

Northwest Notes

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

MAY 2010

NW OCTAFest, here we come!!

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*All articles and
comments welcome!*

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Fort Findlay Playhouse invites everyone to the 2010 Northwest Regional Festival, June 12-13 at the University of Findlay.

You have until **May 21** to send in your theater excerpt applications to Christi.

Individual registrations are due to Christi by **June 4**. It would be helpful if the theaters would gather all their registrations and send them in at the same time (they do not have to come with the original application.) The registration form and flyer can be found on OCTA's website: www.ohiocommunitytheatre.org under Regional Festivals.

The excerpts will be held at the Egner Fine Arts Building. It is a dark brick building. You turn on Frazer Street off of Main Street and the parking lot is located at the back of the building. Hopefully there will be signs as it is a bit tricky to find.

The hotel is the Drury Inn & Suites, 820 Trenton Avenue, (exit #159 off I-75), 419-422-9700. This is also where the Saturday evening banquet will be held.

March & May NW delegate meetings

The Northwest delegates met on **March 27** at Harlequins, Inc. in Sandusky, hosted by Lori Demres, Jennifer Wertz, Angie Wetzels, Bart Zimmerman, Jim Ohlemacher, Bob Jacobs, Nate Fuller, and Lisa Wiley. Four regional reps were present along with eight theater delegates, one OCTA board member, and nine guests. Eight theaters were represented.

The packets were handed out to those Reps who had not already received them. Christi also handed out Technical Award and Website Design guidelines that were not already in the packets, and noted the Brochure competition deadline was July 15.

Joe Barton gave a short talk on Conference, noting that he would like all theaters represented as helping with Conference. He has his committee chairs, but is still in need of plenty of volunteers for all activities of the weekend.

Joe also noted that since Conference is in the Northwest, it would be great if we could have a big showing of our theater excerpts. If we can get 17 excerpts at the Regional, we could have five theaters showcasing at State.

A discussion was started on venues for Regionals and State Conference. Some said they would like to see the same hotel/theater used each year for the regional and also for the State so that the performers would be familiar with the stage area, tech booth, and load-in/load-out. Others said it is nice to be able to go to different places each time. And as for State, for example last year a lot of people did not wish to drive all the way to Cincinnati, however this year Conference is in the Northwest... not far from home!

We briefly discussed the point system again. People are to be sending their points to Cathy Williams. Christi said she would send out the information again in the April *Northwest Notes*.



[continued on back page]

Spotlight on Harlequins, Inc.

from their brochure:

In September of 1927, local physician Dr. Paul Squire invited a group of Sandusky men and women interested in the advancement of culture to a meeting in McKittrick's tea Room on East Adams Street. Out of that first get-together came an organization that has entertained and enlightened Erie County for more than three-quarters of a century.



Harlequins had no permanent home when it was founded. Temporary performance spaces for the peripatetic theatrical troupe included churches, a warehouse, an attic, and schools. Finally, Harlequins arrived at its present unique home, the coach-house of the fine old mansion at 414 Wayne Street. The intimate, 97-seat space was first leased as a work area in 1940, and the first production there was in 1958. Before that first show, however, Harlequins members removed the horse stalls, laid a concrete floor, erected an addition to provide the stage area, and converted the loft into a green room and storage space for costumes and properties.

Thousands of area people, drawn from every profession and vocation, have participated in the activities of the Harlequins since the group was first formed. They produce 3-4 shows annually between November and May. Additionally, their children's group, Kid Kompany, produces a show each summer, using the talents of children ages 8 through 18.

Since this editor can remember, Harlequins has performed an excerpt at the Northwest Regional festival and many times taken the excerpt on to State Conference. Since I started doing NW Notes in 2002, here are the awards they have received at Regional:

In 2003, Dennis Baylor and Terry Easterwood received Merit in Directing for *Five Tellers Dancing in the Rain*.

In 2005, *Light Sensitive* was invited to State Conference as an alternate and received a Merit in Ensemble award, Excellence in Acting for Dennis Baylor and Lisa Wiley, and Merit in Directing for Jack Mulaney.

In 2006, their excerpt of *Wrong for Each Other* was invited to showcase at State Conference and received Excellence in Ensemble, Excellence in Acting for Dennis Baylor and Jennifer Wertz, and Merit in Directing for Terry Easterwood.

In 2007, Lisa Wiley received Excellence in Acting and Excellence in Makeup & Hair for her portrayal of Wylie (aka death) in their production of *Charlie Cox Runs With Scissors*, which also received Excellence in Costumes and Excellence in Makeup & Hair for Susan Schultz.

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See you in Findlay on

June 11-13, 2010

Come party like it's

1975!

Harlequins, cont'd

In 2008, their production of *A Piece of My Heart* received Excellence in Ensemble and was invited as the alternate to showcase Labor Day weekend. Lori Demres received Excellence in Directing, Lisa Wiley received Merit in Acting, and Valerie Thames and Elisha Stuck both received Excellence in Acting awards.

In 2009, *Ravenscroft* was also invited to showcase at State and received Excellence in Ensemble, Excellence in Stage Combat by Lisa Wiley, Excellence in Directing to Lisa Wiley, Excellence in Set Design to Lisa Wiley, Excellence in Costumes to Jennifer Wertz, Outstanding in Acting to Ellen Larsen, and Merit in Acting to Dawnis Edge, Ellie Stuck, Debra Presser, Kelli Market, and Rob Albach.

On Location

by Virginia Wise

In November, 1997, I directed *Inherit The Wind* at the Fremont Theatre. Little did I know that in March, 2010, I would visit the actual location of the trial of 1925.

Dayton, Tennessee is located in the south central area of Tennessee, about 50 miles southwest of Knoxville—population a little over 6,000 today. But in the summer of 1925, it was a small town and the eyes of the world were on the trial of John T. Scopes, a high school science teacher accused of teaching evolution as fact rather than theory.

The greatest legal minds of the day, William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow, served as prosecution and defense attorneys, respectively. Darrow and Scopes lost, but the philosophy of education was never quite the same. Bryan died in the town the Sunday afternoon following the verdict. This trial was nicknamed the “Scopes Monkey Trial.”

The Rhea County Courthouse (1891), the site of the eight-day trial, is still in use today. The furniture is modern except for the jury chairs which are large and made of cane.

My son and wife and Ben Wurzel toured the courtroom. It was as if I stepped back into time and could actually hear the voices of Bryan and Darrow arguing their cases.

In the courthouse basement is a museum filled with artifacts of the time—radio equipment used to broadcast the trial and glass cases full of pictures of the events of the days. There was even a glass cabinet with pictures of the movie and Broadway play.

On the courthouse lawn is a statue of W.J. Bryan. On the front sidewalk is a block-long timetable of events from the founding of Dayton to present day sponsors of the town.

I have pictures of the inside and outside of the courthouse. Oh, I also had a snack there—a banana—and suddenly realized how funny that was!

Northwest assignments:

John Aiello - Bellevue Society for the Arts, Fremont Community Theatre, Genoa Civic Theatre, and Shoestring Players

Lori Demres - Harlequins, Oregon Community Theatre, Put-in-Bay Community Theatre, The Village Players, and Toledo Rep

Robin Stemm - Grand Lake Theatrix, Sock & Buskin, Town & Country Players, Troy Civic Theatre, and Wapakoneta Theatre Guild

Christi Thomas - Amil Tellers (Lima), Champaign Community Players, Jesters Roving Players, Off-Stage Productions, and Van Wert Civic Theatre

Cathy Williams - 3B Productions, Fort Defiance, Fort Findlay Playhouse, Playmakers Civic Theatre, and Ritz Players

Matt Zwyer - Archbold Community Theatre, Black Swamp Players, Fountain City Festival, Staged Right Productions, Waterville Playshop, and Williams County Community Theatre

Northwest Notes
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Return Service Requested

the best comes from the Northwest.....
See inside for info on the June 12-13
OCTAFest hosted by Ft. Findlay Playhouse

What to see in the Northwest....

The Unexpected Guest—May 7-16

Black Swamp Players—www.blackswampplayers.org

Proposals—May 7-15

Troy Civic Theatre—937-339-7700
www.troycivictheatre.com

Secret Garden—May 7-15

Grand Lake Theatrix—419-953-7612
www.grandlaketheatrix.com

The Fantastics—May 7-22

The Village Players—419-472-6817
www.thevillageplayers.org

The Wizard of Oz—May 7-23

Freemont Community Theatre—419-332-0775
www.freemontcommunitytheatre.org

Chorus Line—May 14-16

3B Productions

Over the Tavern—May 14-23

Footloose—July 16-25

Amil Tellers of Dramatics – 419-223-8866
www.amiltellers.org

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

May 13-22

Dear Edwina, Jr.—June 25-26-27

Van Wert Civic Theatre—419-238-9689
www.vwct.org

Victor/Victoria—June 4-13

Toledo Rep—419-243-9277
www.toledorep.org

Stepping Out—June 18-27

Williams County Comm Theatre
www.mywcct.com

Nunsense—June 17-27

Playmakes Civic Theatre—419-734-5044
www.pcplaymakers.org

The 25th Annual Putnam County

Spelling Bee—June 24-27

Fort Defiance Players

March & May delegate meetings cont'd

There was also a discussion on taking excerpts to regionals when the director does not want to go. Theaters were reminded that a substitute director is allowed if the cast and crew still want to excerpt. Do not let a director deter you from excerpting. It was also pointed out that this is a good time to take advantage of OCTA's Guide/Respondent program.

Choosing shows and directors was also discussed with a lot of varied ideas on where and how to find shows and how to try and match up directors with shows.

Harlequins treated us to lunch and gave us a tour of their theater (from top to bottom).

The Northwest delegates then met on May 8, 2010 at Fort Findlay Playhouse, hosted by Marty Williams, Jim Toth, Bill Rayle, and Shirley Nebergall. Three regional reps were present along with six theater delegates, three board members, and nine guests. Nine theaters were represented.

Delegates were asked who might be excerpting and a list of 13 theaters was compiled. Tentative Responders are: Dawna Kornick, Connie Murphy, and Michael Schacherbauer.

The group then toured the stage and load-in areas at the University of Findlay's Egner Fine Arts Building.