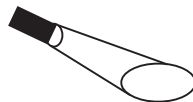


# Ann Arbor Civic Theatre SPOT LIGHT



Winter 2002



## Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Board of Directors

*President:* Anne Bauman

*Vice President:* Steve Horne

*Treasurer:* David F. Keren

*Secretary:* Kendra Smith

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Glenn Bugala

Don Devine

Gary Hayden

Pamela Vachon

## Contact Information

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
408 W. Washington  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

*Website:* www.a2ct.org

*Email:* manager@a2ct.org

*Office Phone:* 734-971-0605

*Tickets Phone:* 734-971-2228

734-971-(A2CT)

*Office Hours:* 10 am – 1 pm M-F

## From the Co-Managing Directors

Greetings to all of you,

This season has certainly gotten off to a great start. Season ticket sales were stronger than they've been in years and our first 3 productions, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Trial of the Big Bad Wolf* and *Enter Laughing* exceeded our expected attendance and were brilliantly done. We've seen many new, talented faces in the casts and crews and are delighted to welcome them to Civic Theatre.

We have just recently sent out our annual appeal to all of you.

Working, as we are, on solid ground and with such commitment, we're making a more focused effort in our fundraising to allow us to forge ahead; we hope you'll offer your support. If you didn't receive a letter, please call or email us and

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## Smile!

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will present *Smile* on January 9 - 12th at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

What do you get when you cross Marvin Hamlisch's music (composer of *A Chorus Line* and *The Sting*) with Howard Ashman's book and lyrics (*Little Shop of Horrors*) and throw in the storyline from the cult mid-70's movie, *Smile*? The answer is a rollicking good time, is what we say!

Many critics consider *Smile* to be among the very best musicals of the '80's, even though it enjoyed only a short Broadway run. You might remember *60 Minutes* following the production from it's out-of-town tryouts to opening night on Broadway in 1986.

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*(from left) Elise Stempke, Yael Hoffman and Allison Pearlman are all in Smile, opening January 9, 2003 at Mendelssohn.*

# A2CT Is

## Smiling

Whether it's losing weight, successfully redecorating a room, or finally deciding that the youngest child at your house, who is now 45, can stop being the "elf" at the family Christmas celebration, change can be a very good thing. We've all made decisions in our lives to try something different. Often the anticipation of that change is so exciting that, like the middle-aged man who is so happy to not be wrestling packages out from under the tree while wearing a shiny red vest and pointy shoes, we smile just at the thought of what will come.

A2CT is smiling. Reminiscing on the past few months and looking forward to the years ahead, we find nothing but joy in our decisions and opportunities. Our goal is to make the strongest, most active, and exciting artistic community we can. A2CT welcomes change as a way to build on our 73 years of traditions and history and bring the theater into the 21st century.

Here's just a taste of what has us so excited:

Volunteers and community members are the heart of A2CT. Over the past few months, our devoted friends have not only helped the theater mount one of its most successful seasons ever, they have been instrumental in helping us prepare for the future. Almost 100 volunteers helped as A2CT consolidated its Ypsilanti and Washington Street costume and set piece storage areas into the theater's new facility on Ann Street.

Our friends have also supported us as we look to change where A2CT shows will be seen. As we move away from our space on Washington Street, there will soon be a new venue for you to see your favorite A2CT productions. Several different theaters are currently being considered. We are delighted that we will continue to perform at the Mendelssohn Theatread and we are also looking forward to utilizing a



new space for our shows. We expect that wherever our performances are presented, the new location will also help A2CT continue to grow. The move will give us an opportunity to reach out to theater fans who might not have known about us before. It will also give us a chance to build business partnerships with retailers and restaurants in the area to help us publicize our events and create a unique evening out for our audience.

Many of these relationships and strategies will be developed by A2CT's board of directors. The board is doing many things to make a stronger theatre. They are developing new methods of fundraising and marketing, and

“This is an exciting time to be involved with a revitalized theatre. As we settle in, your support is needed now more than ever.”

looking to build seasons that will be popular, challenging and entertaining. A2CT now has the largest board in its history, and it is also one of the most diverse. Our board members bring experience in business strategy, arts marketing, and public relations. Take a moment to get to know the board members by going to: <http://www.a2ct.org/files/participate/board.htm>

A2CT is a community organization. So while learning good methods and getting great insights are valuable, for these methods and insights to make a difference, it is necessary to translate those ideas into real change. We're excited about where the future will take us and are rolling up our sleeves to carve out some new niches for A2CT in the Ann Arbor community.

Join us. And let's go to work. ■

# The Move - 2002

As you may or may not know, A2CT has a five-year contract for the rental of a storage and set-building facility on Ann St. The space is terrific—clean, spacious, dry, and warm. The high ceiling allows us to have lofts for storage and two to three level costume racks. The shop area is large enough to build even the largest set items, and the proximity of the set storage will make the process even easier.

In order to get the space ready and move the inventory from Ypsi, scores of volunteers worked tirelessly from September through November to make it happen. The space needed to be designed and built to order, the inventory needed to be sorted and organized, and finally, everything had to be moved from our Ypsi warehouse to the new space. In addition to A2CT volunteers, we had help from members of Gabriel Richard High School, MorrisCo Art Theatre, Milan High School, UM, Burns Park Players, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. Over 90 volunteers participated in three workdays, and many worked on their own to help sort, build, and move.

Anne Kolaczkowski Magee and her energetic Gabriel Richard High School students are working now to finish building the storage space and organize the inventory. When the project is finally completed, we will have a wonderful facility that should serve us well for the next five years and beyond.

The following are the volunteers who helped in various ways over the past three months. We couldn't possibly have accomplished this move without their help (if we missed anyone, please let us know):

JC Cummins	Cassie Mann
Laura Cummins	Glenn Bugala
Bob Seeman	Ben Sweetser
Larry Rusinsky	Anne Bauman
Pamela Vachon	Dick Bauman
Anne K. Magee	Dan Roehrig
Lorna Colon	Andy Hoag
Suzi Peterson	

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# And the Award Goes to...

It began with Anthony Provenzola singing "This is the Moment" from A2CT's highly successful production of *Jekyll & Hyde*. And there were a lot of exciting moments in the evening. Scores of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre participants and fans turned out on September 29th to see who would walk away with what awards for the 2001-2002 season.

The awards show included performances from A *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Pajama Game* and *Tommy*, as well as the inimitable stylings of our MC, Thom Johnson. Below are the results.

**Best Set Design**—Edna Erez and Bryan Cort - *Tommy*

**Best Costume Design**—Martin Contreras - *Tommy*

**Best Lighting Design**—Tiff Crutchfield and Christian DeAngelis - *Tommy*

**Best Prop/Special Effect**—Bryan Cort (Two way mirror and shatter effect)—*Tommy*

**Best Actor in a Featured Role**—Joey Klei (Cousin Kevin) - *Tommy*

**Best Actress in a Featured Role**—Amelia Martin (Cassidy) - *Lucky Spot*

**Best Actor**—TIE  
Aaron Rabb (Lysander) - *Midsummer Night's Dream*  
Dann Smallwood (Tommy) - *Tommy*

**Best Actress**—Emily Phenix (Sue Jack Hooker) - *Lucky Spot*

**John Rae Cameo Award**—Fred Kahle - *Pajama Game*

**Best Music Director(s)**—Pamela Vachon and Eric Walton - *Tommy*

**Best Choreographer**—Emily Perryman - *Tommy*

**Best Director**—Ron Baumanis - *Pajama Game*

**Best Production**—*Tommy*

**President's Awards**—awarded by A2CT Board  
President, Anne Bauman:  
Luke Ling - Programs  
Francyn Chomic - Mailing List  
Ron Baumanis - Programs  
Catherine Zudak - Volunteer  
Mike Sielaff - Volunteer  
Don Devine - Outgoing President ■

## Membership Form 2002-03

The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (A2CT) is a nonprofit community theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It has been in operation since 1929. A2CT produces dramas, comedies, classics and musicals. It provides the citizens of Ann Arbor and the surrounding region with opportunities to participate in all aspects of theatre: performance, production and appreciation.

As has always been true, revenue from ticket sales alone cannot cover the entire costs of operating our community theatre. We hope that you will join us as a supporter of this vibrant and venerable institution. In addition to providing support needed to keep A2CT fiscally sound, membership offers you:

- our "Spotlight" newsletter
- a vote on the performances you enjoyed most for the annual Awards Night

### ***SIGN ME UP (I want to make a tax-deductible gift!)***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pay Ann Arbor Civic Theatre by credit card, check, or money order:

Credit Card *VISA Mastercard AMEX*

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail to A2CT, 408 W. Washington, Ann Arbor, MI 48103***

### **Which level of contribution are you interested in?**

**Member** \$25 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor** \$50 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Star** \$100 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Director** \$250 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Benefactor** \$500 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Producer** \$1,000 or more/year Amount \_\_\_\_\_

***Make a difference in your community. Thank you in advance for your support.***

# Giving to A2CT

Some of our biggest stars aren't on stage. Contributors to the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre are demonstrating their commitment to the arts in our community while receiving recognition that lasts long after the lights go down. For 73 years A2CT has been dedicated to providing excellent, affordable performing arts productions and educational opportunities for our community. This is an exciting time to be involved with a revitalized theatre. As we settle into our new rehearsal and production facilities and mount productions that we hope will introduce us to new legions of fans in the Ann Arbor area, your support is needed now more than ever.

There are a number of ways to make your contribution to A2CT:

### **United Way**

A2CT is a sponsored agency of the Washtenaw United Way. When completing your United Way pledge form, please remember A2CT by requesting that a portion of your contribution go to the theatre. Simply write the theatre's name on your pledge form, or designate us by our agency number: 5140. United Way forms are often available through your employers, or can be requested online at <http://www.wuway.org>.

### **Corporate Matching Gifts**

Wouldn't it be great if your employer made a contribution to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre every year? Chances are they will... if you give first. That's because many companies match their employee's charitable gifts. Some companies don't just match, they give more! Some give a lot more. If your company matches, you have the chance to double your gift (1-to-1 match), triple your gift (2-to-1 match), and even quadruple your gift (3-to-1 match). Many companies also match gifts made by spouses, retirees, and retirees' widows or widowers. Already this year over \$1000 has come to A2CT through corporate sponsorships.

Each year matching gifts provide valuable support to A2CT. Check with your employer's Community Relations or Human Resources office for information on your Corporate Matching Gift options.



## 2 1/2 Tenors to Raise Funds for A2CT

There's a fun event on the horizon for A2CT, called *2 1/2 Tenors*, running February 13-15, 2003. Veteran Civic performers (left to right) Kevin Binkley, Anthony J. Provenzola and Curt Waugh have created this new musical revue show to entertain audiences and raise funds for our venerable Ann Arbor institution. The show will be presented in full theatrical format with costumes, sets and lights. Audiences can expect to hear favorites from *Jekyll & Hyde*, *A New Brain*, *Secret Garden*, *Turandot*, Billy Joel, Josh Groban and others.

*2 1/2 Tenors* is conceived, written, directed and produced by its three leads. It features over two dozen songs in various musical styles — including musical theater, opera, pop and rock — weaved into a story about a chance meeting between three men auditioning for the same part. They swap stories and compare life experiences while bringing audiences music from Civic's past shows and some new songs. "We thought we'd poke a little fun at the whole "Three Tenors" concept but still provide a wonderful night of performance for the audience to enjoy," says Curt Waugh, Co-Producer. "We just love to perform and this was an excellent chance for a bunch of male divas to help the theatre the best way we know how. Our hope is that when it's all over, people will feel like they saw something a step above a typical musical revue." Civic performer Ryan Talaska will accompany the actors on the piano.

The show is presented as a fundraiser for Civic. "We have so much talent here," says Suzi Peterson, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Co-Managing Director. "We thought this show would offer an excellent chance for people to enjoy some great performances and make a small donation to Civic at the same time. At just \$10 per ticket, it's a steal and a great place to bring a date for Valentine's Day." Other fundraising events surrounding the show will include a gala party after the Saturday night

performance. Civic anticipates a future revue show featuring an all-female cast.

All tickets for *2 1/2 Tenors* are a minimum donation of \$10 (\$15 for the gala performance) and on sale now at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre box office. The show runs Thu-Sat, February 13-15, 2003. All show times are 8pm. For information and ticket sales, contact the Theatre by mail at A2CT, 408 W. Washington, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, or phone 734-971-2228.

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### Smile (continued)

16 "about-to-be-seniors" vie for the California Young American Miss Pageant (including leads Kristin Ritter and Kristina Thompson), while the adults around them have their own goings-on among them, a beauty pageant coordinator (a previous pageant loser) who has her own score to settle with the nationals (Elise Stempky) and her RV-salesman husband (David Andrews) and their take-photos-of-the-girls-naked adolescent son and his buddies (Alan Carroll, Smitty Atwood, and Zach Perlman).

Directed and choreographed by regional award winner Ron Baumanis, the show is a non-stop series of musical numbers leading to the climatic pageant night competition itself, and we WON'T give away the ending. You'll have to come see who becomes this year's YAM.

The show is musically directed by Jaunelle Celaire, who collaborated with the same creative team on last season's *The Pajama Game*. Auditions were held for the show in October, and brought out some heavy competition for the contestant's roles. "I'm very pleased with the turnout" says director Ron Baumanis. "Teenage beauty queens come in all sizes, shapes, and colors - at that age, it's not solely about looks, but about attitude and definitely big hair."

Speaking of big hair, the hair design is by Carla Garcia; costume design by Susan Perlman (almost 200 of them, from evening gowns to specialty outfits); set design by Ron Baumanis (there are 41 scene changes that are lighting fast); lighting design by Christian DeAngelis (with over 400 light cues); and stage management by Martin Contreras. The show is produced by Deborah Mahoney.

While there is family entertainment galore, there is a liberal sprinkling of PG-rated language and situations in the show - although the hair design might be enough to frighten sensitive children. (Just kidding!)

Tickets are on sale through Ticketmaster or at the Michigan Union Ticket Office.

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**Smile** plays at the *Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre* from January 9-12, 2003. Shows are Thursday-Saturday at 8 pm and Saturday & Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are \$21 for Adults and \$19 for Students/Seniors. For tickets after December 6th, call 763-TKTS or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

# President's Corner

Dear A2CT Members,

As the new President of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Board of Directors, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to greet you and to let you know that we are off and running with another terrific season!

- Our first two shows, *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Enter Laughing*, as well as our Junior Theatre production of *The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf*, have been enthusiastically received by large audiences.
- We have sorted and relocated our costumes, props, and set pieces from storage in Ypsilanti to storage at 310 Ann St. in Ann Arbor, and this space also includes our new scene shop.
- We have a wonderful new Board of Directors, all of whom are working hard to address specific needs of our current operations, and to provide guidance and vision for our future. We will be located at 408 W. Washington through June, 2003. After that we will be moving out to make way for building work on the new Ann Arbor Y.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee has been reorganized and is now called the Facilities Committee. This group of Board and non-Board members is working to address various space needs: finding the Ann Street storage space, searching for new office space, looking into potential rehearsal space, and exploring many options for performance venues for the 2003-4 season. We'll keep you informed as things develop!

It's an exciting time to a part of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, and we invite you to contact us if you'd like to be involved at the core of what's happening. There is always room for A2CT members to volunteer in a variety of ways – on stage, behind the scenes, in the office, pitching in on workdays, and offering your expertise on various committees.

Thanks to Cassie Mann and Suzi Peterson, our Co-Managing Directors, for the countless things that they

do to keep Ann Arbor Civic Theatre moving forward, and additional thanks to all of you who volunteer for the theatre. We love having your help, your ideas, and your enthusiasm! Please contact the office at 734-971-2228 if you're looking for ways to become involved, or feel free to call me at 734-665-4573 if you have ideas or questions you'd like to discuss.

I'd love hearing from you.

Anne Bauman, A2CT President ■

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## Co-Managing Directors (continued)

We'll be happy to drop another one in the mail to you.

Many new and revamped committees are off and running, among them the Marketing, Facilities, Volunteer, Finance, Awards Night and Play Selection. As always, anyone is welcome to join any of these committees. Just give us a call at the office. Our Volunteer committee has been especially busy working toward a volunteer coordination program that will begin after the new year. Volunteer opportunities abound and we're committed to making wise use of our resources.

On that note, we want to take the opportunity to thank all of the people who are or have become involved in the theatre, all of our wonderful volunteers, our energetic Board of Directors, and all of our new and continuing members (we've grown to 150 members strong!). We want to extend our wishes for a safe, peaceful and entertaining holiday season. See you next year.

Suzi and Cassie, Co-Managing Directors ■

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## The Move - 2002 (continued)

Jon Elliott	Francyn Chomic
Markus Johnson	Brad Vincent
Linda Wark	Dave Fiertag
Kendra Smith	Thom Johnson
Bart Loeb	Joyce Casale
Mary Anne Nemeth	Martin Contreras
Steve Horne	Susie Berneis
Don Devine	Sue Kohfeodt
Dave Keren	Dann Smallwood
Anita Le Blanc	Torey Berneis

The students of GRHS  
Students from UM's Ghandi Day of Service  
Washtenaw County Community Service  
participants ■

## Giving (continued)

### Support Ann Arbor Civic Theatre through [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)

Be a part of the first and largest online network of shoppers, online stores, Websites and nonprofit organizations dedicated to turning everyday online shopping into philanthropy.

FREE membership. Great prices.

There is no cost to join. You'll also receive great discounts, FREE shipping offers, and special savings to add to the great prices you'll find every day through [www.iGive.com/joinLink](http://www.iGive.com/joinLink). Shop at over 330 generous stores and maybe even save on your taxes.

Amazon.com, L.L.Bean, CDNow, Eddie Bauer, Barnes & Noble, Gap, and many more give up to 26% from every purchase you make, to A2CT. You can deduct many of these contributions from your taxes.

What's the catch?

There isn't one. It's free. No "spam." Total member privacy.

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# Audition Information

## ***Pillow Talk* auditions January 19 & 20, 2003!**

## **Attention Junior Theatre kids! *Just Like Us* auditions February 17 & 18!**

*Pillow Talk*, Directed by Lorna Colon  
Sun. & Mon., January 19 & 20, 7:30-10pm;  
Callbacks Tues., January 21 7:30pm  
Production dates: March 6-16, 2003

*The Girls of the Garden Club*,  
Directed by Francyn Chomic  
Sun. & Mon., March 2 & 3, 6:30 for Cameo  
Roles only (1-5 lines, 1 weekend or both)  
Sun. & Mon., March 9 & 10 6:30 for all  
roles  
Production dates: May 1-11, 2003

Junior Theatre's *Just Like Us*,  
(for grades 4-12)  
Directed by Adrienne Clark  
Mon., and Tues., February 17&18, 4-6pm;  
Callbacks Wed., Feb. 19 4-6pm  
Production dates: April 10-13

*The Importance of Being Earnest*,  
Directed by Wendy Wright  
Mon. & Tues., April 14 & 15, 7pm;  
Callbacks Thurs., April 17, 7pm  
Production dates: June 5-8, 2003



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
408 W. Washington  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE



Bringing Drama to Ann Arbor for over 70 years...and it shows.

**Our 2002-2003 Season**

*Jekyll & Hyde*

*ed3hear* *71W* *off the Big Ba*

*Enter Laughing*

*Smile*

*il*

*ed3hear* *dis* *U* *si*

*Girls of the Garden Club*

*The* *st* *portance of Being Ea*