

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 41 Letter 3

September 16, 2003

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note from the President

We are off and running! TEN LITTLE INDIANS is a solid kickoff to our 41st Season. As President, I've already seen a boat load of decisions come and go in our young season (not all mine) and I feel I have to take a moment to throw out a few friendly reminders.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

We (ZCT) are only as good as the group! We must work hard and work together and be a cohesive unit! (I think its called TEAM WORK) One thing I've noticed this year is that we are all smarter than each other, **NOT GOOD!!!** Communication, being responsible and taking that responsibility seriously is the key. If you agree to do something - *follow through!* If you are not sure where your duties stop and start - ASK. If you need help - ASK.

We have come a long way; we put on good shows. We have diverse ideas and talents and need to use these to our advantage. Theatre should be entertaining for our audience members and rewarding for us as performers and technical support.

WE ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE GROUP or did I mention that already?

-Richard Tolliver

Cast List for LITTLE SHOP!

Our second show is in the starting gate and the cast is assigned! Look for these folks to play

your favorite parts of a deliciously wicked Halloween comedy/musical.

Character

Seymour
Audrey
Crystal
Ronnette
Chiffon
Mr. Mushnick
The Plant
Orin Scrivello
Skip Snip
Bernstein
Mrs. Luce
Patrick Martin
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum
Skid Row Bum

Actor/Actress

Rob Cook
Emily Rezek
Angel Palmer
Beth Baker
Kathleen Cleary
Roger Touvell
Eddie Noble
Todd King
Steven Paisley
Olie Coen
Connie Matz-Tolliver
Adam Young
Ian Milheim
Samantha Stepp
Sarah Stepp
Michael Vandembark
Joe Marks
Bill Snyder
Bill Hertler
Barb Snider

THE DIRECTOR

The A.D.
The Vocal Director
The Producer

Jan Smith
Roger Touvel
Dee McCarthy
Conni Matz-Tolliver

Check out the mayhem of a plant with a plan during the weekend of Halloween!

A special note: Steven Moody was to be a part of this cast as a Skid Row Bum. Due to an illness in the family, he is unable to participate in this production. We at ZCT are going to think good thoughts and keep your family in our prayers. There will be tons of shows in the future and we hope to see you and your family in them! May good health return to your family and stay!

Ten Little Indians

TEN LITTLE INDIANS is off to a wonderfully wicked start for our 41st Season. Rich and I had the rare opportunity to see the show. Usually we are involved up to our elbows and we pretty much know the show from read through to curtain. My sister in law, Martha and her son, Aaron were asking me “Who is the murderer?” and “When will we hear gunshots?” I didn’t reveal the culprit’s identity and it felt good to say “I don’t know when the gun will be fired.” - because I didn’t know myself. The darn thing scared the crap out of me! Vera’s scream is another seat jumper! It caught me off guard so much, I thought I’d be sitting in Carl’s light area! Be aware!

There is still time to make reservations to see this delicious tale of ten guilty parties answering to the crimes of their past. To make reservations call ZCT at 455-687. It’s a wonderful tale of suspense and intrigue! Don’t miss it!!!

A Study of Acting

This has been a busy year for local ZCT actress, Emmy Allen. After appearing on stage as Miep in THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK she was off to Philadelphia to venture into the art of acting. She was beaming with enthusiasm as she readied for her summer adventure. I’m thrilled to report that her trip only added to her enthusiasm and love for the art of acting.

I asked Emmy some questions and was bowled over with her excited responses!

Where did you go this summer? I went to the 4-week Summer Drama Institute at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

How did you learn of this? I was sent a brochure in the mail because the college had received information that I was interested in drama.

What is it? What is its purpose? Basically, it is to prepare high school students for college. By taking introductory college acting classes, we get an idea of what to expect next year. Some students will decide not to enter a B.F.A. acting program in

college because they found it was not for them. Others were inspired to pursue this dream.

What did your studies include? My classes included movement, mask, speech, stage combat, and acting. I finished class at 5 and had free time the rest of the night. This was awesome! I was free to explore inner city Philly with my newfound close friends. I made some lifetime friends this summer. It's not too often you get to live with a bunch of theatre people, for the first time in my life **I fit in perfectly!!!!**

What were some of the hardest lessons or activities? Movement class was extremely difficult for me. Most people there had taken extensive dance classes whereas most of my life I've played sports. Let me tell you, the two involve very different muscle groups. It seemed like everyday was spent with my movement teacher twisting my body into unholy painful positions. Surprisingly, I began to get the hang of things the last week.

My acting teacher was rather intimidating the first week. I had never met anyone so brutally honest. A fellow student would finish this tear-jerking monologue and leave me in awe and my teacher would burst into laughter saying he never believed it for a second. When one person asked him about their future career, he told them to “go sell insurance”.

I did not want him to see me act because I didn't want to hear his comments. However, I learned to accept them and soon I could notice everyone in the class improving. He forced us to bring intensity to the art. We would do exercises that left everyone in tears at the end of class. One day he pulled me off to the side while I was still crying from an angry scene that had felt so real to me and declared that was the kind of intensity I needed every single time I walked on stage. Even if I only had to say one word. I would leave class many times a week feeling entirely emotionally drained. He made it seem real.

Suddenly acting was truth, I could see it when my classmates performed. I know I improved. He told me to stay in theatre at the end of the four weeks, and, I know he would not have said that in the beginning. In fact, he didn't say that to many students still at the end. He was harsh but one of the most fun people I have ever met, just

writing this makes me miss him.

My speech class surprised me, we didn't begin making vocal noises until the 3rd week!!! So much time was spent on breathing and relaxation exercises. I never knew there was so much to breathing. In this class, through yoga and meditations, I learned a lot about myself.

Mask class was interesting. We made creative masks out of paper mache'. Then focused on creating a character from our mask. The challenge was showing emotion without facial expression, i.e. happiness without a smile, sadness without a frown. It was a lot of fun and had some bizarre results.

Stage Combat was really fun! We liked to practice it outside of class, people would always stop and watch. It was a lot of repetition, however, which could get tiring.

One of my biggest challenges, however, was outside of class. I had to live without support from my parents. This was new to me. Paying for all my food, transportation, doing all my own laundry, everything! I learned some responsibility. On top of this I had to live with a room-mate that had no responsibility whatsoever. The girl was 17 going on 2. She didn't know that you had to put milk back in the fridge or it would spoil. I had three room-mates total and adored two of them. The third was quite a challenge. In addition to doing my own tasks, I had to do hers. I certainly learned from that experience too.

What are some of the most rewarding things that you experienced? We put on two showcases at the end. It was really rewarding to show all that I had learned. Personally, the acting part of the showcase meant a lot to me. The students in my class and I wrote about everything. It was almost like an exploration of ourselves. Each person had, in class, written several monologues about themselves. One about who they are, one who they want to be, who they hope they never are, and how others view them. Then we mixed up everyone's monologues and pieced it together so at times we were performing someone else's statement and at other times our own. To this we added some background improv things that just sort of came to us. It was difficult to perform at first because I felt like I was revealing a

part of me I never had before. It was okay to say these things in front of my 15 classmates that I trust, but it took courage for me to say them in front of 300 strangers. Once again, through this I learned more about myself. I think our end result was definitely a work of art.

How did you go about acquiring the scholarship to attend? In the application it had directions for a scholarship. I had to provide my high school transcript and a teacher letter of recommendation. Then I had to write an essay and send in a videotape of myself performing a two-minute monologue. I did one from the Lord of the Rings.

I would highly recommend anyone going to something like this to apply for a scholarship. I didn't think I would get one, but I did, and most of the other students there had also received one.

What would you tell others who would like to try this? Go for it!!! Honestly, this was one of the best things I have ever done in my life! I loved it!!!! I would definitely go again if I were lucky enough to have another opportunity.

WOW! Thank you, Emmy for taking the time to share your summer adventure with us! I encourage anyone who wants to venture into the study of acting and self exploration - DO IT! Talk to Emmy! There is more to acting than memorizing lines....

-Emmy Allen

Wedding Congratulations!

A new chapter develops in the fairy tale romance of Todd King and his future Mrs., Amy Ritchey. A cruise, a beach, a sunset and the exchange of vows to begin forever! Congratulations Todd and Amy! May a fairy tale romance of two wandering hearts always be happy and never have an ending!

Meet A Member!

Angel Palmer is a relative newcomer to ZCT and has been a VERY positive influence on the group. On top of being super mom, a busy wife and a study gal, she finds time to squeeze in a little theater - and we're glad. I've asked Angel to tell us a little about herself, and here's what she wrote:

What are your Goals as a Board Member of ZCT?

I want to be able to let the community know what an awesome group we have in this theatre, and how much fun it would be to join!

Who or what got you interested in working with ZCT?

I bumped into Jan K. at Big River and she told me that ZCT was performing it. It had always been one of my favorite musicals, and that was that- I've been hooked since.

What is your favorite part(s) of theater?

Wearing the headset!! There is such a feeling of power in wearing a headset! :-)

What is your favorite show?

Little Shop of Horrors

What is your favorite role you've performed and why? or if you are not an actor/actress what is your favorite behind the scenes role and why?

I really enjoy running the spot. It is a struggle due to my inability to tell right from left, but it is really rewarding to know that we have a hand in making the beautiful more beautiful!

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

I have a passion for Spanish history, I love to paint and I also love to sing, dance, and ride horses. My husband Phil and I have been married for 10 years and have two awesome children, both of whom I home school. I am currently finishing a Communications Degree with a Spanish minor at Ohio University and dream of opening an orphanage in Honduras after I finish my PhD.

Thanks Angel! Look for Angel in the upcoming production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!

Trivia

Who played the part of the Dentist on the first movie of Little Shop of Horrors? Our first trivia question brings us to our first correct guesser! Conni Matz Tolliver nailed it with the correct answer. Jack Nicholson was the Dentist!

The Trivia Question for this newsletter is... *Who directed LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS the first time at ZCT? Feeling lucky? What season was it?*

Welcome On "Board"

As reported in our last edition of THE BACKSTAGE PASS, Board Member Mary Jo Dondlinger has followed her husband, Russ, to the wide open range of Texas. The members of the board began the search to fill the position.

The Board of Zanesville Community Theatre is proud to announce that Conni Matz-Tolliver has assumed the vacant position. Conni has a long history with the theater and is a welcome addition to our crew. Welcome on Board, Conni!

The Angel Tree and Writing Realities

This year's Angel Tree Benefit is right around the corner. (Auditions are October 5th and 6th at 7:00 at ZCT to be exact) And the standards for this show aren't any different from shows of the past.

- * Everyone who auditions gets a part.
- * The show is expandable to incorporate everyone and anyone who wants to participate.
- * The costs of putting on the show is covered by donations.
- * Ticket prices are all donation - NO SET TICKET PRICE. That way families from all economic stations can enjoy a Christmas show together.
- * All donations to see the show goes toward

purchasing gifts to support the Salvation Army's "Santa's Helpers" program. (Formerly the Angel Tree Project)

* It's a lot of work and a lot of fun.

But there is a difference this year and that's its primary author. Me. For many moons now Rich Tolliver, has taken pen in hand most nights after auditions for the Angel Tree and began the creation of the benefit. Tons of paper, scribbled edits, concepts and corrections, 2 ½ months of time and frantic script typing later brings an Angel Tree Show to the public during the second weekend of December. That time span also includes placing people in parts, rehearsing, scheduling, set designing, set construction, decorating the set, collecting raffle donations, arranging the lobby, cleaning the theater and preparing the crew for opening night. Oh yes, the show itself.

Insanity, isn't it? Absolutely. But strangely enough, it has become my Christmas holiday since about 1995. Granted, over the years my involvement has increased from a small part in my first show to becoming an Assistant Director (and now Director) - but I believe in the event. All the money goes towards helping needy family's enjoy Christmas. To compare all that I have to those less fortunate - well, my thinking is that one day, it could be me in need and I'd hope someone would help me when I am down.

The realities of writing a show such as this are exciting and painful at the same time. Exciting because, its characters in my mind that will be coming to life. The exuberance of an ornery angel to the caricatures of people we love to hate in situations we've seen or heard of. I'm creating the world for these characters to exist in. The possibilities are endless! September 16, 2003

Painful? Here is the single most painful, agonizing reality of this entire process - an entire day of fruitful writing reaps only about 15 -20 minutes of dialogue. Oh the Pain!!! Oh the Agony!!! I've wrote and wrote and was so proud of myself, then I read what I wrote....looked at the clock and even double checked that I didn't lose pages. 15 - 20 minutes of dialogue. OUCH!

So now I'm writing as often as I can in order to have a readable rough before auditions. Not that I haven't been writing since the submission was accepted, but I had no real guess at how long it would actually take. A side bar to this was my husband's reaction to my realization. He looked at me in a very understanding manner and then a huge smile curled his lips. "It isn't easy, is it?" he said. My response was that I've never said it was easy - but boy, do I hate it when he's right.

- Shelley Tolliver

Mark your Calendars!

Board Meeting!!!

WHEN? Sunday, October 5th

WHERE? ZCT

TIME? 5:00

Wiener Roast

WHO? Members of ZCT

WHEN? September 27th

WHERE? The Home of Karen Young

TIME? 6:00

Auditions

13th Annual Angel Tree Benefit

WHEN? Sunday and Monday,
October 5th & 6th

WHERE? ZCT

TIME? 7:00

*****Everyone who auditions gets a part!*****

SHOWTIME!!!

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

WHEN? - The weekends of October 24th
and 31st.

****Special 2nd Show for Halloween
Friday, October 31 at 11 pm***

TIMES? - Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00

Sunday Matinees at 2:30

WHERE? - ZCT

Call Zanesville Community Theatre at 455-6487 to
make reservations.