

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 41 Letter 4

November 15, 2003

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note from the President

The holidays will soon be upon us and depending on your own personal perspective - they can be a time of joy, or a pain in the butt! Let's focus on the joy. Friends and family having parties and coming together to celebrate the season. That's what its all about.

Whatever your beliefs and traditions are, remember this: rolls burn, turkeys can be tough, wrong sizes will be bought, you might bust a Christmas bulb or two, things will be misplaced or forgotten, tempers may flare and perfection is often fleeting and unattainable - but your family and your friends and the blessings you have - they are now. Embrace them. An "I love you", a hug, or helping hand, often go much farther than an expensive gift.

So if you have to set a centerpiece over last years cranberry stain - so be it. Don't let the trimmings get in the way of your festivities.

Hope your holidays are filled with joy!
- Rich



Christmas Eve in My Hometown

**The Chuck Spires Holiday Event
Hosted by Zanesville Community Theatre**

Music is in the air! Festive Holiday Music! The music that makes you want a warm fire and a nice cozy cup of soup! Its just around the corner and you are invited! On Saturday, December 20th and Sunday, December 21st Zanesville Community Theatre welcomes Chuck Spires for a musical holiday special engagement.

Tickets for this show will be by reservation only and will be \$10 each. Tickets aren't available yet, but keep posted to the BACKSTAGE PASS for information. Since it's a two-day engagement, tickets will go quickly. Stay posted, and be prepared for an evening of the music that we love throughout the holiday season!



An Anniversary to Celebrate

Dick and Drusilla Tolliver celebrate another year of wedded bliss. May you have many, many more!

My Snow Globe Philosophy

Every so often something happens to shake up your world - at least it does in mine. I've often felt like I was in a snow globe with me and my home as the central figure - the snow represents the world around me. Sometimes things happen to "shake it up" and the snow lands in the most wondrous arrangements then other times I've felt like the whirl of things will never stop - a hurricane of events and I can't move to stop them. It's very overwhelming.

Lately, the worlds of several of my friends have been shaken up by people...people who I think are lost in their own snow globe worlds too. I'm approaching 31 this November and I've experienced huge events in my life where people have stirred up my life and left it quite different. After my divorce, I received several notes which contained the following writing. It made sense to me where other concepts left me agitated or so frustrated I wanted to throw things. Here it goes:

Are you a Reason, a Season or a Lifetime?

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a REASON... It is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend and they are! They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrong doing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die.

Sometimes they walk away.

Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand.

What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered. And now it is time to move on.

When people come into your life for a SEASON it

is because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real.

But, only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

The last line of this writing is "Thank you for being part of my life." It seems so simple yet so profound. I wish I could take credit for it - I do not know the author, but I wish I did. I'd shake his or her hand and thank them.

I send this to anyone whose life is or has been shaken up. I wish you good luck too this holiday season. Please know that you are not alone and you can also help others by just being there and listening. Take care of the snow globe lives of others, too.

The Stork is on its Way!!

Darren and Kristi Brown are in the family way! Congratulations Darren and Kristi! Baby makes three!

A Member Resigns

Life is a busy sport, and sometimes a person has to assess their priorities and make tough decisions. Unfortunately, Angel Palmer is in a place in her life where she had to make some choices. Sadly, that means she is resigning from the Board of Zanesville Community Theatre. She felt that it wasn't fair to be a member and not meet her commitments fully to that responsibility. She did say, however that a resignation from the board didn't mean a resignation from the theatre. That is good to know. The theater is a fun place to be, and cutting it means cutting out a good time. Who wants to do that??? We appreciate her honesty in the matter and look for her in the future!

January's Show

Producer Conni Matz-Tolliver is back in the saddle of PR for our upcoming slate of shows KENTUCKY WINGS & SEX WITHOUT PLIERS. Conni writes:

KENTUCKY WINGS & SEX WITHOUT PLIERS

AN EVENING OF ORIGINAL WORKS BY ROBERT
LELAND TAYLOR

It was an unusual evening at ZCT. How often do you get to audition for a play, with the playwright sitting right there watching you? Actually it was an audition for two plays by an award winning playwright who lives in your area and has acted on our stage and had other plays of his performed here before. Obviously I am talking about Robert Leland Taylor. This time, we are doing something a little different. We have two one act plays, one drama, one comedy. *Kentucky Wings* is a drama revolving around a poor farm family in Kentucky that is dealing with identity crisis, relationships and loyalty. *Sex Without Pliers* is a comedy about a Private Eye who seems to have stepped out of the forties into the present time to solve a missing person case in the mansion of a wealthy writer. *Kentucky Wings* is directed by Rick Milheim. *Sex Without Pliers* is directed by Sam Wilmoth. The shows are being produced by Conni Matz-Tolliver.

We had a very good turn out for the auditions. There were many new faces along with some familiar are ones. The casts lists include:

Kentucky Wings:

Leonard - John D. Powell

Myra - Conni Matz-Tolliver

Eileen - Rebecca Dennis

Gaynor - Joseph Marks

Sex Without Pliers:

Dudley Hatcher Carp - John Engelmann

Miss Dayglo - Shannon Eubanks

Raymond Futter - Robert Leland Taylor

Reginald - Dustin Kreis

Mother Futter Megan Filippi

Pearlie Futter - Amanda Dilley

Hawk - Ryan Hardwick

Stage hand - Brittini Vensil

We are very excited to be working with Robert on these plays. I must admit it is a little different working with the author. Not only do you want to give the director what he is looking for, but you **really** want to do justice to the part the author wrote. What a challenge! Different moods, different sets, different actors, same night! We hope you will come share the evenings with us!

Conni Matz-Tolliver

Feeling Better

Troy Alford recently had his tonsils removed and we are proud to report that he is well and doing fine!

Martha Staley is recovering from a nasty pinched nerve in her lower back! OUCH! Glad you are on the mend and doing better!

Alice Mauk Fills the Position

With the resignation of Angel Palmer the search began for her replacement. With good fortune smiling on us, Alice Mauk was welcomed to the Board of Directors! Alice is well known for her philanthropic support of the arts and the community for quite some time. Look to future editions of the BACKSTAGE PASS for more about Alice and the wealth of knowledge she brings to the theatre.

Welcome On BOARD Alice.
We look forward to your presence!



Trick or Treat?

Halloween brought Trick or Treaters from all around town. Those who visited the theater were greeted by Aaron Staley who was posing as Seymour Krelborn with non-other than the Audrey II from LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!

Costumed kids from all over the neighborhood met with its floral mayhem! Some kids stopped at the end of the sidewalk, others looked in its choppers to see who was doing “all that”. One little girl thought she was a dentist and went straight for one of Audrey’s teeth!!! Not only that, but she yanked one too! Sheesh!

Our Audrey II got the best of ‘em all! With a “help its eating me!” its massive jaws opened and Darren Brown reached out and touched people! Folks were shocked and a lady even screamed, several times! Too funny. Our littler beggars were met with the nicer side of our visitor. They pet her leaves and even giggled.

Thanks to our helpers Darren Brown and Aaron Staley, children of all ages carried home yummy treats and some even received a free ticket to see our upcoming show, CHARLOTTE’S WEB! Congratulations to all, and enjoy! And yes, that was me dressed as Poison Ivy helping pass out the goodies!

Little Shop of WINNERS!

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS was a success in many ways - the director was proud, the cast had fun, the audiences had fun - and the seats were full! Things a theatre loves!

Raffle prizes consisted of gift certificates, and rare varieties of fly-traps! Oooh yuk! Very strange! Winners of the prizes are: Vickie Paisley, Jennifer Wilkes, Jordina Sayerle, Frank Renio, Sandy Jewell, Joyce Charmichael, and Phil Palmer. Winners of the costume contest are: Matt Swingle and Mollie Earich.

Kudos goes to Emily Rezek who played Audrey. She won our Audience Choice Award! Congratulations Emily!

Thanks to all who participated in our raffle and Audience Choice Awards! It is you who makes our theater a success!

SOUPER - Bowled Over

Mollie Earich’s one busy lady! She’s one of those ladies other gals look at and think “how in the H-E double-toothpicks does she do it?” Well, watch in wonder..she did it again!

This year’s Souper-Bowl was a huge success, a success in which Mollie was a proud part of. She helped run the carry out this year. Did you know that there were 106 carry - outs? How about this - 955 bowls were served! More impressive is the fact that 14 churches worked together to sponsor the event. Not a drop of soup went to waste either. Central Presbyterian Church helps serve a dinner at Christ’s Table with the Salvation Army in the evening. It’s a beautiful thing when a group of people come together and make good things happen!

She said that although it was a lot of work, she was very proud of the event’s success. It was “a wonderful meshing of talents in a very positive environment.” It was held on October 26th. It was a cool, rainy day which was perfect for a warm bowl of soup with friends. If you missed this event - look for it next year. Where else can you can contribute \$6 for an all you can eat bowl of soup - and keep the bowl as a souvenir? It’s an event of fellowship among old friends and new, and a good time.

Congrats Mollie and friends on a job well done and very appreciated!



May you have a
Delicious Holiday!

The ODD COUPLE at Rosecrans High

Miss Jillian Von Gunten graced the stage this weekend as the slovenly Olive Madison in Neil Simon's female version of THE ODD COUPLE. It kicked major butt! You forgot it was a highschool production. I loved it.

Jillians's summary:
The Odd Couple (Female Version)

Neil Simon's beloved play with a twist! Madison and Unger are back--Olive Madison and Florence Unger that is. What happens when a complete and utter slob offers to share her home with her recently separated neat nick friend? Nothing short of comic hysteria! The women's friendship begins to unravel as they drive each other crazy!

THE CAST:

Mickey.....Catherine Feerick
Renee.....Alicia Ashbaugh
Vera.....Michelle Taylor
Sylvie.....Monica Haswell
Olive Madison....Jillian Von Gunten
Florence Unger...Marie Westerheide
Monolo Constazuela...Ben Huelskamp
Jesus Constazuela.....Josh Beale

We had a wonderful time and was glad to see so many supporters of the arts! Rich has a philosophy: He wants every show to be a good one, a person may come to see one and enjoy it enough to see and experience more. This show certainly encouraged people to enjoy the art of theater. We had a great time! You go girl!

Meet a Member!

John Cigavic is a newcomer to ZCT and a busy Board Member. When I first met Mr. Cigavic I was overwhelmed with his enthusiasm and intensity. He brings new blood and new life to the board. Lets get to know a little more about Mr. Cigavic.

What are your goals as a Board Member?

- His goals are three -
- 1 - To revise our Operations and By-Laws
 - 2 - To increase attendance 10%
 - 3 - Maintain QUALITY

Who or what got you interested in working with ZCT?

Melanie VonGunten

What is your favorite part(s) of theatre?

Directing

What is your favorite show?

"A Thousand Clowns" by Herb Gardner, is my favorite
3-act play of all time.

What is your favorite role?

Directing a community theatre show

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

My wife's name is Lois. I have a son named John and a stepson, John Carl.
Hobbies - Working in hospitals with the therapy dog, Daisy; raised a guiding eye for the blind puppy and enjoy rooting during college football games from the sofa!



Thanks John! We look forward to getting to know you and working with you!

Directorial Debuts at ZCT

The new year brings ZCT an evening of theater penned by Robert Leland Taylor and new directors for ZCT. Sam Wilmoth commands the ship of *SEX WITHOUT PLIERS* and Rick Milheim takes the helm of *KENTUCKY WINGS*. Both plays are written with such strength and diversity - well, let's just say that there aren't any two plays more equipped to illustrate the theatrical medallions of comedy and tragedy.

I asked Sam to share a little about himself. He also allows us a look into the thoughts directors face when they begin a voyage into directing a show.

Sam writes:

This is my first time directing at ZCT, and I am very excited to be directing such a good show. I have always been sort of a ham since ... well, birth I guess. Since I was in band in high school, the closest to doing a play or a musical was being in the orchestra, which I did for "L'il Abner" and "Hello Dolly." In college, I answered an open audition for "The Elephant Man," and I got a small part. I played "Snork," the guy who finds John Merrick dead at the end. While still in college, I auditioned for "Lost In Yonkers," but didn't get a part. However, I was able to snag two roles in student-directed one-act plays, which were a hoot.

The acting bug didn't bite me, though, and I went the better part of six years without getting involved in any theater, until my then roommate directed "Grease" at Cambridge Performing Arts Centre. I was the assistant director, and also played the Teen Angel (not a teen and certainly no angel). Well, the acting bug bit me hard that time, and ever since I've been very active in plays, having been on stage for 11 shows in Cambridge and two shows at ZCT in four years, and being behind the scenes as director for "It's A Wonderful Life", stage manager for "Jerry Finnegan's Sister", and producer/assistant director for "Nonsense", all in Cambridge. In addition, I was pleased to be asked to be part of Dr. Joe

Porter's "Swing Band" at Secret Center.

Theater is an opportunity for me to satisfy the "ham" in me, and to bring out my creative side. I love all aspects of theater (except strike, but who likes that?). I get excited when I hear a crowd respond to a show. There are few feelings which can top that, except one. When I see something I've worked on as director or producer put on stage and done well, then that beats being on stage for me.

When I direct a show, I look to put on the best show I can. I feel that if a show is not up to par, it reflects more on the director than on the actors. It's the director's job to get the show ready, and if it falls short, it's ultimately his/her fault. I like that.

"Sex Without Pliers" intrigued me when I first read it because it was so darned funny. Robert Leland Taylor has taken his wit and translated it to the stage very well. I am in awe of his abilities, and I am very excited about directing his show.

The primary challenge we face with this show is trying not to laugh at the dialogue, and trying to keep a straight face when on stage. The actors and actresses, who are all great I must say, are going to have to tune out the audience and focus on staying in character. That'll be the toughest part, and what we'll work on the most.

I hope to be more active in ZCT, although the drive from Cambridge makes it more difficult, but I look forward to each chance I get to work the fine men and women of ZCT. I've actually been able to lure one or two new people over to ZCT for my show, and new talent is always a good thing. Please come and share with us an Evening with Robert Leland Taylor. You won't be disappointed.

Thanks Sam! Look to December's Issue for Rick Milheim's story! Make plans to enjoy the show!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 13th Annual Angel Tree Benefit

Angel Feathers, Candy Canes and Destiny

WHEN? - The weekend of December 12

TIMES? - Friday 12 & Saturday 13 at 8:00

Sunday 14 Matinee at 2:30

WHERE? - ZCT

Call Zanesville Community Theatre at 455-6487 to make reservations. Remember that there is no set ticket price for this show. It is a donation. All monies collected goes towards helping the Salvation Army with this years holiday family helps.

Christmas Eve in My Home Town

A Christmas Concert Hosted By ZCT

Featuring Chuck Spires

WHEN? - December 20th & 21st

TIMES? - Saturday at 8:00

Sunday Matinee at 2:30

WHERE? - ZCT

TICKET PRICE? - \$10 each

AUDITIONS

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

WHEN? - January 4th & 5th

TIMES? - 7:00 p.m.

WHERE? - ZCT

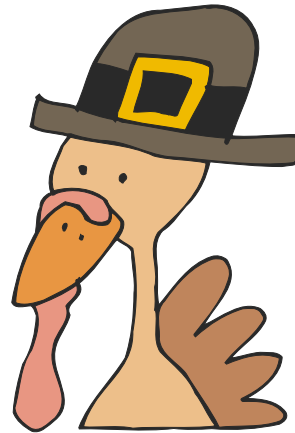
WHO? Auditions are open to all! This is a children's show with a few roles for adults! All ranges of role sizes from just being on stage to a part with a whopper amount of lines. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! No prepared pieces are necessary. This production is directed by Todd and Amy King.

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 the issues.

Sincerely,

Shelley Tolliver

-First Lady of ZCT & Newsletter Editor



May you have a safe and happy gathering of friends filled with warmth and good cheer!

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

