

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Act  
75  
years  
1929-2004

# Spotlight

May, 2004

## Act

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

FOUNDED  IN 1929

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### Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

322 W. Ann Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

*Website:* www.a2ct.org  
*Email:* manager@a2ct.org  
*Office:* 734/971.0605  
*Ticket Line:* 734/971.2228  
*Facsimile:* 734/971.2769

### A2CT Summer Hours

The Civic office will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-1pm June 14-18 and July 6-August 13. The office will be closed June 21-July 5. Look for expanded office hours in the fall!

'03-'04 SEASON  
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## A2CT Annual Meeting

### Come Party with Us!

**T**his year, we're trying something new. We are combining our annual membership meeting with a volunteer recognition event and rolling it all into one big party at Arbor Brewing Company. This is your chance to be heard, get thanked, and have some fun. The event will be held Sunday, June 13, in ABC's tap room, the use of which is generously donated by Arbor Brewing Co. We will begin at 7pm and will continue until there's no more fun to be had!

In order to vote at the meeting, you must be a member of A2CT. If you want to join or aren't sure IF you're a member, give us a call. In order to attend the volunteer party, you just need to have done something-ANYTHING-for Civic during the past year..

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## A2CT TAPS! Really! My One and Only coming soon!

**S**top by any evening in our rehearsal studio, and you "can come and meet those dancing feet" (oops, wrong show) as we prepare for *My One and Only*, the Gershwin tune-laced tap dance musical that will have you tapping your own feet in the aisles!

*continued on page 4*



Michael Maboney as Billy and Allison Pearlman as Edythe tap their way into your heart in *My One and Only*, June 3-6 at Mendelssohn.

## Annual Meeting (continued)

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To help us plan, we'd like to get an idea of how many people will be attending. As an incentive to RSVP, we will buy responders their first drink. Please reply via phone (971-2228) or e-mail ([manager@a2ct.org](mailto:manager@a2ct.org)) by June 9. ■

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## From the Managing Director and the Program Director

**A**s this current season draws to a close, we feel so satisfied with the events of the past year. It's been almost a year since we moved in to our new rehearsal/office/storage space and we couldn't be happier. The space is cheery, warm (or cool depending on the season!) and pretty organized. All of our shows have been successful on many levels and "My One and Only" looks to follow the trend. Our 75th Anniversary Gala was perfect-well attended, nostalgic and just plain fun.

So onward we go. We hope all of you will attend the annual meeting on June 13th, held this year at Arbor Brewing Co. We know our members' names so well and would love to see your faces! And remember to purchase tickets soon to what promises to be a stellar season.

Wishing you a warm, wonderful summer.

Suzi & Cassie ■

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## A2CT on Display

**I**f you find yourself in the downtown branch of the Ann Arbor District Library between June 3 and July 15, check out A2CT's display on the lower level in the lobby of the multi-purpose room. We have all the cases in the room, and the display-designed by Barb Wells-will be a beautiful representation of our past 75 years.

**Are you looking for a fun (and cheap!) night out with friends?** Get a group together to usher for A2CT's final season production of *My One and Only* and you can enjoy the show free of charge! Email [volunteer@a2ct.org](mailto:volunteer@a2ct.org) or call 734-484-6015 to reserve your spot.

## Directors, We Need You!

**W**e are still looking for directors for our fall and spring Junior Theatre productions. The pay is good, the kids are great, and the experience is unforgettable!

If you have 2 weekday afternoons and one weekend afternoon free for 8 weeks this fall or next spring, this may be the job for you. We have chosen one of the two plays-a delightful gender-bending original version of *Sleeping Beauty* written by Kerry Graves. The other show is up to the director. If you have a youth-oriented play you'd like to direct, or think you'd like to direct *Sleeping Beauty*, please give us a call at the office by June 11.. ■

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## From the Volunteer Coordinator

**S**ummer is finally upon us! I have been enjoying the warm sunshine, cool breezes, and the return of my perennials. The weeds...not so much. Despite my best efforts to rid the garden of these pesky plants once and for all, I have come to accept that frequent weeding is necessary to maintain an attractive landscape. Such is true for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Our office, scene shop, and costume storage are like gardens that need constant maintenance, and we are definitely in need of more gardeners! Call the office to find out how you can help beautify A2CT's office, rehearsal and storage spaces. (No gardening experience necessary.)

A2CT is also recruiting box office personnel and house managers for its 2004-2005 season. If you are a friendly, organized, reliable volunteer who likes to multi-task, one of these jobs could be just for you. Both positions are needed on a show-to-show basis, with minimal time commitment and lots of responsibility. Are you up to the challenge? Email [volunteer@a2ct.org](mailto:volunteer@a2ct.org) or call 734-484-6015 for more information.

Have a great summer!


Emily Perryman ■

# President's Corner



Dear A2CT Members,

Hi everyone,

 I'm still high from experiencing the joy of attending Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's 75th Anniversary Gala this past week. First of all, my thanks to the many loyal volunteers who worked countless hours to put together a spectacular event. A marvelous crowd turned out, many opting for black tie apparel, and what an evening it was!

The Gala Show in the auditorium was wonderfully written, directed and performed, combining just the right touch of nostalgia and humor. The guest stars and the core cast joined together... pooling their energy and their talents...many of them appearing on stage together for the first time. The audience loved it!

Judy Dow Rumelhart presented our appreciation award to Ted Heusel with warmth, wit, and some of her favorite memories. Ted, too, was able to speak of some of his fondest Civic Theatre moments, and it was a joy to honor Ted for his work with the theatre over the past forty years.

The Gala Afterglow in the lobby was everything that I had hoped it would be. There was a wonderful display of archival memorabilia that drew people into a sentimental walk down memory lane and stirred folks to recall many A2CT memories of days gone by. People ate and drank and mingled (with the accompanying din of a large crowd having a great time!) Best of all, people who share a mutual passion for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre gathered together in one spot to reminisce about the past, celebrate the present, and dream about the future. What a night!!

Anne Bauman, President  
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre ■

## ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE Membership Form 2004-05

The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (A2CT) is a non-profit community theatre that 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:

- a discount on Season Tickets
- our "Spotlight" newsletter
- a listing on lobby signage for gifts of \$500+
- a listing in all of our show programs
- a vote for Awards Night nominees

### Sign up (I want to make a tax-deductible gift!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Determine level of contribution:

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

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

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

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

Producer \$1,000 or more/yr My Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit Card  VISA  Mastercard  AMEX

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

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

### Mail to:

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

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

## My One and Only (continued)

From June 3 – 6, the Lydia Mendelssohn theatre will be filled with shuffles, time steps, and rhythm! The 1983 musical ended up winning numerous awards (after a rocky out-of-town tryout) and ran for several years on Broadway starring Tommy Tune and Twiggy (and later Lucy Arnez).

Director/choreographer Ron Baumanis has been putting the 19-member cast hard to work night after night working on the clever and rhythmic routines that pay homage to the great musicals of the 30's and 40's. Think Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly, Ann Miller...and toss in a smattering of old-fashioned musical comedy, boy-meets-girl, and you have a fun, fun, fun evening. The audience is even encouraged to hiss at the bad guy.

The young and enthusiastic cast has been having a great time learning drills, military routines, and even a tap dance in a splash pool for the two leads (don't worry, the taps won't rust — they go in with bare feet and the result is a surprising tap routine!)

"Give me more! Make it even harder!" said Rayona Young, playing one of the New Rhythm Kids, one of three chorus members that lead the audience on the evening's journey and pop into and out of characters as needed. "I love to tap, and this is great fun! I have been tapping for years and I enjoy putting it all together on stage."

Others are a bit more skeptical..."Yikes" was heard from more than one cast member as they watched a demonstration of a modified time step at a recent rehearsal — but by the end of the evening, things were rhythmically tapping along on beat and in step.

"That is the joy of working with a dancing cast — you can make the steps harder, more complicated, and less predictable...but you also have to be aware of the cast members that are not your strongest tappers, and make sure that they can all do parts of the dance routines...that is the trick to working with a non-professional cast — to make sure everyone has a dancing role to play" said director/choreographer Ron Baumanis. "Sometimes they surprise you — from auditions we were already able to see some dancers who didn't have much experience but learned steps remarkably quickly."

There are two numbers, though, that Ron makes no qualms about — "every cast member must time-step in the opening number, and every member must dance in the finale, which serves also as the curtain call."

But the numbers are complicated and long. Gershwin is familiar and has a jazz-age genuineness but the danger is in making things too repetitive...every number must look different, sound different, and even have a different "tap rhythm". As to complicated - -

Tonight's rehearsal involved the opening sequence: as the overture winds down, the curtain rises on 3 New Rhythm Kids (Elise Stempky, Rayona Young, Lauren Auge), who start a singing/tap dancing sequence to "I Can't be Bothered Now"...at the apex of the number, it begins to thunder and rain, and the entire cast tap dances onto the stage (now Penn Station) with umbrellas and begins a time-step and charleston sequence...during a short interlude, all of the major cast members are introduced — our male lead Billy (Michael Mahoney) enters and sings, our evil nemesis Prince Nikki (Matt Stempky) intro-



duces his chorus of dancers and his star aquacade performer Edythe (Allison Pearlman) — photographers camera's flash, the stage freezes for the first meeting of our lovers, and then unfreezes as the entire stage comes to life with an all-out tap dancing routine, leading into the big opening number finish. And that is all in the first 6 minutes of the show.

"It takes a tremendous amount of energy to do number after number like this", states Ron. He has been there himself — dancing in countless musicals over his career. There are 6 major ensemble numbers, and another half-dozen solos and duets throughout the show. "One thing is for sure, everyone will have very strong shin muscles and lose some weight during the run of this production".

Auditionees knew they were in for a challenge from the first night — not only were they asked to learn a routine, they were also asked to display a time-step ("Show me any time-step you know!")...and then were challenged at call-backs to watch and copy Ron Baumanis, as well as casting consultant Susan Filipiak's moves during a shim-sham shimmy sequence.

*continued on next page*

## **My One and Only (continued)**

“Well, that separates the wheat from the chaff” said Susan Filipiak after a half-hour sequence.

That shim-sham, of course, shows up in the actual production.

Behind the scenes – the large flyable sets are being constructed not only in our own workshop, but also at Dexter High School’s woodshop – everything from Palm Trees to a moon-shaped lounge chair for Edythe. The water-tank “beach” is in pieces in our shop, and Ron is running around looking at pool-paint to make sure that the surface has enough non-slip grit to it (when was the last time somebody had to worry about WATER on stage at the Lydia Mendelssohn?)

“Don’t worry – the audience won’t get too wet,” jokes Ron. None-the-less the orchestra is ready with umbrellas in the pit (it is all a part of the joke).

By the end of the evening, plenty of surprises are in store — but the goal is to keep the production barreling along at a fast clip, and leave the audience gasping by the end of the finale. “The show needs to be beyond seamless — the action needs to grow and grow and the sets fly and move as easily and with as much rhythm as the performers” (Ron designed and directed last season’s Smile! and you may recall those instant transitions from front-of-stage to back-of-stage). “Things go even faster here”, he adds.

We don’t want to give away too much — but you will see an art deco nightclub, a movie theatre complete with distracted movie-goers, a surprise theatre marquee that serves a dual purpose, that already-mentioned beachside water tank, an aqua-ballet with some over-zealous special water effects, and many other surprises. As usual, in Ron’s shows you can always expect some surprises — and in this one, the audience will be treated to a fiber-optic star curtain and finale sequence that materializes literally out of thin air.

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My One and Only, June 3 – 6, Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre at U of M’s Michigan League Building. This production is suitable for family viewing, although mild language and double-entendres are carefully sprinkled throughout the show. Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$19 for students and seniors Friday through Sunday, and \$14 for all tickets on Thursday. Tickets are available at the door or in advance through the Michigan Union Ticket office by calling (734) 763-TKTS (8587). Additional information is available by visiting [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org).

## 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.

### **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  
*Junior Theatre's* The Odyssey  
My One and Only