
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 7

December 11, 2002

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

Note from the President

Every year when Angel Tee Auditions roll around, there's a sense of anticipation and excitement. I usually have a concept, a partial script, a few songs picked out and we take everyone who auditions and then we build a show around them. (How crazy is that?) Over the years we've cast hundreds. We've made fast friends who come back year after year and every year there are fresh new faces who want to do their part. This year I tried something different. I asked the cast to help me workshop the script. They helped develop the characters and research their story. It's been very exciting. Like I said, we have many old Angel Tree veterans and quite a few new people. (at one point I think we have 45 people on stage.) With the Angel Tree, we are promoting a good family show, conveying a seasonal message and positive values while trying to entertain you with humor, songs and dance. Meanwhile, we try to keep high quality production values. Because of the type of show, we'll have audiences who have never seen anything at ZCT before. Of course, the best part of it all is that when all is said and done, we're helping children who otherwise might not have Christmas at all. Giving something back to our community who supports us through out the year.

Shelley and I hope that you and yours have the merriest of holidays and that you can keep the spirit alive throughout the year.

Merry Christmas,

Rich



The Spires Benefit Update!

Things are looking wonderful! Todd Searney, son of Doctor Searny has made the commitment to be a part of the Spires Family and Friends Musical Benefit. There may be more...you might know a fellow called "Mr. Banjo". He is on the consideration fence at the moment, and hopefully his calendar can allow him to lean our way. Jeff Miller has given us the nod. Don Hanes of the Don Hanes' Trio is in. There is more local talent to be involved also...look for names in upcoming editions!

Looking for that perfect Christmas Present? How about tickets to this musical extravaganza? (It could also get someone out of a Valentine's Day pinch.) Honestly, I don't think you could beat the prices for the talent that is on board already. I've heard Chuck and his Sons play. They are riveting! Prices are \$10.50 for Adults and \$7.50 for Seniors and Children. They are available at Secrest. Call 454-6851 today and mark your calendar! You don't want to be left behind on this one. And remember - all the proceeds go to the ZCT Building & HVAC fund. We need air conditioning!!!

One Weekend Only!!!

December 13th, 14th and 15th are the dates for the Angel Tree Benefit. Friday and Saturday's shows are at 8:00 and Sunday's show is at 2:30. Even though it's a donation to see the show the show - you gotta make reservations! 455-6487 is the number, its up to you to call. We have over 40 people in the cast, which means the seats will be going fast!

Don't forget to call.

It's Angel Tree Time Again!

The Cowboy II - Return to Coldwater! This is the first Angel Tree that has been created in a Workshop fashion and let me tell you - Rich and I both have been blown away!!! TOTALLY!! From the first talk of character development, fireworks of creativity began going off. James Alcock, who is a mild mannered "Clark Kent" type of guy was one of the first to take me by surprise. Here I was, weaving my baskets, when James mosied over to me and said "Shelley, I've got my character's name. I could be called Orville Short." "ORVILLE SHORT??" I asked incredulously. "Yea," he replied, "my barbershop could be Short Cuts". I know he was getting gutsy from his debut as the Sheriff in Big River, but folks, I'm here to tell you - He's a dangerous man!!! The inspirations didn't stop there. Mollie Earich and Rick Milheim have taken their parts as the Mayor and the Mayor's Wife from theory to a science. Mollie's brand of polished socialite should be bottled and sold! If you thought her "Nurse Rached" was good, ladies and gentlemen - you've GOT to meet "Millicent". Rick, as mentioned, plays our mayor. Could we have dreamed up a better foil? Absolutely not! The mayor has a family, too. Ian Milheim and Olivia Earich have followed in their parents footsteps with shiny gold shoes. Be afraid, be very afraid!

This show would not have its charm with out Maury Kenily's benevolent interpretation of "The Cowboy". His character is like walking in your mom's kitchen after she's been baking all day. He's what makes you want to believe- what you find yourself believing in. He seems to read Rich's thoughts. (Which leaves Rich awestruck) It's Maury's thespian craftsmanship that breathes life's vitality into a character of our mind's eye.

The characters don't stop there, by any means. From beauty shop gossip to barbershop practical jokes, resteraunt news to radio views, this show has something for everyone. School house plays, Hollywood hype and the magic of winter romance, all this and the affirmation that the faith we have in Christmas - its' true meaning, still exists in all of us. We hope to see you at the show!



CAST OF CHARACTERS

Featuring Maury Kenily as THE COWBOY

Orville Short, barber	James Alcock
Wally Pierce, the producer	Troy Alford
Eric. The Shopkeeper	Eric Blake
Jarrold, a king	Jarrold Blake
Abbi, an angel	Abbi Brock
Tommy, Restaurant Owner	Darren Brown
Kristi	Kristi Brown
Mary Ann, nurse	Mary Ann Christy
The Snowplow Driver	Scott Christy
Steven, a shepherd	Steven Clapper, Jr.
Cheryl Johnson	Cheryl Cunningham
Jeff	Jeff Curtis
Millicen, The Mayor's Wife	Mollie Earich
Olivia, "Happy" shepherd	Olivia Earich
Taylor Johnson	Taylor Fiske
Grandma Smith	Verna Greever
Josh, a king	Josh Guthrie
Ursel Twang, Sheriff	Dave Hammer
Sarah, Radio Personality	Terri Kenney
Stephanie	Stephanie Kenney
Frank Travers, radio personality	Todd King
Reverend	Joe Marks
Angel, waitress	Tiffany Marshall
Dee	Dee McCarthy
Maddy, an angel	Maddy McCarthy
Sadie, an angel	Sadie McCarthy
Ian Fargo	Ian Milheim
Mayor Frank Fargo	Rick Milheim
Publisher Lena	Lena Moore
Cousin Phil	Phillip Palmer
Katie, an angel	Katie Peifer
Johnny, Shopkeeper's Son	Sean Rice
Emily Willows, teacher	Amy Ritchey
Andrew, plays Joseph	Andrew Ritchey
Marc, a shepherd	Marc Anthony Ritchey
Zach, a shepherd	Zachary Ritchey
Aaron, a king	Aaron Staley
Shopkeeper's Wife	Martha Staley
Sam, an angel	Samantha Stepp
Sarah, an angel	Sarah Stepp
Dick	Dick Tolliver
Dru	Drusilla Tolliver
Miss Shelley, teacher	Shelley Tolliver
Katy, plays Mary	Katy Tomson
Roger, Lena's Dad	Roger Touvell
Jillian	Jillian VonGunten
Hairdresser, Melanie	Melanie VonGunten

The Salvation Army's Side

Mrs. Walters of the Salvation Army squeezed me in a call to touch base with ZCT and the project over the years. This is everyone's busy time of the year and it is certainly no different for her. She and her crew of volunteers have taken an idea and groomed it to a very successful community action plan.

Some history? As you know, this is ZCT's 12th Angel Tree Project. Our first show raised around \$300. Did you know that we have raised upwards of \$2500? Even with last years 9/11 tragedy we raised over \$1000. Not too bad for a little theater tucked away on Findley Avenue. Some perspective? In some years, ZCT has been 3rd in the amount of donated - with The Longaberger Company and The Kroger Company slightly heading us up. Again, not too shabby.

The Salvation Army's Quest? They have taken over 600 applications this year with the expectation of at least 200 more. That's a lot of families, folks. This year they are coordinating with other charitable agencies. What does that mean? It means they are working hard to get the goods to the needy families and not to folks who abuse their generosity. Sadly, there are folks out there who take advantage of a good deed. I'm very happy to report - The Salvation Army has become more comprehensive in its giving. *Our hard work is going to the right people.*

Why change the "Angel Tree" concept? Well, this hits on the above paragraph. Over the years we have shopped for hundreds, thousands of children and with the old system you'd see an Angel with the name of a needy child, their age, and what that child needed. Well, it got to be that there was an imbalance of gifts per siblings. Some got quite a lot and maybe little brother didn't get quite as much. And - this is my favorite. An 11 month old baby might ask for a microwave oven or a game boy system. Unless that 11 month old was a prodigy - his or her name was left on the tree and that child wasn't shopped for. Here's the kicker - the parents wondered why. The Salvation Army and ZCT wants to help every child - this new system works towards that goal.

What is the need of this year's program? Their goal is 4500 toys for their program called the "Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Shop". All donations will be collected and arranged per gender and age group in their gymnasium. Families will be allowed to pick 3 items per child. Any leftover items will continue to be distributed evenly through out the needy families. They also need warm winter baby and toddler clothing and non perishable food items for their food baskets.

If you have time on Monday, December 23 - The Salvation Army's "Toy Shop" opens and they'd love some help. If you'd like to help, please call the Salvation Army at 452-8350. Their "shop" starts at 9:00 a.m. till 1:00p.m.

The Winner of Winnie!

Winnie the Pooh was a delightful stroll down memory lane for many. The lovable Pooh and his woodland friends were the cutest things on stage. The rabbits were my favorite. They kept hopping up everywhere and when they all bumped into themselves..well, I just had to laugh. Good Job Guys! It was a great children's show!

The Audience Choice ballots were tallied and the winner was announced at the final cast party. And the Winner is.....(drum roll please).....
PIGLET played by Paige Daley! Congratulations Paige!

Godspell Auditions!

What a turnout!!! And the competition was fierce. They were put through their paces, reading, speaking, singing and dancing. Laurel Dubeck put them through their "paces". Good Job to all who auditioned! I heard the decision making wasn't easy at all! That's what I like to hear!

Mark your calendars for the show - January 24, 25, 26 and 31 and February 1 and 2. Remember Friday and Saturday's shows are at 8:00 and the Sunday Matinee is at 2:30.

We are in the Mall!

If you are strolling in the Colony Square Mall, swing by the Café Court and look for our display! It's loaded with information on ZCT, our schedule, our benefit and our Angel Tree. Check it out! Send a thank you to mall for allowing us to be there throughout December!



Meet Maury Kenily

Maury is our Board Member of December. As you already know, he headlines our Angel Tree Cast as the beloved "Cowboy". He's what Rich refers to as "Director's Candy". He seems to reach into a character's part and deliver the director's thoughts to stage. He is a great presence to work with, and be around.

Maury has graced stages from New York to Huston, Texas. I eagerly looked through his scrap book when his daughter, Kristen, snuck it too me at the theater. (Some of it will be in the lobby during the run of the Angel Tree Benefit) He was as handsome then as he is now...*and talented!* This is a man respected by his peers! Some of the written commentary includes "...Earl the eccentric chemist, was played to the hilt by Maury Kenily. His delivery and facial expressions were greeted with with applause by the appreciative crowd." (Referring to a Zanesville performance of "Tender Trap") or "...and if none of the other actors can quite touch Mr. Kenily, they are entirely willing to try." (Referring to his Houston performance in 'Macbeth'.) These are just a very few of the numerous admiring words that have been written about Maury as an actor.

Maury is also one of the founders of the Zanesville Community Theater. I asked Maury to jot down some of his thoughts on the theater, his role as the Cowboy and anything he wanted to say. (If he read the phone book, I'd listen - how could I muster specifics?) Here is what he wrote:

We felt that Zanesville needed a community theater. The Art Institute Players Group was the nucleus from which ZCT sprang. Interested people were invited to a founding meeting..anyone who enjoyed or were interested in live production, in all it's aspects.

There was an audience for live theater in the town. (many who remember live professional theater from the '20s to the '30's) We wanted a venue to express our various interests in acting, directing, production, business - all the multitude of talents theater requires. From the beginning the underlying goal was a permanent home for ZCT. A theater of our own. The years and years of rehearsing in various, very limited sites; the creation of scenery and all the other production needs, reinforced this goal and we created a building fund.

Now the goal is improvement, refining of not only ZCT's theater home - but what the theater presents to the public and the range of who is involved in ZCT productions.

Our Current show "The Cowboy II" reflects the values ZCT sought. Six years ago an original script was produced that focused on the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas. It's objective was to raise funds for gifts for children at the holiday season. Now in 2002 a follow-up, original script, production picks up, some years later, reinforcing the continuity, spirit and the enduring values of not only ZCT but our community and the season. That's Theater!

-Maury Kenily

Angel Tree Thanks!

This year's Angel Tree Raffle has been OUTSTANDING! Simply Outstanding! Please thank the following contributors and keep them in your thoughts for this shopping season. It is the generosity of these people and business owners that help those in need. Thank you very much! We appreciate your giving.

Velma Cope, The Blufdale Mother's Club
OB/GYN Specialists of S. E. Ohio, Inc., L. T.'s Jewelers,
Mark Ritchey, Century National Investments, Mark Tolliver, The Genesis Fitness Center, The Little Shop on the Corner, The Sunrise Family Dollar, Pick-n-Save, K-mart, Finks, Village Florists, The Sun Spot, Hartstone Pottery, The Frazeyburg Dairy Queen, Members and Family and Friends of St. Thomas, Goss Supply , A Man for All Seasons Sports, Goodwill Industries, Barbara Elliot, Melissa Miller, T J's Country Place, Bob Evans, Steak-n-Shake, Tangles, Ken Brown's Auto Service, Elder Beerman, Wade's Clothing, Pugh's Jewelers, The Hillbilly Indian Shop, Hoffer Buick's Nascar Gift Shop, Coach House Gifts, Things Remembered, The Cowboys from Black & White Group, Inc., Garfield's, The Olive Garden, Applebee's, The Sweet Station, Flames, Frames & More, Eaglesticks, Grandma's Toy Box, Sunrise Bowling, The Dining Car Restaurant and Walmart.



Raffle tickets are available at the door. They are \$1 each or six for \$5. Odds are great!

Meet the Director!

Jan Smith has been around the theater for many moons now. He's been Danny Zuko in GREASE way back when, and most recently he was a bumpkin in last season's BIG RIVER. (Entirely too funny) Now he hops in the Director's Chair with fellow "Blues Brother" buddy Roger Touvell. I asked Jan to tell me a little about himself and why he chose to do GODSPELL.

Here is what he wrote:

WHY "GODSPELL"?

Easy, It's fun, up tempo, great music, colorful costumes and sends a message of joy to one and all. I could go on!!!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?

To perform, I played the King in "THE KING AND I" once. It's good to be the king. To watch, "THE PHANTOM" or just about any Webber or Tim Rice Productions.

WHAT IS THE FAVORITE THING YOU'VE DIRECTED?

All of the shows I have had the privilege to direct have all had unique qualities, so to pick one of the many, no can do. But I do tend to gravitate towards musicales and musical comedies. I think I must have been a "song and dance" man in a previous life.

WHAT WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT YOU HAVEN'T?

Assuming we are talking theater - I would love to play the part of the Phantom.

WHY DO YOU DIRECT?

To me directing is like a giant jigsaw. You've got to get all the parts to come together, and when you do, it's a very beautiful thing.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I met my wife (we just celebrated our 20th Anniversary) doing ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. She and our two lovely and talented daughters (Jenna and Brianna) have all worked in numerous productions and Pam's won awards for costuming. I work as an investigator for the Department of Job and Family Services. Pam works at the office of Doctor Mark Grosshandler DDS. Jenna plays the flute and is very active in school sports. Brianna plays the drums and wants to start her own band.



The Cast List is Announced!

Producer Conni Matz-Tolliver sent the Godspell list my way. Congrats to the Auditioners! And for those who didn't make this show, don't give up! There are several shows right around the corner looking for talent. When Directors have to really work on choosing a cast - that means you were all good. See ya next time.

The Cast List -

Lamar	Jon Geyer
Herb	Doug Shuey
Stephen	Gavin Meeks
Judas	Rob Cox
Jeffrey	Daniel Shuey
Jillian	Jillian Von Gunten
Joanne	Angela Medaugh
Kenny	Kenny Ide
Gilmer	Jodi Wolfe
Peggy	Megan Francis
Robin	Patti Kenney

The Crew -

Director	Jan Smith
A.D.	Roger Touvell
Producer	Conni Matz-Tolliver
Costumes	Pam Smith
Props	Laura Gibson
Choreographer	Laurel Dubeck
Vocal Director	Dee McCarthy

A Night of Giving

Angel Palmer stepped us in another direction of Fund raising for ZCT. She picked up tickets for Colony Square Mall's "Night of Giving" community special. They don't really donate to certain groups or charities. They offer a night of shopping. Groups can sell tickets for \$5 each. The organization gets the ticket money. The tickets entitle its bearers to a night of mall shopping at 20% off. Pretty neat, huh? It was a first step, and hopefully next year we can jump in at a run and raise more! Thanks Angel for the heads up.

Done to Death? Maybe not.....

Jillian VonGunten reports on the success of her show DONE TO DEATH. She writes:

The Lower level of Breittellar Auditorium was nearly full on Friday and Saturday and on Sunday we even had to open up the balcony. The audience seemed to enjoy themselves and I know that those of us on stage certainly did.

We made \$1143.00 off the show which will help with replacing curtains. Upcoming Plans: A Dinner Theater to be performed at Byran's Place to help with some repairs in the auditorium, possibly a spring musical.

- Jillian VonGunten

Thanks Jillian for the article! Keep us posted!

Stop and Enjoy the Egnog...

By Amy Ritchey, V.P. of ZCT

As a traveling software trainer, mother of three active boys, V.P. of ZCT, and current actor in Angel Tree, I know all about busy Holiday Seasons. Ah, the joys of the Holiday Season. Have you sent out Holiday cards? What about the annual family picture? Ugh, what am I going to buy my parents this year for the Holiday? Another Holiday party this week, honey... Where do I find the time to do it all? I don't.

People get stressed during the holidays. No figure. We do this to ourselves. I have learned to pick my battles. Is it worth getting up at 5:00 a.m. in order to get the best sales on the latest toy the day after Thanksgiving? Should I risk upsetting someone by sending a holiday card instead of attending the annual party?

My focus for the Holidays is to stop and sip my eggnog. My house does not need to look like a Martha Stewart catalog in order for my boys and I to play a game of scrabble. Every gift I wrap does not look like a professional wrapped it. And I still haven't figured out how I ever shopped without the Internet. I avoid the stores at all costs.

Take my advice: Pick your seasonal battles this year. Skip the holly above the formal mirror in the living room, skip the fancy bows, and shop via the Internet. Most importantly, drink some eggnog.

OCTA, SAY WHAT!

Greeting and salutations my fellow actors and actresses. I have been asked to write this article by your newsletter editor-in-chief Shelley Tolliver on what is OCTA and what is it that I do as your OCTA Rep.

Well first of all OCTA stands for Ohio Community Theater Association, and OCTA will be 50 years old next December.

This non-profit service organization was formed with sixteen theatres to provide each with support through workshops. Who purpose has evolved over the years into promotion of excellence and creativity in live theatre by providing members educational opportunities for growth in artistic and technical aspects of theatre.

OCTA also provides its members with a platform to showcase one or two of their productions in competition at their annual regional and three-day state OCTAfests. As well as provide a newsletter published 5 times a year, membership directory and a script lending library along with a resource directory used to locate props, costumes, equipment, etc.

It my position as your OCTA Rep. to act as a liaison or go between if you will by picking productions for competition with approval of the board. Assist directors with any resource info they may need to produce and show, make sure paper work is in order as well as attend regional and state meetings to relay any question or concerns ZCT may have and to bring back any new info and resources.

-Darren Brown

We Offer Our Sympathies

Sadly, there are two to extend this issue. Our condolences go out to the families of Robin Spence and Janice and Eric Blake.

We are sorry for your loss.



A Holiday Show with Friends

Some theater friends called up to borrow platforms for their Christmas Show, called "One Bethlehem Night". I asked her to jot down the information and send it my way. Its neat to catch up, and the show sounds pretty good too. Lorraine Revenaugh writes:

Name: "One Bethlehem Night"

Where: New Hope Full Gospel - 3550 East Pike (40 East).

When: Thursday, December 19th, 2002 7:30
Saturday, December 21st, 2002 7:30

There is a dinner Thursday night to raise money to cover the cost of the production. If anyone would like to go to the dinner on Thursday, please call the church at 740-455-2495 to make reservations. The dinner is \$15 a person. The play both nights is free.

Some of the cast involved who have done theatre at ZCT before include Jason and Lorraine Revenaugh and Rob and Lisa Jonard.

Swing in, see a show and catch up with friends.

Mark your Calendars

Buy your new calendar! Grab your highlighter and jot down some dates!

ZCT BOARD MEETING

When? January 5th

Where? ZCT

Time? 5:00 p.m.

AUDITIONS FOR TAMING OF THE SHREW

When? Sunday, January 12

Monday, January 13

Where? ZCT

Times? 7:00 p.m.

GODSPELL

When? The weekends of January 24th and 31st

Where? ZCT

Times? Fridays and Saturdays @ 8:00

Sundays @ 2:30

Trivia

What year did we do "The Cowboy"?

Answer - 1997 (if I did the math right)

New Trivia Question - Who Directed Godspell the first time around at ZCT?

Happy Holidays!

I know it's a whirl wind of rushing around, shopping, baking, wrapping and then keeping loved ones (including pets) out of the gifts. It's the frenzy of the season. Take a page out of Amy's article - take some time to sip the eggnog.

The snow makes the world so pretty. Its clean and pure. Look around and wonder at its beauty. It's the time to be a kid again. Snowflakes on noses, snowmen with old scarves, hot soup after the snowball fight of the century...remember when? Even as an adult..its okay to shake presents and wonder what those ornery kids (or friends) wrapped up for you. We are all children at Christmas. Enjoy it.

My best wishes to you and yours. Be safe, and be careful. Bring in the new year with good thoughts and hopes for our future. Keep in mind our military friends and families over seas. We want to bring them home to the American Ideal they are fighting for.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Today, tomorrow and always.

-Shelley Tolliver

Backstage Pass Editor

