

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

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75
years
1929-2004

Spotlight

December, 2004



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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

Office Hours: M-F 9 am- 2 pm

04-05 season sponsors



Media Partner

From the Managing Director and the Program Director

Happy Holidays to you all. We'd like to take this time to thank you all for giving of your time and support.

As much as we are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the theatre and our productions each year, we're also responsible for making sure our organization has the funds to produce these shows. So we're taking this time to ask you to help us meet our funding goals.

By now you should have received our annual appeal. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to A2CT.

continued on page 2

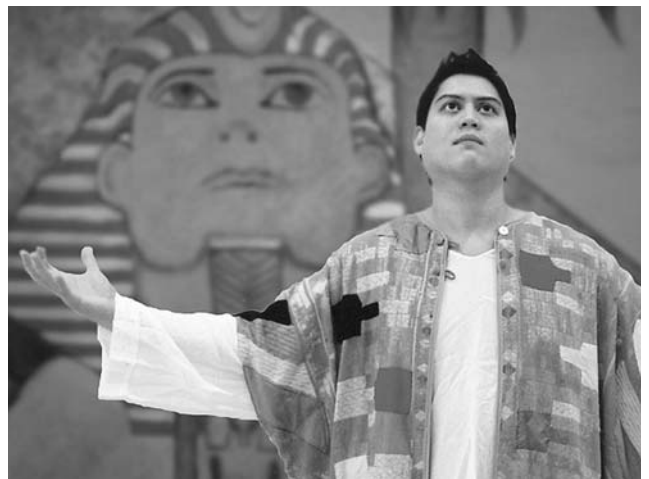
Go, Go, Go Joseph

by Wendy Sielaff

I can remember the first time I saw *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, my friend had a daughter in a production down at the Fox Theatre many years ago. I must have seen that particular show five or six times. I couldn't get enough of it. It was at that time I decided I wanted to do that show. Now, I finally have the chance.

I am pleased to have old friends back on the team: Bob Skon, Torey

continued on page 5



Ray Arceno stars as Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, January 6-9, 2005 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

From the Managing Director and the Program Director (continued)

There are other ways you can help:

- Log on to iGive.com, where hundreds of well-known stores will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to us. Just designate Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.
- Find out if your company participates in matching funds.
- Perhaps your company would be interested in sponsoring one of our productions--it's supporting our community theatre, it's tax-deductible and offers a chance for advertising as well.
- Give to the United Way and designate A2CT as the recipient.

A member recently asked about donating stocks in lieu of cash. We're in the process of making that happen. Stay tuned.

If funds are tight for you right now, give of your time. Volunteer to usher or to help us in a myriad other ways. Our new volunteer coordinator, Heidi, would be happy to hear from you. Send her an e-mail at: volunteer@a2ct.org or call the office to get on our volunteer database.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you throughout the New Year.

Suzi & Cassie ■

New Workshops at A2CT



As part of a grant from Pfizer, A2CT will be offering workshops on various technical aspects of theater. The first two workshops will cover costume design and construction and set design and construction.

Costume Design and Construction

Saturday, January 15, 1-3pm at A2CT rehearsal studio
Led by veteran A2CT costumers Susie and Alix Berneis, this workshop will cover practical issues of costume design for A2CT, including recruiting staff, creating forms, researching time periods, and pulling & building costumes. Anyone interested in designing costumes for A2CT won't want to miss this informative workshop.

Set Design and Construction

Saturday, February 5, 1-3 at A2CT rehearsal studio
Mike Sielaff, Cathy Cassar and Dick Vail lead this helpful workshop on designing and building sets for A2CT. With scores of Civic shows to their credit, this team will discuss issues including designing sets to fit the stage, creative cost-cutting, sharing A2CT resources and shop space, and practical time-saving tips on construction. This workshop will be invaluable to anyone interested in designing or building sets for A2CT.

Our Town Auditions in January

Audition dates: Monday and Tuesday, January 10 and 11 from 7-10 pm, Callbacks Wednesday January 12 from 7-10 pm. First readthrough Thursday January 13th.

Audition Location: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Audition Details:

General Auditions will take place on Monday and Tuesday January 10th and 11th, 2005. All General Auditions will feature cold readings between actors using scenes from *Our Town*. Time permitting, all auditionees at General Auditions will be allowed to read their first three choices of roles.

General Audition Schedule for January 10 & 11, 2005:

7:00-7:30 pm General Audition for actors/actresses only interested in Ensemble parts.

7:30-10 pm Auditions for all actors/actresses interested in any named roles. All actors/actresses are requested to stay for the entire time. On Wednesday, January 12th at 8 am, a call back list pulled from the General Auditions will be posted on www.a2ct.org and on (734) 971-2228.

Callback Auditions will take place on Wednesday January 12th from 7 pm to 10 pm.

Check the website for complete information - www.a2ct.org

To register for these workshops, call or visit the office during business hours, or visit www.a2ct.org. Look for information on lighting design and sound design workshops in the next issue of *The Spotlight*, or visit the website at www.a2ct.org. ■

Holiday Office Hours

The A2CT office will be closed December 20-27 and January 3, but regular hours will resume January 4. Ticket orders for *Joseph* will be available online throughout the holidays by visiting www.a2ct.org. ■

2003-2004 Awards

The 2003-04 awards event, held at WCC's College Theater October 30, was a big success! A pre-awards soiree organized by Kim Perlman featured complimentary food, beer, wine, and soft drinks and gave attendees the chance to mingle, catch up, and refresh. Thanks go to Kim and her helpers Catherine and Ray Lilly, Valerie Wilkinson, and "super helper" Aryeh Perlman. The awards, organized and emceed by Tiff Crutchfield (Tiff was a last-minute emcee replacement for TJ who got stuck in post-UM game-of-the-century traffic) gave everyone the opportunity to acknowledge all the fine work done by people on- and offstage over the past year. Here's a list of the award recipients:

Best Dramatic Production

Dinner with Friends

Best Musical Production

Chicago

Best Choreographer of a Musical

Tawna Dabney and Jennifer White, *Chicago*

Best Director of a Dramatic Production

Cassie Mann, *Dinner with Friends*

Best Director of a Musical Production

Wendy Sielaff, *Chicago*

Best Music Direction of a Musical Production

Zachary Ryan, *Chicago*

Best Actor in a Dramatic Production

Jon Elliott (Gabe), *Dinner with Friends*

Best Actor in a Musical Production

Glenn Bugala (Billy Flynn), *Chicago*

Best Supporting Actor in a Dramatic Production

Robin Barlow (Tournai), *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

Best Supporting Actor in a Musical Production

Anthony Provenzola (Amos Hart), *Chicago*

Best Actress in a Dramatic Production

Kim Perlman (Karen), *Dinner with Friends*

Best Actress in a Musical Production

January Provenzola (Velma Kelly), *Chicago*

Best Supporting Actress in a Dramatic Production

Wendy Wright (Beth), *Dinner with Friends*

Best Supporting Actress in a Musical Production

Ava Rogers (Mama Morton), *Chicago*

Best Set Design

Mike Sielaff, *Chicago*

Best Lighting Design

Don Smith, *Chicago*

Best Costume Design

Susie Berneis, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*

Best Special Effect

Dream Sequence, Rachel Francisco, *Fiddler on the Roof*

2003-2004 John Rae Cameo Awards:

(This year, there were multiple John Rae Cameo Awards distributed.)

Brandon Cave, *Rebel Without a Cause*

Wendy Sielaff, *Fiddler on the Roof*

Leo Zainea, *Fiddler on the Roof*

Kristina Thompson, *My One and Only*

President's Awards

Curt Waugh, 75th Anniversary Gala script

Kendra Smith, 75th Anniversary

Yalonda Dye, office help +

Lorna Colon, Office help +

Anthony Provenzola, Programs

Don Smith, Lighting work

Cathy Cassar, Set Construction and scene shop clean-up ■



Inherit the Wind is one of the great dramatic productions of this year, which will likely figure prominently in next year's Awards ceremony. *Inherit the Wind* was presented at Towsley Auditorium on November 11-14.

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

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 _____

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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

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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.**

President's Corner



Dear A2CT members,

The play selection process for the 2005-2006 season is well underway. As usual I'm humbled and honored by the excitement and commitment of those proposing shows this season. As most of you know, we are a volunteer based organization. While there is a small stipend available to each production's director and producer, it's a mere token compared to the time and effort required to get a show to opening night. In this sort of organization we rely upon the passion and vision of these volunteers to bring our shows to life.

At the beginning of each vision are some simple questions: What do people want to see? What can we share that will touch people? What can we stage that will make people forget their grocery list and get lost in the magic of theatre? These are not easy questions. And there are few if any absolute answers. At the Civic we rely on our volunteers to address these questions but, we'd like to know what you think too.

We'd like to know if there are plays you'd like to see us do. We'd like to hear if there are scenes that brought a tear to your eye or moments that took your breath away. On the drive home from the theatre when you're saying "I liked the part where . . ." we want you to say it to us too. And we also want to hear about what didn't work; it's one way we'll keep getting better.

Feel free to email me at Brian@openBracket.com, I'll treat your input confidentially if you'd like. But you can also join our public forums! The Civic recently upgraded its website thanks to the folks at OnLine Technologies. It now sports a discussion forum where you can join in on the discussion about each show, and exchange ideas with the production staff. I encourage you to take a look at it. Looking forward to seeing you at "Joseph"!

Brian Harcourt
A2CT Board President

Joseph (continued)

Berneis, John Reiser, Cathy Cassar, Don Smith and Mike Sielaff. I'm also excited that Barb Wells and Cheryl Berteel took on the ominous task of costuming a cast of nearly 60. Tiff Crutchfield agreed to do lights and Melissa Lindholm is a hard core Assistant Director. Of course I wouldn't do a show without Tawna Dabney choreographing it. Brand new to directing the music but not to A2CT is Debbie Thomas.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is the biblical saga of a young man, Joseph, who is blessed with prophetic dreams. When his jealous brothers sell him into slavery, Joseph begins an adventurous journey that leads him to Egypt, the Pharaoh, and finally forgiveness and reconciliation. Joseph's journey is a rollicking mix of musical styles ranging from country-western to rock 'n' roll and is sure to delight the entire family.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat features Rey Arceno as Joseph, Amanda Brown as the Narrator and Eric Beitchman as the Pharaoh. The cast also features 26 adults and a chorus of 28, plus children.

It has been a challenge to us to coordinate rehearsal between the two separate casts. We always seem to be singing or dancing one group or another. The kids have been great and are so talented it is unbelievable. The adults have been challenged vocally and physically. At one point I was sure Tawna was going to kill some of them with her choreography, but all survived and look amazing.

This has been a pleasure and delight to direct. I am so glad that I had an opportunity to bring this wonderful musical to AACT stage. ■

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat runs Thursday January 6-Sunday January 9, with a newly added Saturday matinee family performance on January 8 at the Mendelssohn Theatre. Showtimes are Thurs.-Sat. 8pm, with matinees Sat-Sun at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 on Thursdays; Fri.-Sun. adults \$23, students/seniors \$21; special family pricing for Saturday matinee-tickets are \$10 each with groups of 3 or more and \$15 each for single tickets. For more information, as always, visit us at www.a2ct.org or call us at (734)971-2228. Joseph is sponsored by Ann Arbor Commerce Bank.

New Volunteer Coordinator, Heidi Philipsen

A native Michigander - direct from Ypsilanti Township - and alumnus of the University of Michigan's Residential College, Heidi Philipsen lived several years abroad in Germany, working in German theatre, film and television in Freiburg, Hamburg and Berlin. Then she moved to New York City in 2000 to fulfill two major dreams: to further her education and act in the Big Apple.

During her four-year stay in N.Y.C., Heidi pursued her graduate degree at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs by day, worked at fine-tuning her acting skills at the T. Schreiber Studios by night, and performed both off-off Broadway and community theatre on the week-ends.

She completed her Masters in International Affairs, with a concentration focus on International Media & Communications and a regional focus on the European Union, in 2002.

Now having recently moved back to the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area after having been away for exactly ten years, Heidi (A2CT's new Volunteer Coordinator) is excited and honored to be a part of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre family:

"Considering the fact that my journey with acting in the theatre started out over ten years ago at A2CT, I find my new role here incredibly fitting. It's surreal - and incredibly rewarding. It's good to be home." ■



Joseph (Rey Arceno) and Pharaoh (Eric Beitchman) yuck it up in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which opens in January.

Go to www.a2ct.org for all of the latest news on shows, auditions, volunteering and events. New this year: online, secure ticket ordering!



Non-Profit Organization
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Ticket Line: 734/971-2228
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ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE



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

04-05 'world tour' season

- 09/04 On the Town
- 11/04 Inherit the Wind
- 11/04 (Jr.) Emperor's New Clothes
- 01/05 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 03/05 Our Town
- 04/05 Lysistrata
- 05/05 (Jr.) Sleeping Beauty
- 06/05 Cabaret