



Sun Prairie Civic Theatre

Ramblings of the President

“Welcome to 2009!” How many times will you hear that phrase during the month of January? By the end of the month, many of us will be looking forward to summer, a little sunshine, and some warmth. Of course, many of us are all ready for the heat. Sun Prairie Civic Theatre is already well on its way to another show by the end of the month. In fact, *Steel Magnolias* is well into rehearsals. **Ken Urso** and his talented cast have been rehearsing for more than a month now. Everyone is looking forward to a wonderful production. Right on the “tails” of *Steel Magnolias* will be auditions, rehearsals and production of *All Shook Up* with **Dennis Yadon** and **Jane Voegeli** in the director’s chairs. It hardly seems like anyone in Sun Prairie Civic Theatre ever takes time off to just enjoy some well-deserved R & R. Producing a full season of four shows is a never-ending job. Can you imagine what it would be like to do seven or eight shows in a single season? Many community theatres do just that. True, most of these are not all volunteer organizations and have at least one paid staff member, but they need to go through the same processes to put together exciting live entertainment.

That reminds me, Sun Prairie Civic Theatre is one of the few ALL-volunteer community theatres left in the state, in fact, the entire country. We do everything with our dedicated and talented volunteers. Too often we forget to say “Thank You” to these people who devote days and nights of their valuable time to make us look good. If you are one of those people, like everyone else receiving this newsletter, who volunteer countless amounts of time to the success of Sun Prairie Civic Theatre we want to say **A BIG THANK YOU** to you for all of your efforts. “You make us look good!” Also, a big thank you needs to go to our countless audience members and patrons who have been supporting Sun Prairie Civic Theatre for the past forty years. National surveys show us that few all-volunteer community theatres have longevity of more than ten or fifteen years, and most often less. We have survived for forty great years. Certainly, we are not the oldest community theatre in Wisconsin, but we are getting there.

As we move forward into our future, we are always in need of new energetic people who are willing to donate their time to have fun and assist us with producing new and exciting family entertainment. It is up to each of us to persuade at least one of our friends to join us in our efforts. Let them know it is hard work, but we have a great time and loads of fun doing it.

Good luck and much success to everyone in the New Year!

Frank



Children’s Show a Huge Success

This past December, *School House Rock Live, Jr.* rocked the rafters and raised the roof at Sun Prairie High School’s auditorium. Under the skillful direction of **Livvia Goff**, *School House* became one of the best attended Children’s Shows we’ve done in a number of years. Livvia admits she couldn’t have done it alone. It took many talented people to make the whole project come together. Assistant Director **Victoria Rockman**, Vocal Directors **Samantha Snyder** and **Colin Loeffler**, Choreographer **Josh Swalheim**, Parent Coordinator **Mary Loeffler**, Stage Manager **Sandy Kintner**, Props Master **Chris Fugelseth**, Costume Designers **Deb Lohr**, **Cheryl Keating**, **Cheryl Nettun** and **Pam Steinweg** assisted Livvia. Further assisting were a host of parents and other Civic Theatre regulars. The cast consisted of: **Jake Wiedmeyer**, **John Bresser**, **Becky DeKelver**,



Travis Fugelseth, Miranda Keating, Sara Liebl, Tessa Loeffler, Jess Maiers, Jordy Niemeyer, Megan Patterson, Brooke Peterson, Robert Rockman, Livvia Shanklin, Jackie Smith Brianna Statz, Paul Steinweg, Savannah Valigura, Henry Wiedmeyer, Brenna Bernards, Stella Foval, Katie Guld, Bailey Haag, Mallory Keating, Brianna Lewis, Sarah Moniak, Madison Monson, Alexis O'Connell, Ashley O'Connell, Alana Pauls, Alexsandra Rockman, Madison Soukup, Allison Toboyek, Rachel Williams, Martin Berg, Mariah Calkins, Sophie Collins, Hanna Devyor, Kaylee Franz, Lane Gugger, Emma Guld, Erin Healy, Davis Lohr, Paul Moniak, Elias Patterson, Nicole Pronged, Hannah Soukup, Isabella Steinweg, Deidra Wellman, Tessa Wolfe, Beth Bindle, Calvin Berg, Lexis Bernard, Katie Rose Blachowicz, Mimi Finger, Brooke Lewis Chris Lohr, Ryan McDowell, Clarise Nettum, Josephine Nettum, Joseph Rockman, Danielle Sawyer, Jessica Sawyer, Meredith Sullivan, Madeline Weber, Jake Wolfe, Hanna Zacher and Anastasia Rockman. Audience members as well as the cast and crew had a wonderful experience and look forward to many more opportunities.

Steel Magnolias Cast



Director Ken Urso would like to announce the cast of the upcoming production of *Steel Magnolias*. Julie Logue (Shelby), Karen Freeman (M'Lynn), Lori Gryttr Erdman (Truvy), Amy Snyder (Clairee), Judy Holderman (Ouiser) and Valori Cadwell (Annelle) complete the talented cast Ken has created from the more than thirty people who auditioned. B.J. Bonner will be the Stage Manager. Others on the design team include: Assistant Stage Manager/Props Liz Bonner, Producer Jeanne Wellman, Costumes Elaine Jellings and Connie Meyer, Set and Lights Design Frank Peot, Sound Paul Hildebrand, Hair/Make Up Fanny Leung and Judy Acker, Master Carpenters Brent Bresser and Brian Goff. Everyone is excited to be a part of this favorite theatrical production. Plan on joining us February 6, 7; 13, 14 or 15, 2009 for an evening of great family entertainment.

Auditions for *All Shook Up*

Auditions: Monday, February 23 & Tuesday, February 24, 2009; **Performances:** May 1, 2; 8, 9, 10, 2009

Auditions for *All Shook Up* will be held at the Sun Prairie Civic Theatre Barn, located at 500 South Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI. Auditions will be from 7:00 to 10:00 PM both nights. No appointments are necessary. Possible call-backs will be either



February 25 or 26. **NOTE:** Auditionees must be at least 14-years-old. No exceptions! Please prepare an excerpt (not to exceed one minute in length) from a 1950's style song. You **MUST** bring clearly marked sheet music in the correct key (an accompanist will be provided) or an accompaniment CD. A *capella* singing will not be permitted. Dress comfortably for a dance audition. There will also be readings from the script.

Roles to be cast include:



Chad: The Elvis-like character is a great-looking, motorcycling, guitar-playing, leather-jacketed bad boy with natural charm. [Baritone]

Natalie Heller/Ed: A small town tomboy who dreams of more; lusts after Chad; dresses up as "Ed" to get closer to Chad. [Alto]



Jim Heller: Natalie's widowed father, middle-aged and messy. He still longs for his wife. [Baritone]



Sylvia: The no-nonsense, African-American owner of Sylvia's Honky-Tonk. [Alto]

Dennis: Natalie's best friend, wide-eyed, awkward (think 'lost puppy'), and secret admirer. He is an aspiring dentist. [Tenor]

Lorraine: Sylvia's pretty, smart and a total romantic teenage daughter (African-American). [Alto]

Miss Sandra: The sexy, intellectual caretaker of the town's museum. She falls for "Ed." [Alto]

Mayor Matilda Hyde: The town's ULTRA-conservative mayor (think Mamie Eisenhower). [Alto]

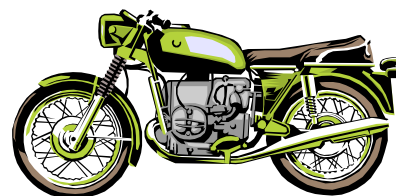
Dean Hyde: Matilda's son who has been military boarding schooled. He never disobeys his mother. [Tenor]



Sheriff Ear! The law in town and a man of VERY few words. He loyally follows the Mayor wherever she goes. [Baritone]

Male & Female Ensemble: 10-15 additional cast members (of all ages, sizes, types, etc). This is NOT a typical musical chorus. This group will have a lot of fun and is heavily featured in the show.

For more information, please contact Director Dennis Yadon at djyplaid@hotmail.com.



Call for Directors

Sun Prairie Civic Theatre is now accepting applications for directors for the 2009-10 Season. Applications for the fall production of *Always – Patsy Cline* and the children's production of *Alice in Wonderland* are being accepted. **Deadline for submitting an application is March 1, 2009.** Application for the spring productions of *The Foreigner* and *Children of Eden* are being accepted through **June 1, 2009.** Persons interested in directing should submit a letter of interest along with any other pertinent information to: SPCT - Directors, P.O. Box 132, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590-0132. No dates have been set for the 2009-10 season. These will be determined once the school schedule is set, around April 15. These directing positions are volunteer.



40th Year Celebration!

With the beginning of our 2009-10 season, SPCT will have been providing live theatre in Sun Prairie for 40 years. This is a remarkable feat as many community theatres don't make it past five or six years.

Looking back at our history, we can be very proud of the professional entertainment we have provided for many years. We have been very fortunate to have had extremely talented people as part of our production, not only on stage, but also back stage. It's somewhat easy to learn a song or a dance, but how about constructing an "Audrey" or a "Squid", a Tevye cart (that still goes out 5-6 times a year to other groups), a two-story house, the Continental Congress, a giant foot or 40 pairs of yellow shoes, a huge 42-star U.S. flag, chickens, cows, camels or a Camelot Castle (twice). We really have been blessed with talent, both on and back stage. **40 YEARS!** We really have to celebrate this milestone!

The weekend of June 19-20, 2009 has been set aside for a celebration! How big it will be depends on how many members come forward to help with the planning and implementing. Already, it has been downsized from what we did for our 25th year at the Angel Park Pavilion (due to cost), to using our Barn and the grounds area. Please contact **Elaine Jellings (837-4461)** or any Board Member to offer help. Let's all pitch in and celebrate 40 years of theatre!

Wisconsin AACT Fest

Some of you may remember AACTFest 2005 with Sun Prairie Civic Theatre's entry *G.I. Jukebox*. Although Sun Prairie Civic Theatre doesn't have an entry this year, the festival will be held on **February 27-March 1, 2009** at the River Arts Center in Prairie du Sac, WI. This festival is an opportunity for community theatre to showcase their theatre with a 60-minute production. Each production is followed by adjudicated comments by each of three judges. One or two of the productions will be selected to represent the State of Wisconsin at the Region III AACTFest'09, April 17-19, 2009 at the South Bend Civic Theatre, South Bend, IN. For further information, you may contact **Frank Peot (837-9179)** or go to the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre's Web site at www.wact.org.

AACTFest is a bi-annual festival of community theatre through out the United States beginning with state level festivals. Each state will select one or two entries to represent them at a regional festival, which in turn selected one show to represent the region at the National AACT fest in Tacoma, WA, June 23-27, 2009. Each production must follow the same guidelines. Companies have 10 minutes to set up their stage, 60 minutes to perform their show, and 10 minutes to strike to a bare stage. Knowledgeable people from around the country who have skills and an understanding of community theatre immediately adjudicate each of the productions. The twelve productions presenting in Tacoma may have an opportunity to take their productions to an international level. Community theatres present a wide variety of productions from children's show, Shakespeare, musicals, comedy, heavy drama and experimental types of theatre. Many times, a community theatre will choose to do something that they would not ordinarily do for one of their main stage productions, thus experimenting and expanding their horizons. Each festival is a unique opportunity to see what other community theatres are doing - some good and some not so good.

News of Former Members!

Bruce and Bonnie Bennett wrote that their daughter, **Gail**, is now an Equity actress. Gail is married to Aaron, who is also a singer and dancer. Gail has been busy with musicals. Last September, she played Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* opposite Tony Award- winner, Jefferson Mays, at the Oquonquit Playhouse near Kennebunkport. She also did a run of *The Producers* in the Boston area and did the musical *Nine* in San Diego. In December, Gail was in LA for a special two-week run of *A Christmas Carol* at the Kodak Theatre. Some of the stars in the show were Christopher Lloyd, Jane Seymour and John Goodman. She has also been cast in the National Tour of the musical, *Mary Poppins* beginning rehearsals in Chicago this January.



It's good to hear about our young kids who got their start in SPCT and are doing theatre around the country. The list includes: **Kelly Unmuth, Natalie Buster, Gail Bennett, Ken Urso, Lisa Mueller & Brad Kish.** As members of SPCT, we can be very proud of these young people!

SPCT 2008-09 Season

Steel Magnolias

Production Dates: February 6 & 7; 13, 14 & 15, 2009

All Shook Up

Audition Dates: February 23 & 24, 2009; 7-10 PM at The Barn

Production Dates: May 1 & 2; 8, 9 & 10, 2009

2008-09 SPCT Board of Directors

- Frank Peot, President
- Kayse Wichelt, Vice-President
- Karl Grimm, Secretary
- Livvia Goff, Treasurer
- Michael Truman, Member at Large
- Krista Berggren, Member at Large
- Brian Goff, Member at Large
- Paul Hildebrand, Member at Large
- Tim Olmstead, Member at Large
- Rex Owen, Member at Large
- Darrel Snyder, Member at Large



"Dragonfly"

Available in January is a new CD project by Sun Prairie local recording artist **Amy (Allen) Frank**. Amy was a SPCT member about 10 years ago and did some publicity for us. Amy, like many of us, has been touched by and has touched families who fight cancer. Out of a deep desire to do more, she has recorded this exciting new album entitled "Dragonfly" with San Francisco recording artist Ken Medema. A portion of the sales from this CD will go directly to *CaringBridge*, a non-profit Web service that connects family and friends during a critical illness, treatment and/or recovery. Kirby Davidson's son, Ryan, is on *CaringBridge*. (Kirby has played drums in our pit orchestra over the years). Take some time to view Amy's Web site www.amyfrankmusic.com.

Calendar of Events

- **2/10/09:** SPCT Board Meeting; 7 PM @ The Barn
- **2/23-2/24/09:** Auditions for *All Shook Up*; 7-10 PM @ The Barn (Possible call-backs on 2/25 & 2/26/09)
- **2/27-3/1/09:** WI AACT 2009; River Arts Center, Prairie du Sac, WI
- **3/1/09:** Deadline for Call for Directors for *Always-Patsy Cline & Alice in Wonderland*
- **3/10/09:** SPCT Board Meeting; 7 PM @ The Barn
- **6/1/09:** Deadline for Call for Directors for *The Foreigner & Children of Eden*
- **4/14/09:** SPCT Board Meeting; 7 PM @ The Barn
- **6/19-6/20/09:** 40th Anniversary Celebration of SPCT!

Visit us at

The Barn
500 South Bird Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Call us at 608-837-8217

Write us at

SPCT
P.O. Box 132
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0132

Web site: www.sunprairiecivictheatre.com

Do you want to become a member of SPCT? Contact President Frank Peot at 608-837-9179 for details!



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.