



Twin Lakes Playhouse

Twin Lakes Playhouse, 600 W. Sixth Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72654 870-424-0444

www.twinlakesplayhouse.org

2009 Executive Board of Directors

Every year the incoming Board elects their executive board. For the 2009 year, Lloyd Lowery has been elected as Chairman, Bill Simpson as Vice-Chairman, Mike Baker as Secretary (with Denise Jones as backup), and Cindi Young as Treasurer. This is a very strong and creative executive board and I'm sure we will witness some great things from their leadership. Let's all try to support our board this year and participate in changes and improvements for the playhouse.

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Letter from Your Chairman

By Lloyd Lowery

Greetings! Here are some random thoughts I've jotted down that are worthy of future consideration and/or discussion.

Things we might want to explore and accomplish in 2009

Item 1: Increase active membership. Get as many members as possible involved in the activities of the playhouse. Brainstorm ways to accomplish this, share your ideas with the Board of Directors and with each other. An idea not shared is like a seed not planted. It won't flourish and grow unless nurtured.

There are two kinds of theatre, good and bad. Much as I should like to see theatre in America, I would rather have no theatre than bad theatre. What we must strive for is perfection and come as close to it as is humanly possible.

Margot Jones

Item 2: Continue with improvements and maintenance of the building and grounds. Some work still needs to be done backstage and the stage floor itself needs attention. Outside painting needs to be completed. Some detail work on the driveway around the building is also in order.

Item 3: New flats need to be constructed. Our current stock has seen better days. The upstairs costume and prop areas need to be organized and the costume supply downsized. Some shelf space at the top of the stairs will help in organizing that area.

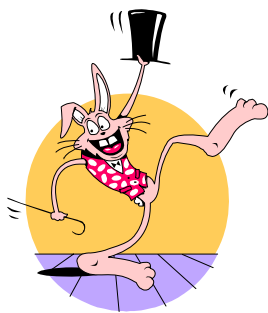
Item 4: Decrease our expenditures insofar as possible. There are several ways to do this. For example, we might encourage volunteers to do the mowing rather than hiring it done. We might be more judicious in the quantity of

materials we have printed. Directors and producers might check supplies and items on hand as needed for production before buying new supplies and items, i.e. paint for sets.

Item 5: Increase our revenue. This is the tricky part. With the economy in its current state it is possible that contributors and donations (patronage) may decrease so we should explore ways to increase the number of contributors. More people giving less individually could still increase the total amount of contributions. It seems prudent that we hold the line on ticket prices at least for this year but still try to increase attendance. Everyone working towards the same goal (increasing attendance for all productions) will help.

Setting the Stage

By John Eberhard



Odds and Ends of theatre etiquette and generally good ideas:

When the props are set, do not touch them unless it is your prop and you are taking it onstage. When you are done with a prop put it back in its place. Keep your hands off of other people's stuff!

Always check that your own props are set. Don't just "trust" that they'll be there. We usually have extraordinary prop people, stagehands, and stage managers. However, it is your obligation to check your own props. If you are supposed to take a gun out of a drawer to shoot another character and open that drawer to find.....nothing.....and you end up

pointing your finger and saying, "Bang!," the ultimate blame lies on yourself for not checking before the scene to make sure that the gun is in the drawer.

After the last show, EVERYBODY participates in striking the set and in cleaning the theatre. Prima donnas are not appreciated. It is very bad form to leave the facility in less than GREAT shape for the next show, i.e. costumes laying about, unswept floors, makeup not put away, props not returned to owners or properly stored, etc. Doing your own show is difficult enough without having to clean up someone else's mess.

Always have a COMPLETE dress rehearsal. Murphy's Law applies here. In the final action of *THE FUTURE IS IN EGGS*, I symbolically destroyed future generations by smashing a basket full of eggs with my bare hands, immediately followed by the curtain closing. In the dress rehearsal, the director didn't bother to actually have the curtain close. Of course, at the performance, when the curtain did close, it closed.....behind me. I was literally left out in front of the audience with egg on my face!

Have the courtesy to be on time. For auditions, for rehearsals, for performance, for whatever task is your responsibility. Everyone notices who is dependable and timely; this will be reflected in future opportunities to participate.

Go out of your way to get along. In addition to some of the most creative, talented, empathetic, and hardworking people in the world, the theatre tends to have big egos, high strung personalities, strong opinions, and can be a bit of a pressure cooker during the exquisite stress of doing a show. People are human; they make mistakes and have bad days. Take with you a big dose of tolerance for the frailty of your teammates. Hopefully, they will take an equally big dose of tolerance and patience for you.

Have fun. That is what we are there for. However, have fun responsibly. Don't let your having fun interfere with creating a good show for everyone. A successful show requires work and effort; rehearsals are work parties. Slipping real whiskey into the bottle during a show is "fun" when you're in junior high; having a smooth show is "fun" when you're an adult.

WE STILL COLLECT BEST CHOICE LABELS

Please return them to Patty Kotlicky or a BOARD MEMBER...

Did you know we are selling gift certificates to our performances? If you are interested in purchasing some as gifts for your friends, please contact a BOARD MEMBER or Brenda Jacaway to make the arrangements.



CURTAIN CALLS

The curtain's calling us... to the theatre... to express ourselves and how we can develop dreams into a craft and an art.

By Marjorie Rock

Hi there, this is Marjorie Rock. Deb Smith asked that I write an article monthly for the Newsletter sharing my views and experience in the theatre. The beauty of all of this is that there is no ONE way things are meant to be done - although, there are some principles that best be followed now and then. When I think of all Broadway actors, directors and producers - each have their own idiosyncrasies and ideas, their own method of going about their business... that is the creativity of this delightful craft. So, let's go back to the beginning.

When I was about eight years old, I was allowed to go to the movies. I loved the musicals in particular. I would dream about these shows all week long and in time I began to put myself in the lead. I would sing, dance, leap and, sometimes even kiss, in my imagination. Then when I was eleven years old, my mother took me to a traveling show held on our high school stage. It was mostly a one-woman show, her name was Ida and she was from Kansas. During intermission I began to have a fantasy wherein someone came on stage and announced that Ida had become ill - "was there anyone in the audience who could come on stage and finish the show?" Well, my heart started to pound, and as the spotlight twirled over the audience, it stopped on me and the man said, "YOU, would you please come up on stage!" Unfortunately, at that moment, the show started again and there was Ida. I have never forgotten that moment.

I started taking tap, ballroom and ballet dance lessons in seventh grade. I loved tap; however, when I got to

the third position in ballet, I didn't fit in the teacher's basement- too tall! I thought I was also too tall to ever have a boy want to dance with me, so I gave that up also. But TAP...oh boy, that was perfect. I even auditioned for Horace Heidt's Talent show (for those old enough to remember him). In high school there was a yearly Talent Show and, for those four years, I "made up" dances for a friend and myself. We won first place in three of the four years. I LOVED it. I was getting known for my dancing and choreography. However, I was terrified to speak in public; therefore, acting was out for me - or so I thought.

When I was in High School, some boys said they would donate money if I would dance during a fundraising marathon on the radio. I got a call from the radio station asking if I would come down. I may be the only person who danced "on the radio." The announcer described what I was doing! He enjoyed my act and so asked me to join him in his troupe that went around entertaining at TB Sanatoriums, for Kimberly-Clark executives and other events around town. Finally he asked me to become his assistant in his magic show. My father said, "NO daughter of mine ----"and so that came to an end.

However, the die was cast; my love for theatre and entertaining was forever implanted in my heart. What about you? I find that those who come to our theatre membership meetings sign up because they have a dream of their own. So often, though, accompanying that dream is the misguided belief that "I am not good enough. " It takes great courage to step out on faith. I was a young woman when I did; now I am 72 years old. Looking back, it is amazing how my life conformed to fit that original dream. I had to overcome my fears about speaking in public, stepping out onto the stage, accepting responsibility to choreograph a "real" musical, to write a musical, learn something about lighting and sound, and then tackle the mother of all dreams - DIRECTING!!! Let's see what happens next.

It is requested and required that each member fill out a new application form when paying this year's membership dues. If you have not done so already, please update your membership. If you cannot attend a

meeting, you can download a membership form off the website, fill it in, and submit it and your \$5.00 check to:

Twin Lakes Playhouse, P.O. Box 482, Mountain Home, AR 72654



MEETINGS

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, BOARD MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, BOARD MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

Soliloquy

By Deb Smith

The internet is such an amazing place to visit. One can find virtually ANYTHING on-line. I ran across some of these wonderful tips regarding promoting the playhouse, fundraising, and increasing our audience base and thought I'd share them with you. We could learn from these ideas released by other theatres around the country and maybe come up with some of our own. These were found on the AACT website.

* Along with its season brochure, Florida's Theatre Winter Haven sent out a flexible refrigerator magnet that had season productions and dates printed on it, as well as the box office phone number. The handsome flat magnet had a brushed aluminum surface overprinted with black ink. The cost was borne by a local ophthalmology group whose name is featured on the magnet, along with the doctors' phone number.

* A nice fundraising touch from the Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati allowed people to donate money to such specific categories as "Adopt an Actor" (be an actor's patron), "Director's Chair" (sponsor the director for a play), "Writer's Desk" (underwrite royalty costs), "Set the Stage" (underwrite set costs), and "Dress It Up" (help with costume, light and sound costs). Further choices included sponsoring the company's interns and young playwrights, as well as classic literature and dramatic presentations in local schools. Research shows that people give to people, not organizations-- and to something that allows them to see the benefit of their donation.

* Candor can be a powerful tool in fundraising. "While contributions anytime are greatly appreciated, gifts and pledges made earlier in the season assist our budgeting progress," wrote the Sacramento [CA] Theatre Company's Artistic Director to its patrons. "Making your Annual Campaign contribution now will mean no additional Annual Campaign requests for the rest of the season. I'll bet you'll look forward to that."

* The Stage Left Players of Salem, Ohio, wanted their subscribers to share the theater experience with a friend or two, so each season ticket sold included one guest pass, valid at any regular season production. The company does not have reserved seating, a fact that makes the guest pass concept easier to manage. The season subscriber received five shows for the price of four, subscription to the company newsletter, advance notice of special events, an invitation to the special Patron's Party, and the bring-a-guest ticket.

Now, let's all get on our thinking caps and see what *we* can come up with!

Director's Notes

By Carol Eberhard

The Twin Lakes Playhouse will hold auditions for the mystery/farce, "But Why Bump Off Barnaby?" Saturday and Sunday, January 10th and 11th, at 2:00 each day. Roles are available for 4 men and 6 women, ages 20 and up. Backstage workers are also needed.

"Barnaby" is a zany farce that utilizes common murder mystery clichés. A group of quirky stock characters gather to solve the family tontine, a riddle revealing the location of the family fortune in the spooky Leduc family mansion in dreary England. All are very wealthy, except for Barnaby, the family pauper. Thus, when Barnaby is murdered, the puzzle becomes: "But Why Bump off Barnaby?" Everyone is a suspect: Medkins, the butler; Magnolia, the high strung maid; Orion Leduc, the ancient family patriarch; Lady Barbara Folcey, an elderly woman with a penchant for sherry; Rosalind Barstow, the flamboyant fortune hunter; Cleo Barton, the glamorous Hollywood actress; Miss Barnsdale, the nearsighted governess; Dora, the dimwitted ingénue; and Jack Barnett, "intrepid police reporter." Chaos ensues as Jeff struggles with his nonsensical fiancée, Dora, and her crazy family to discover the identity of the killer before they all are murdered.

The play is scheduled for performance the last weekend in February and the first two weekends in March. The playhouse is located at 600 West Sixth Street in Mountain Home. For more information call Carol Eberhard at 492-6635.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR: Hooray, a new year! And with it comes the excitement and anticipation of a new beginning. Our little playhouse definitely has a lot to celebrate since we've made so many improvements to it aesthetically in the last couple of years. We also are in our 37th year of business. Now we can concentrate on building our audience base and membership. I, for one, am getting behind our new chairman to do just that. With the bogged down economy and the fear of extra spending, this might be a perfect time to rethink how we approach people about our playhouse and performances. \$10 is still a bargain for a live theatre experience and we should be able to share that knowledge with the community. This year we will also be doing a student acting workshop that could potentially bring in more participants and a wider audience. Perhaps we can see what other "extras" we can offer this year that are inexpensive for us yet great for promotion. TLP gives back to the community with every production through our benefit program. There may be other ways to challenge ourselves and that could show our community how much we regard their participation and appreciate their attendance each year.

Deb Smith

If anyone has any announcements, articles of interest, would like to contribute an editorial or submit a picture, please let me know. This is the membership's newsletter, after all, and it is up to all of us to make it successful. Therefore, please contact me by phone at 870-421-6099 (cell), 870-467-5608 (home), or by e-mail at

ozarktootsie@centurytel.net .

***** **Deadline for February 2009 Newsletter is February 2nd** *****

Board of Directors 2008: Lloyd Lowery, Chairman; Bill Simpson, Vice-Chairman; Mike Baker, Recording Secretary; Cindi Young, Treasurer; Donna Griffiths; Janet Lacefield; John Eberhard; and Denise Jones.

Editor: Deb Smith (421-6099 or 467-5608 for suggestions or submissions); Copy Editor: Sally Mollenkopf; Consulting Editor: Carol Eberhard; Contributing Editors: John Eberhard and Marjorie Rock; Website-Webmaster: Bill Simpson.

A festive graphic for "Happy New Year". The words "Happy New Year" are written in a stylized, colorful font. "Happy" is in green, "New" is in purple, and "Year" is in red. Below the text is a blue, swirling ribbon-like flourish with small red and orange dots scattered underneath.