



Spotlight

Newsletter

FROM THE CO-MANAGING DIRECTORS

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

by Cassie Mann and Suzi Peterson

As we gear up for our last show of the season—*Hair*—and welcome the sunny days of spring, we are so grateful to the volunteers, members, and patrons who brighten our days. This season has been one of the best we can remember, with fabulous main stage shows, the new and wildly successful Studio Series, and delightful Junior Theatre productions that played to packed houses. Our two Steppin' Out fundraisers at the Firefly were extremely successful, and brought in money and new friends. Thanks to Anthony Provenzola for producing the December event and Curt Waugh for producing the May event.

The 2007-08 season promises to be just as sunny. We have 6 main stage shows—all at U of M venues—four Studio Series shows, and three Junior Theatre productions. Look for season brochures in your mailbox in early June.

The A2CT Office Gets Support

A2CT's volunteer coordinator, Emily Rogers, has expanded her hours to include administrative support. Not only will Emily continue her fabulous work as volunteer coordinator, but she will be in the office handling inventory rentals, bookkeeping, ticketing, and other administrative tasks. This will free up some of Cassie & Suzi's time so they can expand their fundraising and marketing efforts.

New A2CT Hours

A2CT's summer hours begin June 18. Summer hours will be Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-4pm from June 18 through August 17. The office will be closed July 23-27. Beginning August 20th, the A2CT office will be open from 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday.

Have a glorious summer and let the "Sun Shine In!" ■

A HAIR-RAISING (IN A GOOD WAY) PRODUCTION

By Caitlin Frankel Rowe, Director

Steve Carrell started the trend with the closing credits of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*; Kia followed suit with its Rondo commercial; now Gillette has joined the bandwagon of misappropriation of a classic musical theater number. I'm referring, of course, to "Let the Sunshine In," the powerful finale from *Hair*. See this and many more comedic, dramatic, esoteric and, dare I say, "trippy" numbers when A2CT stages *Hair* June 7-10 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater on the University of Michigan campus.

Join the Tonkawa tribe, a mix of individuals of varying backgrounds who call New York home, as they face the trials and tribulations thrust upon a generation-in-flux by the very people who have sworn to protect and watch over them. Journey with Claude Hopper Bukowski as he struggles with making the right decision in a situation where there is no right. While originally written as a response to the US involvement in Vietnam, the themes, debates and dilemmas the Tribe faces in *Hair* translate quite seamlessly to the contemporary issues facing society today.

Hair was a groundbreaking musical, literally setting the stage for edgy, contemporary Broadway productions. Before *Hair* people didn't swear on

stage. Before *Hair* people didn't openly address volatile socio-political issues like race, religion and sexuality. Before *Hair* Broadway didn't let the sunshine in.

Our production strives to maintain the integrity of the original, while putting our own spin on things. The dynamic and multi-talented Brian E. Buckner has imbued the countless musical numbers with spine-tingling energy and power. A team of passionate choreographers including Tawna Dabney, Craig Nichols, Emily Perryman Bugala and January Provenzola have come together to weave this intricate tapestry through movement.



Hair's real star is the tribe. Shown here are (clockwise from top): Paul Clark, Brooke Gates, Michael Green, Michael DeSouza, Katie Hoeg, Sam Pazicni.

The phenomenally talented cast has thrown their energy and spirit into this production since our first rehearsal in March and it's been thrilling to see the show come together in subsequent gatherings. Sam Pazicni (*Sweet Charity*) is Claude Bukowski and Katherine Hoeg (*Sweet Charity*, *Parallel Lives*, *Best Little Whorehouse ...*) is Sheila; while new Civic members Michael DeSouza as Berger, Michael Green as Hud and Paul Clark as Woof round out the Tribe leaders. The Tonkawa tribe

is comprised of an exciting mix of A2CT regulars and newcomers including: Andy Ballnik, David Beaulieu, Brandon Cave, Cat Dacpano, Angela Davis, Aubrey Donnell, Rachel Francisco, Nathaniel Fremuth, Sarah Fuller, Brooke Gates, Peter Kentes, Brenda Kentsler, Gene Kim, Jami Krause, Michael LaFlamme, Sonya Major, Andriana Pachella, Becky Roberts, Marci Rosenberg, Sara Rydzewski, Chris Shewchenko, Shelly Smith, Mary Claire Sullivan, Peg Trotzke, Lisa Trotzke-Laws and Erik Wright-Olsen.

I invite you to open your hearts and minds and join us for the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. Stand on the precipice of the summer of love to kick off your summer with a musical theater experience unlike any other. Come for the Be-In and Let the Sunshine In.

Hair runs from June 7-10, 2007 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



Join Berger (Michael DeSouza), Sheila (Katie Hoeg) and Claude (Sam Pazicni) for a real live Love-in when Hair comes to Lydia Mendelssohn June 7-10.

students and seniors) Friday through Sunday. Student only pay \$12 on Friday. 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). ■

ANNUAL MEETING

It's back! The meeting that's so fun we should call it the Annual Party. All Civic members are encouraged to attend to vote, eat, drink, be merry, and possibly win door prizes. If you're not a dues-paying member, you can join anytime right up to time of the meeting. We'll even have membership forms at the door!

If you're not sure you are a current member, call the office or e-mail us at manager@a2ct.org to find out. All members who RSVP to the office via phone or e-mail by 2pm Wednesday, June 13, will receive a ticket at the door of the meeting good for one free drink. Free light refreshments will be served. Here are the details:

Annual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 13

Time: 7pm

Location: Arbor Brewing Company Tap Room

See you there! ■

SUGGESTED BYLAWS CHANGES

One of the things that members will be doing at the Annual Meeting June 13th (see article on the left) is to vote on Board-approved bylaws changes. Please look them over below and be prepared to vote on them when you attend our Annual Meeting!

Article I - Membership

In Section 1 B, change:

The Board of Directors may, in acknowledgement of service rendered the corporation or the community by persons not members in one of the categories A-C above, bestow honorary memberships.

To read as:

The Board of Directors may, in acknowledgement of service rendered the corporation or the community, bestow honorary memberships.

Reasoning:

The bylaws no longer specify membership "categories A-C above". We have only two classes of members - General members and Honorary members.

Article II - Meetings

In Section 3, change:

any member wishing to add other items shall present a written notice to the president at least 48 hours before the meeting.

To read as:

Any member wishing to add other items shall present a written notice to the president at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Reasoning:

Correct the typo at the beginning of the sentence.

In Section 6, change:

the steps outlined in sections 2-4 above must be followed; if such steps have not been taken, then the membership meeting is not empowered to act.

To read as:

The steps outlined in sections 2-4 above must be followed; if such steps have not been taken, then the membership meeting is not empowered to act.

Reasoning:

Correct the typo at the beginning of the sentence.

REMEMBERING TED HEUSEL

ON APRIL 27, A2CT AND THE ANN ARBOR COMMUNITY LOST ONE OF ITS MOST BELOVED AND ACTIVE MEMBERS. TED HEUSEL WAS KNOWN TO MANY AS "MR. ANN ARBOR," BUT FOR OVER FOUR DECADES, WE WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE "MR. CIVIC THEATRE."

Ted began his decades-long association with Civic in the early fifties. After directing the October 1953 production of *Three Men on a Horse*—which Ted not only directed but took over the lead role when the actor, Todd Jones, was killed when his car was struck by a train—Civic hired Ted to be the sole director for Civic for the next six years.

Ted continued to direct shows for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre into the 90's, and often his beautiful and talented wife, Nancy, played the lead. Some of his most memorable plays include *The Country Girl*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Gypsy*—starring Judy Dow Rumelhart, *Ten Little Indians*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *Plaza Suite*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In 1960, Ted Heusel used black actor Bucky Buchanan in two shows in the first example of blind casting at Civic: *Joan of Lorraine* and *Our Town*—in which Bucky played the part of the Stage Manager. Ted was also the A2CT president for the 1976-77 season.

Although Ted "retired" from directing in the mid-90's, he returned to Civic for our 75th Anniversary Gala celebration, at which he was honored for his outstanding commitment and achievements. Many of Ted's friends and Civic collaborators attended the event, and despite his fragile health, Ted mingled and reminisced with them all.

For most Civic members who were active in years past, memories of Ted are as much a part of their experiences as the plays they were involved with.

"Ted was always so enthusiastic about including all of us (four in our family) in the big

productions, and having us use all our skills— even my trumpet playing. He brought out the best in all of us." — *Sue Beutler*

"I acted in several of Ted Heusel's productions in the '70s and '80's, and wholeheartedly join in the chorus of praise for what he achieved as a theatrical director. He deserves to have a book written about his methods as a director, but I will just mention two of my favorites here. One was his forceful simplicity in telling us what he wanted on the stage. More often than not, this was communicated in a loud bellow: "I want it BIG!" The second was his routine of giving a pep talk in the Green Room immediately before each performance. These talks were fully the equal of what Knute Rockne achieved in the Notre Dame locker room. After a Heusel tirade, we would charge onto the stage, ready to wow those customers. Thanks, Nancy, for everything that you and Ted did for Civic over the years." — *Robin Barlow*

"When I was on City Council, one of the Council members would go to WIOA (Saline) to be interviewed and tell about the meeting of the night before. I went often because I 'didn't have a job.' It was fun and entertaining. Once, Ted pronounced my death on his radio show. He read the obituaries and there was a Eunice listed so he assumed it was me. Imagine my surprise when I arrived at the office and was greeted with 'You're ALIVE??!!' After many consoling phone calls from friends, Ted finally brought me back to life again." — *Eunice Burns*

"In the 1950's Ann Arbor had a Dramatic Arts Center, an organization which sponsored plays for adults and children, dance programs, concerts. Most events took place in the old Masonic Temple on Fourth Avenue, now replaced by a bus terminal. There I came to know Ted Heusel as director of an A2CT production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. I was on the Board of the DAC and recall discussions about using the theatre-in-the-round setup for this production. Ted was warm and friendly, very easy to work with. My wife Heidi and I attended many other A2CT productions over the

years and often saw Ted on those occasions. We saw his wife Nancy before the DAC was started, at productions of the Arts Theater Club on Washington Street. In May of 2006 I had the great pleasure of being interviewed by Ted at the studio of Radio Station WAAM about a book of memoirs I had written. I saw him in action as a radio personality and admired his skill and the ease with which he switched from off-the-air to on-the-air manners." — *Wilfred Kaplan*



Ted with John Minock during a *Bullshot Crummond* rehearsal in 1987

"I have such fond memories of Ted, but when I tried to recall a specific anecdote I realized that I'd never actually been in a show Ted directed! I went to Pioneer with Ted's daughters Jenny and Lydia, and Ted knew my parents, and that was enough for Ted. When I first got involved with Civic the summer before I went to college, Ted would greet me with a booming and friendly 'hello' whenever he saw me at the old Mulholland Building. I wish I had been in a show Ted directed, but just knowing Ted and being considered one of his friends has been an honor and a privilege." — *Cassie Mann*

"I always remember that when you got a chance to be in one of Ted's plays you always had a good time. He let you develop your character and never just told you what to do with the role but gently pushed you in the right direction to give the best performance you could. I was lucky to have worked on stage and behind the scenes in many of Ted's productions for twenty years. I always hated to see them come to an end. He was such a caring person, and he will be sorely missed in the community." — *Margie Cohen* ■



Ted directing Nancy Heusel in an A2CT production.



"THE PLAY'S THE THING" AT A2CT

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces the winning entries from its 2007 playwriting contest. The contest drew 15 entries which were judged by area playwright and director Jan Radcliff. The top honors went to *Heartland Tales*, by A2CT's own Jon Elliott, and *Come, Beauty*, by Franco Vitella. Each play will be given a staged reading in A2CT's *Playing Around Studio Series* production which runs July 6-14 at A2CT's Studio Theater. *Heartland Tales* will be directed by Andy Hoag, and *Come, Beauty* will be directed by Kent Klausner. Auditions for the staged readings will take place June 3 & 4 at the A2CT Studio. Check the website for details.

While the plays are works in progress, Radcliff praised the winning entries as strong beginnings. In her written comments, she said of *Heartland Tales*, a series of loosely connected comic vignettes, "The author has a nice ear for dialogue, which is crisp, funny and affecting." Radcliff said that *Come, Beauty* has elements of *Waiting for Godot*, but, "it is a unique creation. It is highly theatrical, very clever and surprisingly moving given the fact that the setting, characters, and plot are literally non-existent."

"We're so excited to have had so many quality submissions for this contest," says producer Catherine Zudak. "We hope to make this contest and production an annual event at Civic."

Playing Around: Readings of New Works will run Friday and Saturday evenings, July 6-14, at 8pm at A2CT's Studio Theater. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$15 for reserved seating. Tickets are available by calling or visiting the A2CT office at 322 West Ann St, 734-971-2228. ■

A GREAT NEW JT SEASON

This year, we are expanding the Junior Theatre season. We will be presenting two musicals in WCC's Towsley Auditorium, and one comedy at the WCC College Theater. In addition, A2CT will be collaborating with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for its spring performance of *Peter and the Wolf*. Look for Junior Theatre actors onstage with the orchestra March 4 & 9!

Here's our exciting lineup:
School House Rock, Live! Jr.
directed by Anthony Heaphy
November 29-December 2, 2007
at WCC's Towsley Auditorium
Junior Theatre rocks the house in this lively, educational musical based on the PBS series.

Jungle Book, the Musical
directed by Anne Kiser Flaherty
April 10-13, 2008
at WCC's Towsley Auditorium
Kipling's beloved jungle characters come to life in this tune-filled musical adventure.

The Adventures of Nate the Great
directed by Valerie Wilkinson
August 21-24, 2008
at WCC's College Theater
Nate the Great takes to the stage in this hilarious adaptation of the popular children's book series. ■

THE 2007-08 STUDIO SERIES

Join us for a series of unique productions in our airy yet intimate Studio Theatre at 322 W. Ann St. Located just two blocks from downtown Ann Arbor with plenty of free parking, the Studio Series offers great theater in a great location.

Waiting for the Parade
by John Murrell
directed by Valerie Wilkinson
October 19-27, 2007
Five Canadian women left at home to work for their men during World War II tell their stories in this poignant, warm-hearted drama.

Before It Hits Home
by Cheryl West
directed by Charlotte Young Bowens
February 8-16, 2008

Join A2CT as it celebrates Black History Month with this riveting exploration of race, sexuality, and relationships in the time of AIDS.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
by Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts
directed by Doug Patton
April 18-26, 2008
This contemporary musical comedy takes on the conundrum of modern relationships with songs such as "Cantata for a First Date" and "Single Man Drought." ■

A2CT STUDIO WORK DAY JUNE 16

On Saturday, June 16 we will be organizing the studio space! From 10am to 12pm we will move the lighting equipment in the studio theatre, organize the scene shop and costumes.

From 1pm to 3pm we will continue to organize the scene shop and costumes as well as paint the interior and exterior of the building.

Lunch will be provided from 12-1pm for all volunteers!

We need volunteers! If you would like to volunteer for one or both shifts, please sign up at the June 13th Annual Membership Meeting or email the Volunteer Coordinator, Emily Rogers at volunteer@a2ct.org. If you would like more information please contact Emily. ■

WISH LIST

Even though it's not the holidays we think we've been very good, so we have a list of items we'd just love to have! If you have any of these just lying around and would like to donate them to Civic, give us a call:

- A color printer
- A copier that can collate and do 2-sided printing
- An area rug we can put in our lobby for Studio Series shows. It should be muted colors and able to withstand lots of foot traffic.
- A new wood-floor vacuum cleaner ■

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Tiff Crutchfield

After four years on the board, the last two as president, I've decided to step down when my board term expires at the end of June. So I suppose it's time to shore up my legacy, and try to set the narrative for how my years as president will be remembered. My most important effort as president has been in organizational governance, particularly with regards to the board and committees.



Tiff Crutchfield, A2CT Board President

The board I'm departing looks a lot different from the board I joined four years ago. It's larger and more stable, with more of its seats filled and less turnover, and it's increasingly dominated by people who are outsiders to A2CT. These dedicated and talented board members understand how important Civic Theatre is to the larger community and provide us valuable skills and insight. Thanks to board development chair Linda Borgsdorf and her predecessor Anne Baumann, the A2CT board attracts high-quality, community-minded individuals with skills and connections. We recently extended the length of board terms to three years, promoting continuity and stability.

As the board changes, its relationship with the organization changes, too. No longer a forum for lengthy discussions about the inner workings of A2CT, board meetings now are streamlined affairs, with business restricted only to those issues that genuinely require the board's attention. In the future, I expect to see the board continue to focus even more on high-level concerns and community outreach, while becoming both more "professional" (as much as a volunteer group can be) and more prestigious.

But we still need to have those lengthy discussions somewhere, and that's where committees fit in. Over the last few years we've made a concerted effort to institute and nurture a group of nine standing committees, whose purpose is to consider issues in depth and make recommendations to the board. Committees offer any member interested in

an issue an opportunity to be a full and active participant in its discussion. Committees meet as often as needed and talk as long as it takes to reach consensus for a recommendation.

A2CT faces challenges galore: in a tough economic climate, we have to battle harder for every dollar, and manage our resources as well as we can; we have many empty seats at our shows, and marketing live entertainment in competitive Ann Arbor is always difficult; in a little more than three years our leases at Ann Street will expire and we will face another facilities decision, something this year's new board members will work on before their terms expire.

We also celebrate many achievements. Among other things, in the four years I've served on the board, we created an audition policy, established a strategic planning process to guide long-term goal-setting and decision-making, set up an endowment fund with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation to promote financial stability, changed our investment policy and won the privilege of staging future plays at Ann Arbor's hottest new venue, the Arthur Miller Theater.

In four years, I've served with over 25 other board members, and A2CT has (or will have by end of June) produced 12 musicals, 12 mainstage plays, 8 Junior Theatre shows, 4 Firefly Club shows, 2 Studio Series plays, 4 awards nights and the 75th Anniversary Gala.

At a recent board meeting, our treasurer Fred Patterson said it best when he referred to A2CT as a team. Actually, it's a team of teams. Each show is its own team, Cassie and Suzi lead a team of staff and volunteers, each committee is a team and the board is a team. We're evolving a governance system that provides hundreds of active, passionate volunteers opportunities to make whatever contributions they wish, at any level, within a structure that remains, mostly, harmonious and friendly overall.

Thanks to everybody at A2CT making us such a wonderful team of teams. See you at the annual meeting on June 13. ■

FUNDRAISING CORNER

by Suzi Peterson

As unglamorous as fundraising is, we cannot exist without the generosity of our members, supporters and corporate sponsors. Every little bit helps. Read on for some suggestions on effortlessly giving to A2CT; if you've got a creative fundraising idea, please pass it on!

Googly-Good!

What if Ann Arbor Civic Theatre earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Ann Arbor Civic Theatre as the charity you want to support. You can add Goodsearch to your toolbar. I used Goodsearch for 1 month and raised \$1.00. Now, that doesn't sound like much but three more people signed up and we raised \$4.00 more the next month; in a year we will have raised \$48, and if 100 of us use it, we raise \$4800 without anyone spending a dime, and...well, you get the picture! Spread the Google good word.

Here are a couple more ideas for supporting A2CT, effortlessly:

Charity Motors

If you have a car that you're looking to offload, think about donating it to Charity Motors and designating A2CT as the recipient of the sale! A Civic member recently donated his well-used truck to Charity Motors, and we received a check for \$175! How nice is that?

Employer Matching Funds

I can't say enough about Employer Matching

Funds. It's so easy: if you're a member and want to renew your membership, or are thinking of becoming a member, check if your employer participates in a matching funds program. You send a check to us, along with the appropriate paperwork, and your donation is doubled, just like magic! Just check with your HR department for details. ■



These three amigos (l to r: Curt Waugh, Matt Steward and Bob Skon) and several other A2CT stars did some serious fundraising in *Steppin' Out: Civic Does Cinema*, May 9-10 at the Firefly Club



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

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Program Director: Cassie Mann
Volunteer Coordinator: Emily Rogers

ann arbor civic theatre



07-08 a2ct season "something for everyone"

MAINSTAGE SEASON

the music man
a midsummer night's dream
bat boy: the musical
moon over buffalo
a few good men
a funny thing happened on
the way to the forum

STUDIO SERIES

waiting for the parade
before it hits home
i love you, you're perfect, now
change
playing around

JUNIOR THEATRE

schoolhouse rock live! junior
jungle book: the musical
the adventures of nate the
great

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