

A²ct

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

Spotlight

March, 2007



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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

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06-07 season sponsors



Media Partner

Cactus Flower is Blooming at A2CT

by Cassie Mann

With auditions just completed and a fine cast assembled, *Cactus Flower* is on its way to bringing lighthearted comedy to the Towsley Auditorium April 19-22. The story is simple: a bachelor dentist, Julian, invents a wife and family in order to keep his girlfriend, Toni, from getting too serious. When Julian decides to marry Toni, she insists on meeting his soon-to-be ex-wife. To keep the ruse going, Julian enlists his longtime devoted nurse, Stephanie, to pretend to be his wife, and hilarity ensues.

Cactus Flower captures the innocence of the first stirrings of free love that swept the nation during the turbulent sixties. While the Viet Nam conflict raged and protesters took to the streets, *Cactus Flower* offered a comedic look at how

continued on page 4



Brace Yourself for *The Tempest*

by David Andrews

In 1609 the passengers and crew of the *Sea Venture* were caught up in a tempest, and fortuitously landed on the island of Bermuda. The cast and crew of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's *The Tempest* are now caught up in rehearsals, and headed for their own magical island in 2007.

Shakespeare's enchanting tale of revenge, romance and redemption

continued on page 2



Tempest features, from left to right: David Melcher, Sean Sabo and Brodie Brockie

From the Managing Directors

Spring is a time of renewal. The Board of Directors of A2CT took the opportunity to renew and refresh their commitment to Civic at a half-day retreat February 17. Hosted by managing director Suzi Peterson, with refreshments generously provided by Busch's, the managing directors and Board members met to discuss the successes of this past season and to strategize for the future.

In a time of extreme economic uncertainty, it is imperative that every member of the A2CT community renews his/her commitment to support this venerable institution. In addition to fundraising and development, there was discussion of how Board members and general Civic members can contribute to the strength of the organization. Everyone knows the enormous contributions our Board members, actors, directors, designers, and "techie" make to A2CT. What's not as obvious is how much we rely on work done by committees to keep this mostly-volunteer organization going. Many Civic members think that committees are comprised primarily of Board members, but that is not the case. Our wonderful Play Selection Committee this year consisted of only one Board member, one managing director, and nine general Civic members.

Every A2CT committee is open to anyone—current members and potential members. If you are interested in sitting on a committee, just let us know. We guarantee your efforts will be appreciated and worthwhile. Here are the currently active Civic Committees:

- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Technology
- Facilities
- Finance
- Awards

Play Selection is an ad hoc committee that forms in September. We will be soliciting members for that committee in August.

All other committees are open and waiting for you!

As the snow melts and the buds emerge, think about contributing financially to Civic, thank yourself if you've recently done so, and consider becoming involved in a committee.

Happy Spring!

Cassie & Suzi ■

Tempest (continued from pg 1)



Miranda (Brittany Batell) and Ferdinand (Jeremy Salvatori) constitute the love interest in The Tempest, playing March 15-18, 2007 at Towsley.

is picking up speed, and is due to arrive on the stage of Towsley Auditorium on March 15.

The former Duke of Milan, deposed by his brother and banished to a deserted island, is suddenly presented with an opportunity for revenge. Will the magic he has mastered during his 12-year exile allow him to avenge his loss? Or will the compassionate disposition of his young daughter and ingenuous influence of the Spirits of the Island lead him to another course? The Bard of Avon weaves a seamless cloak of intrigue and infatuation that is as elegant as it is charming.

A2CT veteran Thom Johnson leads a 'spirited' cast of performers as Prospero, the magical ex-Duke. Civic newcomer Dina Vovsi embodies the spirit Ariel, while Brodie H. Brockie inhabits the brutish slave Caliban. Other familiar names include David Keren as King Alonso, Gordon Barnett as Gonzalo, Sean Sabo as Stephano, and David Melcher as Trinculo. Brittany Batell of Dexter plays young Miranda, with Jeremy Salvatori as Prince Ferdinand. Mitch Gillett is the usurping Duke, Antonio, and Tom Foley his co-conspirator Sebastian. Ten other talented actors, singers and dancers complete the ensemble, and are featured in several musical interludes, including the famous "wedding masque" in Act IV, with music by Emmy-winning composer (and Chelsea native) Brian Brill.

So join us, won't you, for A2CT's version of one of the most captivating plays ever written—and you too will soon be caught up in *The Tempest!* ■

The Tempest runs from March 15-18, 2007 at Towsley Auditorium. Performances are at 8pm Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$13 on Thursday, and \$20 (\$17 for students and seniors) Friday through Sunday. Students only pay \$10 on Friday. Tickets are available online at a2ct.org, by phone or in person at the A2CT office, or at the door of Towsley 45 minutes before each performance. For additional show information, visit www.a2ct.org or call the box office at (734) 971-A2CT (2228).

President's Corner



2007-08 Mainstage Season Offers "Something For Everyone"



At its January 17 meeting, the A2CT Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Play

Selection Committee for our 2007-08 mainstage season, consisting of three plays and three musicals. Clearly, there is growing interest among directors to produce for A2CT, as indicated by a sharp increase in proposals. 15 directors came forward to propose 25 plays and musicals, making this the most competitive season in many years. Dubbed "Something For Everyone," the slate includes family classics, an edgy new musical, comedy, drama and Shakespeare.

The season kicks off September 7-16 with the beloved family musical, *The Music Man*, directed by A2CT veteran Wendy Sielaff (*The Full Monty*). Of interest to many Civic participants, this will be our first two-weekend run at Mendelssohn since A2CT returned there in 2001. Next up November 15-18, Jeff Meyers (*All My Sons*) returns to direct a distinctive production of Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. January 10-13, 2008 will mark the directing debut of longtime Civic contributor Timo Anderson as he helms the straight-from-the-tabloid-headlines story of a half-boy, half-bat in *Bat Boy: the Musical*. The zany comedy *Moon Over Buffalo*, directed by Jon Elliott (*Inherit The Wind*), sends winter packing in March. The timely and relevant military courtroom drama *A Few Good Men*,

goes up in April under the direction of Andrew Ballnik (*The Nerd*). Rounding out the season June 5-8 is "something for everyone," the classic musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, directed by newcomer Rosemary Gass. The six mainstage productions are just part of A2CT's busy schedule for next season. The slates for A2CT's Junior Theatre and the enormously successful new Studio Series will be announced in April.

On behalf of the Board and membership, I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Play Selection Committee for their dedication, hard work and conscientiousness. Led by this year's co-chairs Joyce Casale and Nathaniel Madura, and including members David Beaulieu, Amy Bogetto-Weinraub, Jeff Difrancia, Sandy Federico, Lexi Harris, Jean Leverich, Cassie Mann, Emily Rogers and Marci Rosenberg, the committee distinguished itself by its conduct of the proposal and interview process, and of course in their selection of a terrific slate of shows. Thanks also to Anthony Provenzola for his assistance in coordinating distribution of scripts among the committee members.

Season tickets go on sale in June, so tell everybody you know not to miss out on A2CT's 2007-08 season... there's truly "Something for Everyone!" ■

ann arbor civic theatre presents

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Spring '07 Acting Workshop

A Practical Approach to Acting

Saturdays, March 31-May 12, 2007, Noon to 2:30 pm
at Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann St, Ann Arbor
taught by Glenn Bugala

7 weeks of techniques in:

- THE ACTOR'S BODY AND VOICE - discover techniques to address tension and become more expressive
- ANALYSIS - learn how to pursue objectives that are believable and sensible.
- LIVING IN THE MOMENT - realistic goals for live performance
- SCENE WORK - develop scenes and discover your abilities

Specs: \$150 per participant, Ages 16 and up



Glenn Bugala is an A2CT veteran who has an MFA in Acting from Purdue University, has performed professionally in Chicago and Ann Arbor, and has been a director or performer in over 100 productions. He has experience as a drama instructor at both the high school and college levels.

Register by March 16th!
www.a2ct.org or call (734) 971-0605

Studio Series Update

Parallel Lives an Unparalleled Success!

A2CT's second Studio Series production, *Parallel Lives*, was a runaway hit! All four originally-scheduled performances sold out, and an added matinee sold out within four days of its addition. Directed by Emily Rogers, the production was well-staged, well-acted, and-obviously-well-attended. Kudos to Cathy Cassar who built a collapsible set that can be stored in the studio loft and used for subsequent studio series shows, and to a dedicated cast, staff, and crew who put countless hours toward a stellar production.



Aviva Hersh(l) and Katie Hoeg (r) were part of the powerhouse cast of women in *Parallel Lives*, which sold out before it opened.

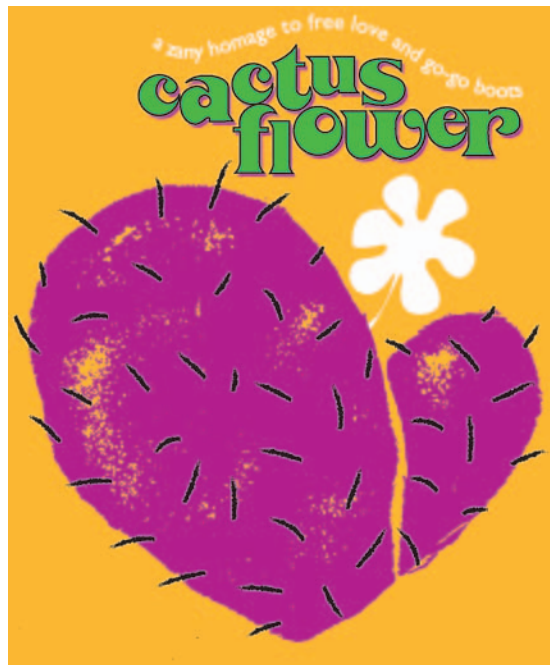
The third and final Studio Series production of the season, *Playing Around*, runs July 6-14, and will feature staged readings of the top two playwriting contest winners, selected by a panel of judges. Complete information about the production will appear in our June issue of the Spotlight. ■

Go to www.a2ct.org to find out about up-to-the minute audition, show, and news information!

Cactus Flower(continued)

two generations of Americans dealt with the burgeoning sexual freedom of the era.

This production of *Cactus Flower* promises to be a fast-paced, music-filled, visual feast. Set designers Cathy Cassar and Shawn Macurio have created a colorful set that pays homage to the flower-powered game show sets of the sixties. Think *The Dating Game* and *Laugh-in*, and you get the idea. Rock 'n' Roll came into its own during this decade, and classics from *The Supremes*, *The Beatles*, and *The Monkees*, among others, are an integral part of the show. Look for go-go dancers to set the stage and change the sets!



Cactus Flower's talented cast features Civic veterans Larry Rusinsky as dentist Julian Winston, Kathleen Beardmore as nurse Stephanie, Nathaniel Fremuth as next-door-neighbor Igor, and new-to-Civic Heather Wing as Julian's girlfriend, Toni. Also in the cast are David Babcock as Julian's friend Harvey, Matt Steward as Senor Sanchez, Anne Bauman as Mrs. Durant, and Susan Klein as Botticelli's Springtime. Rounding out the cast are Bob Skon, David Barker, Melissa Lindholm, Sarah Gothie, Emily Bugala, Ann Marie Mann, Linda Lee Austin, Lyn Davidge, and Kevin Myers. ■

Cactus Flower runs from April 19-22, 2007 at Tonsley Auditorium. Performances are at 8pm Thursday through Saturday, and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$13 for everyone on Thursday, and \$20 (\$17 for students and seniors) Friday through Sunday. Students only pay \$10 on Friday. Tickets are available online at a2ct.org, by phone or in person at the A2CT office, or at the door of Tonsley 45 minutes before each performance. For additional show information, visit www.a2ct.org or call the box office at (734) 971-A2CT (2228).

Auditions

Hair

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for our production of the rock musical, *Hair*, directed by Caitlin Frankel. Auditions take place Saturday, March 24 from 10am-2pm, and Sunday, March 25, from noon-4pm. Callbacks, if needed, are Monday, March 26, from 7:00-10pm. All auditions take place at A2CT's Rehearsal Studio, 322 W. Ann St.

Hair is the classic pro-love, anti-war anthem to the turbulent American experience of the 1960's. There are lead roles for 4 women and 6 men, plus a featured ensemble of 7 women and 5 men. Character ages range between 18-60. Those auditioning need attend only one of the regular audition dates but must be available for callbacks. No pre-registration is required. All auditioning should prepare a song from *Hair* specific to the character for which they are auditioning; music is available online at www.a2ct.org or at the A2CT office. There will also be cold readings from the script and dancing for those interested in dancing roles. Production dates are June 7-10, 2007, at The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

For further information, visit the audition page of the A2CT website at www.a2ct.org or call the A2CT office at 971-2228.

Stone Soup

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for our Junior Theatre production of the children's classic, *Stone Soup*, directed by Anthony Heaphy. Auditions take place Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11, from 2-4pm. Callbacks, if needed, are Monday, March 12 from 5-7pm. All auditions

take place at A2CT's Rehearsal Studio at 322 W. Ann St. in Ann Arbor.

In this hilarious update of the classic story by Karen Boettcher-Tate, two fierce dragons have been terrorizing the village for years. When two brave knights vanquish the beasts and become instant celebrities, it does not sit well with the mother of a gentle soul who would rather cook than fight. Secret identities, scheming parents, and, yes, *Stone Soup*, simmer in this delightful children's play.

Stone Soup has roles for up to 22 actors in grades 4-12. Auditions consist of theater games and cold readings from the script. Actors need attend only one of the two regular auditions but should be available for callbacks. No pre-registration is required. Production dates are May 17-20, 2007, at Washtenaw Community College's College Theatre.


For further information, visit the audition page of the A2CT website at www.a2ct.org or call the A2CT office at 971-2228.

Playing Around


This is our new plays competition. In mid-April, script winners will be selected from the applications received. Following that, in late April or early May, auditions will take place. That's all we can tell you now, because casting is dependent on the plays that win!

We are looking for directors for this studio show. Please apply through the Civic office. For further information, the A2CT website at www.a2ct.org or call the A2CT office at 971-2228. ■

Junior Theatre to Serve up *Stone Soup*

 The Junior Theatre spring production is *Stone Soup*, a wildly funny adaptation of the classic children's story. Adapted by Karen Boettcher Tate and directed by Tony Heaphy, this charming production will feature young actors in grades 4-12, and is sure to delight kids and parents alike. *Stone Soup* runs May 17-20 at WCC's College Theatre. With only five public performances, tickets are likely to go fast, so get yours today! ■

Wish List

 The A2CT office equipment is on its last legs. Our behemoth copier is grudgingly churning out wretched, ink-blotched copies, and our printers aren't up to the quality or volume of printing we need. If you have or know of a laser printer or copier that needs a new home, please give us a call. We'll thank you in person and on crisply printed and copied letterhead! ■



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ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE



2006-2007 "FOOLING AROUND" SEASON

06-07 MAINSTAGE SEASON

the full monty
tom jones
sweet charity
The Tempest
Cactus Flower
hair

STUDIO SERIES

wake up and smell the coffee
Parallel Lives
playing around: readings from new works

JUNIOR THEATRE

the somewhat true tale of robin hood
Stone Soup

COMING IN 2007-08!

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

Plus the Studio Series and Junior Theatre!