

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre SPOT LIGHT

Summer 2002

See me, Feel me!

by Glenn Bugala

Big, big, big. Everything about Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's rock opera *Tommy* at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater June 6-9, 2002 will be big. There are 85 entrances in the Overture alone. Couple that with 45 set changes performed by 36 cast members in over 200 costumes, and you have a gargantuan overall production.

There has been a joke around the production staff that just when you think you have control of this show, it sneaks up and bites you. The largest production staff ever assembled for an A2CT show has been working double time to prepare for what promises to be the most significant musical Ann Arbor Civic Theatre has done in years.

Tommy also marks the first production in A2CT history to sell tickets through Ticketmaster and the Michigan Union Ticket Office (*You can order tickets at 734.763.TKTS or online at www.ticketmaster.com*). That means that we can branch out to the Detroit and regional audience for the first time. It also means that tickets for the Who's 2002 Tour and tickets for our production are on sale side by side nationwide through Ticketmaster!

The Who made rock 'n' roll history in 1969 when they released the concept album for *Tommy*, the story of a young boy who becomes deaf, dumb and blind when he witnesses a murder. Tommy overcomes this tragedy and a number of other hardships to become a pinball wizard. This story is a reminder that we all have the capacity within us to overcome adversity and to achieve our true potential. Hits from the rock opera include "Pinball Wizard," "Acid Queen," and "Sensation." In 1993, *Tommy* arrived on Broadway in a newly conceived and staged version, created by Pete Townshend and director Des McAnuff. It became the surprise hit of the Broadway season and won Tony Awards for director, score, scenic design, choreography, and lighting design.

We won't lose track of the rock concert roots of the show either. A seven piece all-digital rock band will be onstage

*Dann
Smallwood
as Tommy*



for the entire show. The lighting design includes computerized moving lights, and there will be projections shown on either side of the proscenium arch. Additionally, this production will feature headset mikes for all of the soloists.

On the performance side, the voices and dance skills of the cast are tremendous. The group showed its musical skills at early singthroughs, but they have proven equally up to the task of performing the challenging choreography of Emily Perryman, who developed the choreography for last year's highly successful "Evita."

"Tommy" plays June 6-9 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre in the Michigan League Building on the UM campus. Thurs-Sat, shows are 8 pm, and on Sunday the show is at 2 pm. Tickets are \$19 for Adults, \$17 for Students/Seniors, and \$10 for all seats on June 6th. Tickets are available by visiting the Michigan Union Ticket Office or calling them at 734.763.TKTS. They are also available at any Ticketmaster location or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

**"Tommy" is intended for mature audiences.
"Tommy" will be amplified to rock concert levels.**

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Board of Directors

President: Don Devine
VP: Anne Bauman
Treasurer: David F. Keren
Secretary: Cassie Mann

Contact Information

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
408 W. Washington
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Website: www.a2ct.org
Email: manager@a2ct.org
Office Phone: 734-971-0605
Tickets Phone: 734-971-2228
Office Fax: 734-971-2769

Board Members at Large

Debby Carr
Joyce Casale
Steve Horne
Amy Kullenberg
Sheryl Yengera

Office Hours: 10 am – 1 pm M-F

New Logo!

Take a look at our new logo, created for us just recently by Paula Frederick of Pawluh Designs. We are delighted to incorporate our new, correct moniker—A2CT—in to the logo, while keeping the identity of the masks.



Paula Frederick is an Ann Arbor graphic designer who transplanted to Boston and runs a shop called Pawluh Design. Even

though she hasn't lived here since 1998 she returns often to catch up with the local goings-on. "When I think of Ann Arbor the word that immediately comes to mind is Culture. There are so many cultural blends in a relatively small area: artistic, racial, religious, university, professional. Not to mention all the unique forms of personal expression — I miss Shaky Jake! The Ann Arbor Civic Theater is special to me. It's amazing how a live actor can transplant a whole audience into a unique time and place. Plus, my partner and I attended an A2CT play on one of our very first dates."

Pawluh Design (www.pawluh.com) creates web sites, logos, brochures, direct mail, illustration, and more. If you're interested in contacting Pawluh Design for your design work, and we highly recommend it, you can reach her at 781.545.6694 or by emailing pawluh@pawluh.com.

Big Thanks to the Big Ten

Big Ten Party Store, on Packard Road, was kind enough to donate delicious gourmet cheese, meat and fruit trays for our Board of Directors' Retreat recently. They previously had donated wine and party supplies (of which they have plenty!) for our annual Awards Night in November. Thank you Tommy York and Big Ten Party Store, for your generous support. And members please stop by to support Big Ten in return.

You'll be glad you did!

We are excited about 2002-2003 Season!

Jekyll & Hyde, a haunting musical directed by Wendy Sielaff, September 12-15, 2002 at the Mendelssohn Theatre.

Jr. Theatre's *The Trial of the Big, Bad Wolf* directed by Anissa Morgensen-Lindsay, October 24-27, 2002 at A2CT Downtown.

Enter Laughing, Carl Reiner's hilarious comedy directed by Thom Johnson, November 7-17, 2002 at A2CT Downtown.

Smile, a beguiling musical directed by Ron Baumanis, January 9-12, 2003 at Mendelssohn Theatre.

Pillow Talk, the classic 50's comedy directed by Lorna Colon, March 6-16, 2003 at A2CT Downtown.

Jr. Theatre's *Spring Production TBA* directed by Adrienne Clark, April 10-13, 2003 at A2CT Downtown.

The Girls of the Garden Club, a "springy" comedy directed by Francyn Chomic, May 1-11, 2003 at A2CT Downtown.

The Importance of Being Earnest, the beloved Oscar Wilde comedy directed by Wendy Wright, June 5-8, 2003 at the Mendelssohn Theatre.

The season brochure will be mailed out some time in June. We have recently sent a letter to all past season ticket holders and current members, offering season tickets at a reduced rate and in advance. If you are a current member and did not receive this offer, please call the office and we'll be happy to send a letter out to you! If you're not currently a member, now is the time to join and still receive this offer. See the membership form on page 3 of this newsletter.

a Change of Scenery

As we write this newsletter, we are in the midst of reorganizing our sets, props and costumes and preparing to move them to a new location. We will be temporarily moving into space adjacent to our theatre! As with our theatre and rehearsal space, this will only be available until June 2003; the benefit is great, however. We will be able to keep better control over our goods, will be able to more easily rent materials and will only have to travel such a short distance now—about 20 feet!

We would LOVE some help with the actual moving, which is tentatively set for June 8. If you're interested, or at least willing, please call the office and we'll be happy to involve you. We need many bodies for moving and several people to keep our new space organized on an ongoing basis.

From the Co-Managing

Directors

A2CT Annual Meeting/Picnic on the Horizon

That's right, another year has gone by and it's time for our annual meeting. Last year we ended the meeting with hot dogs grilled by grillmeister Chuck Ladd in the parking lot of the theatre. The picnic theme went over so well we thought we'd make a real picnic of it this year and take the meeting out to Gallup Park. We are still negotiating for one of the covered picnic areas, and we'll send out an official notice with the exact location by sometime in June. Meanwhile, mark FRIDAY, JULY 13, FROM 6-8PM on your calendar for our end-of-the-season soiree!

Proposed By-Laws Change

There is a proposed change to the by-laws that members will be asked to vote on at the annual meeting in July. Article III, Section 1 now reads:

The Board of Directors shall consist of up to **12 members**, six of whom shall be elected to two-year terms by the membership at the annual meeting, the remainder of which shall be appointed by the current Board of Directors for two-year terms.

The proposed change would be from "up to **12 members**" to "up to **15 members**."

Your vote counts (if you are an official member, that is—see the membership form on this page if not), so make sure to attend the meeting.

NEW Scholarships for the Co's

Nonprofit Enterprise at Work and Junior League Ann Arbor awarded scholarships for Cassie and Suzi to attend workshops on membership and non-profit management. Suzi has already attended the membership workshop and is eager to implement what she's learned, and Cassie is looking forward to learning more about management. Thanks, NEW and Junior League, Ann Arbor.

7th Annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards

Each year, NEW hosts an annual non-profit excellence reception to honor area non-profits. This year, A2CT was recommended for an excellence in nonprofit management award! The event takes place on May 22 at the Michigan Theatre. The co-managing directors and several Board members will be on hand and we'll let you know how it turns out. "Of course, the real honor is just to be nominated...."

Membership Form 2002

The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre (A2CT) is a nonprofit community theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It has been in operation since 1929. A2CT produces dramas, comedies, classics and musicals. It provides the citizens of Ann Arbor and the surrounding region with opportunities to participate in all aspects of theater: performance, production and appreciation.

As has always been true, revenue from ticket sales alone cannot cover the total costs of operating our community theater. We hope that *you* will join us as a member and supporter of this vibrant and venerable institution. In addition to providing support needed to keep A2CT fiscally sound, membership offers you:

- our "Spotlight" newsletter
- e-mail detailing current issues of interest
- a vote on the performances you enjoyed most for the annual Awards Night

SIGN ME UP (I want to make a tax-deductible gift)!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ST. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Credit Card VISA Mastercard AMEX

Card Number _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Mail to A2CT, 408 W. Washington, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Which level of contribution are you interested in?

- Member** \$25 or more/year – includes all above benefits

BRONZE LEVEL:

- Sponsor** \$50 or more/year – includes all above plus recognition in the program for each show.

SILVER LEVEL:

- Star** \$100 or more/year – includes all above plus early selection of seating

GOLD LEVEL:

- Director** \$250 or more/year – includes all above plus two complementary tickets to our annual Cabaret.

PLATINUM LEVEL:

- Benefactor** \$500 or more/year – includes all above plus recognition on display in the A2CT lobby

KRYPTONITE LEVEL:

- Producer** \$1,000 or more/year – includes all above plus recognition on display in the Theatre lobby

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



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
408 W. Washington
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 149

Upcoming Auditions

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre has auditions for *Jekyll & Hyde* coming up in the next month. They will take place in the Rehearsal Studio at 111 Third St.

Jekyll & Hyde - directed by Wendy Sielaff

Performances September 12-15, 2002

Performances at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

AUDITIONS SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2002 AND
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2002. Same times both days:

12:30-1 Registration

1-2:30 dance

2:30-4 sing

4-5 read (only if auditioning for *Jekyll*, Utterson,
Danvers, Lucy or Emma)

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2002

Callbacks 7 - 10 pm TBA from initial auditions

For complete information go to the Auditions Section of www.a2ct.org or call 734/971-2228.

Update

Welcome to the spring edition of Spotlight. The theatre is deep in preparation for the final show of our season, "Tommy." We have had a very wonderful, successful year and would like to thank all of our Directors, actors, participants, volunteers and audience members for their support.

A special thank you goes to Glenn Bugala, who not only updates our Website on a regular basis, but does the layout for the Spotlight. He was even willing to handle this issue, despite the fact that he's in "crunch-time" directing **Tommy**. Talk about community spirit!

Please note that our newsletters are posted on the website. Feel free to refer to them there in case your hardcopy disappears. We are working towards compiling a substantial email list so that we can regularly email audition information and special notices. Please call us or email us your email address, if you'd like to get on this forthcoming list.

Happy Summer!
Suzi Peterson & Cassie Mann
Co-Managing Directors