

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
Act  
75  
years  
1929-2004

# Spotlight

March, 2004



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## Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri, 10 AM - 1 PM

'03-'04 SEASON  
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## From the Managing Director and the Program Director

**S**pring is just around the corner, and with it comes the playbill for the 2004-05 season. A2CT was fortunate to have so many terrific directors propose wonderful concepts for shows. This year, the play selection committee had an extremely tough time selecting shows from a plethora of outstanding choices. The result is a stellar season of worldwide classics.


Once again, A2CT will stage three musicals at UM's historic Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre and three non-musicals at WCC's beautiful Towsley Auditorium. Season tickets for the 04-05 season go on sale beginning June 7, 

*continued on page 2*

## Have Dinner with Friends

**W**ith rehearsals well under way, A2CT's production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy/drama

*Dinner with Friends* promises to be a flavorful evening of entertainment.

*Dinner with Friends*, written by Donald Margulies and directed by Cassie Mann, finds two couples—all best friends—rocked by the sudden revelation of infidelity and impending divorce. When Beth reveals to friends Gabe and Karen that 

*continued on page 3*



*Dinner with Friends features, (L to R) Wendy Wright, Jon Elliott, Karl Kasischke, and Kim Perlman.*

## From the Managing Director & the Program Director (continued)

with earlybird sales to previous season ticket holders in early May. Season tickets will be available through the A2CT office or online at our website at [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org). If you received this Spotlight in the mail, you will be receiving a brochure by mail sometime in May.

Opening Civic's season of classics is the Leonard Bernstein musical *On the Town*, directed by Emily Perryman, September 16-19 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. Made famous by the movie version starring Frank Sinatra, *On the Town* follows the adventures of three sailors on leave in New York City during World War II. This frothy, funny musical is filled with 40's era song and dance, and features the timeless Bernstein classic, "New York, New York."

A2CT follows *On the Town* with one of the most famous courtroom dramas of the American stage, *Inherit the Wind*, directed by Jon Elliott, November 11-14 at WCC's Towsley Auditorium. Based on the legendary Scopes "monkey" trial of the 1920's, *Inherit the Wind* revisits the evolution vs. creation battle—a struggle still timely today.

The New Year brings the delightful family musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, directed by Wendy Sielaff, to the Mendelssohn Theatre January 6-9. A biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors, this musical parable features wonderful songs in a variety of styles, and is sure to entertain audiences of all ages.

A2CT ushers out winter with the heartwarming Thornton Wilder classic *Our Town*, directed by Glenn Bugala, March 10-13 at Towsley Auditorium. Poignant and timeless, *Our Town* explores life in Grover's Corners, a sleepy New England town whose inhabitants are both simple and complicated, and whose lives reflect the quintessential American experience.

Spring brings the bawdy Greek comedy, *Lysistrata*, directed by Catherine Zudak, to Towsley Auditorium April 14-17. When the plucky women of Ancient Greece tire of their men folk going off to yet another war, they band together for a "unique" boycott that has the men on their knees and the audience in stitches.

Civic rounds out the season with the rollicking, raucous revival of Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*, directed by Chris O'Brien, June 9-12 at Mendelssohn Theatre. Hot off a hugely successful run on Broadway, the musical transports audiences to 1930's Berlin, where "Life is a Cabaret" and irrepressible Sally Bowles and the Emcee weave a twisted, alluring, fishnet stocking-filled tale amid the greed and corruption of the nascent Nazi movement.

A special thanks goes to the 04-05 play selection committee: Brian Harcourt (Committee Chair), Matt Phenix, Joey Klei, Don Smith, Joyce Casale, Cassie Mann, Jen Jakary, Kathy Waugh, and Dave Keren for a job well done!

Cassie and Suzi ■

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## Looking for Directors


**W**e're looking for directors for our 2004-05 Junior Theatre season. If you have experience directing young actors, we'd love to hear from you. If you have an idea for a children's show to direct, that's great, but we are also willing to brainstorm with you for ideas for shows.

Junior Theatre produces a fall and a spring production. Shows are geared toward children, and the actors involved are in grades 4-12.

These are paid positions, and require availability 2 weekday afternoons and one weekend afternoon during the 8 week audition and rehearsal period.

Please contact Cassie or Suzi by April 9 at the A2CT office, 971-2228, or e-mail us at: [manager@a2ct.org](mailto:manager@a2ct.org). ■


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 LOG-ON: Up-to-the-minute information is always available on our website: [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org).

## President's Corner



Dear A2CT Members,

 I want to remind all of you to please mark your calendars for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's 75th Anniversary Gala which will be held on Thursday evening, May 6th, at 8 PM at Washtenaw Community College. The evening will consist of a performance on the Towsley Auditorium stage consisting of highlights from A2CT productions over the past 75 years, followed by a gala dessert reception in the lobby. Here you will have an opportunity to mingle with old friends, wander through displays of A2CT memorabilia, and view a video containing interviews with a variety of A2CT patrons and members, past and present.

If you happened to stop by the A2CT office during the past couple of weeks there's a good chance you found me there, digging, sorting and sifting through the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre archives! The archives consist of an incredible collection of posters, photographs, programs, articles, reviews, and miscellaneous memorabilia - all providing a wonderful record of life at Ann Arbor Civic Theatre over the past 75 years! It's an amazing collection, and we are having fun preparing some of these materials for display at the Gala.

Many people have already begun to work on the Gala. Glenn Bugala is overseeing the entertainment, and working with many current and former A2CT directors in putting together a show that represents key moments from past productions. Kendra Smith is chairing the Gala Afterglow. She is working with a committee of 8 to 10 members on all aspects of party planning - advertising, invitations, decorations, fabulous food and drink, and some special surprises. More people are getting involved in working on the Gala each week. We'll especially need lots of "worker bees" to help with the party, so please feel free to call me at 734-665-4573 if you'd like to volunteer, and I'll pass it on to the appropriate committee chair.

Most important, please be sure to attend this wonderful celebration of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre! We

are one of the oldest civic theaters in the country, and we have every right to be proud of our history and our accomplishments. I am so excited to be part of this wonderful organization and I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to remember, laugh and celebrate with all of you - our treasured long-term members, our loyal patrons, and our dedicated newer members.

Please call the A2CT office at 734-971-2228 after April 1st or visit us online at [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org) for ticket information. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on May 6th!

Anne Bauman,  
A2CT President ■

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## Have Dinner with Friends (continued)

husband, Tom, has left her for another woman, both couples must reevaluate their friendships to one another and their commitments to each other. Liberally seasoned with humor and culinary conversation, this modern take on love, marriage and friendship is sure to strike a chord with contemporary American audiences.

"These days, it's almost impossible to find someone who is not affected--in some way--by divorce," says director Cassie Mann. "Either it's you, or your parents, or your best friends. This play deals with all aspects of modern relationships, and the characters and dialogue are so natural and believable it's a bit like spending an evening with your own friends."

Mann stresses that while the play deals with serious subjects, it is often lighthearted and humorous. "I think one of the biggest strengths of this play is the way the humor arises so naturally from the situations and how unwittingly funny the characters are," she notes.

The cast of *Dinner with Friends* features stellar Ann Arbor actors Kim Perlman as Karen, Jon Elliott as Gabe, Wendy Wright as Beth, and Karl Kasischke as Tom. ■

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*Dinner with Friends* run March 18-21 at Washtenaw Community College's Towsley Auditorium. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for students and seniors Friday through Sunday, and \$13 for all tickets on Thursday. Tickets are available at the A2CT office at 322 W. Ann St, or by calling the office at 971-2228. Additional information is available by visiting [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org). *Dinner with Friends* contains adult themes and language and is intended for mature audiences.

## Auditions for *My One and Only* Are Coming up!

**A**nn Arbor Civic Theatre will be holding open auditions for the Gershwin dance musical *My One And Only*, directed and choreographed by Ronald Baumanis at 7:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday April 5th and 6th at A2CT's new rehearsal studio at 322 W. Ann St. near downtown Ann Arbor. Callbacks are Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30. Auditioners should attend only one of the dates (Monday or Tuesday). Prepare a short (16 bar) upbeat song in the style of Gershwin/Porter/Berlin or similar. This show relies heavily on tap dancing and musical theatre styles of the 20's and 30's. Please bring your own tap shoes. Cold readings from the script will also be held.

There are roles for 8 primary parts, 8 additional male singer/dancers, and 8 additional female singer/dancers. Each ensemble member must be able to jump into and out of various parts throughout the show. Scripts are available at the A2CT box office during regular office hours.

Performance dates are June 3 - 6 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. For more information call or visit the A2CT office at 322 W. Ann St., 734-971-2228. Office hours are M-F from 10am-1pm. Audition and production information is also available by visiting our website at [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org).

A pre-audition tap-workshop is offered by Susan Filipak at Swing City Dance Studio for those already familiar with tap who need a quick "intensive brush up". Please contact the A2CT office for further information and to register for this moderately priced workshop ( 3 Saturdays in March).

*My One and Only* is the surprising smash Tommy Tune/Twiggy musical of the early 80's that weaves boy-meets-girl story within a classic update on the musical theatre genre, with big specialty numbers meshed within an intimate romantic comedy framework. Directed and Choreographed by Ronald P. Baumanis (Steel Pier, Smile, The Pajama Game) this production promises to be a highlight of the local spring theatre season. ■

## Auditions for Junior Theatre's *The Odyssey*

Ann Arbor Civic has the next Jr. Theatre production in the works. Auditions for Tom Smith's adaptation of Homer's classic *The Odyssey* will be taking place March 30 and March 31 from 4-6 pm.

This delightful version, directed by Adrienne Clark, takes us along the whirlwind journey of our hero Odysseus and his faithful sidekick Pete as they and their men make their way home after the Trojan War. But no epic is complete without some difficulties! On their way, they meet Polly, the insecure cyclops who hates her glasses; Circe, the bewitching goddess who's just a little lonely; and a few less-than-happy gods. Will Odysseus and Pete be able to put their egos aside and work together to get themselves home?

Come join the fun as we embark on our *Odyssey!* Shows will take place May 20-23, 2004, at Washtenaw Community College's College Theater, located on WCC's campus in the Language Arts Building. Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, May 20-22 at 7:30pm, with matinees Saturday, May 22 at 2pm and Sunday, May 23 at noon and 3pm. Seating is general admission, and all tickets are \$5. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the A2CT box office at 734-971-2228. Information is also available by visiting [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org). *The Odyssey* is appropriate for ages four and up.


## Auditions for 75th Anniversary Gala

Audition for a memorable evening of entertainment and refreshment to commemorate this landmark year. The event will take place May 6, 2004, WCC's Towsley Auditorium

Auditions for Core Cast (3 men, 3 women) Saturday and Sunday, March 27 & 28, 2004 from 3 pm to 6 pm both days. Accompanist provided.

5 weeks of moderate rehearsals during April, 2004. Tech rehearsals in May, 2004

Auditions will include an actor-selected song and director-selected readings.

We want to design a show that highlights 

## Auditions for 75th (continued)

the high points of our 75 year performance history. To do that, we need to have a capable Core Cast who is able to perform in a variety of scenes and songs, in a variety of styles.

We wanted to write a script featuring the best scenes/songs from our history and, where possible, have the original performers reprise their roles. However we knew that it would be impossible to find all of the original performers. Our answer is the Core Cast. The Core Cast will be an ensemble that we will utilize to fill all parts not being played by the original performers. In point of fact the Core Cast will probably perform most of the show, and then we will have the original performers appear as a guest stars. However, the Core Cast needs to go into this project knowing that it's fluid and that they may be asked to step down to make room for an original performer. The benefit of this plan, of course, is that the Core Cast also gets to appear on stage in great roles with some of the living legends of our theatre. Core Cast would also participate in group numbers, and most of the scenes representing 1929-1950.

## CURTAIN CALL

A DOUBLE DOSE OF  
'DINNER WITH FRIENDS'

ENJOY A RELAXED ITALIAN DINNER AT  
paesano's,  
THEN TAKE IN A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE  
PRODUCTION OF CIVIC THEATRE'S

'DINNER WITH FRIENDS'

CURTAIN CALL PATRONS RECEIVE:

- ♥ GUARANTEED SEATING AT A RESERVED TIME
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- ♥ PLENTY OF PARKING
- ♥ AFTER THE SHOW, RETURN FOR FREE DESSERT WITH THE PURCHASE OF COFFEE

CALL A2CT FOR TICKETS TO  
'DINNER WITH FRIENDS'  
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## Announcing Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's 2004-05 Season

# THE A2CT World Tour

A season that takes you around the world and across the centuries!

### On the Town

Directed by Emily Perryman  
*"New York, New York! It's a helluva town!" Bernstein's musical comes to the Civic stage for the 1st time.*  
September 16-19, 2004  
at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

### Inherit the Wind

Directed by Jon Elliott  
*Pay a visit to Hillsboro, Tennessee for the trial of the century.*  
November 11-14, 2004  
at Towsley Auditorium

### Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Directed by Wendy Sielaff  
*Civic takes you to ancient Egypt with the exciting music of Andrew Lloyd Webber.*  
January 6-9, 2005  
at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

### Our Town

Directed by Glenn Bugala  
*Grover's Corners, NH, 1901-13. Life happens in the simplest of places.*  
March 10-13, 2005  
at Towsley Auditorium

### Lysistrata

Directed by Catherine Zudak  
*Visit ancient Athens for a hilarious "battle" of the sexes!*  
April 14-17, 2005  
at Towsley Auditorium

### Cabaret

Directed by Chris O'Brien  
*The Berlin of the 1930's serves as a backdrop for this provocative Kander & Ebb musical.*  
June 9-12, 2005  
at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
322 W. Ann St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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## ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE



BRINGING DRAMA TO ANN ARBOR FOR 75 YEARS, AND IT SHOWS.

### Now Announcing our 2004-2005 Season!

On the Town  
Inherit the Wind  
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat  
Our Town  
Lysistrata  
Cabaret  
*Two Junior Theatre Shows TBA*

### Our 2003-2004 Season

Chicago  
The Scarlet Pimpernel  
*Junior Theatre's* The Pied Piper  
Fiddler on the Roof  
Dinner with Friends  
Rebel Without a Cause  
75th Anniversary Gala  
My One and Only  
*Junior Theatre's* The Odyssey