



Twin Lakes Playhouse

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

www.twinlakesplayhouse.org

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A critic is a man who knows the way but can't drive the car.

-Kenneth Tynan

I have always been very fond of them ... I think it is so frightfully clever of them to go night after night to the theatre and know so little about it.

-Noel Coward



Letter from Your Chairman

By Lloyd Lowery

Some random thoughts as 2009 draws to a close:

January- Suggestions to increase membership were offered, infrastructure improvements were suggested, cost containment measures were explored and revenue enhancement seeds were planted.

February- Discussion continued on some of the thoughts listed above and some others added for consideration.

March- Dame Fortune smiled on us with the receipt of a substantial bequest from the estate of theater-supporter, Maudie Mae March.

April- A list of infrastructure projects were finalized and preliminary work was begun on some of them.

May- Discussions and work continued of the suggested projects and the list was prioritized to some degree by a committee established for that purpose.

June- One of the projects was completed and work was begun on the "burn the mortgage" party.

July- The mortgage was burned.

August- Cost estimates for each project on the final list were submitted by the committee. Total cost of the projects was estimated to be approximately \$14,000.

September- Guidelines of duties and responsibilities of a full time technical director were established and a technical director appointed.

October- Casting for the final regular show of the season was announced as was the slate of 2010 productions. The significant roof leak was finally repaired.

November- The lobby floor project was completed (actually in late October).

Happy Thanksgiving

All in all, it has been a good year with the usual ups and downs and a few minor glitches along the way but nothing insurmountable. In November we will elect our new board members to join John, Mike, Cindy, and Janet. I personally wish the best for the new board and strongly encourage everyone



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to give it full support and cooperation so that we may

continue to progress and offer quality entertainment to our audiences.

Director's Notes

By Deb Smith



For those who have supported our cast by attending one of our performances, I thank you. For those who have not yet, please don't let the opportunity slip by. This cast is incredible and deserves your support (as do ALL our casts). Much of our time in rehearsals was filled with laughter. I now see this is one of the quickest and easiest ways to solidify the bonding of a cast. These women are spectacular friends and I will always hold this experience dear in my heart.

I want to thank my crew- Chrissy Carney has been a superb assistant director. Hopefully, she will take the directing workshop and try to direct a play one of these days because she has a natural eye for it. My backstage crew: Angie Cotter, Yvonne Gehrke, Tracy Mints, and Amber have done so well keeping the show going at a clipped pace. It's not easy changing seasons at the end of each scene and making sure

the cast members are dressed appropriately. Their timing has been spot-on. Traci Hogan's 1980's costuming certainly played an integral part in the success of the show. W.W. McElrath designed and set the lighting to perfection and Mike Baker followed suit in running the lights and sound for the show. Anne Johnson-Loftis again worked miracles with the painting and Cathy Khonen and Lynn Lawhon dressed the set, adding just the right ambience for our Southern beauty shop.

I also want to mention the audiences we have had thus far. We've had bus loads of people attending from Gainesville and Theodosia, and one from Good Samaritan. Also, people have come from Hardy and other surrounding areas. This is so great for our little theatre. I've been privy to compliments about the play and also about our new audiences' plans to attend some of our other productions in the future.

As a director, I am overwhelmed watching these characters come to life. It never ceases to amaze me the abilities the actors in this area possess. I couldn't be more pleased with this production. Performance dates continue through November 22 with a special encore performance on November 27. Bring your out-of-town guests!

Keeping Your Comedic Spirit Politically Correct

Patrick Rainville Dorn is the author of several published children's plays and musicals, including almost twenty with Pioneer Drama Service. He has taught theatre at Colorado Christian University, and currently he leads The Troupe, Denver's Christian Theatre Company.

Theatre has always pushed the envelope when it comes to treating shocking and sometimes disturbing subjects. *Oedipus Rex* is a tragedy about incest. *Tartuffe* satirizes religious hypocrites. *Fiddler on the Roof* takes on the persecution of Russian Jews and arranged marriages.

Playwrights and directors should be encouraged to stage productions that raise important social questions, even if these plays value depicting a certain reality above being politically correct. Sometimes the arts can help people sort through controversial subjects and grow in their world view. Pioneer Drama Service carries dozens of plays about societal issues, intended to be used as discussion starters to help young adults broach these sensitive topics, such as drug abuse, suicide, bullying and discrimination.

Though these plays have an intentional, built-in shock value, the true surprise in theatre is when you accidentally run across a shockingly inappropriate portrayal of a character, especially in a comedy. Generally this happens when changing tastes and sensitivities render a formerly harmless subject or character politically incorrect, and comedies are especially prone to this.

Forty years ago, Jerry Lewis made audiences howl with laughter by playing a squinty-eyed, buck-toothed, heavily accented Japanese character. Nowadays, no one laughs at that kind of racial stereotyping. Remember *Hogan's Heroes* and the bumbling, incompetent Germans? Even seemingly innocuous humor, like a character who munches on junk food constantly, needs to be treated carefully now that we are all more sensitive to eating disorders and weight issues.

Hopefully responsible directors will think twice about choosing a comedy about a "drunken Irishman" or a "promiscuous priest." But what about "wicked stepmothers," "dumb blondes" and "surfer dudes"? Are they still fair game?

It all boils down to the play's comedic spirit. Does the comedy get its laughs by degrading a person's basic human dignity, by cutting people down, putting them in embarrassing situations or insulting them? Are characters one dimensional, revealing only their foibles? It's a cheap kind of laugh, and we're not better off for indulging in that kind of politically incorrect humor.

My favorite kind of humor – which I like even better than funny puns, one-liners, and jokes – is the kind that comes from honest and respectful insights into human nature. Rather than shaming a character or turning someone into an object to be scorned and mocked, this kind of humor makes the characters more endearing, even with their faults and idiosyncrasies.

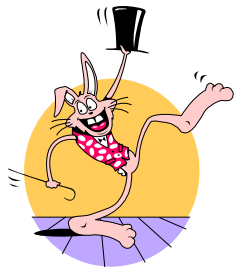
Will Rogers was an expert at this life-giving kind of comedy. Same with Bill Cosby. You can see it in some of Neil Simon's plays, where comedic friction is developed between well-meaning people who are trying to work together or get along.

In this day and age when we need to be depicting examples of civility to counterbalance so much that's portrayed in the media, directors can make a difference in the comedies they produce. Ask whether an audience "laughs at" or "laughs with" the characters and choose your comedy accordingly. Specific character types go in and out of fashion, but if you pay attention to the source of the humor, you can avoid worrying about ever-evolving political correctness. Humane comedies don't hurt anyone and in fact, make life better by reminding us to laugh at ourselves.

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 Shirley Spitzer to make the arrangements.

Setting the Stage

By John Eberhard



For those interested in watching live theatre, here is a handy dandy list of URLs to find out what is going in several live theatre venues within a reasonable drive. Also, the Arkansas state theatre festival (KCACT) will be at held at ASU-Beebe Nov.10-13. Admission is free. There will be five shows

in that span.

MSU (Springfield)

<http://theatreanddance.missouristate.edu/theatre.asp>

Center on the Square (Searcy)

<http://www.centeronthesquare.org/>

Conway Community Arts Association (Conway)

<http://conwayarts.org/site/index.html>

Fort Smith Little Theatre <http://fslt.org/>

Hot Springs Village Players

<http://www.hsvplayers.org/>

ASU-Beebe

<http://efweb.asub.edu/efweb/theatre/index-theatre.htm>

The Pocket Theatre (Hot Springs)

<http://www.pockettheatre.com/>

Rialto Community Arts Center (Morrilton)

<http://www.rialtoartscenter.com/>

Theatresquared (Fayetteville)

<http://theatresquared.org/>

The Village Players (Bentonville)

<http://www.bvillageplayers.org/>

The Weekend Theatre (Little Rock)

<http://www.weekendtheater.org/>

Community Theatre of Little Rock

<http://www.thepublictheatre.com/ctrlr.html>

Arkansas Repertory Theatre (Little Rock)

<http://www.therep.org/>

ASU (Jonesboro) <http://www.theatre.astate.edu/>

UCA (Conway) <http://www.uca.edu/theatre/>

Rogers Little Theatre (Rogers)

<http://www.rogerslittletheater.org/victory.php>

Tri_Lakes Community Theater (Branson)

<http://www.tlctheatre.org/home.html>

Vandivort Center Theatre (Springfield)

<http://www.vctheatre.com/>

Imperial Dinner Theater (Pocahontas)

<http://www.imperialdinnertheatre.com/>

Springfield Little Theatre (Springfield)

<http://www.landerstheatre.org/>

Murry's Dinner Playhouse (Little Rock)

<http://www.murrysdinnerplayhouse.com/>

The Avenue Theatre (West Plains)

<http://www.theavenuetheatre.com/>

The Lyric Theater (Harrison)

<http://thelyricharrison.org/memberstco.html#prod>

University of the Ozarks (Clarksville)

<http://admissions.ozarks.edu/academics/majors/theatre/productions.asp>

MEETINGS

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, BOARD MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.

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:

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Soliloquy

By Deb Smith

The membership voted on the 2010 season at the October meeting and I am so pleased to announce we will be producing a family musical, *Treasure Island!* There was such a great response when we did *BIG BAD* this last summer that it only seemed appropriate that we look for another one that would include children in the cast. I started my search immediately after summer ended and stumbled across a wonderful script by an English composer/lyricist, Stephen Kingsbury.

Since the beginning of the Education/Outreach program in 2006, we have made great strides in including new audiences. With the addition of children's roles, more families have attended our productions- people who never thought of attending live theatre before. Also, when we produce well-known and well-liked plays, we bring in new audience members as well.

We have only begun to reach the masses. If we can continue to bring quality theatre productions to these audiences, we will have repeat audience members who will also bring their friends. But the key word is **quality**.

Sometimes it's difficult to judge how an audience will respond to a production. Some productions may be wonderful, perfectly cast, strong visually, etc. yet the audiences don't attend. This should in no way reflect on the director or the cast. Then sometimes we have productions that are mediocre or the play is so obscure that no one recognizes it or wants to attend. We should

really be more consistant and choose our productions wisely, therefore uping the anti with quality plays. The play reading committee should be utilized more



and directors should listen to their comments and suggestions for future productions. This is written in the by-laws but not adhered to. This is not to suggest a director shouldn't find a play to produce that he/she is passionate about. In fact, it's the director's vision that helps make the play successful.

Unfortunately, we are limited right now with people who want to direct. This is unfortunate because it leaves little choices for play selection. It was so nice when we had six or seven directors in the mix. Two directors passed away recently, leaving a huge void. Some directors have left the playhouse. We need more people to step up to the plate.

It's been mentioned that we could hold another "Night of One-Acts" so budding directors could try their hand at producing a play. I would love to see this happen. We have four plays on our roster for next year, why not consider adding a spot of one-acts? If anyone is interested in this, please contact me at 870-467-5608. I will be more than happy to discuss this possibility with you. We should have 3 one-acts to make a full evening. We could run them for one or two weekends. We would have to get a proposal together to submit to the Board of Directors before any decision could be made so we are just in the planning stages right now.

I encourage any one who has ever toyed with the idea of directing to consider this opportunity. I can speak from experience, directing is one of the most fulfilling experiences a creative person can have.

WE STILL COLLECT BEST CHOICE LABELS
Please return them to Patty Kotlicky.

Twin Lakes Playhouse Members Meeting
October 19, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Lloyd Lowery

No new members or guests.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved as published in newsletter and on website.

Treasurer's report was given. Report was approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: 88 paid members

Patronage: \$850. in memorials for Marge Rock with \$100 of that being designated for a Pink Dogwood from Jackie Tucker in memory of Marge and Mary Jane.

Maintenance: Roof is fixed and electrical problem was fixed.

Publicity: Deb Smith is doing her own for Steel Magnolias

Benefits: Relay for Life is benefit for SM

Nominating: 3 people so far. Elections will be held in Nov at next meeting.

Play Reading has submitted four plays for next year. (see below)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill McElrath held an hour long workshop on Lights and Sound for 7 members

New "used" speakers have been installed in the auditorium.

Buttress wall and cable removal should start soon.

Estimate for the entire roof to be redone comes to about \$10,000 if work is done all at one time. Bid was given for sections as well. Membership would like two more bids to be provided before making a decision.

Construction on Flooring in concession area should begin soon

Play Reading: 4 plays were approved after being recommended by committee. They are

Treasure Island (musical) Deb Smith Directing. Chapter Two a comedy by Neil Simon Bill McElrath directing. Cemetery Club a comedy Deb Smith director and Exit Who, a farce with Shirley Spitzer directing. Opening dates are 3-12, 5-21, 8-13, and 11-5 respectively. Membership approved the slate.

Youth Acting Conservatory will be held June 26-27, 2010

NEW BUSINESS Board recommended the addition of an adult only production for two weekends in December. The Play will be "The Gin Game" and will be marketed to adults only with strong language and performances will start at 8 pm instead of 7 pm. Membership approved

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR: Here's hoping your holiday will be filled with joy, family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving.

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 December 2009 Newsletter is December 1st*******

Board of Directors 2009: Lloyd Lowery, Chairman; Bill Simpson, Vice-Chairman; Mike Baker/Denise Jones, Recording Secretaries; Cindy Young, Treasurer; Yvonne Gehrke; Janet Lacefield; and John Eberhard.

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.