another quick healer. She is a big basket weaver and is already making me and Rich both look like beginners! Less than 2 weeks since her surgery and she's out weaving us both!!! So I utter some unkind words under my breath in pure jealousy...and still am glad to see her sassy self back at her horse.

Welcome back ladies!

Feel Better Soon!

Zct's OCTA Rep, Darren Brown has a brief stay in the hospital recently. We hope you are back in action real soon.

Jan Kiika, we hope you feel better soon, too!



Work Party Thank-Yous!

On Saturday, January 18 a small group of determined individuals met at the theater to endeavor in the tasks that most of us detest...CLEANING!!!!!!!!!!!! Yes, I said it, cleaning! Mary Jo Dondlinger, Rick Milheim and Rich moved, stacked and sorted things. Dee cleaned out the snow machine from The Angel Tree. It really shaped up the building! A HUGE Thanks goes out to Pam Smith who cleaned out the nooks and crannies of the backstage area. *Boy, It sure shows, too!*

Thanks a lot everybody! The theater reflects your efforts with pride!

A Cold Night at the Improvs

Sunday, January 26 brought an everlasting snowfall, bitter cold and a show called GODSPELL. The loud costumes, the groovy music, and a message that we can all learn from filled our little theatre on Findley Ave. Rich called the General Membership meeting as near as he could to 5:00. We talked of the old biz, discussed the new biz and he then those two wonderful words we all long to hear..."Lets Eat!". Did I forget to mention he was discussing theater biz in front of the potluck goodies? Dick and Dru Tolliver's shredded pork roast was ambrosia! We mingled and we munched! And then there was Improvs!

Its been a while since ZCT has done improvs so we were all a bit rusty - but we found a groove! Mary Jo's scenarios mixed with folks from the audience..well lets just say, edgy humor surfaced more than once. Some members of the GODSPELL cast introduced us to their skills - and it was FUNNN-NEEEEE! I think Roger Touvell got more than he bargained for with a stage smooch - from a guy!!! Audience Groans! And several suggestions for mouthwash filled the room. Amy Ritchey was on stage with Kristin Kenily - their scenario? Amy was at the grave of her beloved husband when the mistress came to pay her respects. It was too funny anyway...then..like a moth to flame - Daniel Shuey appeared on stage...to pay his respects to his boyfriend!!!!!! More groans!!!!!! Other scenes? A guy was contemplating suicide (bridge and all) when he gets a call from a telemarketer...SELLING LIFE INSURANCE! Another setup - A family was called to the school because his elementary son kept goosing faculty members! For some reason, yep, Daniel Shuey found himself on stage

again..toting hill billy mom Dee McCarthy...to say "be very afraid" would be a complete understatement.

All in all, it was too funny. Sarah and Samantha Stepp were in the upper seats. Don't worry gals, we won't miss you next time! We even made it home before Super Bowl Half-Time! Shania Twain is awesome! The Raiders..well, they gave it a go...but in the end, Go BUCS!

Thanks to everyone who made the games fun!

Looking for Members!

We are looking for interested folks who are looking for a place to make a difference. With all the changes and progress our little theatre is making - we are looking for folks to help out. Are you interested? Are you of a business frame of mind? Are you an artsy person? Do you like to build things? Do you like the challenge of organization? If your answer is 'yes' to any of these questions - ZCT just may have the tasks for your talents! We'd love to have you aboard. If you are interested, please feel free to e-mail me for more information. Rtollive@columbus.rr.com. Dues are just \$5.00 each or \$10.00 for a family. It's neat to be involved with an organization that appreciates you!

An Art Show in Town!

The Duncan Falls/Philo Library Celebrates its 10th Anniversary on January the 26th. What better way to celebrate than with an art show? Children of the area will have their works on display! Molly Earich serves as a member and as Treasurer for the Friends of the Library. She is also the organizer for the event. It's a cool thing to do and fun for everyone!

I asked Molly to send a quick update on the art show and here is what she wrote.

"Oh boy did it snow that Sunday, but there were about 30 hardy souls who came to our open house and that was amazing. The artwork is still on display and I'm very proud of the kids. It was also announced that the Duncan Falls library will be receiving an outdoor sculpture this year depicting Johnny Appleseed reading to a child...they unveiled a small scale model of it and it is pretty cool."

Till Death Do Us Part

From the traveling desk of the VP...

I'm in love. I really am. It was love at first site. Looking in to their eyes, the flowers, the kind words, dressing up, and the applause... That's right applause. I'm in love with the theatre. It was love at first site. I came to one show at Zanesville Community Theatre in 1992 and knew I just had to be a part of it. In 1993, it was official, my love affair with community theatre began. My debut was 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?' and has continued for the past ten years.

Like any relationship, sometimes the theatre is work. Sometimes I grumble as I walk up the steps thinking about how busy I am. But the theatre gives back. Every time I participate in a show, either on stage or behind the scenes my love is revived. I hear the applause and see the tears or smiles on the faces of the audience and my heart pounds with excitement.

Do you feel it too? Happy Valentine's Day!

Amy Ritchey

"Bus Stop" in Westerville

Sometimes it's just fun to see a show again and how another director interprets the dialogue. Rich Tolliver recently helped out fellow thespian Linda Sopp with her set design for BUS STOP at Curtain Players in Westerville. Let me tell you - It KICKS BUTT!!!

The set is arranged on an angle which really grabs the attention of your mind's eye. The recessed doorway, the inset kitchen area of the diner...its really cool! Linda is a local who moved north. Her attention to detail is awesome! She did A STREET CAR NAMED DESIRE a few years ago. It freaked me OUT! I felt like I was looking in a window to another life! FREAKY! I expect no less for this show...a view to another life!

If you are interested, her show weekends are March 7, 14 and 21. Call 614-470-4809 to make reservations. Their prices are similar to ours at ZCT. Check them out on their website www.curtainplayers.com. Take a drive and enjoy the show!

The Cast is Here for SHREW!

Announcing the troupe of actors and actresses for Mary Jo Dondlinger's TAMING OF THE SHREW!

LORD - Todd King
 SLY - Randy Guthrie
 HOSTESS - Amy Ritchey
 PAGE - Ashley Eaves
 1st PLAYER - Adam Young
 2nd PLAYER - Ian Milheim
 1ST HUNTSMAN - Clay Simmons
 2nd HUNTSMAN - Ansel Burch
 1ST SERVING - Ruth Moses
 2nd SERVING - Angela Medaugh
 3rd SERVING - Aarica Robison
 MESSENGER - Tyler McCain
 BAPTISTA - Rick Milheim
 BIANCA - Caitlin McCarthy
 KATE - Kristin Kenily
 LUCIENTO - Steven Paisley
 TRANIO - Jason Baum
 BIONDELLO - Ian Milheim
 HORTENSIO - Sean McClure
 GREMIO - Robert Taylor
 PETRUCHIO - Daniel Shuey
 GRUMIO - Ansel Burch
 CURTIS - Darren Brown
 NATHAIEL - Adam Young
 NICHOLAS - Tyler McCain
 JOSEPH - Clay Simmons
 PHILIP - Angela Medaugh
 PETER - Aarica Robison
 TAILOR - Jane Robison
 HABERDASHER - Terri Kenney
 OFFICER - Maury Kenily
 PEDANT - Ed Roby

VINCENTIO - Joe Marks
 WIDOW - Dorlesia Jordan
 SERVANT - Terri Kenney
 SERVANT - Jane Robison

Keep your calendars open for this one! With a crew like this, the show has a great launching point! Show weekends are March 21 and 28!

GODSPELL-ing Success!

What a show! What a SHOW!! Kudos goes out to all who made this show a great success! Folks braved cold and snows to see the show! Nearly a sell out crowd the second weekend! Way to go!

What's a great show without winners??? This show sets a new standard! We had 3, count them t-h-r-e-e Audience Choice Winners! The first week our winners were Megan Francis and Libbi Short. The second week made Patti Kenney a winner.

That's not all - our prize for participation in our Audience Choice Awards was a GODSPELL CD! Take that catchy music home with you! (I wish I could've won) Our first week's winner is Paul Shannon and our second winner is Phil Palmer! Congratulations!

Trivia

Taming of the Shrew was done in the 30th Season.
 New Trivia? Where was William Shakespeare from? One better? What was the name of his theater?

Did his friends call him Bill? (Ha ha)

Special Days

Birthday Cake and Candles for Adam Johnson! Happy Birthday Dude!



A Nations Loss

Sadly, our nation experienced a tragedy that transcended out borders with the loss of the crew of the Columbia Space Shuttle. We included the script below in our programs and I thought it was important to include it today.

We at Zanesville Community Theatre would like to send our thoughts and prayers out tot he Columbia Astronauts, to their families and to their loved ones.

They are special people who knowingly risk their lives to make the world a better place.

“God speed” to their souls and to their place in the next world.

Mark Your Calendars!

February brings whispers or romance! Don't miss them!

VALENTINE'S DAY

When? Friday, February 14th

Where? Everywhere!

Time? ALL DAY! Have a great one!

CHUCK SPIRES CONCERT

When? Saturday, February 15th

Where? Secrest Auditorium

Time? Doors open at 7:00. Concert starts at 8:00!

AUDITIONS FOR ANNE FRANK

When? Sunday, March 2 & Monday, March 3

Where? ZCT

Time? 7:00 pm

Who? Auditions are open to everyone!

ZCT BOARD MEETING

When? Sunday, March 2

Where? ZCT

Time? 5:00 pm

Members of the Board

A Walk in a Parallel World

Rich and I attended “Coming Home”, Bob Skidmore’s concert at Secrest, February 1st. It was an interesting evening. For those of you getting to know me, I was married and then divorced before Rich and I became an item romantically. We’ve been buds ever since we first met. At any rate, there were folks there whom Rich and I both used to hang out with, even my ex-husband (and his new wife.) We were “the crew” - “the Musketeers”.

Have you ever had a Star Trek Alternate Universe feeling? ..things so familiar yet so different you can barely distinguish the two - I have, and it was at this concert. I listened to familiar lyrics - and was intrigued by spiced up jazz accompaniment. I watched fellow audience members whom I was once close to. Even my ex, whose changed so much I don’t know who he is anymore. They look like the same people. They are not. The divorce cut more from my life than a marriage.

I guess the point of this article is the acceptance of change and the ability to move through it. While it was great to see “old friends”, I felt the pang of loss. I looked around and was reminded of the good times...then the memories of the crappy ones. Then my mind flitted back to the music. Familiar and not. It was through it, I felt renewed. Here I was, sitting with my new husband. (Whom, if you haven’t guessed I’m quite fond of) and felt good about my own change. Those who know me have found I’ve grown a spine - a fact that even frightens me. I’m also true to the things I believed since I was little. I work to be the person my folks can be proud of.. I want to be proud of me, too.

In short, February flies with a cupid’s arrow and great expectations. In a world that ever changes, with people whose true self unveils - its okay to experience life assessments. Love is a huge accident. You can grow up with someone and find you’ve never really known them at all. Then, WHAM! You bump into a stranger whom you’ve known all your life. My recent walk through a parallel universe allowed me to see into two lives. It could have been me sitting in the third row on the aisle. With all my mental wonderings..I’m glad I was in the center, with the life I have.

I hope that in your walk of life, you can say the same. If you cannot, carpe diem, seize the day and make changes. Life is too short not to enjoy what moments we can.

- Shelley Tolliver_