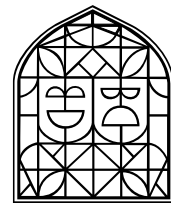


# The Libretto



The Footlighters, Inc. Members of ACT-Cincinnati and The Ohio Community Theatre Association

September 2005

## Come Away With Footlighters to the 'South Pacific' Songs, Scenes Take Audiences to the Islands



All that's missing is the smell of salt air as the Stained Glass Theatre's stage beautifully transforms into the set for the beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific."

Water dribbles from a fountain and gushes from a shower stall set beneath

tall palm trees that look ready to sway in a passing tropical breeze. Vibrant flowers nestle among the lush greenery, where Bloody Mary hustles her grass skirts and trinkets to the bored sailors who wile away their time in paradise during World War II.

This set uses the stage's turntable, revolving to reveal four different scenes among the palms, as the love story that teaches lessons in racial tolerance unfolds and the theater fills with the show's familiar melodies - "Some Enchanted Evening," "Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair," "Younger Than Springtime."

The 29-member cast, directed by Mary Haas, features a mix of newcomers to the Footlighters' stage and some familiar faces, and a mix of stage veterans and first- and second-timers.

Our Bloody Mary, Janet Canada Fritsch, was Ethel in Footlighters' 2005 spring show "On Golden Pond," among many other professional and community-theater roles

including Maria in "West Side Story" for the original Broadway, national and international companies. In contrast, Nick McDonough, age four, who plays Emile's son, is performing in only his second role, coming to Footlighters from the Eastside Players' production of "The Wizard of Oz."

Fritsch played Blood Mary in Cincinnati Music Theatre's 1999 production of "South Pacific."

"I had so much fun that I jumped at the chance to do it again," she said. She brings along her favorite prop: a "real shrunken

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David Shough, as French planter Emile, and Julie Woffington, as Army nurse Nellie, share a moment in rehearsal for "South Pacific."

## Ticket Sales Moving Soon - At Last! - Onto the Internet

Footlighters took a big step forward in modernizing its ticket selling this season, by paying a box office manager and preparing to launch an electronic system.

Selecting, ordering and paying for tickets online still is a few months away, but the Board's action this summer set the plan in motion. Paying someone to handle ticket sales is a first for Footlighters and signals the Board's intention to focus on improving - and increasing - ticket sales.

Tina Pleiness was the Board's choice as the new box office manager. She has a community-theatre background, but she's drawing on her career in the accounting field to help her organize the ticket selling. The result is what she calls her "very

portable box office," a set of binders with color-coded tickets sorted by show in plastic sleeves.

"Things are at my fingertips immediately. I can tell you quickly, for example, how many tickets I have left for each show. I looked at our procedures to see what could be done differently and more efficiently," Pleiness said. "I wanted to streamline the procedure, make it more user-friendly so anyone could step into the box office and figure out what's going on."

The new electronic ticketing system will be ready for Footlighters winter show, said Dean Rettig, the troupe's Webmaster. It will be phased in, starting with a system that

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Visit our website at [www.footlighters.org](http://www.footlighters.org)

## From the Ex-President

If you are a news junkie like me (now you know why I am in this business), you have no doubt been deeply affected by the disaster on the Gulf Coast. So much so that I have been looking at everything around me just a little bit differently. I have a deeper appreciation for everything I have, regardless of the condition it's in.

It is in this mindset that I begin my duties as Footlighters' new Vice President of Facility. This is a position that Ron Houck unofficially has been holding since the group purchased the church almost 20 years ago. As we all know, Ron has been our go-to guy for more things than just the building (with assistance from Bill Winkler), so, this year, the Board decided it was time to have more than one person overseeing the day-to-day condition and activities in our facility. I volunteered for this position because I have high hopes for the future of our building, and, with a combination of optimism and naivete, I look forward to achieving all the tasks we have planned. It won't be easy, but it will be an education, particularly for me.

I happily hand over my presidential duties to John Langley, for a number of reasons. John knows this job because he has done it before. As the driving force behind the Footlighters' Long-Range Plan, John also has a good grasp on all the things we need to do to keep our organization heading in the right direction. Just as importantly, John brings a fresh perspective to the position after some time away. We are fortunate to have him back with our organization.

I look forward to serving with John and all the hard-working people on the 2005-2006 Board of Trustees. We have a full year ahead of us, with lots to do. Since our Board is getting smaller, it is more important than ever for our members to get involved. If there is an area of our organization or facility that you would like to give some time to, please call any of the Board members.

The more of you who get involved with Footlighters, the more we will accomplish - and the better off we will be!

Sincerely,  
Caryl A. Hefley

## Internet continued from page 1

allows people to order but not pay for tickets online. When completed later this season, the system will be similar to the national Ticketmaster program, "without all the extra service charges," Rettig said. Credit-card billing will be secured with VeriSign, Rettig said.

And to stay friendly to our non-techy patrons, Footlighters will continue to take ticket orders via the telephone even after the Internet system is fully functional.

## From the President

Dear Members and Friends of Footlighters,

It's that time of year again, the end of summer and just a few weeks away from the first day of autumn. The kids are back in school, parents are ready for some quiet time and another great season of community theatre is underway here at The Stained Glass Theatre.

It was a busy summer for us here at Footlighters. We started out by receiving several Orchid awards at the Ohio Community Theatre Association's annual, regional convention in June. We completed the extensive task of reviewing and revising the organization's Bylaws and Administration Manual and we made a great deal of progress with the updating of our Long Range Strategic Plan. In addition, we had a great turnout at the summer membership pool party and my thanks goes out to Don and Mary Haas for once again hosting this annual event.

Most recently, we held our annual Board of Directors retreat at the home of Gary and Judy Wettingel (thanks so much for hosting!!!) and we finalized our short-term goals for the coming year. I'm excited to announce the other executive officers whom I'll be working with this year: VP Production, Janet Wisner; VP Administration, Lynne Aronson; VP Facility, Caryl Hefley; Treasurer, George Fee; Secretary, Dean Rettig.

We're now getting ready to kickoff our first show of the season, one of the most enjoyable and well-known musical theatre classics of our time, "South Pacific". The cast and crew are working very hard to get ready for opening night and are enjoying every second of it! I'm also excited to announce that the Opening Night Party will be held at York Street Café, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Season subscriptions are flowing in so don't miss out if you haven't ordered yours yet because we have a great lineup planned for you. Following "South Pacific", we will present the premiere of the new, original musical "Merry Blah, Blah", followed by "Love Sex and The IRS" this winter. In the spring, we'll round out our season with the timeless children's classic "Secret Garden".

I am very excited to return for my second term as President of Footlighters this year and I hope to see all of you very soon. There are so many ways in which you can get yourself and your entire family involved with Footlighters. Whether you like to perform on stage, work behind-the-scenes, serve on a committee, have fun at a membership party or just enjoy a night out to see a show, there will always be something enjoyable waiting for you at the Stained Glass Theatre.

Sincerely,  
John Langley, President

## Stay an Active Footlighter Renew Your Membership Now

It's membership renewal time for Footlighters members for the 2005-06 season.

Enclosed with this Libretto is a membership form asking for basic information about your theater interests to help us better serve our members. If you have not paid your 2005-06 dues, please fill out the form and mail it with a check (made out to Footlighters Inc.) to Dean Rettig, our current membership chairperson, at 6251 Cortelyou Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45213.

Membership dues are \$25 per household, or \$15 per individual.

Proceeds from membership dues help cover the cost of such things as mailings to members, troupe events and gatherings, and the expense of running Footlighters and keeping The Stained Glass Theatre in shape. Members also receive six issues a year of The Libretto, the troupe's newsletter that aims to keep everyone up to date on all Footlighters' activities.

We welcome new members and old friends. Send in your Footlighters' membership today.

## October Auditions Launch Holiday Children's Musical 'Merry Blah-Blah'

Auditions will be held in early October for Footlighters' new children's show, "Merry Blah-Blah," an original holiday musical opening in December.

Interested actors will read from the script and should bring a song to sing (no a cappella) for the auditions held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 8, and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 9, at The Stained Glass Theatre, 802 York Street, Newport, Ky.

The cast requires an older woman, a 20-something woman and two youngsters (a boy and a girl).

"We need a 12-year-old girl and a 9-year-old boy, both treble voices," said Director Lynne Aronson. "The older woman is a mezzo/alto, and younger woman is a soprano."

The one-hour show is a tale about Aunt Agatha, a woman who hates Christmas so much she replaces the word with "blah-blah." She plans to turn the world against the holiday, too, with her cursed eggnog - until two children save the day



## South Pacific continued from page 1

head," with human hair and dried-up features she fashioned out of a mask-making material shaped around an apple.

David Shough, who plays Emile, is making his Footlighters' debut, following roles in Cincinnati Music Theatre's "Kiss Me Kate" and shows with Lebanon Theatre Co. and Ovations Theatre.

"I've always wanted to do this role - tried out for it three times and finally got it," he said. "It's such wonderful music."

Young Nick and his sister-on-stage, 12-year-old Hailey Gadd, learned lines in French for their roles; they say them on cue but don't ask just yet for a translation.

"I have no idea what I'm saying," Hailey said.

Three other Footlighters' veterans play lead roles: Julie Woffington ("Guys and Dolls") plays Nellie; John Langley (a Footlighter since 1997) plays Cable, a role he played opposite Fritsch in CMT's "South Pacific;" and Bill Geraghty ("1940s Radio Hour") plays Billis.

**"South Pacific" runs Thursday through Sunday, October 6-23. Tickets cost \$17 each (\$16 each for groups of 10 or more.) Tickets are selling fast; to order, call 513-474-8711.**

and help her rediscover her Christmas Spirit. The original script is by Brian Celce, a grad student at the University of Cincinnati, with music composed by Mark Aronson.

The show runs December 2, 3, 4 and December 9, 10, 11 on the Stained Glass Theatre's first-floor lobby stage. Friday shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday shows, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday shows, 5 p.m.

Tickets for "Merry Blah-Blah" are selling quickly for the limited-seating shows, only 50 seats per show. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for children age 12 and under. Season subscribers have the option of buying a four-show season that includes "Merry Blah-Blah."

For tickets, call (513) 474-8711.

*the footlighters, inc.*

THE STAINED GLASS THEATRE  
802 York Street  
Newport, KY 41071

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Organization  
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Permit No. 45  
Newport, KY



## Footlighters' Footnotes

Dean Rettig and wife Jennifer, are expecting a baby November 22. Congratulations!

Lynne Aronson will perform in three venues this fall: As Minerva in Beechmont Players' production of "This Must Be The Place," October 7-15; as Stitch in The College of Mount St. Joseph's musical "The Emperor's New Clothes," Nov. 4-6; and as part of the acting ensemble for the Cincinnati Museum Center's "Shocktober" event during October.

Several Footlighters were among winners at the 2005 Cincinnati Entertainment Awards (CEA) August 26 for their roles in Cincinnati Music Theatre's production of "Chicago": Laurie Brinkman, Best Actress for the role of Roxie Hart; Forrest

Fairley, Best Supporting Actor for the role of Amos Hart; and Marcie Brooks, Best Supporting Actress for the role of the Matron. "Chicago" also won as Best Community Theatre Production.

The cast of "42nd Street," with Cincinnati Music Theatre this fall, includes several Footlighters: Amy Grace Shelton, as Phyllis Dale; Danny Duncan, as Pat Denning; and Mark Femia, in the ensemble.

Footlighters, let The Libretto know when you are in a show or have news to share. Send information to Chris Wolff: cwolff99@yahoo.com. or (513) 521-8838.

## The Libretto

### STAFF

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Contributors: Lynne Aronson, Caryl Hefley, John Langley, Freida Houck

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