

A²ct

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

Spotlight

December, 2005



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From the Managing & Program Directors & A2CT President

The weather is turning wintry and the holiday season is upon us. It's a season of gratitude and giving, of sharing with family.

In that light, we'd like to acknowledge our gratitude for our family of volunteers at Civic Theatre. We're blessed with so many dedicated members who are onstage, backstage, who usher and help in the office, in our scene shop, and costume/set storage room. We're grateful to a very dedicated Board of Directors who help navigate this organization, and to all those who serve on various committees.

We appreciate all of our members and donors who keep this organization running and able to offer quality, entertaining theater. We're proud to be able to give to other non-profit organizations as well.

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Guys & Dolls Is a Romp

by Brian Buckner

The guys are cast, the dolls are cast, and the show is underway! After an incredible turnout of talented actors, singers, and dancers, Natalie and I were able to cast an amazing show for Civic's second musical of the season. *Guys & Dolls* is a funny, jazzy, tuneful romp through New York in the 1950's. The story centers around prim but lovely Sarah—a Salvation Army soldier—and Sky Masterson—a slick, streetwise gambler.

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Megan Bays and Jeff DiFranco star in *Guys and Dolls*, January 12-15 at Lydia Mendelssohn.

From the Managing Director and the Program Director (continued)

We donate tickets and gift certificates to many worthy silent auction events. We've held benefit performances of Junior Theatre shows to assist families after 9/11 and the recent hurricanes. We're also able to loan costumes, props and sets to other theater organizations in southeastern Michigan.

By now you've probably all received our annual appeal. If you haven't yet donated, please consider doing so. Your tax-deductible contribution will help keep the A2CT family going for another 75 years!

We wish you all a warm holiday season.
Cassie, Suzi and Tiff ■



(Left to Right) Timm Gillette as Nathan Detroit, Caitlin Frankel as Adelaide, Megan Bays as Sarah Brown and Jeff DiFranco as Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls* coming in January.

Gift Ideas



Are you running out of gift ideas? Sick of giving ties and fruitcake? We've got the solution! Theater tickets make great gifts. Buy your loved-ones, in-laws, or co-workers a gift certificate to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre and they can choose the show of their choice. Coming up in January 2006 is *Guys and Dolls*. Combine it with a gift certificate to a local restaurant, and you've created a very special evening for those very special (or hard-to-shop-for) people on your list. Simply call the A2CT office by December 22, and we will help you create a unique gift in time for the holidays!

Matching Gifts

Many companies in the area support non-profits by offering a matching gift program. Please check with your company to see if they have a program of this kind. All you do is send us your donation along with a matching gift form from your employer. We'll do the paperwork. You can double your gift to us, which makes us happy! ■

Guys & Dolls (continued)

These two opposites collide and initially clash, but circumstances and true love conspire to bring them together. Along the way, there are singing gamblers, marching Salvation Army soldiers, curvaceous nightclub performers, and lots of laughs. With upbeat ditties and soulful ballads, *Guys & Dolls* has something for everyone.

Natalie, the cast and I are having a great time putting together this show, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Brian Buckner ■

Guys & Dolls runs January 12-15 at The Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Performances are at 8pm Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 on Thursday, and \$24 (\$21 for students and seniors) Friday through Sunday. Tickets are available online at a2ct.org, by phone or in person at the A2CT office, or at the door of the Mendelssohn 45 minutes before each performance. For additional show information, visit www.a2ct.org or call the box office at (734) 971-A2CT (2228).

Costume Heroes Strike Again

On October 22, Susie and Alix Berneis launched another attack on the costume area of the shop. With willing and able help from UM's Ghandi Day of Service volunteers, the team was able to further organize and streamline the inventory. The intrepid duo plans a few additional workdays in the months to come. Stay tuned for e-mails asking you to join in their efforts to make the shop a better place—one costume at a time! ■

And the Winner is...

Civic hosted another successful soiree at WCC's College Theater to toast A2CT's finest and most dedicated volunteers. October 29 found Civic members dressed to the nines, sipping wine and catching up with old friends and new. The pre-show party was organized by Jean Leverich and Linda Carriere, with assistance from Tanya Dabney and Val Wilkinson. The awards show, organized by Glenn Bugala and MC'd by Curt Waugh, started out with a bang as Glenn and Jon Elliott sang a medley of send-ups of the 2004-05 season. The award results—meticulously tallied by Tiff Crutchfield—were comprised of votes by A2CT members and an anonymous panel of season ticket holders. With musical numbers from the season's three musicals (accompanied by Chris Lees) and guest presenters, the evening was lively, moving, and most of all, fun. Here are the 2004-05 award winners:

Best Play: *Our Town*

Best Musical: *Cabaret*

Best Director of a Play
Glenn Bugala, for *Our Town*

Best Director of a Musical
Chris O'Brien, for *Cabaret*



MC, Curt Waugh, got into the spirit of Halloween.

Best Music Director for a Musical
Heidi Blythe & Ryan Hourigan, for *Cabaret*

Best Choreographer
Susannah Stempky, for *Cabaret*

Best Actor in a Play
Larry Rusinsky as Henry Drummond in *Inherit the Wind*

Best Actor in a Musical
John Jarboe as Emcee in *Cabaret*

Best Actress in a Play
Amanda Akins as Emily Webb in *Our Town*

Best Actress in a Musical
Caitlin Frankel as Hildy Esterhazy in *On the Town*

Best Supporting Actor in a Play
Jon Elliott as Mr. Webb in *Our Town*

Best Supporting Actor in a Musical
David P. Curtis as Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*

Best Supporting Actress in a Play
Kathleen Beardmore as Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*

Best Supporting Actress in a Musical
Kaarina Quinnell as Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*

Best Set Design
Leo Babcock, for *On the Town*

Best Lighting Design
Don Smith, for *Cabaret*

Best Costume Design
Carolyn Sutton, for *Cabaret*

Best Prop/Special Effect
Gerry Harrison-Lowe, Chris O'Brien,



Several of the brothers from Joseph reprised "Canaan Days" for the Awards show.

Carolyn Sutton & Don Smith, for the Fast Change from the Kit Kat Klub to the Concentration Camp in *Cabaret*

John Rae Cameo Awards:
Rachel Francisco as Jacob's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Sarah Hopp as Rebecca Gibbs in *Our Town*

Zachary Ryan as Judah in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Bob Skon as Park Bench Lunch-Eating Guy in *On the Town*

Sam Zwetchkenbaum as Professor Willard in *Our Town*

President's Awards:
Linda Borgsdorf, Fred Patterson, Valerie Wilkinson, Susie Berneis, Alix Berneis, Brian Harcourt, Tanya Dabney

Lifesaver Awards:
Catherine Zudak--managing producer, *On the Town*
Alexis Elliott--costumes, *Inherit the Wind*
Cathy Cassar--stage manager, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
Anthony Provenzola--assistant director/stage manager, *Our Town*
Linda Lee Austin--props, *Lysistrata*
Mike Romatowski--co-producer, *Cabaret* ■

Civic Does Sinatra

December show features the music of Ol' Blue Eyes



Some of *Steppin' Out's* featured performers include (clockwise from bottom left): Curt Waugh, Matt Seward, Kathy Waugh, and Brandon Cave.

Curt Waugh does it again! Ann Arbor Civic Theatre and the Firefly Club are planning a new benefit show: *Steppin' Out with Civic 2: Civic Does Sinatra*, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 20 & 21 at the Firefly Club. The show will feature Civic performers and alumni in a cabaret-style performance of the wonderful music that Sinatra made famous. Curt and the Firefly have created this new concert to entertain audiences, celebrate our upcoming January performances of *Guys & Dolls* and raise funds for Civic.

According to *Steppin' Out 2's* producer/director/MC, Curt Waugh, "I love these rare chances to show off so many talented Civic folks at one time. When word went out about the show, our great performers rushed to volunteer. It was incredibly difficult to whittle the show down to just 30 songs." Suzi Peterson, Civic's managing director, adds, "Susan Chastain, Firefly Club owner, really encouraged us to return after we all had such a great time at our first *Steppin' Out* fund raiser in the spring. We jumped at the chance. We hope that hearing such great music will get everybody excited about *Guys & Dolls*. The Sinatra tie-in was just a natural fit for all of us."

Audiences can expect to hear over 30 songs written by some of the world's greatest composers and made famous by Frank Sinatra. The line-up includes: "The Lady is a Tramp" by Rodgers and Hart, "I've Got You Under My Skin" by Cole Porter, "They Can't Take That Away from Me" by the Gershwins, "Strangers in the Night" by Bert Kaempfert, "One For my Baby" by Arlen & Mercer and many, many more easily recognizable classic songs in a great, fast-paced format. Performers include January Provenzola, Rey Arceno, Kathy Waugh, Bob Skon, Glenn Bugala, Anthony Provenzola, Jimmy Dee Arnold and many others.

The Firefly doors open at 7pm each evening and the show begins at 8. All tickets for *Steppin' Out 2* are \$15 and are on sale now at the Civic Theatre box office. For information and ticket sales, contact Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at 734-971-2228. More information is available at www.a2ct.org. ■

Junior Theatre Does it Again

The fall Junior Theatre show, *Dorothy Meets Alice*, was a huge success! 22 young actors, under the direction of Val Wilkinson, acted and danced their way into the hearts of hundreds of area children. Every performance was sold out, and the Friday night performance raised \$460 to aid young people affected by hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation is directing the funds through a local program which helps families displaced by the hurricanes. Mark your calendars (and get your tickets) for our spring JT show, *The Reluctant Dragon*, May 18-21, 2006. ■



Junior Theatre's *Dorothy Meets Alice* featured (left to right) Cara Bosco, Joe Brabenac and Maggie Hopp.

All My Sons - a Critical Hit

A2CT opened its non-musical season with Arthur Miller's stunning drama, *All My Sons*. Under the stellar direction of Jeff Meyers, the talented cast wowed critics and audiences alike. Civic was fortunate to have had a special event before the Saturday evening performance of *All My Sons*. UM professor Enoch Brater, an internationally recognized scholar and writer, gave a talk entitled *Arthur Miller and the American Theater*. Professor Brater entertained and enlightened the audience with insights into Miller's life, career, and the play itself. ■



An intense drama of guilt and greed, All My Sons was directed by Civic first-timer Jeff Meyers and featured (left to right) Dan Zelazny, Wendy Wright and Brian Harcourt.

Auditions!

A Thousand Clowns

A2CT will be holding auditions for the comedy, *A Thousand Clowns*, directed by Thom Johnson January 8th and 9th with callbacks January 11, all at 7pm. Those auditioning need to attend only one of the first two auditions, but should be available for callbacks. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script, and no preparation or pre-registration is required. Perusal scripts are available at the A2CT office with a \$5, refundable deposit. Auditions take place at the A2CT studio at 322 W. Ann St. For additional information, visit www.a2ct.org

A Thousand Clowns has roles for 4 men, 1 woman, and one boy:

Nick Burns--Boy of 12 (or someone who can play 12)
Murray Burns--Nick's Uncle--mid 30's to mid 40's
Albert Amundson--Social Worker--late 20's to early 30's
Sandra Markowitz--Social Worker and Albert's fiancee--mid to late 20's
Arnold Burns--Murray's Brother and agent--40's to mid 50's
Leo Herman--"Chuckle's the Chipmunk"--40's to mid 50's

Production dates for *A Thousand Clowns* are March 2-5, 2006, at WCC's Towsley Auditorium.

The Nerd

Auditions for A2CT's comedy *The Nerd*, directed by Andy Ballnick will take place February 5th and 6th, with callbacks February 7th. Auditioners need attend only one of the first two auditions but should be available for callbacks.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script, improvisations, and a short, prepared monologue.

Auditions begin at 7:30pm for the adult roles and 7pm for those interested in Thor(a). No pre-registration is required. Perusal scripts are available at the office with a \$5 refundable deposit. For additional info, visit our website at www.a2ct.org

The Nerd has roles for four men, two women, and one boy or girl:

Willem Cubbert --early 30's The protagonist--very submissive, shy, let's people walk all over him.
Tansy McGinnis--early 30's. Willem's girlfriend--very bubbly, energetic, the typical hostess stereotype.
Axel Hammond--30's. The best friend--very witty, sarcastic, gay.
Ticky Waldgrave--mid-late 40's. Willem's boss--stereotypical businessman, bossy, bold, gruff, outspoken.
Clelia Waldgrave--40's. Ticky's wife--extremely prim and proper, quiet, very patient but with a fiery passion underneath.
Thor (or Thora)--10-12 yrs old. Ticky's and Clelia's son (or daughter) -- very bratty, loud, obnoxious, vivid imagination.
Rick Steadman--20-40 yrs old. The Nerd--eccentric, annoying, determined.

Production dates for *The Nerd* are April 6-9, 2006 at WCC's Towsley Auditorium. ■



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ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE



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

05-06 'love with a twist' season

- 09/05 West Side Story
- 11/05 All My Sons
- 11/05 (Jr.) Dorothy Meets Alice
- 01/06 Guys and Dolls
- 03/06 A Thousand Clowns
- 04/06 The Nerd
- 05/06 (Jr.) The Reluctant Dragon
- 06/06 The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas