
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 12

May - June 10, 2003

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note From the Prez

It's easy to take life for granted. We all do it in different ways. We can't help ourselves, but every once in a while something happens to make us take stock of our lives, the death of a good friend (Debbie Guthrie) the wife of my best friend, Randy, has made me and mine do just that. We are reminded just how precious the everyday things are. That having someone to love and that good friends are as important as anything in this world. Our time on this earth is tenuous at best. We need to take time to enjoy it more and make it mean something while we are here. I hope the world is better for me having passed through it when I am gone. I know that's the truth in Debbie's case. She is sorely missed.

So take a little piece of advice, even if its awkward - tell your friends and loved ones what they mean to you. Its important!

-Rich

A Combo Newsletter

So much has happened so fast these past two months. A wonderful show, an appreciative audience, a great season and the welcoming of our new one. We've also had the changing of the guard so to speak. Its all be a blur. Our success and goals we are striving to reach.

Its been a good run and we are poised to make it better for our 41st Season. Thank you to all who have helped to make this season a memorable one. To all those who have helped make our fund raisers a success. To all those who have donated goods towards our concession stand. To all those who have given of themselves in money and in time. To all those who have joined with us to make our 40th Anniversary Season a success. Thank you Very much!

The Season's Finali

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK opened to an awestruck audience. The black box-esque set, the antiques, the meager surroundings - that with the thoughts of the concentration camp pictures from the lobby...it made this show an experience. Its been well received, very well received.

I worked with the stage managers from the center aisle. I got to see the show each night, and each night I could "feel" the audiences respond. I've never experienced theater in this way. I know the show practically by heart now -so the show played in my mind as I studied the audience. A pager sounded - the owner grabbed it and shut it off as soon as she touched it. Intensity mounted - the audience moved to the edge of their seats. The "downstairs phone" of the show rang and rang and rang. People held their breath. Mr. Dussel's anguished pleas to answer it echoed in the breathing of the audience. Mr. Frank's frustrated "nos" mounted the tension. I haven't been in tune with such a symbiotic audience! Dussel ran downstairs, the actors held their breath - the audience held their breath. Dussel returned and fell to his knees. Breath escaped the audience. Here I stood in the middle, caught in a practiced world and a captured audience. This happened every night! When Maury uttered the line "For two long years we have lived in fear, now we can live in hope", the auditorium shed a tear. Conni (Edith) stroked the cheek of Jillian (Margot) - Sabrina as Anne embraced them. The audience wept.

Curtain call brought an awestruck silence to a vaulting ovation. It was quite phenominal. Some members of the audience just had to touch each actor to make sure they were alright. People cried. Theater people even sought out the behind the scenes people to compliment them!

Again, there I stood, in the center of the aisle marveling at the event. I still feel tremendous pride in the cast. From Sarah Andersen's debut, to Maury's seasoned touches - my cup overfloweth. (And I didn't even direct this). It is an experience that I will always cherish and one that I wish all shows could be. I want to thank each and every member of this production. There was no weak links in this golden chain.

- Shelley Tolliver

Meet the Cast!

Stage Manager - Jennifer Gheen

Jennifer Gheen is a Junior at Philo High School. She is involved in several extra curricular activities. She is in marching and concert band, quiz team and drama club. She has been in 6 plays at Philo and 2 for the Angel Tree. She also enjoys reading, scrap-booking and anything else that can keep her busy in her free time.

Mr. Kraler played by Sean Rice

My name is Sean Rice. This is my third play with ZCT. Earlier this season I was in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", and the "Cowboy's Return". I am a graduate of Ohio University, and currently work as a telecommunications engineer in Columbus. In my spare time I like to spend most of it outdoors with my girlfriend Sarah Anderson.

Margot Frank played by Jillian Von Gunten

Jillian Von Gunten is a junior at Rosecrans High School. She has participated in community theatre ever since she could walk with roles both on stage and behind "the curtains." For the past three years she has had leading roles in shows such as "Rumors", "Done to Death", and "The Mouse That Roared" in the Rosecrans drama club. More recently she was in Godspell here at ZCT earlier this season. This is a wonderful show and Jillian is proud to be a part of it.

Anne Frank played by Sabrina Shuey

My name is Sabrina Shuey. I am in 7th grade at WMMS (West Muskingum Middle School) I play soccer, basketball, track and softball. I have been in **To Kill a Mockingbird** which I played the role of Scout. I was in **Ramona Quimby** and played the role of Beezus. Enjoy the show!

Mr. Dussel is played by Randy Guthrie

My name is Randy Guthrie. I teach government and coach football at Philo High School. I love being involved with kids and community activities. I have been involved in various theater productions over the years, including three shows in the last year with the community theater. I have three sons: Josh - 14, Seth - 12 and Lance - 9. Among my favorite are hunting, fishing, and all sports.

Edith Frank played by Conni Matz-Tolliver

I have been involved with ZCT for approximately 18 years. Although I have done everything except run light-acting is still my favorite aspect of theatre. There is nothing like getting on stage and losing yourself in a character that you enjoy. I was very excited when I was cast as Edith Frank over 10 years ago and to be able to bring Edith back to life is an honor. "The Diary of Anne Frank" is not just a show – it is a memory of some remarkable people and a tribute to them. Being a part of this touches your life in an unexplainable way..it grabs a hold of you and stays with you forever.

Otto Frank is played by Maury Kenily

I last did "Angel Tree" for ZCT, previously "My Fair Lady" and "Big River" here. Old theater family dating back to the Brown Corys when uncles worked at the Weller and Liberty Theaters. Acting extends into the newest generation - my daughter Kristin just appeared in ZCT's "Taming of the Shrew". She'll be a junior at Muskingum College in fall where she studies theater.

As founding member of ZCT in 1963, I am extremely proud of its progress and quality which it offers to our community.

Mr. Van Daan is played by Rick Milheim

Rick is a Board Member of ZCT. He has done numerous roles in productions including this years shows of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", "Angel Tree" and "Taming of the Shrew". He has also appeared in the recent film documentary "Passages to Freedom". In real life, is an operations manager of a Dublin based third party administrator.

Mrs. Petronella Van Daan is played by Sarah Anderson

I am a basketmaker at Longaberger as well as an Independent Beauty Consultant for Mary Kay. This is my stage debut although I have played piano in the last 2 Angel Tree productions. Right now "The Diary of Anne Frank" is taking up all my spare time. Thankfully, my boyfriend Sean Rice plays Mr. Kraler in this production and understands perfectly. This has been an amazing experience for me and one I would whole heartedly recommend.

Peter Van Daan is played by **Ian Milheim**

Guten Tag! My name is Ian J. Milheim and I play Peter. I am an aspiring actor going to West Muskingum High school as a sophomore. I have been in roughly 15 productions at ZCT and elsewhere, and one film. Thus far, I have never experienced a play quite like this before. The level of drama, the level of detail, the level of skill is truly overwhelming. I am incomprehensibly proud to be a member of this masterful family of artists. Peace.

Miep is played by **Emmy Allen**

Emmy Allen is a junior at Tri-Valley Highschool. She's been in several plays such as "A Christmas Carol", "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", "Tongue Twisted", and an abstract play in Chicago called "The Scuba Dive". She hopes to make acting a large part of her future and has taken steps in that direction. Emmy and her other half, fellow theater junkie, Caitlin McCarthy attended a week long theater workshop in Chicago last summer. This summer they have been accepted into the University of the Arts in Philadelphia for a four week Drama Institute. Emmy feels "The Diary of Anne Frank" is the most important play she's ever been a part of and feels honored to work with such a wonderful cast and crew.

She love snow boarding, Pink Floyd and The Lord of the Rings> Emmy would like to add that if Orlando Bloom (AKA Legolas Greenleaf) comes to see this show, he has a formal invitation to marry her anytime in the near future. :-)

Stage Manager - Liza Winland

Liza Winland is a sophomore at Zanesville High School. She plays on the varsity swimming and tennis teams at ZHS. She is also a sports student trainer and a lifeguard. She loves to act and in the eighth grade she was the Fiddler in the show "The Fiddler on the Roof". Although she could not appear in "The Diary of Anne Frank", she has enjoyed immensely making new friends and working on this production. Liza hopes to help and act in the near future at the Zanesville Community Theatre.

Assistant Director - Shelley Tolliver

I wear many hats at ZCT, most of my favorites are being on stage, being an A.D. and writing the majority of the theater's newsletter **THE BACKSTAGE PASS**. I thoroughly enjoy working with my husband Richard

and getting to know the people that breathe new life into the characters of a story.

I've done tons of research in preparation for my duties as Assistant Director for this show. Anne frank's lot in life seems worlds away - but it really isn't. Even now in 2003, across an ocean, a culture of people are living in oppression for what they believe. Sadly, in America there is still discrimination. My hope for this show is that people will look into this precocious girl's interpretations and then look around themselves. People just want to live and be happy. It's up to all of us to let that happen - whatever the path people choose to take on that journey.

It Don't Mean a Thing

If it ain't got that swing...SWING BAND that is...Dr. L. Joe Porter's play opened Friday, May 23 at Secret Auditorium. The music was fab!! You simply couldn't stop your toes from tapping. ZCT faces like Robert Leland Taylor and Roger Touvell hopped in the act. Sam Wilmoth, from Cambridge graced the stage too. Gary Frey, along with Rich Simcox and his band were part of the party too!

You may have noticed the handiwork of some ZCT techies like a set design by Rich Tolliver and that lavish curtain "whipped up" by Jan Kiikka. She also helped the cast run lines for rehearsal. Teamworking is a good thing!

We met up with Dr. Joe after the show was over and he was quite pleased both with the performance and with the turnout from the public. It is a wonderful feeling to see a project to fruition. Congrats Joe!

Our Condolences

Sadly, loss has knocked on a closer door. We mourn the passing of close friend, Debbie Guthrie, who passed away suddenly early May. She is sadly missed by many.

OCTA Seeks Members!

Eleanor Smith, from OCTA ends a quest for new member of the OCTA Board. She writes:

"Have you ever considered running for the OCTA board? This year at state conference, delegates will be electing 7 members to the OCTA board: five 3-year positions, one 2-year position and one 1-year position (to

complete unexpired terms). We need dedicated, enthusiastic people with great ideas. That means YOU! Yes, as with all board positions, there is work involved. But serving on the OCTA board provides some great friendships and an opportunity to network with theatre folks from all over the state. If you are interested in running or would like more information, contact nominations chair Sue Rapiet at 614-485-0556 or at srapier@columbus.rr.com."

I encourage you to look into this. It may be that "something different" you are looking for.

A Concert Inspires!

The Ohio University - Zanesville Choral Union, under the direction of Charles Savage, featured selections written by student composers at the school's spring concert. The composers are students in Savage's music theory class.

"It's been a fun experiment and a great learning experience for all involved," said Savage, Adjunct Instructor of Music. "As part of a theory assignment, each of the students composed a choral piece on a nonsense text. Both the chorus group and the student composers had to learn to adjust to the creative processes."

The concert was held in the Elson Hall auditorium on June 9, at 7:30 p.m. The event, which was sponsored by the OU - Zanesville Cultural Committee, was free and open to the public and lasted approximately 45 minutes. "The theory students will conduct some of the works as well, and we all look forward to sharing our experience with the audience," Savage adds. Students who have composed work for the event are Evette Langford of Roseville, Alea Smith of McConnelsville, and Colin Wilson of Coshocton.

For further information, contact Savage at 588-1524 or e-mail to savagec@ohio.edu.

Thanks Charles for letting us know!

On the Mend

Pat Milheim recently underwent surgery on her leg. With the wonders of medical science and a positive attitude from her family, she is on the mend and doing well. She was at the show supporting her main men! Don't over do it! Take care! :-)

OCTA Receives an Award

The Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA) recently received word that they had been selected to receive the 2003 Arts Education Award in the category of Arts Education Supporter - Group from the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE).

OAAE was founded in 1974 and has established and maintains a network for communication, cooperation, and advocacy. Their mission statement says OAAE exists to help establish the arts as an integral part of the education of every Ohioan and for the past 29 years has presented awards to individuals and groups who demonstrate support for and commitment to quality arts education programs. This support is an important factor in improving arts education in schools and communities across the state.

Since 1994, OCTA has annually handed out one or more \$500 scholarships to college students pursuing a degree in theater. In those nine years, over 86 students have applied for our scholarships.

As a community theater service organization, OCTA member theaters have access to a large script library, Resource Directory which also includes names of workshop leaders, Guide/Respondent program to help them with directorial questions on current productions; and a 200-page book of Monographs on everything from Incorporation for Not-for-Profit Organizations to Non-Traditional Casting.

Each of the five regions are required to hold four meetings and a workshop each year for their theater delegates and every June, state-wide festivals are held in each of the regions. Excerpts are adjudicated and some selected to go on to State Conference.

An OAAE representative will be at OCTA's annual Sunday evening banquet in Columbus on Labor Day weekend to present the award.

Congratulations OCTA on a job well done!

Thank you Eleanor for letting us know about this wonderful accomplishment!

*****WELCOME HOME SKIP JOHNSON*****

And all those who are back from Iraq! Thank You!

Our 41st Season Begins July 6th

Sunday, July 6th and Monday, July 7th brings auditions to ZCT at 7 pm. **TEN LITTLE INDIANS**, a reader's favorite of Agatha Christie will kick our season off with a bang! Remember, auditions are open to everyone. Melanie VonGunten is our first director in the lineup. She's enthusiastic and ready to begin!

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me and I'll answer what I can or forward your inquiries to the right person.

A list of our 41st Season's Lineup is on the last page. Keep it and hang it up by your calendar! Come and be a part of the fun!

The Winner IS....

Sunday, June 8th brought a general membership meeting and the drawing for the Audience Choice Participation! Everyone who voted on a favorite actor or actress was entered. Our prize for participation was a pair of season passes to our 41st Season. The Winner is... Martha Sherwood!

Congratulations Martha! Thanks for voting!

A New Direction

ZCT took a step in a new direction with the dress rehearsal of **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**. The cast and crew invited business members of the community to come and see the dress rehearsal for our show. We performed for a modest crowd. We were honored with a standing ovation. It was a new experience and a very rewarding one.

Thanks to all who joined us for our show, and thanks to Alice Mauk for promoting and supporting the arts and ZCT. She was stopped by and talked to the cast about the impact of **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK** when she played the part of Mrs. VanDaan. It was very insightful and interesting.

Thanks also to Amy Ritchey and Todd King for ushering and serving. I think it was a right step in a new direction.

Kudos

Once again I come bringing greeting and salutations from OCTA - making it short and sweet. However, I do not come to you on OCTA business, but to say "Job well done to Rich and Shelley, and Jan because of Saturday, May 23, 2003, I had the pleasure of witnessing one of the best ensemble cast I've seen in a long time and that's saying something - I've been doing this acting thing for over 20 years and have seen and been in many shows. I don't mind saying I am not ne who cries, but this show and the strong performance of the actors had me welling up with tears. In this actor's opinion, the caliber of the show is of such that I would put it up against any Broadway Show. The only thing those Broadway Shows have over this show of **DAIRY OF ANNE FRANK** is money and over paid, big name actors who in most cases cannot act their way out of a paper bag. Once again, I say, "Job well done!"

Listed below are other shows coming up in the S.E. Area that deserves our support. Please continue playing a part in your local theater!

ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATER (Athens)

Rumors - November 2003

The Sound of Music - March 2004

Dearly Departed - May 2004

MID-OHIO VALLEY PLAYERS (Marietta)

Hee Haw Hayride - July 2003

Flapper - September 2003

The Dresser - November 2003

The Clumsy Custard Horror Show - January 2004

Gypsy - February/March 2004

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - April/May 2004

The Cemetery Club - June 2004

POTTER PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE (East Liverpool)

Ramona Quimby - June 2003

George M. - August 2003

The Boys Next Door - October 2003

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown - February/March 2004

Baby With the Bath Water - May 2004

-Darren Brown

A Special Thanks

Mollie Earich deserves a special thanks. She was at a book fair where she spotted a book about Anne Frank. This book is awesome! It has tons of pictures and lots of information. She donated 6 books for our raffle (one for each night of the show)

Its really nice to be thought of - and so generously. Its that extra step that could make or break a show. This book is a piece of history and our show. It raised a generous amount and made six lucky people extremely happy! Thank you very much for thinking of us, Mollie!

I bet I know what you are thinking...who won the books? The winners are: L. A. Jeffries, Ruth Rouanzoin, Sean McClure, Paige Natalie, Victoria Richards and Kelly Jeffries. Congratulations! I hope you enjoy the book.

Special Days

June brings a rush of special days to the Von Gunten family. Our 41st Season Debut's Director Melanie celebrates on the 11. Happy Birthday! Then, its to romance! She and Daniel welcome another year of marital bliss on their anniversary, June 14. Congrats! We aren't done yet...Miss Jillian celebrates her 17th Birthday on June 18th. Enjoy the month!

The Cake Update

The winners of our Carr Center Cake Auction is Pugh's Jewelers! Congratulations! An awesome dessert and passes to next season...sounds good to me!

Trivia

Rich came up with a stumper! Our trivia question is "What famous actress won an Oscar for her portrayal as Mrs. VanDaan in the original movie "THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK"? The answer is Shelley Winters!

ZCT's 41st Season!

TEN LITTLE INDIANS

Directed by Melanie Von Gunten

Auditions - July 6th & 7th, 2003 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - Sept. 12,13,14, 19, 20, 21

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Directed by Jan Smith

Auditions - August 10th & 11th, 2003 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - Oct. 24, 25, 26, 31, Nov. 1, 2

THE 13TH ANGEL TREE BENEFIT

Co-Directed by Rich & Shelley Tolliver

Auditions - Oct. 5th & 6th, 2003 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - Dec. 12, 13, 14

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

ARE DEAD

Directed by Mary Jo Dondlinger

Auditions - Oct. 26th & 27th, 2003 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - Jan. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Feb. 1, 2004

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Co-Directed by Amy Ritchey & Todd King

Auditions - Jan. 4th & 5th, 2004 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - March 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3, 4, 2004

THE WORKSHOP - "BAKER'S DOZEN"

Directed by Richard Tolliver

Auditions - Jan. 25th & 26th, 2004 - 7:00pm - ZCT

Show Dates - May 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2004

Editor - Shelley Tolliver

Send your contributions to me at

rtollive@columbus.rr.com. Enjoy your Summer!