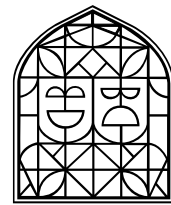


The Libretto



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

February 2006

Show Creates Hilarious Combo: IRS and 'Sex'

The tax man is hanging around the Stained Glass Theatre, looking for fraud and tax evasion, but finding instead much mirth and mischief.

It's all in the Footlighters' winter show, "Love, Sex and the IRS," which runs **February 16 through March 5.**

"The audience is in for a fun-filled evening of uproarious comedy because it's just so funny," said Director Robert Weidle. "It's worth the price of admission to see Eric Day in drag."

Audiences may recall the old TV show "Bosom Buddies" as they watch this show romp through its scenes. Eric Day plays Leslie, a man who dresses like a woman to fool an IRS investigator into thinking Leslie is the wife of roommate Jon, played by Jim Curtis. The two men, rooming together to save money, filled in the wrong gender on the tax form so they could file as a married couple. (That's the



"sex" in the title; and that's as "sexy" as the show gets.) All goes well until the tax man shows up for a reality check.

The action takes place inside a bachelor-pad New York City apartment, which is taking shape on Stained Glass' stage under Ron Houck's guidance. The set, designed by Dennis Murphy, features a large window looking out on a NYC street scene, painted by Gary Rogers. *continued on pg. 2, see "IRS and Sex"*



The cast of "Love, Sex and the IRS," from left: Brian Richardson (IRS investigator); Jim Curtis (Jon) seated with Jeanette Tacon (Kate); Eric Day (Leslie) seated with Victoria Margroum (Connie); Cathy Lutts (Jon's mother); Jon Vater (Mr. Jansen); and Jeffrey A. Grooms, (preacher) standing in back.

Stained Glass Theatre Survives 'Great Flood of 2005'

The view down the basement steps gave a jolt: Yellowish-brown water everywhere, swirling lazily in white eddies and slowing flowing somewhere.

It was November 26, 2005, and the discovery of a flooded basement at the Stained Glass Theatre set into motion a massive \$17,000 operation to dry it up, clean it up, fix it up. Likely not since the building's construction more than a century ago had the basement's wood-and-stone shell been so exposed.

The culprit: A leak at a corroded connection in the basement's overhead sprinkler system.

Adding to the calamity: The leak started in an almost-forgotten basement room filled with dirt – 10-foot-high piles of tan dirt. (No one's sure why there's a room filled with dirt; it came with the building.) The resulting mud flow seeped under the room's walls and spread throughout most of the basement,

continued on pg. 3, see "Great Flood of 2005"

Visit our website at www.footlighters.org

From the President

Dear Friends of Footlighters:

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone's holidays were enjoyable, and it was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces at our annual holiday party this past December. It was a great evening of fine food and holiday cheer, and I hope that it was as enjoyable for all of you!

During the membership meeting that evening, I gave a short recap on the Board's activities. For those of you unable to be with us then, here are a few of those activities:

- *We went through the process of updating our Constitution and, at the holiday party, we received approval of it from all of you who chose to vote.*
- *We finalized our short-term goals for 2006.*
- *We participated in Enjoy The Arts' "20/20" arts festival this year, and we were able to welcome several first-time theatergoers.*
- *We completed successful and profitable runs of "South Pacific" and "Merry Blah-Blah" and now are gearing up for our next show, "Love, Sex and The IRS," opening February 16. This production is directed by Robert Weidle and produced by Cathy Lutts, Peggy Kenney and Shirley Williams.*
- *The Long Range Planning committee is back in session, and we are on track to complete our revised, long-range plan and present to the Board for review/approval in April.*
- *Linda Abbott joined our Board as a full-time member, and Robert Weidle took Linda's place as Alternate. Congratulations!*
- *Thanks to the hard work of the online ticket sales task force spearheaded by Dean Rettig, patrons are now able to purchase performance tickets online!*

As we reflect on the past year, we at Footlighters have a lot to be thankful for. Most importantly, we are thankful for having all of you – our members. Without you, there would be no purpose for our existence. Whether you appear on stage, participate on a show's production staff and technical crew, serve on our Board and/or committees, or support us from the audience, we thank all of you for being there for us. Again, I hope that you enjoyed the party, I thank you for your generous gifts to the children and to the theatre, and I wish you all the best in the New Year!

Sincerely,

John Langley, President

OCTA Seeks Candidates for September Board Election

Ever wonder what it's like behind the scenes at the Ohio Community Theatre Association (OCTA)? Do you want to make a difference in the world of community theater? Have you ever thought there might be a better way to do something that would benefit community theaters statewide and beyond?

If so, you should think about serving on the OCTA board.

OCTA is looking for interested, energetic people to fill seven seats on its Board of Directors. At-large members to the Board will be elected during OCTA's annual convention over Labor Day weekend, 2006, to fill six three-year, full terms and one partial term.

As a member of OCTA's Board, there are many areas to participate in and share your energy and expertise. Board members comprise and guide the committees of the four OCTA divisions: Programming; Administration; Finance; and Marketing, Membership and Public Relations. These are the backbone of the OCTA organization.

OCTA is one of the nation's strongest statewide service organizations – in community theater or any of the arts. It needs your support and participation to maintain its strength and to continue providing and improving services to its members.

If you are interested in becoming a Board candidate, or if you have any questions about the Board, contact Bill Berry, the nomination chair, or your regional representative. You will find contact information at OCTA's Web site (www.octaweb.org) under OCTA Board.

The deadline for Board candidates to submit packets is **August 15, 2006**.

OCTA Searching For New Executive Director

OCTA also has begun the search for a **new executive director** to replace Eleanor Smith, who will retire December 31, 2006. OCTA officials hope to hire someone by mid-August so the new person can learn the job from Smith. The executive director maintains records, provides reports and administrative support, and is a liaison with other statewide arts-service organizations. The person must live in Ohio or within 50 miles, have home office space and experience in secretarial, financial and marketing work, and have knowledge of community theater productions.

For information and a detailed job description, contact Christi Thomas (clthomas@bright.net, or 937-492-3823).

IRS and 'Sex' *continued from pg. 1*

Weidle's crew includes Andrew Alexander, assistant director; Peggy Kenney, Cathy Lutts and Shirley Williams, producers; Jill Herzner, costumes; Janet Wisner, stage manager; Caryl Hefley, lights; and Patrick Flerlage, sound.

"Love, Sex and the IRS" runs **February 16-19, 23-26 and March 2-5**. For tickets, call (513) 474-8711. Tickets cost \$17.

‘Great Flood of 2005’ *continued from pg. 1*

piling up against obstacles (almost two feet deep inside a prop closet) and soaking into everything it touched.

“The water was four inches deep throughout the basement, and worse around the furnace,” said Caryl Hefley, the Board’s vice president in charge of the facility.

“Luckily, the furnace sits up on a concrete pad and was not damaged.”

The water and mud soaked the three main basement storage rooms (one for props, one for costumes, and a work area used by set builders) and the main hallway including the entryway to the woman’s bathroom.

Clean up and repair work began quickly, so the Christmas musical could open on time December 2. The basement still was unusable, but with water and heat turned back on, the rest of the building (including the upstairs bathroom) could function.



The cause of it all: Water sprays from a corroded connector in sprinkler system.

With our insurance company covering the cost, a crew of hired workers attacked the muddy mess. Everything in the flooded rooms was removed – wet and muddied, into a semitruck-sized dumpster; dry and salvageable, into a large storage container parked outside. The dumpster was emptied three times. Workers shoveled mud for days. The walls in the three flooded rooms and hallway were removed, revealing the wooden studs and stone foundation.



The center room – now dry, clean and empty.

“We had a major housecleaning – a much-needed housecleaning. It’s unfortunate this is the way it came about,” Hefley said.

The result: New flooring in the prop room, hallway and bathroom entryway, and new white, nonabsorbent walls wherever the water touched. And, nine other corroded sprinkler connections were replaced.

Many thanks to the Footlighters who helped supervise the work and assisted in other ways in the flood’s aftermath, especially Caryl Hefley, Ron Houck, George Fee, Gary Wettengel, Randy Wilburn, John Langley.



Overhead lights reflect in the muddy water standing in the basement’s center room.

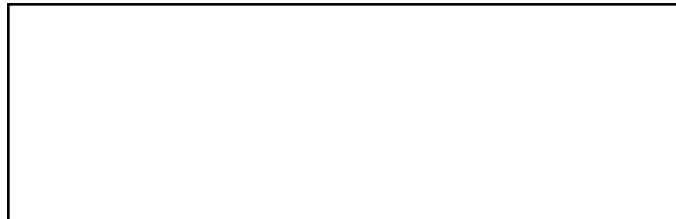
Mark Your Calendars, Save These Dates

- Footlighters once again will be part of the Fine Arts Fund’s Sampler Weekend, presenting a 30-minute excerpt from our winter show “Love, Sex and the IRS” on **Saturday, February 11.**
- Our Spring Membership Meeting will be from **4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 26,** at the Stained Glass Theatre. Join us for good food, and some catching-up with old friends and theatre news.
- “Secret Garden,” our Spring show, runs **May 4-21.**

the footlighters, inc.

THE STAINED GLASS THEATRE
802 York Street
Newport, KY 41071

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Footlighters' Footnotes

Condolences to the family and friends of **Charlotte Hall**, who passed away on January 31. A long-time Footlighter, Charlotte appeared in numerous shows with the Footlighters and the Village Players. Charlotte was a 1991 recipient of the ACT-Cincinnati Art Rouse Award for contribution to community theater and, in 2003, received the Robert E. Gard Superior Volunteer Award from National AACT. Charlotte will long be remembered for her wonderful spirit and enthusiasm for life.

Linda Young stepped down recently from her position on the Footlighter's Board. Thank you, Linda, for your contributions to our troupe.

Linda Abbott, the Board's alternate, moved onto the Board to finish Young's term. The Board appointed Robert Weidle as the new alternate.

We say good-bye for a bit to **Bill Winkler**, one of our dedicated master carpenters. Bill is taking a year off. You are missed, Bill.

Tim Binzer will be in Mariemont Players' production of "Book of Days" by Lanford Wilson. It's a little bit of "Our Town", a little bit of "Saint Joan" and a whole lot of jealousy, religion, greed and lies. The production runs from March 10-26. For tickets, call Betsy at 513-684-1236.

Former Footlighter **Kevin Corrigan** changed jobs recently. He's now handling grants for Seattle Public Schools.

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
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