
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 7

January 11, 2003

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note From the President

Half way through the season. It's been a busy one so far. We have much to be proud of. We're off to a strong start for our 40th year, new faces, old friends. If we're not careful, somebody might even mistake us for a community theatre - but we can't drop the ball now. We have three shows of our own and the Spires Concert at Secrest to go! I've said it before and I'll say it again. The magic of theatre is hard work. No more and certainly no less. If we look at the positives and enjoy the moments that make it special, then the mundane becomes bearable. Now more than ever, positive reinforcement and that extra step are crucial! If "that's good enough" becomes good enough, we'll be taking a step back and that's not fair to our audiences or ourselves. Lets make the second half of our season something people can take notice of and something we can take pride in! It begins with you!

Rich Tolliver
President of ZCT

Angel Tree Crew Thanks You!

This year's Angel Tree Benefit raised over \$1900.00. **What a SUCCESS!** Thanks to all of your generous support we were able to buy for quite a lot of children. That gymnasium was loaded with goodies for all ranges of children with a wide spectrum interests! A thank you to all who participated with the show and all who shopped for the children. Without you this benefit wouldn't be the success its been all these 12 years.

Thank you very much!

An Evening with Family and Friends

The Zanesville Community Theater Sponsored Benefit "Chuck Spires, An Evening with Family and Friends" is just around the corner. Do you have your tickets yet?

The Date - Saturday, February 15

Where - Secrest Auditorium

The Time - 8:00 pm - Doors open at 7:30

To Make Reservations - Call Secrest 454-6851.

The Tickets - \$10.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children and Seniors.

****Think Valentine's Day****

Taming of the Shrew Auditions!

Are you a sassy gal? Spirited? Determined? How about you guys? Up for a challenging role? Adamant? Resourceful? Ready for a change of pace? Be at ZCT January 12th or 13th for auditions. The time is 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome and no prepared pieces are necessary. Need more information? Call ZCT at 455-6487! Hope to see you there!

T h a n k You!



GODSPELL is Coming!



Practices for GODSPELL are underway. Dee McCarthy - working her vocalists, Jan - blocking the actors, Roger - jamming with the musicians and the producer working behind the scenes. Conni Matz-Tolliver is just as busy if not more...she's working on box-office personnel, promotions and more. I added to her list by asking her to gather some GODSPELL info for the newsletter. Here's what she sent me.

ZCT will present the musical "GODSPELL", a play based on the Book of Matthew, centered around the last three days of Christ's life, portrayed in modern times. The play will be presented January 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st, and February 1st and 2nd.

GODSPELL is being directed by Jan Smith and Roger Touvell. When asked about why he chose "Godspell" Jan replied, "Easy, it is great fun, up tempo, and great music, colorful costumes and sends a message of joy to one and all." Roger Touvell is dividing his time between Assistant Director and playing in the band with Dr. Jeffrey Downing and Tom Able. Laura Gibson and Barb Snider have been busy finding props and designing the set.

Want more info on the actors and actresses? Here is a small peek into the offstage life of the crew.

JILLIAN VON GUNTEN - Jillian is a junior at Rosecrans High School. She has grown up in community theatre. Her roles have been both backstage and in the limelight. She has worked as stage manager, assistant director, and even follow spot operator. In recent years, she has been active in the RHS Drama Club having roles ranging from an annoying thief, to a duchess of a small Duchy, and an aging mystery writer. She feels privileged to work with such a talented group of people.

ROB COOK - Rob moved from Chicago to Philo about 2 years ago. He is a landscape designer with Timber Run Gardens. MFA in theatre from Illinois State University. Worked for Illinois Shakespeare Festival for a few seasons. He has done theater all over Illinois for many years, lastly in Chicago with a few smaller companies.

GAVIN MEEKS - Although I now live in Westerville, Ohio, I grew up here in Zanesville and have done most of my acting here at ZCT. I have a beautiful wife, Phyllis, and two wonderful children, Kaleigh 3 ½ and Garrett 16 months old. I am dedicating my performance in this show

to the memory of my mother who passed away in December of 2002.

JODI WOLFE - 27 years old, Full Leo. She is from Zanesville, married for 6 years to Bill Wolfe, who she met in a local performance of "Oliver". She has been involved in local theater off and on for the past 7 years and loves it! She would like to dedicate her performance in to her

Grandma and Grandpa Wagstaff for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

MEGAN FRANCIS - Megan is a 14 year old student at Roosevelt Middle School. She has appeared in the "WIZARD OF OZ" as the Wicked Witch of the West. She is trying out for "MUSIC MAN" in February.

DOUG SHUEY - I am thrilled to be a part of the great cast in this awesome show! My last venture on stage was as Huck Finn in ZCT's production of 'BIG RIVER'. I have also played the part of Prince John in 'THE LION IN WINTER'.

DANIEL SHUEY - Daniel is a Board Member here at ZCT and has appeared in many dramas and comedies here. He has also directed, and starred in a movie. Right now he is a double major of Political Science and Communications with a minor in Theater at Muskingum College.

PATTI KENNEY - Patti holds a Master's Degree in speech pathology from FSU and is 25 years old. She has been involved in theater and music since she was a child. Past plays and roles include Grazella in 'WEST SIDE STORY', Rose in 'THE SECRET GARDEN', AND Nellie in 'SOUTH PACIFIC'. She also sang in the Kent State University Chorale and an 8 person a capella group AR KSA called ARS NOVA. She is new to Zanesville and works as a speech pathologist at Genesis Healthcare Systems. It is a pleasure to be acting with such a wonderful, talented and fun group of people!

JON GEYER - Jon is performing at ZCT for the first time since appearing as Cousin Kevin in 'TOMMY' IN 1999. He has been involved in local community theater for most of his life. Currently Jon is a sophomore at Otterbein College majoring in both Public Relations and Speech Communications. He is actively involved with 101.5 FM, The Fan and Cardinal Newspaper and SIGMA DELTA PHI Fraternity.

LIBBI SHORT - Libbi is a 10th grader at Zanesville High School. She is thrilled to be making her ZCT debut. You may have seen her in her recent role of Rosalia in 'WEST SIDE STORY'. She has also appeared in many productions at Licking County Players, Columbus Children's Theater and Zane Trace Players. Favorite

roles include Nancy in 'OLIVER' AND Miss Scarlet in 'CLUE, THE MUSICAL'. She would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive.

ANGELA MEDDAUGH - This is her second performance for ZCT. She was Helena in 'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'. She has been involved in several local plays and school plays, such as 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' and 'ALIBIS'. She is planning to go to college to major in theater. She would like to thank God, her family and all her wonderful Drama Club friends.

KENNY IDE - I am a student at Muskingum College, studying history and music. I have been involved with theater since the 6th grade doing Christmas plays with a boy's and girl's club in Pittsburgh. I also was involved with my high school musicals for four years. I love 'GODSPELL' and when I say that ZCT was doing it, I was absolutely excited!

LAUREL DUBECK - Laurel has been doing community theater for over 20 years, mostly in Cambridge. She has done leading roles, supporting roles, character and chorus as well as choreographing many productions. Laurel choreographed 'HAGAR THE HORRIBLE' and "BIG RIVER" for ZCT as well as playing Lil in 'THE OCTETTE BRIDGE CLUB'. Laurel resides in Zanesville with one husband and three dogs. Three children have flown the coop.

Don't forget to call and make reservations to see this show! 455-6487 is the number, the end of the month is the time, and ZCT is the place! Hope to see you there!

Getting to know Mary Jo

Mary Jo Dondlinger presents her directorial debut with the Shakespearian favorite THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Did you know that she also serves on our Board of Directors? This wife and mother of two also teaches at MATC. Where does she find the time???

You may have seen her in last season's children's favorite 'Ramona Quimby' - she played Ramona's mom or as an alluring tart in 'BIG RIVER'.

I asked her a few questions and here is what she wrote.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TAMING OF THE SHREW?

I actually didn't. We needed a Shakespeare show for the 40th season and this is one that the play reading

committee thought would be best. I agree, of course; it is a favorite.

WHY DO YOU DIRECT?

Well, I haven't before. This will be my directing debut. But I worked w/ Roger T. as producer on 'Billy Would've Been Thirty Today' last season and enjoyed the "administrative" end of putting on a show. So, I agreed to do this one.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?

Very good question. I don't know that I have one favorite. I really like absurdist stuff: Albee, Becket, and even Stoppard. I plan to submit Stoppard's 'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' for next season although I would really like to do 'Arcadia' some time. 'R & G Are Dead' is better for community theatre though, as it is better known.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROLE?

Again, don't really have one a favorite. Of course, Kate in Shrew is a fabulous role, but I tend to prefer the mischievous characters (usually male roles, alas) like Falstaff, Bottom, etc.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIRECT BUT HAVEN'T?

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead, Arcadia, Zoo Story. (See above).

TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF...

Well, I get to employ some of my favorite things to do at the theatre. I love carpentry work and enjoy sewing--my sisters and I do collaborative quilting (we each contribute blocks/parts of the quilt and one of us puts it all together. It is pretty fun. I also really like landscaping work (not gardening--landscaping), and yes that includes cutting grass! Aside from that my biggest passion is reading--favorite author is William Faulkner.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE SHOW?

One goal (not sure if this can be achieved or not) is to inspire the cast to learn all of their lines in 4 weeks, so that we can spend a full 3 (or more) on timing/acting. It's a tough thing to do though. But we'll see what happens.



Designated Shopper?

I'm sure you are wondering what that is all about, so here it goes. I have worked with the Angel Tree benefit for quite a while now. And yes, sometimes I long for the days when I just carried my small part on stage. Now I'm in the producers end of the benefit and I'm swamped from Halloween through the second week of December. This is where my "Designated Shopper" comes in. I work real hard through the holidays to keep a show running smoothly and I want to do my part to put that money to good use. Face it, after Sunday's tear down - I'm exhausted. So how could I do both? Wellllll

It just so happens that one of my best friends is a goddess when it comes to shopping. She can spot a deal a mile away! Not only that, but she loves to shop. It's a niche in life that she thrives in. Every year I give her my share of the Angel Tree shopping money and "she goes to town". You may laugh, but she is awesome! She stretches each dollar till it squeaks out nickels! She finds combo gift packages for a tiny bit more than the single gift item. Her car looked like Santa had a flat and she towed him to the garage! - goodies and all!

I have to tell you about this year "mission". My friend and her husband each grabbed a cart and an "angel tree stash" and were off to the shopping races! Two carts traveling around Walmart, stacked taller than they, and still shopping. Check out told them they had more work to do, they went to Big Lots. Again two carts and some cash...believe it or not...they were once again looking around the carts they filled just to see where they were going. Picture if you will, a husband, a wife, two carts loaded, and a mountain of toys. Want a better picture? She drives a Yukon Denali and it was stuffed to the max with toys, games, art supplies, and more. The folks at The Salvation Army were amazed! And very astonished when they helped during the unloading of the goodies.

There are several ways to be a servant to the community, this is just one of them. One that continues to bring my friend joy - her skill of dollar stretching maximized Christmas for hundreds of kids and makes her feel good. It makes me feel good to know that the kids are getting quality, educational gifts and parents may feel better about the holidays and have hope. They may be next year's givers to the program. Who knows how important a gesture may be to someone in the future?

Congratulations

We at ZCT are proud to announce that Robert Leland Taylor's newest script has earned a play writer's award! Look to the upcoming issue of The Backstage Pass for details!

PARTY TIME!

Are you a Member of ZCT? Or would you like to be? Are you curious about ZCT and all of the changes that are taking place? If the answer is "YES" than ZCT is the place for you to be on Sunday, January 26th at 5:00 after the matinee of GODSPELL. ZCT will be hosting its General Membership Meeting. Its not just a regular meeting - it's a Potluck and Improv Gathering.

What's an Improv, you ask? If you like the Drew Carey Show 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' *You'll love this!* It's ZCT's version of quick situation acting and charades. Trust me, you don't know what will happen!!! Not only that, but it's a potluck too! Bring your favorite munchie and sample the goodies of others. I must say, our members are just as talented behind a stove as they are on stage. Oh, yes..all that and we'll throw in some ZCT business details, too.

Circle this article, mark your calendars and join in the fun! If you are not a member but would like to be, come on in and join! Dues are just \$5.00 each or \$10.00 for families. *What do the dues do?* Well, it makes your vote count on issues involving the theater and its growth. It also entitles you to be a candidate for our Board of Directors. It gives you a pride and ownership in being part of the group - not to mention these, wonderful, fantastic...fabulous...newsletters! ;-)

Everyone is welcomed to attend.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Our Condolences

We at ZCT wish to offer our condolences to the Meeks family. Sadly, Gavin's mother passed away in December.

Trivia

Who directed "GODSPELL" the first time around?
Jan Smith!

New Trivia? What season did we do 'Taming of the Shrew'?

Well Wishes

Our Angel Tree pianist, Sarah Andersen underwent surgery early this month. Board Member Angel Palmer had surgery too. We wish them well and hope a full recovery is on the way!



Special Days

Birthday wishes to Troy Alford, Amy Ritchey, Aaron Staley and my Dad, Gordon Hellwig who celebrate their big days this month! Happy Birthday!!!!

Mark Your Calendars!!!

What a busy month. Just when you think the hustle and bustle of holidays is over, the new year brings you ZCT with a bang!

AUDITIONS for Taming of the Shrew!

When? Sunday, January 12

Monday, January 13

Where? ZCT

Time? 7:00 pm

Who? *Auditions are open to everyone!*

PLAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE

When? January 15th

How? Call ZCT to make arrangements.

*If you are interested in submitting a play to direct please contact ZCT at 455-6487. We don't want to leave you out!

PLAY READING COMMITTEE MEETING

When? Sunday, January 19th

Where? St. Thomas Library

Time? 3:00 pm

Who? The play reading committee

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

& IMPROV PARTY

When? Sunday, January 26

Where? ZCT

Time? 5:00 pm

Who? Members and Wanna-be Members!

It's a potluck, so bring a munchie and something to drink. Participate in the General Membership meeting. And then **HAVE SOME FUN!!!**

GODSPELL

When? The weekends of January 24 & 31

Where? ZCT

Time? Friday and Saturday Shows at 8:00 pm

The Sunday Matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

Bringing in a New Year!

Time sure flies, right? The Buckeyes brought us 2003 with a nail-biting win. GO BUCKS! ZCT's 40th Season is off and running. The Chuck Spires Concert is just around the corner. We thought we were busy for Christmas! Sheesh! I'm thinking we'd better buckle up for 2003, because we are zooming into the new year!

Don't let the bad stuff get to ya. Richie tells me "Don't let the *#@!%#* grind you down!" It makes me laugh, and then I think how right he is. The news is filled with crime reports, the words "uncertain economy" and the reality of our troops readying to go overseas. Overwhelming, isn't it? When the frustrations get to you, stop and think of his phrase. When we let the aggravations outweigh our appreciations - we become the negatives ourselves. This year will be a challenging one on many levels. It is my wish for you in 2003 to carry the positives with you and be a light to help guide others. Happy New Year, may it be a rewarding one.