



Sun Prairie Civic Theatre

Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical Wrap-Up

Sun Prairie Civic Theatre's November production of *Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical* has been completed and everyone involved is feeling a sense of success with the show. With attendance of over seven hundred, *Mid-Life!* proved to be one hilarious show for our audiences, the cast, and crew alike. Our thanks go to everyone who participated in this production as a cast member, crewmember, or audience member.

Although we had given serious thought to entering a cutting of *Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical* in the Wisconsin State Theatre Festival competition, this is not going to happen. By the time we received permission to do the cutting all of the spots for the festival had been filled.

Arsenic and Old Lace in Production



Our next production, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, is well into the rehearsal process. With direction of veteran director **Sandy Kintner** the cast has been rehearsing through the snow and cold of December. The cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* includes many familiar faces to Sun Prairie Civic Theatre audiences. Those you will recognize are: **Louis Sather** as Mortimer Brewster, **Tom Schuster** as Officer Trophy, **Phil Evans** as Officer O'Hara, **Amy Snyder** as Martha Brewster, **Drew Wolff** as Dr. Einstein, **Rick Doran** as Teddy Brewster, **Tom Collins** as Lieutenant Rooney/Mr. Gibbs, and **Calvin Berg** as The Body. Making their debut with Sun Prairie Civic Theatre will be: **Steve Berg** as Rev. Harper/Mr. Witherspoon, **Meredith Altmann** as Elaine Harper, **Sara Hahner** as Abby Brewster, and **Russell Wolff** as Jonathan Brewster. **Chris Erlitz** will be the production stage manager, with **Rex Owens** as producer. Others working on this production include: Props - **Paul Hildebrand**, Costume Design - **Joy Ninedorf**, Technical Director - **Brian Goff**, Set Design - **Jeff Gauger**, Set Decoration - **Jeff Bracken**, Sound Design - **Darrel Snyder**, House - **Mark & Dawn Ashley**, and Lights - **Debby Kozol**.

Arsenic and Old Lace will move to the Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School Auditorium on **Saturday, January 22, 2011**. Many helping hands will be needed to move the set to the auditorium starting at **9:00 AM** at the Barn. Performances will be on **February 4, 5, 11, 12, & 13, 2011**. Friday and Saturday performances begin at **7:30 PM** with the Sunday matinee at **2:00 PM**.

Call for Directors of 2011-2012



Sun Prairie Civic Theatre is accepting director applications for its 2011-2012 Theatre Season. Artistic Director, Vocal Director, and Choreography positions are open for the season. The shows will be as follows: early fall *Cinderella – Kids*, late fall *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, early 2012 *On Golden Pond*, and spring 2012 *Monty Python's Spam-a-lot*. Applications for *Cinderella* and *Pump Boys* are due **April 1, 2011**. Applications for *On Golden Pond* and *Spam-a-lot* are due **July 1, 2011**. Actual performance dates will be determined with the Sun Prairie Area School District in the spring of 2011. All directing positions are non-paid. We are still in negotiations for the rights to *Spam-a-lot*. Applications should include a brief résumé of theatre/directing experiences and can be sent to: Directors SPCT, P.O. Box 132, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0132. For further information, please contact SPCT President, **Frank Peot**, at **608-837-8217** (leave a message) or frpoet@aol.com.

The 2012-2013 Play Selection

The Sun Prairie Civic Theatre Board of Directors is taking a new approach to selecting the 2012-2013-play season. Instead of having a Play Reading committee propose the season, the Board would like to try a "director submitted option."

This is the way it will work. If you have a play or musical you have always wanted to direct, you can submit a proposal to the Board of Directors along with your name for director for consideration. The play should be the kind of family entertainment SPCT audiences has been accustomed to during the past 41 years. Along with submitting the play or musical, you will be asked to submit a synopsis of the show, cast numbers, and any special requirements. You may submit the name of any other staff members willing to work with you on this production. More than one submission per director is permitted. The Board of Directors will review all submissions and present qualified selections to the membership for an advisory vote in much the same way we have selected seasons in the past. The Board will make the final selection of shows and directors for the season. They will attempt to create a balanced season of one large musical, one small musical, one children's show, and one nonmusical.

This selection process is on a trial basis only. It comes about because of suggestions and comments made by members and others involved with SPCT during the past several seasons. The Board realizes the time commitment for this is a long way off.



However, seasons need to be selected far enough in advance to provide for the creation of publicity artwork, and publicity publications which often want as much information as possible more than a year in advance of productions.

Here are some important considerations to keep in mind when selecting and submitting a show.

- Be sure you have read the script completely. Just seeing a show is not enough.
- What are the casting requirements?
- Will the show appeal to our audience and actors?
- Are there any unique technical, musical, or other requirements that may need to be solved in order to produce the show successfully?
- Is this show available for community theatre production? New Broadway shows are often not released for several years following their close on Broadway.
- Is this a show we can produce profitably? Is the show cost justifiable?
- Does our organization have the talent base – including performers, technical people, directorial staff, and production staff to produce the show to our high standards?
- Given the limitations of our performance facilities, is the show technically “doable”?
- You will also agree to direct this show and devote the necessary time and energy to helping produce this show.



Submissions should be mailed to SPCT 2012-2012 Play Season, P.O. Box 132, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590-0132.

Wisconsin Community Theatre Festival

The Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre will be holding its biannual festival of plays **Saturday, February 25-27, 2011**, sponsored by the Evergreen Players of Green Bay, WI. The Wisconsin AACTFest is the first festival in the cycle of plays endorsed by the American Association of Community Theatre. The festival is an opportunity to see some of the best in community theatre in the state, a chance to meet terrific people who love theatre as much as you do, and an opportunity to learn some of the latest in theatre production. For further information you can go to www.WACT.org and click on “AACTFest 2011” or contact **Frank Peot**.

The festival itself will be held on **Saturday, February 26, 2011**, at the Walter Theater, St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin. A performance schedule printed below.

Saturday, February 26, 2011

8:00 AM - Performance Session One

Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa
 Redbud Players (Columbus)
 Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre

1:30 PM - Performance Session Two

Kettle Moraine Players (Campbellsport)
 Evergreen Players (Green Bay)
 Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild

7:00 PM - Performance Session Three

Verona Area Community Theater
 La Crosse Community Theatre
 Attic Theatre (Appleton)

10:00 PM - 1:00 AM— Party

Sunday, February 27, 2011

10:00 AM (Bemis Center) - Awards Brunch and Annual Meeting

Two groups will be selected from this festival to represent Wisconsin at the Region III AACTFest in Columbus, Ohio, on **April 30 - May 1, 2011**.

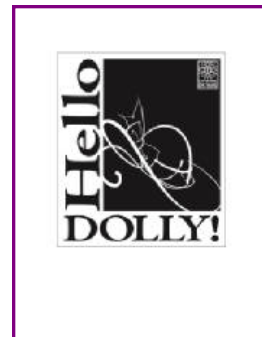
The National AACTFest 2011 will be held in Rochester, New York, **June 18 – 27, 2011**.



Hello Dolly Auditions

This Tony Award-winning musical, first produced on Broadway in 1964, is the story of Mrs. Dolly Levi's efforts to marry Horace Vandergelder, the well-known, half-a-millionaire. Along the way, she also succeeds in matching up the young beautiful Widow Molloy with a head clerk, Cornelius Hackl; Cornelius' assistant, Barnaby Tucker, with Mrs. Molloy's assistant, Minnie Fay; and the struggling artist, Ambrose Kemper, with Mr. Vandergelder's weeping niece, Ermengarde.

Classical musical numbers include "Put On Your Sunday Clothes," "Ribbons Down My Back," "Elegance," "Hello Dolly!," "It Only Takes a Moment," and "So Long Dearie."



Auditions will be held at the Sun Prairie Civic Theatre rehearsal facility, 500 South Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI, as follows:

- **Adult Auditions – Sunday & Monday February 20 & 21, 2011, 7:00 PM**
- **Children Auditions – Sunday - February 20, 2011, 2:00 PM**

All are encouraged to audition. There are principal roles for four men and four women ranging in age from 16 to 60. There are also several cameo parts, and an ensemble. **Note:** The ensemble for this production will be used more than is normally utilized in *Hello Dolly*. There will be featured dancers as well.

Adult Auditions will consist of singing 16-32 measures (or less than one minute) of a musical theatre song. There will be a short dance audition, and some reading from the script. Songs should reflect the strongest part of your voice not necessarily the role you're auditioning for. Selections from the show are acceptable, but not encouraged. An accompanist will be provided.

Children's Auditions (for young people between 10 and 14 years of age) will consist of teaching an entire number – blocking, vocals, and choreography. No preparation required, just wear something comfortable to move in. Children under the age of 10 will not be considered at this time.

For any questions, please contact **Joshua Swalheim** at Joshua608@gmail.com.

Summer Shakespeare



For many years, we have received requests to do a summer theatre project. This summer Sun Prairie Civic Theatre will be attempting a new project involving a reading of a Shakespearean classic. Under the skilled direction of **Mike Herold**, a professional actor from the Madison area, he will be directing readings from Shakespearean classics. As the name infers, this will be a dramatic reading of literature from Shakespeare. No memorization, no costumes, no make up, no set, just an opportunity to read for an audience from the well-known and much beloved works of William Shakespeare. Auditions will be held and with a limited number of rehearsals, those of us who are interested in a summer theatre project will have the opportunity to perform some of the best-known theatre in the world.

Mike is the husband of **Tracy Blaska-Herold**, Sun Prairie's head librarian and former participant in many SPCT shows. Mike has extensive training and experience working with Shakespeare. He is presently a freelance professional actor in the Madison area. He brings special knowledge and understanding of theatre to this new and exciting experience.

We are presently working on final details, dates, times, and places of presentation, so keep your eyes open for a chance to something unique and fun!



Updates on Former SPCT Participants

Here are just a few updates about former SPCT people who have expanded on their love of theatre!

Natalie Buster, SPHS Wall of Success winner, has moved from New York City to San Antonio, Texas. She will continue her work with theatre there, but will now be calling San Antonio her home base. Natalie is also involved with Bikram Yoga and continues with her traveling and writing. Natalie performed with SPCT in *Annie* and several of our children's shows. Since moving to NYC, she has been a cast member of the national tour of *Footloose*, and the national and international tours of *42nd Street*. Most recently, she was the dance captain/female cover in the off-Broadway musical *Sessions* at the Algonquin Theater.



Ken Urso, another SPCT alum, is pursuing a professional directing degree at NYU's PACE School of the Arts & the Actors Studio Drama School. Ken appeared in several SPCT children's and main stage

shows. He recently directed our production of *Steel Magnolias*. He has also directed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *The Producers* for the Middleton Players Theatre. At NYU, he has directed *Bent* and *Red Light Winter*, along with acting in *Doubt* and several other productions.

Gail Bennett remains as a professional actress (in Actors Equity). She completed an 18-month national tour of the musical *Mary Poppins* last year. She was the lead understudy for the *Mary Poppins* role while being a member of the ensemble cast. She played the lead character, Mary Poppins, over sixty times on the tour. In June, she won the lead role as Maria in *The Sound of Music* at the Ogunquit, Maine Theatre. While there, she played in front of former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara. (The Bush's summer at Kennebunkport, next to Ogunquit.) **Gail**, who's stage name is her maiden name, **Gail Bennett**, traded autographs backstage with the President and Mrs. Bush. She now resides in Las Vegas with her husband, **Aaron DeJesus**, who is performing in the Las Vegas production of *The Lion King*. **Aaron** was on tour with the musical *Wicked* before he took the role in *The Lion King*. **Aaron** and **Gail** own a home in North Las Vegas. **Gail** is doing west coast commercials and voice-overs and just completed a call back for the Las Vegas production of *Jersey Boys*.



SPCT MISSION STATEMENT

Sun Prairie Civic Theatre is a community of volunteers, sharing their resources of time, talent and finances to give as many people as possible an opportunity to experience live theatre on stage, back stage and in the audience.

Board Members Needed

Even though it is early in the season, it is not too soon to begin thinking about nominating someone or volunteering to be a board member for the next board. Board member terms run for three years with board meetings being held once each month on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Later in this season, we will need to elect four members to the board. New board members will begin service on **August 1, 2011**. Sun Prairie Civic Theatre can only be as strong as its board members. We need people who understand and are committed to our efforts and mission. Now is the time to begin talking with prospective members or to giving serious consideration to being a board member yourself.

SPCT Board of Directors

Frank Peot, President
Darrel Snyder, Vice-President
Todd Winterrowd, Secretary
Livvia Goff, Treasurer

Board Members at Large

Brian Goff
Kayse Grimm
Paul Hildebrand
Sandy Kintner
Tim Olmstead
Rex Owens
Denise Utter
Wayne Wichelt

Future Dates of Importance

January 11, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
January 22, 2011 – 9:00 AM – *Arsenic & Old Lace* Move In
February 4, 5; 11, 12, 2011 – 7:30 PM – *Arsenic & Old Lace* Performed
February 13, 2011 – 2:00 PM – *Arsenic & Old Lace* Performed
February 15, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2011 – 2:00 PM – Child Auditions for *Hello Dolly*
February 20 & 21, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Adult Auditions for *Hello Dolly*
February 25, 26, 27, 2011 – Wisconsin AACTFest – DePere, WI
March 8, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
April 1, 2011 – Deadline for Director Submission of *Pump Boys & Dinettes* and *Cinderella Kids*
April 12, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
April 29 – May 1, 2011 – Region III AACTFest – Columbus, OH
May 7, 2011 – 9:00 AM – *Hello Dolly* Move In
May 13, 14; 20, 21, 2011 – 7:30 PM – *Hello Dolly* Performed
May 15, 2011 – 2:00 PM – *Hello Dolly* Performed
May 17, 2011 – 7:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
 (Note: This meeting is a week later than usual!)
June 22 – 26, 2011 – National AACTFest – Rochester, NY
July 1, 2011 – Deadline for Director Submission for *On Golden Pond* and *Monty Python's Spam-a-lot*