
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 9

March 9, 2003

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

Are YOU Exceptional?

Running a theater takes all kinds of talented people with dedication and commitment and a belief in what they do, a belief that the work that it takes to do good theater is worthwhile. Jumping through the hoops and following the rules and protocol (which can be a pain) makes for an exceptional product for our audiences.

Theater also has many people that are exceptions...people that are always a little late or miss rehearsals or can't call, who don't have to follow the rules, who knows the director "will understand". Now we all have things that come up from time to time. I guess the difference between the exception and the exceptional can be as simple as a phone call or consideration; that what you've agreed to do is important and if at all possible, you'll follow through with your commitment.

So the question is, "Are you the exceptional or the exception"?

41st Season Announced!

They met at a library. They read. Then traded. Then discussed. A decision was made. Curiosity mounted. A list was made! Tension building!

Wait no more!!! The BACKSTAGE Pass is the first to announce the run for next season!

ZCT Season is...

*TEN LITTLE INDIANS

Director - Melanine VonGunten

*THIS SLOT TO BE ANNOUNCED

*THE 13TH ANGEL TREE BENEFIT

Co-Directed by Rich & Shelley Tolliver

*Written by Shelley this year!!

*ROSENCRANTZ AND GULDENSTERN ARE DEAD.

Director - Mary Jo Dondlinger

*CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Co-Directors - Amy Ritchey and Todd King

*THE WORKSHOP "BAKER'S DOZEN"

Directed by Richard Tolliver

An interesting season, wouldn't you say? Who are the Ten Little Indians? Can Shelley actually write a show and not just transpose? How can we fit a barnyard onto our stage? Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and why are they dead? Can a theater workshop work? This is the season to answer those questions and many more!!! Stay tuned!!

A huge thank you to the Play Reading Committee. I've held that post. Its not that easy.



Anne Frank Auditions

March 2 and 3 brought talent from the corners of our area. And what talent! With talented auditioners also comes the realization that only a fourth will be called with good news.

It's one of the toughest roles for a director - breaking hearts. Sunday night's try-outs were phenomenal! From the very first gal, Micah, we knew that we were experiencing an extraordinary moment. Dozens of talented gals all vying for the coveted "Anne". Ladies - you were ALL GOOD! I don't write this lightly, as a matter of fact - it saddens me to listen to Rich make "those calls", and truthfully, it affects Rich too.

Rich and I have both been turned down for parts we were really pumped for. For some - I saw the competition and respected the director's decision, I knew they smoked me and they deserved the part. I've also looked back on some and thought to myself, "What in the world was the director thinking?...I didn't think he did drugs. I could have acted better than that in a giant ant costume!" As for this production - all of you kicked major butt and don't for a moment think otherwise. At least two dozen of you auditioned for one part - and you were all serious contenders. Carry that with you to your next audition - because each of you have roles waiting on you and I hope I can be there to see each of you in them.

PLEASE - don't give up the "acting bug" because you didn't get a part in this show. Our upcoming season will need talents like yours and I encourage you to come back and try again! Different shows, different directors and different roles and certainly different opportunities.

I know that this may not ease the reality for those who didn't get the "good call" - but I wanted you to know that it wasn't an easy decision on this end and we care, too.

Sincerely,
Shelley Tolliver,
Assistant Director of "ANNE FRANK"

Our Condolences

A member of the theatrical community passed away suddenly in February. We send our condolences to the family of Doug Miller. He will be missed by many.

Nashville's Working Man

Todd Cearney was one of the men behind the success of our fund-raising concert "Chuck Spires - An Evening with Family & Friends". He is one of the nicest people! He has pages and pages of people and groups he's collaborated with. "Wheels" by Restless Heart - Gold, "Lap of Luxury" by Cheap Trick - Platinum, "Bad English" by Bad English - Platinum, "Wildside" by Loverboy - Gold. I have these albums on tape and CD! Now I can say "hey, I met a guy who worked on these albums!" Cool, huh? He's done background vocals for people like Ray Stevens, Hank Williams Jr., B.J. Thomas, Billy Jo Spears, Michael Johnson, Don Gibson and many more. He does instrumentals, too, for people like the Dixie Chicks, The Nashville Symphony, and Gil Grand.

If you are browsing albums and CDs, checkout the labels..you just might surprise yourself when you see Todd's name.

Feel Better Soon

The flu bug is out and about!
We send get well wishes to
Angel Palmer!



We are also glad to report that
Darren Brown is out of the
hospital. NOW - STAY WELL!!!!

Answering the Call to Arms

Sherrie Johnson and her family are new members of the ZCT family. Adam has been in several Angel Trees and Sherrie has been a super-mom in keeping up with him and her husband's schedule.

On top of a busy calendar, they have just moved and now, Skip - her husband has been called to active duty effective the 17th of this month. His first stop will be Fort Bliss, Texas then to a classified location. She writes that he will be gone for a year. She is now in the middle of the paperwork that coincides with his leaving including the family briefing.

Please keep them and all our statesmen who are answering the same call in your thoughts. These men and women are the ones guarding our sleep at nights and our freedoms by day.

Funny, They Don't Look "SHREW-ish"

Mark your calendars for the weekends of March 21 and 29 for ZCT's Production of "The Taming of the Shrew". Director Mary Jo Dondlinger and family have worked overtime to bring an awesome stage to life! I'm intrigued myself...things rotate and open and vanish!... "Aha!," you state "but what is an exceptional set without actors who can maximize the potential?" Well...it just so happens that Mary Jo has assembled quite a crew. Here are some of the cast bios.

Rick Milheim - BAPTISTA - has performed in numerous in performances in Zanesville and Licking counties. He also performed in the recent OU Documentary film - "Passages to Freedom". Offstage he is the Operations Manager of a Columbus based third party administrator. He shares his enjoyment of theater with his son, Ian.

Amy Ritchey - Amy has been involved with ZCT for 10 years. Numerous shows fill her theatrical resume, such as several Angel Tree Shows, "Steel Magnolias", "You Can't Take it With You", and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?" This is her second performance in Shrew - the first as a servant and now as a bar wench. I think she's moving up.

Angela Medaugh - This will be my 3rd performance with ZCT. I have been in numerous community and school plays. I am active in church and school groups. I plan on going to college for theater. I am 17 years old and a senior at Tri-Valley High School.

Joseph Marks - My name is Joseph Marks. 47. Retired. I was in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", "The Cowboy II, Return to Coldwater", in 1971 & 72 I was in Children's theatre. Being in the theatre gives me something to look forward to. I look forward to working with everyone in the cast, the Director and the Assistant Director.

Darren Brown plays Curtis and has been involved in ZCT for the last 2 seasons and also sits on the Board of ZCT and is the OCTA Delegate. Darren has been acting for over 20 years. Darren is also working on his own independent film to be submitted in film festivals.

Kristin Kenily - I'm a sophomore at OUZ and currently trying to major in Communications and English. I enjoy Shakespeare and have been in "Midsummer Nights Dream" prior to this. I would like to thank my parents and my father especially in getting me involved with the theater. I love you, too!

If anyone out there comes across a "Labyrinth" movie t-shirt - buy it for me and I will give you the money for it!

Aarica Robison - Aarica is a Junior at Tri-Valley High. This is her first time participating in a ZCT production. She is also a member of the TVHS Drama Club. In this club she has been in 1 children's play "Tongue Twisted" and she was an extra/singer in the production of "The Christmas Carol". She is a member of the Tri-Valley Symphonic Choir and is active in her church youth group.

Caitlin McCarthy - This is Caitlin's first performance at ZCT, but not her second play. She stage managed for last year's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and has missed the stage and the people very much. Caitlin enjoys singing and acting and plans to combine both for her college major. She's having a blast and loves this cast!

Jason Baum - This is his first performance with the Zanesville Community Theater. His previous experience include a murder mystery and performance of "The Christmas Carol" with the Tri-Valley High School Drama Club". In "The Christmas Carol" he played Scrooge. Jason' also appeared as an extra in the feature film "Gods and Generals". In his free time Jason takes it easy listening to music, skateboarding, and keeping tabs on politics. Jason is a junior at Tri-Valley High School.

Daniel Shuey - Daniel considers himself to be extremely lucky in this production, as it involves the two loves of his life: theater and the beautiful Ms. Kristin Kenily. Daniel is also a Board Member here and is a student at Muskingum College.

Steven Paisley - This is his first play in ZCT. He enjoys acting very much and would like to minor in it in college. Steven, in his high school drama club acted in "The Christmas Carol". (Tri-Valley High School) He's in Symphonic Choir, swimming, and plays soccer. He's having a lot of fun with the play and would like to participate more at ZCT.

Dorlesia Jordan - This is my 10th Show with ZCT. I have been acting since I was in high school. This is my 3rd Shakespeare play. I was also in "The Tempest" and "A Midsummers Night Dream". I have also been in "Tommy", "A Little Night Music" and "Big River" just to name a few. I thank everyone for coming out tonight and enjoy the show!

Jane Robinson - This is Jane's first performance with ZCT and her return to the stage after a ten year absence. Having performed in many plays in Ohio and Europe, Jane spent the last ten years presenting Bible Dramas; bringing Bible Stories to life during Vacation Bible Schools. Jane shares her performance with her eldest daughter Aarica. She and her husband have four children. She would like to thank her family for supporting her.

Adam Young - My name is Adam Young. I play Nathaniel in "The Taming of the Shrew". Previously with ZCT, I was in "A Midsummer's Nights Dream". In high school, I did such plays as "Little Shop of Horrors", "Dracula", "You Can't Take it With You", and "It was a Dark and Stormy Night". I'm 19 years old. I went to RHS and am currently going to OUZ.

Robert Leland Taylor - This is Robert's 5th appearance here at ZCT, last seen as Dale Harding in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". Two of his own plays were produced here, "Those Strange and Glorious Years" and "Billy Would've Been 30 Today". Another is scheduled for next season, "Kentucky Wings", winner of the Southern Playwrights Competition. He's appearing next in Joe Porter's "Swing Band" at Secrest Auditorium May 23rd and 24th. Robert thanks you for coming to see the show and for supporting the theater here in Zanesville.

Ansel Burch is currently enrolled at Philo High School. He has been involved in every show there since his freshman year. He has been backstage for "Rumors" and "Peter Pan", and has played Exekiel Cheever in "The Crucible", reverend Hooker in "Dearly Departed", Anagnas in "The Miracle Worker", Greylag in "Honk", Dr Emmett in "The Curious Savage" and most recently John Wheeler in "Night Watch". His first play was "Hagar the Horrible" here at ZCT. He is happy to be back and looks forward to more shows here. His plans for the future are to earn a PhD in Medieval English Literature and be an English Professor.

Carol Farnese - Carol is a senior at OUZ and will graduate in June. Along with school, she works full time at Bob Evans's as a server. This is her first experience with ZCT as a stage manager. She is also involved with the local Jaycees as well as Business and Professional Women's Organization.

Ashley Eaves is a home schooled, high school Junior. Her first play was last year, with her role as "Mrs. Griggs" in ZCT's production of Ramona Quimby. She has since played the parts of "Velma" in West Side Story (Secrest Auditorium) and "Kate" in Brigadoon (Zane Trace Players). After high school she plans to attend college and pursue a career in Interior Decoration.

Randy Guthrie - Randy is the Senior Government Teacher at Philo High School where he also coaches high school football. This father of three boys squeezes in time for theater whenever he can. You might remember him as one of our loveable bumpkins in "Big River" or as the bad guy who got eggs smashed over his head in our Angel Tree production that was held at Rosecran's. ("Mistletoe Memories") Look to the ZCT season finale "The Diary of Anne Frank" where Randy plays the part of Mr. Dussel, the dentist.

“NIGHT WATCH” Comes to Philo

Kyle Trout helped take the reigns of Philo's thriller - "Night Watch" on February 21 & 22. I hope you braved the weather and got to see it. You may remember Kyle - he's the man behind stage managing shows like ZCT's "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Big River".

He and Angie Carter teamed up to run the show. Although this is Kyle's 9th show, it's his debut in the "Director's Chair". His usual station is as a stage manager (which he is awesome!). He writes that he enjoys the show's style - and directing it. He wrote of the talents of his crew, too. He said that "they make the most of the show" and that "he's *very* proud".

Rich and I got to see the show and was impressed. You could feel the adrenalin from the actors and crew. The set, the staging, the details, and the accents made for an enjoyable evening.

LOVED the ending! For a debut experience - it rocked! I've seen seasoned shows that weren't as complete. Congrats on a show to be proud of.

OCTA DOES WHAT?

by Darren Brown

Greetings & Salutations ZCT, Its just me your firendly and everso humble OCTA Rep (lol) fresh frome the Southeast Regional OCTA meeting, which was hosted be The Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia. But first I would like to take this time to thank the amazing duo of Rich and Shelley Tolliver for their years and service and dedication to ZCT, especially in the recent months with the Chuck Spires concert. I also wanted to say keep up all the hard work, because it is sure appreciated.

Now that is out the way, I've been asked to pontificate, as it were on the resources of OCTA. So here it goes.

The Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA) is not just an organization that promotes growth in artistic and technical aspects of theatre or access to the live theatre. They also provide support through their OCTA resource directory used to locate props, costumes, and equipment. So I would like to take this time to encourage ZCT directors and producers to utilize the many resources of OCTA, such as the leading library which holes over 2000 titles of books, anthologies including musicals, one acts , children plays, and technical/administrative reference books and all available for your pursal. You can take out up to 15 titles for a refundable fee of \$20.

You can also rent sets and /or costumes from OCTA's member theatres, for a minimal fee set by each individual theatre. OCTA also provides directors with a unique tool through OCTA's guide and respondents service, which allows directors to recieve constructive advice and criticism of rehearsals and performances of a driector's production. OCTA also offers other services and resources.

If you would like more information or would like to utilize the services and resources of OCTA please feel free to contact me or Rich.



Music to Our Ears

Charles Savage is a theater man from way back, even though he is quite young. He plays an integral part to our show "Taming of the Shrew" and he isn't even on stage. "How can that be?", you ask. Well, Charles is lending his gift of music to the stage. He has composed the music to our Shakespearian performance. Ah, but there is more to this man than music. He also contributing his photographic skills for a display in the lobby - photos that can be purchased with proceeds to help both ZCT and the Zanesville Art Center.

Here are some details about Mr. Savage.

*A Bit About Me: Charles Savage, native of South Zanesville, Ohio

Occupation: OUZ Instructor of Music, Singer, Composer, Conductor of the OUZ Choral Union.

Why Photography?

Because I can't draw, paint, or sculpt (unless you consider demolition sculpture). I also like the idea of trying to capture a second of time (such as fireworks or lightning). Even though I'm a member of ZAAP, I'm more of an auditory artist than visual. I guess I do try to paint a picture with my music. That's why I enjoyed composing the music for the show "Taming of the Shrew". To aid the play, I'm using the music to help paint the picture of the time of Shakespeare. I'm looking forward to hearing the end result.

Why sell the photos?

It's to help raise funds for the theatre and for the Grand Piano at the Zanesville Art Center. I'm just trying to share my art and music with the community. That's how I contribute to the area in which I live, that is through my music.

How did you get involved with Shrew?

Last year I was approached to write the music by Mary Jo over coffee, and the idea just seemed to grow from there. I wish more theaters would be willing to expand their options by using the talents that their members have. Not everyone wants to be on stage. Some of us like being the creators of the small things behind the

scenes. It's like creating the music for a movie. You don't really pay attention to the music, but you notice it when it's not there. It's that little touch that puts the frosting on the cake (so to speak).

Your Favorite Musical Moment? The first time I listened to Igor Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. Either that, or the Watching the "Kill the Wabbit" cartoon, and finding out that the music was really written by Richard Wagner.

What inspires you? Coffee, Lapsang Souchong Tea, Cheesecake, Chocolate Espresso beans, and Tootsie Rolls. Oh, you mean the music. Well, a healthy fast paced life and shortage of sleep.

Are you working on other projects? Yes, several. I always have several on the burners. I'm writing the music to my second opera, a major orchestra work, a wind ensemble piece, a choral work for the OUZ bicentennial for next year, and the libretto of a third opera, plus several smaller pieces. It's never a dull moment in my life (well, almost).

I hope everyone likes the play. I know that everyone worked hard to bring Shakespeare to life for Zanesville.
- Charles Savage

Our March Board Member

This month Daniel Shuey holds the esteemed honor of being our featured Board Member of March. I first had the opportunity to work with Daniel and his sister, Sabrina, during "To Kill A Mockingbird" way back when...a time when I was taller he was. Raw talent being polished is quite a sight. Concepts, stage direction, script translations, and the eagerness to learn - it's the combination that directors dream of. His skills have grown with him. Now a student at Muskingum College, ZCT's youngest Board Member is broadening his horizons!

I asked Daniel the basic questions and here's his replies.

What year did you become involved with ZCT?

I started working with ZCT the summer before my freshman year, which would be the summer of 1998...wow, way back in the 1990's!

Who or what brought you in?

I went to church with Eric Drake, and he told me he had a part he needed to fill I "Tommy", so I came, and the rest, my friends, is history.

Tell us a little about yourself..family, work, hobbies, etc.

I'm a Sophomore at Muskingum College, and I'm majoring in Communications and Political Science, with a minor in Theater. My brothers and sister's are also all involved with theater, although I still claim I'm the most talented, although you might get some argument from them...

What is your favorite part of theater?

My favorite part of theater is the people. Most of my really good friends I've met in community theater, and I think there truly are no people like show people, and I just enjoy working with people who need applause and the lights on them as much as I do.

What is your favorite show?

My favorite show...hmmm...I really am partial to "You Can't Take it With You" because it was my first show that I've ever directed. It's funny and a lot of fun to do. But, overall, I'm a big fan of the comedies in general and you just can't beat a good Neil Simon show like "Lost in Yonkers". Overall, I'm conflicted on this question.

What are your goals as a member?

My goals as a member is to create involvement in theater, especially in the teenager area. I've tried to get my friends involved, because I know that there is an interest in theater in the Muskingum County area in our youth, we just have to let them know the opportunities ZCT offers them.

Also, as an actor/member, my goal is to provide quality performances. Give people what they pay for, and they are paying to be entertained well. So, I always want to make sure anything I'm involved in is at the level it should be, and I think that is an important goal for any member of the theater, because that's the bottom line of why we exist. Daniel also has one of the leads in "Shrew" so I asked what it was like for him. He includes:

The "Taming of the Shrew" experience has been fantastic. I get to play opposite my real life girlfriend, and above all else, it allows for some interesting

practices. Being the “tamer” while she is being the “tamed”, allows me to feel what holding the power in a relationship really feels like for just a few moments, because, if you know us, you know which of us has the power (hint - its not me!) But anytime you get a chance to work with someone you love, it’s a special experience and I’m really enjoying it and glad I could be a part of it.

No Business like Snow Business

Niel Kiikka is the man to thank for the ZCT sidewalk and parking area. He cleared snow all day so that the members of the theater could walk safely to and from ZCT without drenching the pant legs with the cold stuff. If you see him - THANK HIM!!! I appreciate it and I know that our neighbors do, too. :-)

Honoring African American History

Charles Savage gave a lecture with Liesta Walker at COUZ for Black History month on Feb. 27th, at Elson Hall. The subject was "The Women and Music of the Underground Railroad". The lecture had also been given in October at the Appalachian Women's Conference. Savage will be conducting the OUZ Choral Union in their winter mini concert on March 17th, at 7:30 in the evening. It will feature music by area composers, past and present.

I got to listen to part of their presentation on the news. It was very interesting, and Liesta Walker’s voice engulfed your heart while endearing the senses to meaning of the songs.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day!



Trivia

Taming of the Shrew was done in the 30th Season.

Trivia? Where was William Shakespeare from?

He was from a small village of Stratford on the banks of the Avon River.

One better? What was the name of his theater? The Globe.

Did his friends call him Bill? (Ha ha) We may never know this one....

New Trivia...What is the musical based on “The Taming of the Shrew”?

Mark Your Calendars!

Grab a marker and circle some dates!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY

March 17

SHOWTIME!

TAMING OF THE SHREW

When? The weekends of March 21 & 28

Times? 8:00 on Fridays and Saturdays

2:30 on Sundays

*Don’t forget to make reservations! 455-6487

BOARD MEETING

When? Sunday, April 6th

Time? 5:00

Where? ZCT

