
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

SEASON 40 LETTER 3

AUGUST 8, 2002

The Newsletter of the Zanesville Community Theatre

A Note from the President

Let me take a moment to tell you about a change in our season. We are going to replace "The Wizard of Oz" with "Winnie the Pooh".

Its been a hard decision with much discussion amongst the Board and Wizard staff members. But not having a complete production staff (especially musicians) and being a complex show to mount and stage, we've decided to turn to "Winnie the Pooh". We feel it would be better for our patrons if we did a more simplistic show well, then to stage a more complicated show poorly.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. It doesn't mean we won't be doing it a season in the near future, but if we do, we'll be more prepared.

Thanks for your understanding.
The Prez, Rich

Greetings!

From the desk of the Newsletter Girl, Shelley Tolliver.

This Issue is stacking up to be what a Newsletter should be. Informational and Fun. I've been chatting with members of the cast of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and I'm "jazzed". Molly Earich sparked tons of thoughts and ideas that I found very interesting. As an actress, she has opened doors that I have never new existed. As an audience member, I see how her questions are translating her acting direction into character. She had me thinking, and thinking, and thinking.....now, I wonder what the other cast members are thinking? Everyone's path to development is different, right? This issue contains interviews with the members

of Cuckoo's Nest. There are several members returning, and several new members. It's a new ball game, and the practices are in a stride already. I'll just say, this may be a walk down memory lane, but its a show all its own!

I hope you enjoy!

We Offer Our Condolences

Unfortunately, two families of our membership suffered the loss of a loved one. Please keep the Von Guntens and the Tollivers in your thoughts.

Garden Party Thanks

July 13th was our Garden Party and what a job well done!!! If you haven't been by Zanesville Community Theatre lately, hop in your car, take a ride in air conditioning, and take a look! No more shrubs!!!

Send you compliments to those who deserve it, Jan Kiikka, Karen Young, Daniel Shuey, Amy Ritchey, Todd King and Richard Tolliver. (Yes, I helped too) We can't forget Martha Staley, our yard debris is in her burn pile. Thank you for your time, the improvement is immeasurable!

Director's Notes

On my audition sheets for this play, I asked "Are you now or have you ever been insane?" I got some very interesting replies! You don't have to be mentally ill to be in this

play (or any other for that matter) but it certainly helps. The same goes for directing community theatre. But... we all love it.

I directed this play several years ago at ZCT, had a star-studded cast, played to full audiences and won at Regional competition. We have some returnees from that cast, but most are new.

I am so excited with this cast and after only a few rehearsals. That are the most talented and enthusiastic group I have ever directed. Many have learned most of their lines already. Their varied personalities are a huge plus for this show of so many different characters.

Its a real challenge for all of us with a cast so large, but I'm positive that this will be remembered as on of the greatest productions at ZCT.

- L. Joe Porter

The Nest is Full!

The cast of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is announced!

The Crew

The Director - Dr. Joe Porter
 The Producer - Robin Spence
 The Costumer - Jan Kiikka
 The Set Designer - Richard Tolliver
 The Lighting Designer - Carleton B. Underwood

The Cast

Chief Bromden - Sam Wilmoth
 Aide Warren - Sean Rice
 Aide Williams - Darren Brown
 Nurse Ratched - Mollie Earich
 Nurse Flynn - Conni Matz-Tolliver
 Billy Bibbit - Daniel Shuey
 Scanlon - Joe Marks
 Cheswick - Richard Tolliver
 Martini - Rick Milheim
 Ruckly - Chuck Touvell
 Randle P. McMurphy - Roger Touvell
 Dr. Spivey - Tom Porter
 Aide Turkle - Phillip Palmer
 Candy Starr - Laura Gibson
 Sandra - Beth Hankins
 Dale Harding - Robert Leland Taylor
 Technician - Barb Snider

Some Flew East...

Let's get to know some of our Cuckoo Crew!
 Keep in mind, I didn't change their wording.
 Its their interview in their own words.

I'm not going in any real order. I've been meeting with the cast in person or via e-mail. Its been pretty interesting.

Since, Mollie is my inspiration for questioning the cast, however, I shall start with her...

MOLLIE EARICH - plays NURSE RATCHED

Are you reprising your role? What character adjustments are you making?

This is the second time I will be playing the part of Nurse Ratched. It has been five years since we did this show the last time and I loved doing the part and I look forward to being *her* again!

When we did this the last time, we actually took a segment of the show to the OCTA Convention in Toledo and came in second place! There were several theatre groups participating and I think we were all thrilled to come in second behind a group from Toledo!

Of course, I am now thinking, what can I do to enrich the role of Nurse Ratched. Should I try some new things or closely follow what I did before? There are several of us from the original cast, but we also have new faces and so I'm finding that I am having some different reactions to the new faces and that helps to create some new avenues for Ratched's personality to develop.

OK SHELL, you asked, "Is there a relationship between you and the part of Nurse Ratched?" Are you really asking, "Where does Mollie Earich begin and Nurse Ratched take off?" Am I being type-cast?! HAHA! Anyone who knows me well, knows that I like to be in *control-a major character trait of Nurse Ratched*. A lot of people will have the opinion that I am evil in the Nurse Ratched role, but in real life, I truly wouldn't resort to giving clients frontal lobotomies just to get them to see things my way! I would say that Nurse Ratched is "Mollie-straight-up-with-a-twist!"

I am really pleased with the casting of this show and the new faces that we have appearing in the roles of the "boys" on my ward as well as the new female faces! They are all doing well!

The only other thing I would have to say is that I wish some kind, benevolent soul would write a big check so we could get air conditioning in Zanesville Community Theatre. It has been beastly hot in rehearsals...why I bet we could get one of the "Wards in Cuckoo's Nest" named after them! Hopefully, it will be cooler in September and I know our patrons will be witnessing a superior show no matter what!

SEAN RICE - plays AIDE WARREN

Who is your character? Personality, quirks etc...

He is an Aide on the ward. His job is to maintain order on the ward. His is afraid of his boss, Nurse Ratched. He dislikes the main character, R.P. McMurphy, and likes to point fun at the Indian Chief character.

Is there a relationship between you and your character?

Sean doesn't think he's like Aide Warren in general, and says he's never been in a similar position - in life or job. He doesn't feel that his character is much of a likeable guy with the patients, but he's big pals with the other aide.

How are you preparing for your character?

I studied the character in response to other characters in the play.

Are you like your character? Why or Why not?

No, not really. I am a very easy going person. Although, if I was in his situation I would probably respond not too dissimilar as he does.

How does it feel to be doing the show?

I like the story, I think it is hilarious. Everybody seems to be having a good time

SAM WILMOTH - plays CHIEF BROMDEN

Who is your character?

Chief Bromden is a shy, quiet man hidden in the body of a giant. His size belies the fact that inside he's "childlike," meaning his words are those of a man who feels small and

inferior to his ancestors. He's one of the last of a dying tribe, and he feels pressure to "keep the tribe going." His ultimate goal is to do just that, by any means necessary. This is why he has retreated inside himself. Is his retreat voluntary or is it a reflex action of his mind for protection purposes? We don't

know ... or do we?

If you are new to the show, how are you preparing for your character?

Having spent a good deal of time in the company of Native Americans, I have drawn upon those experiences, using a particular man I knew from years back as a "model" of sorts. He was a hulking, very imposing figure with a pretty

gentle disposition except when necessary to be otherwise. I am part Native American as well, although living as a Caucasian, so I cannot really draw upon any personal experiences.

Are you like your character? Why or Why not?

Not at all. Chief Bromden is shy and quiet, whereas I am

a ham in all senses of the word. I love the spotlight, and tend to be out front as much as possible, almost to a fault. Chief Bromden is very reserved, biding his time to ... well, you'll have to come see.

How does it feel to be doing the show?

I am honored to have been asked. I have done shows with Dr. Porter in Cambridge, and so his decision to ask me to come over and help out is a great compliment. I am excited about this production. The cast is great! I feel like a rookie again, and it's nice to be able to enjoy being part of a show with so many talented people. I hope I can keep up!

Any comments? Tell us a little about yourself.

Well, I am an avid music fan, and I am currently the

lead singer for a classic rock and blues band from Cambridge called Dogtown Cafe. I am also looking to start a more rock-like band. We're in the works of putting something together. I also enjoy spending time at home relaxing, watching TV or playing computer games. In addition, I enjoy playing NTN trivia at the Barn. You'll see me there some Friday nights or

Saturday afternoons drinking a Diet Coke and playing trivia with my girlfriend Jessica. Come by and say hi.

I live and work in Cambridge. I am a customer service representative for Carbonless & Cut Sheet Forms, Inc., a wholesale printing company. I have been active in Cambridge Performing Art Centre for the past three years, doing a number of show. I was Sancho Panza to Joe Porter's Don Quixote in "Man of La Mancha." Joe also directed me in "All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten." I also played in "Greater Tuna," a hilarious show if you've never seen it (even if you have). I played in "Oliver" under the direction of Alice Mauk, playing Mr. Bumble. I had my directorial debut last season with "It's a Wonderful Life." It was a great show, if I do say so myself. We may have set records for attendance for mid-season non-musicals at CPAC. It was a fun experience, but one that I think I need to experience once every three or so years. Very grueling! Anyway, there have been other show I have been involved in, but this is my debut at ZCT. Thanks for accepting me into your family.

JOE MARKS - plays SCANLON

Who is your character?....

Scanlon is 50 and has multiple personalities. The main similarity is that he and his character are partially bald.

Are you like your character?

"I don't know"...Joe was recently in the hospital undergoing a throat scope. He feels he knows what hospital life is like as a patient.

How does it feel to be doing the show? Any comments?

He was in a show called "The King and The Dragon" in Highschool. He says its like riding a bike. He enjoys the stage and being on it, not to mention gathering his own props and assembling them.

*As a side note from me, I'll tell ya, Joe is in the works of creating Scanlon's props. If you are familiar with the show, you know what he's up to, if not.....I'M NOT TELLING! You'll have to see for yourself. He's on a scavenger hunt for just the right accessories, tools and containers. We talked of this with great enthusiasm! As a

matter of fact, I can't wait to see what his "Prop Debut" pans out to be.

LAURA GIBSON - plays CANDY STARR

Who is your character?.....

A "Dish", she seems like she's smart yet absent minded. All in all, she has a good heart and is CRAZY about McMurphy.

Are you like your character?

They are similar in age and somewhat absent minded but I'm definitely not as overly flirtatious or forward.

How does it feel to be doing the show?

"Every time I do a show - I say I'm not going to do another. I can't stay away. I'm looking forward to the show."

ZCT History?

Her debut was BABY WITH THE BATH WATER. Since then she in MIDSUMMERS NIGHT DREAM and now CUCKOO'S NEST. She enjoys working with Roger and sees him as very talented.

RICH TOLLIVER - plays CHESWICK

Who is your character? Personality, quirks, etc.

Fairly intelligent, bi-polar yet compassionate

Are you like your character?

Fairly intelligent - I hope so
Bi-polar - I hope not
Compassionate - I hope so

How does it feel to be doing the show?

A lot of work! (I am also designing the set.) Its challenging - a group of great characters who all have to work together on being different.

Any Comments?

Its a great show, well crafted with a strong sense of realism. That's what makes it a scary show (like Stephen King's THE STAND). If we do it well, it'll make you realize the harsh things that can be going on in the world around you. (Some days I think Ruckly has the right idea)

DARREN BROWN - plays AIDE WILLIAMS

Who is your character? Personality, quirks, etc..

Aide Williams is Nurse Ratched's pet. - In front of her face: behind her back, he hates her. Aide Williams does his job by any means necessary. Darren says "Its his world, everyone else is a squirrel getting a nut"

Are you like your character?

His character likes being in charge. Darren doesn't have the ego that Williams does, but he feels that both do their jobs as assigned.

When asked for comments, Darren responds

Its good to be back on stage again and
"Somebody HELP! We've All Gone Cuckoo!"

A Special Thanks

If you call the theatre and DON'T get cut off, Thank Jan Kiikka. She took her afternoon and waited for the telephone man to install a new line to the building! Thanks Jan! Its definitely appreciated!

Engagements Announced!

Recently, a whimsical walk in the woods inspired a fairy tale beginning. Todd King proposed to our Vice President, Amy Ritchey. A magical "yes" unveils the dream we all have within us! Congratulations! Its good to know that good things do happen to good people.

Love must have been in the air because Michelle Benedetto (Jean-Louise in Mockingbird, a few years ago) was asked the big question on August 4th by her sweetie Andy. No dates have been set, just enjoying.

Congratulations! Here's hoping for a happily ever after!

Meet A Board Member and Director

Karen Young Directs "Winnie the Pooh"
WHAT YEAR DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED WITH ZCT?

July 2001

WHAT BROUGHT YOU IN?

Marueen Flora, The former Drama Director at Rosecrans, asked if I would be interested in being a Board Member since I was the drama club director at St. Nicholas and was leaving my position.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF, FAMILY, WORK, HOBBIES, ETC..

I've been married for 24 years to Larry (also known as Frank). We have one son - Adam - who will be a Freshman at OUZ this fall. I teach 7th and 8th grade at Holy Trinity in Somerset. I also teach 5th - 8th grade Music. I have been directing junior high shows for the past ten years.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THEATER?

I enjoy working behind the scenes.

IF YOU ARE AN ACTOR/ACTRESS, WHAT ROLE HAVE YOU DONE THAT YOU'VE HAD THE MOST FUN WITH? AND/OR MOST DIFFICULT? WHY?

I have never been in an acting role. I really have no desire to be on stage.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?

The Velveteen Rabbit

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS A MEMBER?

To help in any way I'm needed that I am able to do.

Happy Birthday to....

Dave Hammer who turned 62. Lynn Moyer celebrates her big day and Angel Palmer turns ...gotcha...one should never reveal the age of a lady. :-)

ZCT Shares an Anniversary

As ZCT begins its 40th Season with a bang, so does another community theater...not only do we share anniversaries, we share the opening show! Surprised? I am.

Westerville's Community Theater, CURTAIN PLAYERS celebrates its 40th Season by offering favorites from their past.

Their Anniversary Line-up is as follows:

- *ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST
running the first 3 weeks in September
- *ANOTHER DUMB GHOST STORY
running the last 3 weekends in October
- *BUS STOP
running the middle 3 weekends of March
- *PLAY ON
running the last 2 weekends of April and the first weekend of May
- *GRACE AND GLORIE
running the last weekend of May and the first 2 weekends of June

If you are interested in more information on Curtain Players or their season feel free to log on to receive their e-mail newsletter at lsopp44@hotmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE - Rich Tolliver is interested in going to see their "Cuckoo's Nest" on Friday, September 6th or that Saturday. If you are interested in joining him, let us know. Curtain Players offers a group discount of groups of 10 or more! And, we should book early to ensure seats!

Upcoming Events

Here's the dates to mark on your calendar!

WORK PARTY

Who? - YA'all

Where? - Zanesville Community Theatre

When? - Saturday, August 10th

Time? - 8:30 a.m. - before the heat

Goals? - Sweep down the stage walls and paint them!

Rid out crappy paints

Sort through some costume accessories

Add more mulch to the landscape

AUDITIONS for WINNIE THE POOH

Who? - Children and Adults

Where? - Zanesville Community Theatre

When? - Sunday, August 25 & Monday, August 26

Time? - 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEETING - *DATE CHANGE!!!!!!*

Who? - Members of the Board and Guests

Where? - Zanesville Community Theatre

When? - **WEDNESDAY, September 4th**

Time? - 7:00 p.m.

Goals? - Committee Updates

Trivia

The answer to last issue's question of "What is the title of Dr. Joe Porter's book?" is SIMPLE CHANGES.

This issue's trivia is....What does the P stand for in Randal P. McMurphy?

One better? Who gained permission and the rights to make the movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" from Kirk Douglas?