

The Backstage Pass

Season 41 Letter 6

February 8, 2004

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

The Crash of the New Year

...unfortunately was mine. After the excitement and responsibilities of the Angel Tree Benefit, the whirl of the holiday concert "Chuck Spires An Evening in my Hometown" and then Christmas and the welcoming of the new year...well, it was get down to business time. Right in the midst of catching up with the newsletter and doing the yearly cleaning of the computer - it crashed and hard!!! We ran an errand and came back to a white cursor in the left hand corner of the computer. Timing is everything - Right?

Well, thanks to my computer wizard friends and my Guru Brother-in-law Dan Abele, the computer "kids" are up and running once again. Did you know that sometimes if you put a hard-drive in the freezer for 24 hours and then try it - you could get 10 minutes of life out of it??? Dan told me he was going to try it. Sadly, it didn't work with mine, but now I know.

Now to the work I missed.



As a thought on backing things up...I've learned the hard way that a once a year backups aren't current enough for things like addresses. Take a byte of info from me and maybe take some time to backup your vital information incase something like this happens to you.

Christmas Eve in My Hometown

What a huge success!!! Thrilled audiences watched in awe as local talents shined in their finest! The music, Christmas was in the air and everywhere! Holiday classics never sounded so good! They blended well with the new sounds of the season as well. The first half dazzled and impressed - with people like Max "The Sax" Deaton, Johnathon McConnell, Adam Cauveney Ed Yetter, and Karl Saunders, how could it not? Not to mention Chuck and his talented kids - Steve and Kristi. We were eating out of the palms of their hands! What a show! What a show!

Intermission opened with a reflective note. Rich Tolliver and Todd King wrote a haunting, heartfelt melody in honor of those who have put their life on the line for our country and for the freedom of those who dwell within it. It softened the eyelashes of all who listened to their words.

The concert rounded out its Christmas jubilee with Sarah Andersen on a sassy keyboard and one heck of a jam session not to mention a visit from that kindly elf from the north, Santa Claus, who came to us by way of Randy Guthrie and Dick Tolliver. Thanks fellas for making sure Santa made it on time to the concert! ;-)

A big thanks to all who helped make this concert a success! I thank each and every one of you for your support! I hope Santa added extra to your stockings!

Mistletoe and Mollie!

Our member for December is Mrs. Mollie Earich and what a festive member she is! She has devoted much of her winter season to making this year's Angel Tree such a success!

I asked Mollie the "the questions" and here are her answers:

What are your goals as a Board Member?

My goals as a member of ZCT are to promote the theatre to as many people as possible and to convey the enjoyment one can receive from participating in community theatre. Another goal I have is to remember and be on time for board meetings!

Believe it or not, there was once a time that I felt I did not have the talent to audition for ZCT. This was at least 10 years ago. It was the ability to be in Angel Tree (anyone who shows up gets a part!) that gave me the opportunity to come into the theatre and get acquainted. My children were in the show with me and it also helped them to get to know the theatre.

Who or what got you interested in working with ZCT?

My next part was a servant woman in "Taming of the Shrew" when Amy Underwood was Kate...and the rest is history or HERSTORY!

What is your favorite part(s) of theatre? What is your favorite show? What is your favorite role?

I have to share here that to receive the FIRST ever, People's Choice Award for my part of Nurse Ratched, was indeed a hallmark moment in my relationship with ZCT. Some may not think that it took a great deal of acting on my part to portray Ratched, but it did! Having the opportunity to do it twice was incredibly challenging and ultimately, worthwhile!

I don't have a favorite show. But I love great theatre! My favorite roles, to portray however, are Yente in "Fiddler on the Roof" because she has such a great character..oy-

vey; the "Wicked Witch of the West" in 'Wizard of Oz" because, because, because....also Daisy in "Driving Miss Daisy' because of the supporting cast. They were wonderful and Millicent in last year's Angel Tree because I could portray myself! HAHA.

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

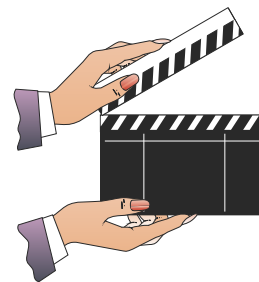
I live in Duncan Falls with my husband, Gary, who works at WHIZ-TV, children Alex, in the eighth grade at Philo Junior High and Olivia, in the fifth grade at Duncan Falls Elementary. We are members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and I am also a Realtor (15 years experience) with the Prudential-McCollister & Assoc. Realtors.

I am currently working on my master's degree at Muskingum College.

My hobby IS THEATRE. Some people jog,

I do the stage. It is a great mental workout!

Thanks Mollie! I hope you all got a glimpse of the comedic side of Mrs. Earich in this year's Angel Tree. She's a package deal as far as talent goes. She gives to her characters and her coworkers in the most generous of ways. We look forward to her next role, what ever it may be.



An Evening of Robert Leland

Taylor

For the audience member who enjoys the whole gambit of theatrical arts - this duo was it. The first show, KENTUCKY WINGS, directed by Rick Milheim, enveloped a stark world of a family with secrets and an inability reach out to each other enough to make things right. The second show - SEX WITHOUT PLIERS, directed by Sam Wilmoth was a raving comedy. A spoof of the Sam Spade classics - the film noir detective and his air-headed secretary find themselves wrapped in a mystery and showered in the end by music. Quite trippy, if I do say so myself.

Both plays are award winners written by Robert Leland Taylor. This production of SEX WITHOUT PLIERS marked a first - It featured Robert in the show as Mr. Futter - so it was a double treat.

The Winner of the Audience Choice Award is Ryan Hardwick. The winners of the weekend raffles are Ian Milheim, Pat Milheim, Kris Taylor, Douglas Dilley, Amy King and Vickie Ruckman. Yea!!

The Producer of our evening of one acts, Conni Matz-Tolliver writes " It was a success. The shows were well received by the audiences. They drew a lot of new faces to ZCT not only on the stage but in the audience too. Robert was pleased with the performances. It was definitely a memorable experience for me. I still feel honored to have been in one of Robert's show and hope to have the chance again sometime". That is an honest producer/actor evaluation, everyone doesn't have to know everything that made it memorable!"

Our Thoughts

Are with the Wise family. We are hoping for the best for Chuck Wise and his family and friends.

BAKER'S Bonus

Auditions for ZCT's finali BAKER'S DOZEN were soundly interrupted by Old Man Winter. Snow, ice and freezing cold. BRRRRRR! So, calls to WHIZ and another cancellation added to the list and a window of opportunity appeared a week later. OK, so maybe auditions held on a Super Bowl Sunday night isn't the optimum choice..but people came! Cool Beans!! Monday brought more eager participants. More cool beans!!!

Since I've been out of commission, BAKER'S DOZEN is a walk in a new direction - a workshop under the guidance of Richard Tolliver and me. Participants will be responsible for the development of each of the three 1-ACT plays which includes plot construction, character creation as well as performing in their final results. Interesting, huh?

The rehearsal schedule begins this Sunday and so does the fun. One of the plays takes a look at a couple evaluating their marriage of 25 years. It's craftily constructed and an interesting introspective on expectations of marriage. The second play follows a restaurant owner's son as he trains to be a matre'd . What will our crew materialize for our young man in training? Who will he meet? What situations will occur? How will our young steward handle it? Our third is a heart-warmer entitled "Shall We Dance?". It brings a couple's first encounter at a their school's Dance Class into a circle of their lives together.

Who are our work-shoppers? Well, we welcome Roger Touvell, Ian Milhiem, Joe Marks, Darren Brown, Robert Leland-Taylor, Julie Zylinsky, Deena Kay Bess, Alice Mauk, Sis Bowman and Conni Matz-Tolliver. What will our crew come up with? Can you bring a group of interested people together for a prosperous outcome? YES! Its that part of Community Theatre Magic you just can't find anywhere else. Keep posted for our season's finali!

Well Wishes

Joe Marks is recovering from surgery and we are thrilled! Keep on a mending path, Joe!

Program Problems

It's February 2004 and where has the time gone? I've been working behind the scenes of the Angel Tree since sometime in January of 2003 and then some. I must have wore a hat with a huge hole in it for this year's program! My producer too! I usually run the draft around for everyone to double check things like spellings and correctness. Guess what I didn't do...you got it. I did worse than misspell names...I left people out! Holy Moly - did I ever!!! How bad did we do???

I left out my own parents in law!!!! How embarrassing!!! So it is with egg on my keyboard I write the names of those I missed...

Dick and Dru Tolliver

Samantha Stepp

Sarah Stepp

Diane Waggle

Mia, Sadie and Maddy McCarthy.

I'm sorry if I'm still missing people. This show was a huge success because of **everyone's** collaboration. I'm sorry to have left people out.

Caught in a Web...

CHARLOTTE'S WEB that is...Todd and Amy King set off on a journey to bring a children's show to ZCT and what a show it is. The auditions went very well and now they are off and running. Its rehearsal time again.

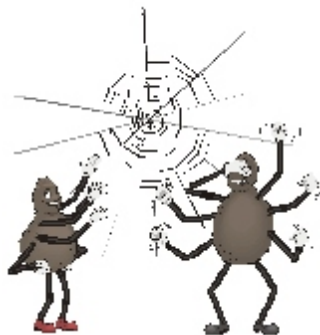
Show time is just around the corner. Our guest Set Designer, Mark Blessing and his wife Deb are working on concepts as we speak!

Mark is thrilled at the challenge to incorporate our upper level in the design. Keep posted and certainly make plans to see this show! Kids and kids at heart will love this script - not to mention fall in love with characters. *Come have a good time!!*

Angel Tree Thanks!

Thanks to you, the members of our community for making our Angel Tree a wonderful success. Did you know we raised \$2200.00 this year??? Not only that but thanks to the Members of ST. THOMAS AQUINAS Church and School who's wonderful toys were warmly accepted by needy families too. And not just a few - *members of this facility outdid themselves with generosity!!!* Melanie Von Gunten and her daughter Jillian truly were Santa's helpers this year. I don't think I saw them empty handed as they came to practices. Thanks to you, and to everyone who donated prizes and presents, who bought raffle tickets and donated towards the help of needy families. Please know that YOU are the reason that many people could celebrate the sentiment of the season. Thanks to everyone!

And to those who worked so hard for the Angel Tree show - I want to take this time to thank you personally. Every year the show takes on a dynamic - each as unique as the show. It wasn't an easy show to do this year, not by any stretch of the imagination. Richie and I shared growing pains while walking in each other's shoes. The passing of Grandma Greever touched us all. And each and every one of us are affected by the war overseas and the economy. ***Folks - you did it.*** You created the magic that made this show delightful for our audiences. Your time, energy and dedication is why so many families enjoyed Christmas this year. Face it, this year more than ever - we needed something to smile about - and that is a gift to cherish. Thank you for all your work and patience. This event is your success, one that carries a community with you. Thank you all.



Overseas Update

Sherrie Johnson's husband is recovering from an injury received while in the fight for a terrorist free America. Sherrie writes about the thrilling visit from a very well known celebrity - Tom Hanks. Here's what she writes:

"We had an exciting day. We had a celebrity visitor and it was awesome. Tom Hanks was visiting soldiers who were injured in Iraq and I asked if he could see Justin. I was told this visit was only for those from Iraq but they would ask. Tom agreed to see Justin. He was so gracious. He asked Justin what happened and when Justin said he was shot, Tom said Justin must have pissed somebody off. When Justin said there was supposed to be blanks and this guy brought live, Tom says, well, I hope that guy gets in trouble. I even got my picture taken with him. He was very personable. He asked me if I was an Army wife and Mother would I be an Army grandmother, also? lol I told him not to rush anything.

We have experienced a lot of this "discrimination" here at WRH about OEF or OIF (Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom". Those soldiers are priority now, but Justin's injuries are more serious than most. The families are very well taken care of but we are not eligible for any of it. I have a lot of people here say that is not fair and I know there is something in the works to at least get our lodging paid for. I'm still in Justin's room, but I can get the Fisher House (like Ronald McDonald House) for \$10/night.

Justin is doing great. The docs are still in no hurry to cut anything off. They said there is adequate blood flow in his left leg. He gets the skin graft bandages taken off tomorrow. I know a lot of people back home are doing things and thinking of Justin and I thank everyone so much."

We are thinking good thoughts for you and your family. May good health and healing surround you soon!

Thanks for keeping us posted!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Charlotte's Webb

WHEN? -The weekends of March 26 &
April 2nd

TIMES? -Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00
Sundays at 2:30

WHERE? - ZCT

WHO? - Everyone will love this show!!!

Directed by Todd and Amy King

** Don't forget to make reservations! 455-6487 - the script is a delightful walk down memory lane for everyone who loves this children's classic.

Baker's Dozen

WHEN? -The weekends of May 14 & 21
TIMES? -Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00
Sundays at 2:30

WHERE? - ZCT

WHO? - Everyone!!!

Directed by Richard Tolliver

The BACKSTAGE PASS welcomes articles or article ideas from members and non members. If you have anything you'd like to see included or have any questions about the Zanesville Community Theatre feel free to send them my way. If I cannot answer them, I'll find someone who can. Thanks for your time and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Shelley Tolliver

-First Lady of ZCT & Newsletter Editor