



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 17, Number 5

February 2008

The Bleacher Bums BELIEVE...

by Bruce Wilde

This will be THE year. The faithful have gathered in their favorite pews: the right field bleachers of the 'Friendly Confines of Wrigley Field'; christened so by Hall of Famer, Ernie Banks, Mr. Cub, himself. Today's opponent is the despised St. Louis Cardinals, cross state rivals and often the source of a Chicago's fans misery. It has been a lifetime since the Cubbies appeared in a World Series (at least for me) and a CENTURY since they won one.

Into this tradition, the long suffering, die-hard, 'wait until next year' fans return annually to support their team.

Leading the cheering section is Zig, played by James P. Tarbert, returning to OnStage after far too long an absence. He will be joined, though not by his choosing, by his baseball-widow wife and closest Cub fan, Rose, portrayed by OSP favorite Connie Terwiliger. Another favorite actor of ours, Jerry Young, creates the role of Decker, a Cub fan through and through.



photo by Tony Eisenhower

Our cast is blessed with talented new faces: Nate Snyder plays the 'blind from birth' Greg and Brandon Cano-Errecart pours his comic talent into the part of Richie. The accomplished Steven McLaughlin plays the gambler and 'anyone but the Cubs' nemesis, Marv. Angie Doren adorns our stage as Melody, the 'babe in the bikini' blond. All fans need a cheerleader, and we have the terrific Daniella Trimble giving her all to the cause of a Cubs victory. Completing our cast is a very talented young lady, Ms. Melanie Haag and, in his first appearance with OnStage, Carter. Bob Christiansen, 'Mr. OnStage', is your unseen announcer.

Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the game.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 general admission, \$13.00 for students/seniors/military. Special rates are available for groups of ten or more by contacting Betsy Keller via the theater phone. Curtain times are Thursday-Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm.

For reservations, please call OnStage Playhouse's box office at 619-422-RSVP (7787) or visit our website: www.onstageplayhouse.org.



This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the volunteer efforts of Janis Vanderford, Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, and Bruce Wilde.

OnStage announces 2008-2009 season

by Teri Brown and Bob Christiansen

The OnStage Board of Directors has approved the slate of shows to be offered during our 2008-2009 season, starting in July. Some of these shows are still pending confirmation of production rights.

Our coming season spans the spectrum of the theatrical palate, offering the kind of variety we believe good community theatre should present. It includes powerful stories of romance, biting comedy, thoughtful drama, a clever thriller, and a hysterical farce. Our artistic team is excited about the promise this season holds. With our focus on quality productions in an intimate setting, we pledge to make this our greatest season ever.

The season described here is our mainstage season of six shows, to which we invite you to subscribe. Our season 2008-2009 brochure will be mailed out in early April.

1. *SHIVAREE* July 11 – August 9, 2008

By William Mastrosimone. Directed by Teri Brown

Romantic Comedy/Drama

SYNOPSIS: Chandler, a young hemophiliac youth, has been kept by his cab driver mother in a sheltered existence. Chandler is desperate for contact with the world. He is also highly intelligent; but supremely naive. He doesn't know what to do about his craving for love until he meets Shivaree, a neighbor who is an itinerant belly dancer. Before too long the delightful Shivaree and the innocent Chandler are in love, much to the consternation of Chandler's mother, who forbids him to ever see Shivaree again. Undaunted, Chandler, climbs out the fire escape to pursue his love.

2. *FAT PIG* September 5 – October 4, 2008

By Neil LaBute. Directed by Kym Pappas

Biting Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Cow. Slob. Pig. How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love? *Fat Pig* takes an unflinching stab at our public perception of beauty and makes one wonder if love needs society's blessing to be complete. Tom surprises even himself when he falls for Helen, a bright, funny, sexy young woman who happens to be plus-sized - and then some. Forced to explain his new relationship to his shallow (although shockingly funny) friends, he finally comes to terms with his own preconceptions of the importance for conventional good looks.

3. *1984* October 31 – November 29, 2008

By Robert Owens & Wilton E. Hall, Jr. & William A. Miles Jr. from George Orwell

Directed by James M. McCulloch
Drama

SYNOPSIS: A dramatized version of the novel that depicts life in a future time when a totalitarian government watches over all citizens and directs all activities. George Orwell depicts with great power the horrors of man's fate in a society where Big Brother is always watching. This adaptation of is a theatrical event that is both powerful and disturbingly provocative. To quote Orwell himself: "I do not believe that the kind of society I describe necessarily will arrive, but I believe that something resembling it could arrive. . . . Don't let it happen. It depends on you."

4. *AFTER-PLAY* January 9 – February 7, 2009

By Anne Meara. Directed by Bruce Wilde

Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Two middle-aged couples, old friends reuniting after three years, have just seen a new Broadway play. In a posh new Manhattan restaurant, they discuss the play and what is new in their lives. Playing catch-up leads to little arguments and major differences of opinion. More drinks are ordered and apologies ease the way into dinner over which are discussed sex, the wearing of fur, matters of health, and problems with their children. At the end of the evening, painful secrets have been shared but friendship trumps all.

5. *THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY*

March 6 – April 4, 2009

By Phyllis Nagy. Directed by Daniel Zisko

Drama/Thriller

SYNOPSIS: To be young and carefree like Dickie Greenleaf is what Tom Ripley craves. Dickie's father, a wealthy shipbuilder, asks Tom to bring his wayward, playboy son back home to America. Dickie and his girlfriend never suspect the dangerous extremes to which Ripley will go to make their lifestyle his own. Ripley wants money, success, love. Isn't it better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody? A beguiling tale of morality and amorality based on Patricia Highsmith's stylish and superb thriller.

6. *LEND ME A TENOR*

May 8 – June 5, 2009

By Ken Ludwig. Directed by Bob Christiansen

Farce

SYNOPSIS: It's 1934 and the biggest night in the history of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company! World famous tenor Tito Morelli is to perform Otello. Saunders, the General Manager, is nervous with anticipation. Through a hilarious series of mishaps, Saunders and his assistant Max believe Morelli has died. What to do? Saunders persuades Max to get into Morelli's Otello costume and try to fool the audience. Then Morelli comes to and realizes the curtain is about to rise. Now two Otellos are running around in costume, two women are running around in lingerie, and that's just part of the confusion.

President's Corner

By Bruce Wilde

As we move out of winter (yes, even San Diego had to endure a winter this year), we can look forward to spring: baseball, a musical (or a play with music) and our NEW SEASON, the details of which are given on the previous page.

Our Artistic Director, the lovely and talented Teri Brown, has put together an awesome selection of newer works and familiar favorites. You will experience it all next season: romance, comedy, drama, thriller, farce.

For now, enjoy our tribute to America's Pastime, get ready for Opening Day and Play Ball! with the *Bleacher Bums*.

Baseball and Apple Pie

While you enjoy the Cubs' game at *Bleacher Bums*, you can take advantage of enjoying the companionship of the American tradition of "baseball and apple pie" and help OnStage Playhouse at the same time.

Marie Callender's restaurant will be our ticket sponsor for this show, and as everyone knows pies are their specialty.

Before each performance of *Bleacher Bums*, patrons will have the opportunity to purchase a chance at taking home one of Marie's apple pies. The name of the lucky recipient will be drawn at curtain call.

Intern Program Report

by Kym Pappas

This year's Intern Program currently consists of students from Bonita Vista, Mar Vista, and Mater Dei High Schools

These high school juniors and seniors are Allison Stutzka (MVH), Monica Hernandez (BVH), Johnny Flores (BVH), Stephanie Bradley (BVH), Noelle Chaanine (BVH), Daniella Trimble (BVH), and Sean O'Hara (MDH).

The students will partake in various workshops and seminars based on their individual and collective theatre interests throughout the remainder of the 2008 school year. This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the City of Chula Vista's Office of Arts and Culture.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

Groucho: A Life in Revue

Musical revue by Arthur Marx and Robert Fischer
Directed by Bob Christiansen
Produced by Daniel Zisko and Desmond Hassing

The life of Groucho Marx and his brothers is told with a background of the vaudeville experience of the Marx Brothers, set to the music of the period. We believe this will be the first non-professional production of this play in southern California.

Auditions are by appointment only. Please contact director, Bob Christiansen at bobchristiansen@bigfoot.com or call the theater at (619) 422-7787 to leave a message. You will be instructed in how to prepare for the audition. Audition time will likely be evenings or weekend afternoons. Please bring a head shot and a theater resume.

The role of Groucho has been precast. Some auditions may be held and additional roles may be cast before this newsletter is delivered. A description of characters and further details may be found on the theatre web site, www.onstageplayhouse.org.

The show runs from May 9 through June 7, 2008. Performances are Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 pm..

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.

*Henrik Ibsen's
Hedda Gabler*

Patio Playhouse,
Escondido,
February 22 - March 22
Call (760) 746-6669

*As Bees in Honey
Drown*

Scripps Ranch Theatre
February 15 - March 15
Call (858) 578-7728

Rabbit Hole

PowPAC
March 7 - 30
Call (858) 679-8085

Black Coffee

Coronado Playhouse
March 14 - April 13
Call (619) 435-4856

*Five Women Wearing
the Same Dress*

Patio Playhouse,
Escondido,
April 18 - May 18

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Facilities Manager: Desmond Hassing

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Lynne Batchelor	Charles Nichols
Bob Christiansen	Janis Vanderford
Rosemary King	Dan Zisko
Lisa Moctezuma	
<i>Past President</i>	Betsy Keller

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787
Visit us on the web at
<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>
email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

Bleacher Bums

Drama by Joe Mantegna and the Organic Theater Company

Directed by Bruce Wilde

March 7 - April 5, 2008

Groucho: A Life in Revue

Musical revue by Arthur Marx and Robert Fischer

Directed by Bob Christiansen

May 9 - June 7, 2008

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

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

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

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from Supervisor
Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.
Theatre renovation was made possible by a grant from the Colonel
Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.
The 2007-2008 Student Intern Program is funded in part by a grant
from the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture.

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