



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 14, Number 3

January 2005

In *Book of Days*, we learn Dublin, Missouri is a quiet little town... or is it?

by Teri Brown

Small towns are murder...

Dublin, a quiet Missouri town with more churches than bars and a cheese factory as the center of commerce, serves as the setting for Lanford Wilson's play of lies, adultery, theft and the politics of community theatre. Underneath a layer of shiny, rosy cheeks often lies another layer of murky behavior which is revealed in *Book of Days*, opening January 14.

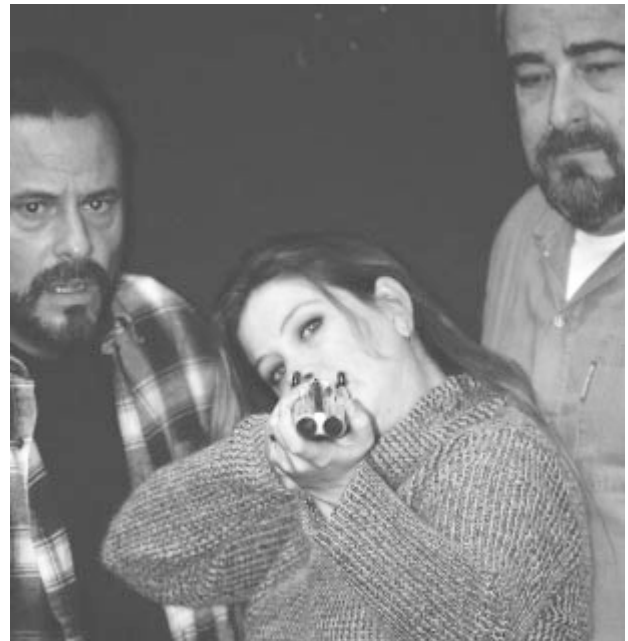
When the owner of the cheese factory, pillar of the community Walt Bates, dies suddenly in what appears to be a hunting accident, the plant's book-keeper Ruth suspects foul play. Like the tornado that tears through Dublin in the first act, she launches an investigation into Walt's death that begins to tear the town apart, but Dublin's intricate system of loyalties means that no one—not the local sheriff, not even Bates' grieving widow—wants to face the possibility of treachery among their own.

Issues of truth and fidelity explode in Ruth's true-to-life community theatre performance of George Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan*. She combats the forces of hierocracy, uncovering a commanding tear in the fabric of a community's trust and faith in each other.

Director David Kelso has assembled a splendid cast, which includes Teri Brown, John Rosen, Michele Guisti, Tim Carr and Kaly McKenna. Also performing are Matt Joyce, Michelle Lang, David Meredith and Karla Francesca. Ron Lang, Brian Taraz and Michael Barnett round out the cast.

Book of Days will play five weeks from January 14, 2005 through February 12, 2005 with performances Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Contains adult language and situations.

Tickets are \$12 and \$14 and may be ordered by calling the box office, (619) 422-7787.



Ruth is a firearms expert, much to the surprise of Earl and Sheriff Atkins. Michael Barnett, Teri Brown, Ron Lang.
-photo by Cristyn Chandler

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the VOLUNTEER efforts of Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, Raylene Wall, and Charles Nichols.

GODSPELL is coming to OnStage Playhouse!

by Raylene J. Wall

Get ready folks! The last show of the season at OnStage is the hit musical, *Godspell*, which will be produced by OnStage's own Artistic Director Teri Brown and directed by award-winning director Raylene J. Wall. *Godspell* opens May 6, 2005...so, make your reservations now because it's going to be a lot of fun!

Conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak, with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, *Godspell* is one of the biggest off-Broadway and Broadway successes of all time. Drawing from various theatrical traditions, such as pantomime, charades, acrobatics, vaudeville, and of course - music, *Godspell* moves quickly from moment to moment, and OnStage plans on giving the show an updated, urban "edge" that is sure to bring a different slant to this timeless story.

Based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew, and featuring a sparkling score by Stephen Schwartz, *Godspell* boasts a string of lively songs, led by the international hit, "Day By Day." Other songs include "Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All For The Best," "All Good Gifts," and "By My Side," all of which bring the parables of Jesus Christ humanly and wonderfully to life.

Godspell's music is powerful and the show remains a groundbreaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus and the Passion story, with a message of kindness, hope, tolerance and love.

Tickets for *Godspell* are \$19, or \$17 for seniors, students, and active military. Discounts are available for groups of 10-40. Please call the theater and make your reservations today for this popular musical.

The Odd Couple, female version?

If you have not heard of the female version of *The Odd Couple*, coming to OnStage in March, you should know two things: Neil Simon wrote it, and it is not just the male version played by females.

This version, written by Simon on a dare that the show would not be as funny with women, involves two women, opposites in personality, living together, playing Trivial Pursuit with their friends, and planning a dinner party with the handsome Spanish brothers who live upstairs.

Our financial picture

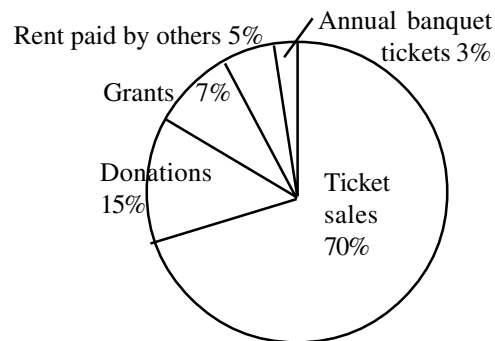
by Charles Nichols

OnStage Playhouse is not-for-profit charitable organization incorporated in the state of California. We have been operating as an all volunteer theatre company in Chula Vista for nearly 20 years.

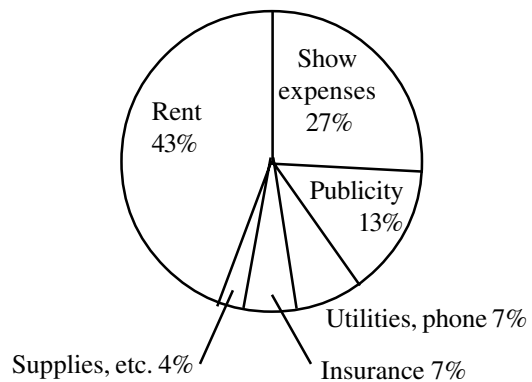
We keep our ticket prices low to benefit the broadest possible audience. As a result, we must look to generous donors from time-to-time to help fund expenses such as general maintenance, repairs, and upgrades of our technical equipment.

Here is a graphic picture of our income and expenses for the 2003-2004, ending June 30, 2004.

Income - \$63,202



Expenses - \$55,785



Net Cash Flow (2003-2004): \$7,417

Although we are a nonprofit corporation, we need to save for future needs such as replacing worn out equipment and saving for an eventual move to a larger facility. Also, we do not pay honoraria to actors, directors, and theater technicians, something we hope to be able to do in the future.

President's Corner

by Paul Schaeffer

The rest of the 2004-2005 season illustrates the variety and balance that OnStage Playhouse tries to achieve in scheduling plays. First we have a powerful mystery-drama, then a very funny comedy, and finally a high-energy musical.



I know you will enjoy *Book of Days* and *The Odd Couple*. We hope you will also be thrilled with *Godspell*. The last musical we presented was *Working*, and that was nine years ago. *Working* received the Judges Award for best play of the season. So why haven't we produced another musical in so long?

I wasn't around at the time, but I understand *Working* lost money. Musicals have extra costs, including high royalties and music rental. They also require a lot of work to put on, involving musical directors, choreographers, and musicians. Normally they are staged in (and are appropriate for) much larger venues than our "intimate" theatre.

To minimize the financial risk, we have carefully selected a musical that does not have a large cast (the casts of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Book of Days* were the largest this season) and does not require an elaborate set or frequent set changes. And it appeals to young people as well as to older audiences.

In addition, we have raised ticket prices for this show only. Ticket prices are \$19 for general admission, \$17 for seniors, students, and active military. Hopefully these prices, which we feel are quite reasonable, will not scare people away. If we can maintain our normal attendance, we will break even. If *Godspell* proves to be as popular as we think it will, it will be a money-maker.

What I am most interested in is your feedback. After you see *Godspell*, please let me or the other Board members know what you liked and didn't like about the show. We do not plan a musical for the 2005-06 season, but we are hoping to present a musical the following season, depending on the lessons learned from *Godspell*.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

Godspell

musical by Stephen Schwartz

directed by Raylene J. Wall

Mon, March 7 and Tues, March 8 by appt..

The classic musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Auditions will NOT be held in the theater. They will be held at Fredericka Manor, 183 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. Get an appointment time by emailing or calling the producer, Teri Brown, at teridtiger@yahoo.com or (619) 269-2317. Be prepared to sing your best 16 bars of an upbeat song. You will be asked to stay for a dance audition, so wear clothing you can move in. All characters sing and dance. Call backs will be on Wednesday, March 9.

For a description of roles and further information about the auditions, please log on to our web site, www.onstageplayhouse.com. There is no pay.

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

Dinner With Friends

Poway Performing Arts
Company
Jan 14 - Feb 6
Call (858) 679-8085

Picnic

Coronado Playhouse
Feb. 4 - March 13
Call (619) 435-4856

The Weir

Patio Playhouse, Escondido
Jan 28 - Feb 12
Call (760) 746-6669

Mud, River, Stone

Lamplighters Community Theatre, La Mesa
Feb 11 - March 6
Call (619) 464-4598

Mahalia

Community Actors Theatre
Feb 4 - March 27
Call (619) 264-3391

Murder in Green

Meadows
Scripps Ranch Theater
Feb 11 - Mar 20
Call (858) 578-7728

Stage Write



ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

P. O. Box 120044
Chula Vista, CA 91912

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

Book of Days

by Lanford Wilson. Directed by David Kelso

Jan 14 - Feb 12, 2005

The Odd Couple (female version)

by Neil Simon Directed by Jeffrey Gastauer

March 11 - April 9, 2005

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291 THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a San Diego County Community Enhancement grant. Theatre renovation is being made possible by a grant from the Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

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Facilities Manager: Chad Oakley

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Charles Nichols

Marge Hale

Bruce Wilde

Rosemary King

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>

email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com