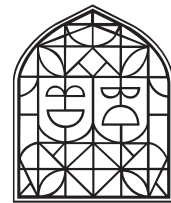


The Libretto



The Footlighters, Inc. Members of ACT-Cincinnati, The Ohio Community Theatre Association and the American Association of Community Theaters (AACT)

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 1

Footlighters Cuts Loose with Energetic Fall Show!

No child of the '80s could possibly fail to recall the hit Kevin Bacon film *Footloose*. Like several other favorite films from that era, the material was later developed into a Tony-nominated Broadway musical and Footlighters is the first theatre group in this region to bring it to the stage!

With a book by co-written by Walter Bobbie and Dean Pitchford, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and music by Tom Snow, the show also features such fondly remembered numbers as "Holding Out for a Hero," "Let's Hear it for the Boy," "Almost Paradise" and the dazzling title song. It opened on Broadway in 1998 where it ran for 709 performances.

Director Gary Rogers has amassed a sizeable cast of eager and talented people of all ages. Robert Breslin plays the primary character Ren, a Chicago native who finds himself transplanted to the small mid-western town of Bomont, a close-knit community seemingly dominated by the local Reverend Moore (played by Jim Curtis.) Moore, a strict and dour crusader for the clean lifestyles of the youth of the town, has successfully led a campaign to outlaw dancing in the wake of a prior incident that left four young people dead. Ren, who took great pleasure in dancing back in Chicago, is at odds with the Reverend from the start, but this animosity intensifies when he falls for Moore's pretty daughter Ariel (played by Jules Shumate.)

Ren comes upon both friends and enemies (sometimes in surprising places) in his quest to break free from the strictures of the town. The story is punctuated by a variety of musical numbers, some tender and some captivatingly enthusiastic (and choreographed by Maggie Perrino.) Everything comes to a head at a

passionate town meeting, after which many folks realize that they've learned something about themselves and those to whom they may have been opposed.

Other featured cast members include Karen Wiebe (as Ren's mother, Ethel), Emily Carroll-Martin (as Moore's wife, Vi), Zak Schneider and Aubrey Wilson (as Ren's new friends, Willard and Rusty) and Steffen Wharton (as Ariel's boyfriend, Chuck.) Other keys roles are played by Brittany Smile, Courtni Nicolaci, Gregory Good, Kevin Rutowski, Lytle Germann, Ryan Hutcherson, Cindy Wilmes, Sarah Lindsey, Carrie Makin, Chelsea Fries, Ruth Cachoua, Amanda Emmons Wolery, Brian Franke and other familiar Footlighters faces such as Gary Wettengel, George Fee, Jill Herzner and Chuck Ingram.

Footloose runs October 6th – 22nd. Do be sure to reserve tickets now as seats will be going quickly for a show this fun and featuring a cast this large! You may select your own seat by visiting our website www.footlighters.org or by calling our box office at 859-652-3849.



Preparations for FOOTLOOSE are well underway. (left) The inimitable Ron Houck uses every spare moment to put finishing touches on the set. (middle) Robert Breslin (Ren) is told by Aubrey Wilson (Rusty),

Brittany Smile (Urleen) and Courtni Nicolaci (Wendy Jo) that "Somebody's Eyes Are Watching." (bottom) The cast takes its final poses during the finale dance, "Footloose," choreographed by Maggie Perrino. (missing are Jim Curtis, Emily Carroll-Martin and Betsi Brockmeier.



Visit us at www.footlighters.org

From the President



Dear Members and Friends of Footlighters,
I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer! Autumn is almost here, the kids are back in school and another great season of theatre is underway here at The Stained Glass Theatre.

In August, we held our annual Board of Trustees retreat at the home of Ron and Freida Houck and we had a very productive work session. We welcomed new board members, identified our short-term goals for the year and elected the following officers:

- President (John Langley)
- Vice President Administration (Freida Houck)
- Vice President Production (Cathy Lutts)
- Secretary (Amy Waldfogle)
- Treasurer (Shirley Williams)

I look forward to working with this year's board and thanks again for your time and dedication to our Board of Trustees.

Following the retreat, we participated in the OCTA state conference in Cleveland on Labor Day weekend. The ACT excerpt of our spring production *SHOWTUNE* was selected to represent the SW region, it was well-received by the state judges and we brought home 4 performance awards, along with awards for both our newsletter and season brochure.

Rehearsals are now underway for our opening show of the season *FOOTLOOSE* and we just had auditions for our winter production of *RENT!* We'll then close our season with yet another regional premiere - *LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA*. It is definitely going to be an exciting season so make sure that you get your tickets now!

Whether your urge is to sing and dance in the spotlight, hammer nails, sew costumes or sell program ads, there are so many ways to get yourself and your entire family involved at the Stained Glass Theatre. If you'd like to get more involved with Footlighters either on stage or behind-the-scenes, just give us a call at (859) 291-7464.

Sincerely,
John Langley
President, Footlighter's Board of Trustees

Summer Picnic Was Wet, But Not a Washout

Even a sudden heavy downpour couldn't wipe out the spirit of this summer's annual membership meeting and picnic. Held for the first time at Evendale Recreation Center on July 24th, the large, functional shelter provided a welcome shield from the falling drops of rain. Food was set up in an enclosed adjacent room, with various goodies provided by Footlighter members, and tables were arranged in the main section, complete with electric fans to help cool everyone off on the typically muggy, Cincinnati-summer day.

After everyone had finished eating, various announcements were made, followed by the Board election. Congratulations to our newly elected members, Cathy Lutts & Gary Rogers, with Janet Wisner as alternate. No summer picnic is complete until Ron Houck kicks off the White Elephant Auction. This year, everything from crafts to décor to even small television sets was sold to the highest bidder, with proceeds going to the fund that keeps our Stained Glass Theatre operational and in good repair. We're still recovering from a recent lightning strike that did \$30,000 damage to the structure and equipment! Thanks to Rich Setterberg for securing the location for us. Thanks, also, to the Outreach Committee chairman Jim Racster and his fellow members Shirley Williams, Lee Osborn, Cathy Lutts, Chris Wolff, Peggy Kenney and Dave and Cindy Wollert as well as everyone who came out to join us!

OCTA



NEWS

Greece was the Word at OCTA State Conference

This year's theme at the annual OCTA (Ohio Community Theatre Association) conference was "It's All Greek to Me," meaning that the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Independence, Ohio was overrun with columns, togas, laurels, sorority letters, fraternity parties and even Thunderbirds and Pink Ladies (from "Grease.") Friday, September 2nd, the convention was kick-started by showcase performances of the two winning OCTA Jr. excerpts. Saturday and Sunday consisted of a wealth of excerpts from all over the state of Ohio, representing some of the best theatre presented the previous season, adjudicated by three accredited individuals. (See article elsewhere in The Libretto for Showtune's inclusion.)

Amidst the many excerpts, there were countless activities and workshops to help ensure that no one was left without something to occupy his or her time. Night time was also filled with events such as the popular Music Theatre International Sing-Along, hosted by Jim Merillat, and games such as OCTA Feud and others. Continuing the theme, a Tech Olympiad was held and Amy Waldfogle won the gold for Quick Costume Change while Sean Schuster won gold for Prop Quick Change and took the bronze in Tool Time (a game in which participants identify certain tools from a photograph.)

Sunday evening, a banquet and dance brought out the Greek in everyone as diners darted upstairs to change clothes and take part in the costume contest. Any and all varieties of Greece and Grease wear were paraded before a panel of judges. Our own Jon Vater took the prize for Best Individual Male Costume when he descended on the crowd in a skimpy Cupid outfit, complete with bow and arrow, quiver and wings. Love was in the air, in any case, because at the banquet a marriage proposal was made to Denise Bernstein by her boyfriend Paul Larkin and "Cupid" was right there, shooting his arrows of love. It was the second proposal of the conference, a prior one taking place in the hotel lobby two nights previously!

When the dust settled Monday morning, an awards brunch gave participants in the excerpts, as well as other categories such as set, costume and website design, a chance to take home a certificate. The Footlighters, Inc. season brochure, designed by Gary Rogers, was given an Excellence in Layout award. Libretto editors Peggy Kenney and Jon Vater were thrilled to be granted six awards for the Footlighters newsletter: Excellence in OCTA News and Use of Photography and Outstanding in Writing, Overall Quality, Layout and Creativity. None of these awards are possible without the brilliant contribution of our own Gary Rogers, who somehow takes our information and magically transforms it into an attractive and professional-looking

finished product! The OCTA Hall of Fame received two southwest region inductees including Mariemont Players, celebrating their 7th anniversary and Sally Dowling of Tri-County Players.

Congratulations to Michelle Dolciato on chairing a highly successful conference. At the end of this one, the theme for next year's was finally unveiled. "OCTA Boulevard" will celebrate the 1950 film *Sunset Boulevard* as well as the silent films represented in that movie's storyline. The conference will be held over Labor Day weekend of 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. More details will become available as we get closer to the event.



Scenes from OCTA State Conference: (top) Larry Weber, and Ruth and Sean Schuster show off their "Godly" attire! (below, left) The Libretto's own Jon Vater and Peggy Kenney show their Newsletter Awards. (below, right) Maegan Ainsley Callahan displays her vocal award from our excerpt of *SHOWTUNE!*



Showtune Takes Its Third and Final Bow at State Conference

Our spring production, Jerry Herman's *Showtune*, recently had the honor of participating at the state level during the annual OCTA (Ohio Community Theatre Association) Conference, held over Labor Day weekend in Independence, Ohio. Having competed and won at the regional conference in late June, the troupe of vocalists, along with the director and crew, trekked up to the Cleveland area in order to take part in the state competition.

As the very first excerpt to kick off the event, the singers had to rise and shine early and get themselves properly warmed up. Performing on a portable stage was quite a new experience for some of the cast, but no one (not even Jim Curtis, who was decked out in red high heels during one number) allowed it to become an issue. As each cast member took his or her turn in the spotlight, the audience responded enthusiastically. Pamela Day, whose microphone did not function during the excerpt, was careful to project her voice so that every word and note could still be heard clearly. Jared Ryan, a replacement for a cast member no longer living in the Tri-State, seamlessly blended into the cast. Similarly, Shannon Roll played percussion as a fill-in and did a marvelous job.

At Monday morning's award brunch, our excerpt was presented with four certificates: Merit in Ensemble, Merit in Musical Moment to Jared Ryan for *It Only Takes a Moment*, Excellence in Vocal Performance to Shawn Toadvine and Excellence in Vocal Performance to Megan Ainsley Schneider.

Of course, no one there could have performed at all without the support of several dedicated people who generously gave of their time and energy. Crew members Janet Wisner and Amie Marmer made the trip along with the director John Langley and musical director Alex Gartner. Thanks to Ron Houck, George Fee, Jim Racster, Emil Lohr, Wayne Kirsch and Sean Schuster who, at one point or another, loaded and unloaded the set to and from the truck. Thanks also to St. Rita's School for the Deaf for allowing us to rehearse there and to workers from there who also helped load the set. On site, Phil Catlin (Mason Community Players) ran sound and Peggy Kenney, Larry Weber, Robert Weidle, Jon Vater, Amy Waldfogle, Linda Roll (Milford Theatre Guild) and John Falkenbach (West region) pitched in to help make it all happen. Special thanks, in particular, to Gary Wettengel, who not only helped load and unload the truck, but who also drove it to and from the conference. People such as these are the backbone of our organization and we deeply appreciate the assistance!

Visit us at www.footlighters.org

the footlighters, inc.

THE STAINED GLASS THEATRE
802 York Street
Newport, KY 41072

Non-Profit
Organization

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Newport, KY



Footlighter Footnotes

We extend hearty congratulations to **Amy Grace Shelton**, recently wed to **John Curtis**. The couple, along with a gaggle of their friends and family, boarded a Caribbean cruise filled with games, activities and once in a lifetime memories. Not the least of the latter was the ocean-side ceremony where the bride and groom exchanged vows with everyone dressed in shades of blue and green. The bride sported a bouquet made up of various pieces of jewelry, contemporary and antique, soldered together into a stunning keepsake. A reception was held September the 16th at The Madison in Covington for those who couldn't make the trip. Best wishes to the happy couple!

Tara Williams is directing *Dancing at Lughnasa* for Village Players of Ft. Thomas, which runs September 23rd – October 1st. **Jeanette Tacon**, **Megan Hudson** and **Wayne Kirsch** are included in the cast.

Falcon Theater will offer up *Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical*, directed by **Dan Doerger**, from October 2nd – 22nd. **Lauren Bailey**, **Ron Burrage** and **Jennifer Drake** are members of the cast.

Ed Cohen and **Dee Anne Bryll** co-direct (with Dee Anne choreographing) the Irving Berlin revue / *Love a Piano* at The Covedale Center for the Performing Arts. The show runs October 13th – November 6th and features **Matt Dentino**, **Rick Kramer** and **Josh Steele** among its sextet of performers.

Cincinnati Music Theatre's production of *Hairspray*, directed by **Skip Fenker** with Musical Direction by **Kendra Struthers** and Choreography by **Brian Anderson**, includes several Footlighters in the large cast. **Bill Geraghty**, **Megan Ainsley Schneider**, **Julie Pergrem**, **Samantha Toberman**, **Marypat Carletti** and **Marci Brooks** appear in the show, which runs November 4th - 12th at The Jarson-Kaplan Theater.

When Beechmont Players presents the Arthur Miller play *All My Sons*, **Anne Wridler** will be performing the role of Kate Keller. The show runs November 4th - 12th at The Anderson Civic Center.

Brieabi Productions' upcoming presentation of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, running December 2nd - 11th at The Anderson Civic Center, features several Foot-lighter members. Among the cast are **Shawn Toadvine**, **Dustin Baird**, **Ken Goldhoff**, **Bryan Greaves**, **Lauren Carr**, **Sarah Gravelly**, **Joey Schnell** and **Sarah Gobson**. **Julie Woffington** choreographs and her children, **Brett** and **Wendy**, are amongst the Children's Ensemble.

Our own **Bill Cunningham** was featured in the September issue of Cincinnati Magazine as one of the Ten Men of Style and Substance. The award was presented September 14th at Saks 5th Avenue downtown.

The Libretto

Winner of Three OCTA
Newsletter Awards • 2010-11

S T A F F

Peggy Kenney
Jon Vater..... Co-Editors
Gary Rogers..... Art Director

the footlighters, inc.

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