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COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE**

2001-2002 SEASON

Sixty-Seventh Season
production no. 493

**SEVEN
GUITARS**

By August Wilson



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February 27 - March 17, 2002



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In tune . . .

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67th Season

Weathervane Community Playhouse

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on the web at www.weathervaneplayhouse.com

2001-2002 MAINSTAGE SEASON PRODUCTIONS

#490 - #496

September 12 - 30, 2001

The Sunshine Boys

Comedy by Neil Simon

October 17 - November 3, 2001

Dracula

Classic play by John Balderston & Hamilton Deane

January 16 - February 10, 2002

The Fantasticks

Musical by
Harvey Schmidt & Tom Jones

February 27 - March 17, 2002

Seven Guitars

Drama by August Wilson

April 10 - 28, 2002

As Bees in Honey Drown

Comedy by Douglas Carter Beane

May 15 - June 2, 2002

Wit

Drama by Margaret Edson

June 19 - July 14, 2002

Fiddler on the Roof

Musical by Jerry Bock, Sheldon Harnick & Joseph Stein

Program subject to change

YOUTH/FAMILY PRODUCTIONS

July 28 - August 12, 2001

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White & Joseph Robinette

November 24 - December 22, 2001

Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber

April 13 - 28, 2002

Our Town

by Thornton Wilder

SPECIAL EVENTS

Very Special Arts, Summit County
10th Anniversary Celebration
presents

The Land of White Pearls

Performed by Firestone High School
Thespians

October 6, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.

WEATHERVANE WOMEN'S BOARD

presents

The Reluctant Dragon

Performed by the Piper Puppets
May 4, 2002



Patron Information

★ **Emergency Exits** are located at the left front of the auditorium and the left side of the lobby. Front door and main lobby side exits will also be used in case of emergency.

★ **Restrooms** are found just off the entrance lobby ramp at the rear of the auditorium. Both men's and women's restrooms are wheelchair accessible.

★ **Handicapped Services** include seating for a limited number of wheelchairs. Please notify in advance if needed. Exterior and interior ramps make access easy for wheelchairs.

★ **Assistive Listening Devices** are available at the Box Office for the hearing impaired. This service is available thanks to the generosity of Virginia and J. Robert Wilson. In addition, some performances at Weathervane may feature American Sign Language or audio-description translations.

★ **Patrons** who are expecting calls should leave name and seat number with the House Manager. We request that electronic pagers and cellular phones be left at the Ticket Office and that alarm wristwatches be turned off during a performance.

★ **Beverages and Food** may not be taken into the auditorium during performances.

★ **Use of Cameras, Tape Recorders, TV cameras** is prohibited during performances.

★ **Curtain time** - Every effort is made to begin shows promptly at 8 p.m. for evening

performances and at 2:30 p.m. for Sunday matinees. We appreciate audience courtesy in arriving on time.

★ **Latecomers** will be quietly seated at the rear of the auditorium during a suitable break in the play if space is available and may take their reserved seats after intermission.

★ **Exiting the Theater** - For safety and as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers, please remain seated until the auditorium lights are on at intermission or after the show. Auditorium doors will not be opened until the house lights are on. Parking lot illumination assures that getting to your car will be easy and secure.

★ **Smoking** - Weathervane Playhouse is a smoke-free facility. Smoking is permitted outside the building.

★ **Lost and Found** items will be held at the Ticket Office until claimed. Please inquire about them during business hours.

★ **Comments** from audience members are always welcomed with interest. Please feel free to write to Weathervane or call us to express your views and opinions about our productions, play selection or other matters. We appreciate hearing from you and will respond. Please send your comments to: *Executive Director, Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186.*

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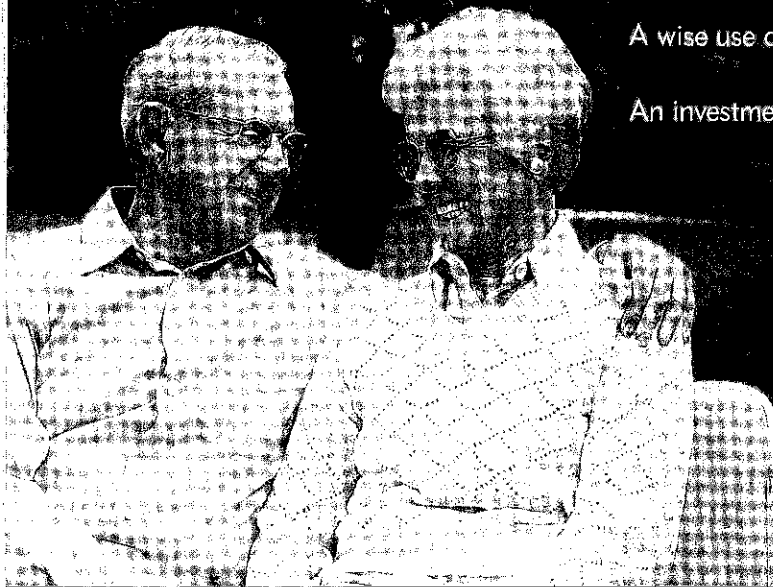
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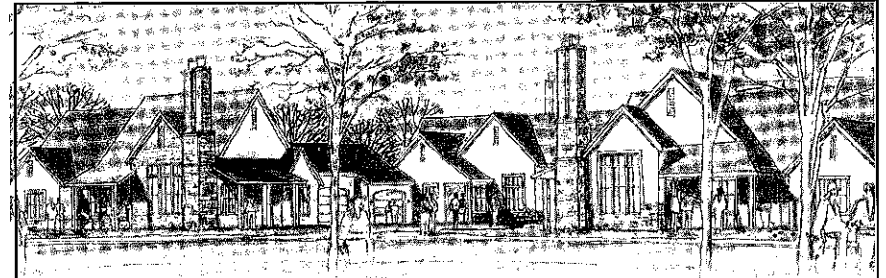


Jim ('34) and Claire D'Ianni

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From the Barn to the Valley A Brief Weathervane History



From 1935 until 1951, Weathervane was housed in a modest carriage house barn on Marshall Avenue in Akron. The Barn, as it was known, has long since been destroyed but there are still a few people who recall its cramped quarters and especially the energy and devotion of the four ladies, Grace Hower Crawford, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch and Muriel MacLachlan, who believed that Akron deserved the best in theater and that volunteers could make it all happen. The plaque in our lobby lists the names of the other founders who shared their commitment and who joined their ambitious mission, producing everything from light comedy to Shakespeare and opera.

Though the Barn is now only a memory, its rooftop weathervane gave the theater its name and logotype character, the Chanticleer.

Except in 1948 when located at the Pythian Temple, the Barn was home to Weathervane until 1951. Then the organization renovated a building on Copley Road and became a more accommodating 100-seat facility. In 1960, Weathervane hired its first professional director, Bob Belfance, who served until 1992. Along with long-time custodian/ticket office manager, Nora Scott, the two-person staff relied on volunteer support. Paid guest directors and children's theater instructors served in part-time positions and Weathervane existed on a lean budget. Ticket office receipts, along with donations and community support, helped Weathervane meet expenses and created a modest endowment fund. Volunteers still nourish all of Weathervane's activities.

In the mid-1960s, a fund-raising drive resulted in construction of the present 263-seat facility which opened in 1970, one of the first enterprises at the head of the corridor into the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Thanks to Grace Crawford's legacy, the mortgage has since been paid off. Growing audience demand for live entertainment and theater education continues to underscore Weathervane's needs for increased community support.

In its nearly seven decades, Weathervane has constructed, torn down, recycled, painted and refitted stage settings for more than 500 productions (when Stage Two and Youth Theater productions are included). We've stitched up hundreds of costumes, created lighting magic by the multi-watt, crafted reality out of scores of stage properties and, most of all, shared the talents of well over a thousand amateur performers, who take their performance curtain calls to the applause of more than a hundred thousand theater goers. This effort is the result of volunteer dedication based on the founders' original philosophy that "all who can contribute are welcome."

Our volunteer archivist, Cue Fleming, has compiled the impressive list of productions back to 1935, a record of the dedication of those who have given their time to present each show to please the audiences who seek entertainment excellence each time the lights go up. Share the link to Weathervane's past by joining in the applause for today's performance.

NOTE: Weathervane always appreciates donations of past programs, photographs or other theater memorabilia which can be added to our archives kept at the University of Akron. Thank you.



Ticket Information

★ **Tickets** may be purchased by telephone when you call 330-836-2626 Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You may also purchase tickets in person during these hours. On performance Saturdays only, the Ticket Office is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Ticket Office is also open one hour prior to all performances and remains open through the first intermission.

★ **Telephone reservations** must be charged to a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card. Reservations are also required when using coupons from your Weathervane Super Coupon book, complimentary tickets or coupons offered from any other cooperating arts organization. Please arrive at the Ticket Office at least 20 minutes before curtain time to pick up your tickets. Any unclaimed tickets will be released for sale to waiting ticket buyers five minutes prior to curtain at the discretion of the Ticket Office Manager and volunteers.

★ **Special seating** - Please inform us if you have seating preferences, or require special attention due to visual, auditory or other physical needs. We'll do our best to accommodate you, but please remember orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with season subscribers and advanced group sales taking first priority.

★ **Super Coupon holders** are reminded that coupons do *not* ensure seats for a specific performance. Please call the box office early to reserve seats with these pre-paid coupons.

★ **Season Subscriber Exchange** - Please call the Ticket Office at 330-836-2626 if you wish to exchange your subscription seat for another performance of the same show. Exchanges must be phoned in at least 24 hours prior to your originally

scheduled performance. We can't always guarantee the same seats but we'll give you the closest available replacements. An upgrade fee will be charged when changing subscription seats from the Preview Series to any other performance. *If you cannot use your subscription seats, please call us at least 24 hours in advance to release them. We will recognize this as a donation to Weathervane.*

★ **Student Rush Tickets** go on sale 30 minutes before curtain time allowing students with valid ID to purchase remaining tickets for half price on the night of performance, pending ticket availability. These tickets cannot be reserved in advance.

★ **Complimentary Tickets** for cast members and production volunteers require reservations and may be used only on designated performances. Complimentary tickets distributed to special donors also require reservations but may not be restricted to specific performances. Please let us know you wish to use a complimentary ticket when you telephone for a reservation.

★ **Discounted Group Reservations** are available for groups of 15 or more. Call Weathervane at 330-836-2626 to learn how you can entertain friends, associates, or clients with a night at the theater or to plan a fund-raising event for larger groups.

★ **Gift Certificates** are available through the Ticket Office at any time in any amount you choose.

★ **Recycle your playbills** - Anyone who doesn't wish to keep the playbill as a souvenir may drop it in our recycling box near the main entrance. We request that you do not bend, fold or deface the playbills as we will use them again for subsequent performances. Thank you.

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Women's Board

The Women's Board was formed in 1938 to "offer voluntary service and financial assistance to the Playhouse" and has been a vital part of Weathervane functions ever since. Women's Board has energized the youth education program, sponsored productions, spearheaded fund raisers and paid for many of the amenities audiences and production volunteers continue to appreciate in the Green Room and kitchen. Members of this active group are invaluable as hostesses, office helpers and hard workers on backstage projects. The Women's Board sponsors an annual puppet presentation for children and also operates the Gift Boutique and art gallery as on-going fund sources.

Weathervane Women's Board welcomes new members who serve an apprenticeship allowing them to explore the full spectrum of Weathervane activities in which they may wish to participate. Membership is open to all. If you are interested in becoming part of this vibrant organization, please let us know. Leave your name at the Ticket Office or write: Weathervane Women's Board, c/o Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186.

2001-2002 Women's Board Officers

Pat Obenour	President
Jean Questel	First Vice President
Susan Speers	Second Vice President
Alberta Carlin	Corresponding Secretary
Jill Forster	Treasurer
Nancy Zeigler	Assistant Treasurer

2001-2002 Women's Board Committee Chairs

Marci Paolucci	Art Gallery
Mary Wolfman & Patrice Bechtol	Boutique
Barbara O'Connor	Boutique Treasurer
Dorothy Kies & Henrietta Cook	Costumes
Lois Murray	Hostesses
Alberta Carlin & Pat Weill	Newsletter
Randie O. Sass & Jill Forster	Cast Suppers
Marilyn Heagerty	Office Volunteer Scheduler
Lois Simmons & Younghee Miller	Hospitality
Betty Williams & Leslie Lund	Puppet Show
Marta Williger & B.J. Zeigler	Membership

The Women's Board welcomes new members.



Patron Generosity

Weathervane appreciates the continuing strong support of individuals, corporations, foundations and other donors who help finance the theater's operations, capital improvements and endowment program. Weathervane is classified as a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Following are some of the many ways in which you can take pride in your support of the art of theater in our community.

★ Become a Weathervane Member.

Your annual support makes you a voting member of Weathervane Community Playhouse. You'll receive discounts on educational programs and other benefits, based on the membership level you choose. Members are invited to Weathervane's annual meeting and to other special events such as the Chanticleer Awards Banquet. Memberships are renewable annually, beginning at \$50 (Contributing), and continuing at Sustaining, Patron, Silver, Gold and Platinum Levels. Membership is actively solicited in the fall but is accepted at any time. Members are recognized in the Playbill.

★ Give a Special Gift To Say You Care.

Special donations may be made at any time to memorialize a friend or relative whose interest in Weathervane was significant to his or her life. You may also recognize and celebrate important dates or current achievements of relatives, friends or associates.

★ Remember Weathervane in Your Heart and in Your Will.

What better way to carry on your tradition of support to Weathervane than by a planned gift. By taking advantage of the tax laws which encourage charitable giving, the U.S. Government will share in the cost of your gift to Weathervane. Your gift can fulfill a specific purpose or project while providing your estate with tax savings. To help ensure that Weathervane will continue, please contact our Executive Director for more information.

★ **Check For Matching Gifts.** Many national and local corporations will match your donations to Weathervane,

increasing your generosity to the theater. Please check whether or not your company participates in such a program.

★ Designate Gifts To Local Foundations.

Several of this area's larger foundations accept memorial and tribute gifts in the name of specific organizations such as Weathervane Community Playhouse. Such gifts help assure continuing grants to the theater's operations and special projects. We are enormously grateful for the impressive history of foundation support in this community.

★ Sponsor or Underwrite a Production.

Our productions may be underwritten by local corporations or foundations. Benefits can include private "command performances" and special receptions for employees and friends when your business chooses this important method of support. Please call 330-836-2626. We'd like to discuss this kind of opportunity with your executive officers.

★ **Capital Project.** The new construction segment of the Capital Project includes a scene shop with basement storage, a 2nd-floor classroom, a 2nd-floor rehearsal hall, soundproof corral with construction of a production booth and office, elevator and fly gallery pocket above the stage. Donations for Stage Two of the project will purchase classroom furnishings, update the lighting system, purchase and install the rigging system for the fly gallery, renovate the lobby and replenish the Capital Fund for maintenance and repairs through 2010.

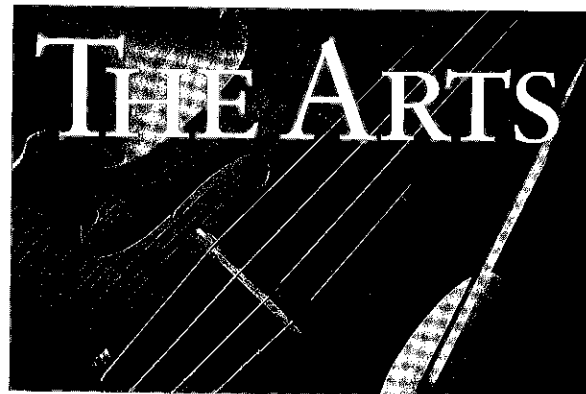


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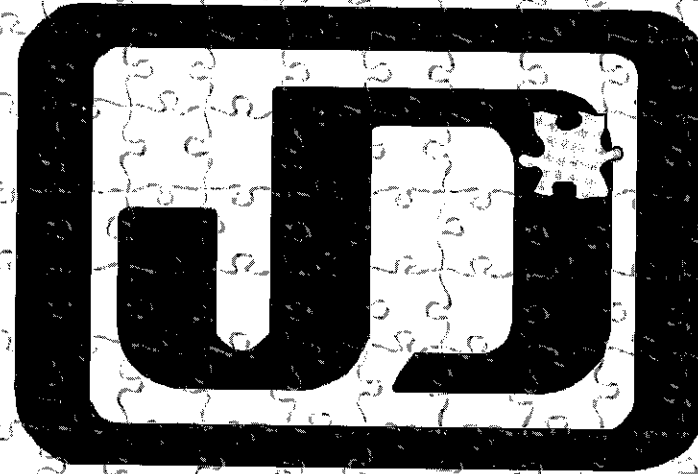
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Theater Education at Weathervane



Youth Education

Weathervane's mission to provide children's theatrical education began with Junior Weathervane classes in 1937. The education program has continued to grow since then with workshops and classes, plus production opportunities for children. In the 2001-2002 season, we offer professionally taught classes in acting, stagecraft, musical theatre and improvisation for children up to age 18. Fall and spring classes are held on Saturdays at Weathervane. In addition, two-week workshops for children are planned throughout the summer months. The cost is minimal with a limited number of scholarships available for motivated students and discounted fees for Weathervane members.

Children from throughout the community may also audition for roles in Youth/Family productions. Casting is not dependent upon class enrollment. Participation is an extension of valuable training in every facet of production from the audition process to technical and performance experience. Family members may also have learning opportunities by participating in such productions.

Weathervane works with area schools by providing outreach information and study guides in our **Project STAGE** program, which brings public and private school students to see as many as three productions each season. This season,

Dracula, *Seven Guitars* and *Our Town* will be featured in the **Project STAGE** events. Tickets are only \$7.

For information about classes or audition schedules for Youth Theater productions, please call our Education Coordinator at 330-836-2323.

Adult Classes and Theater Training

Professionally taught fall and spring Adult Theatre Education classes include Scenic Design, Stage Lighting, Directing, Improvisation and Classical Drama. These classes help both new and experienced actors to expand their own performance and public speaking skills. Classes are held at the theater and costs are affordable. Call 330-836-2323 ext. 17 for details.

Learning On the Job

Every volunteer participant in a production actually becomes part of Weathervane's continuing education process. You'll learn from more experienced actors and technical helpers who share the creation of production and performance. If you don't have time for structured classes, sign on to become a crew member or performer. We'll help you expand your knowledge of backstage and onstage responsibilities along with your own talents and imagination. Please call us at 330-836-2626 and let us show you how to give new wings to your talent and new meaning to your time.

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Weathervane Board of Trustees

Weathervane Community Playhouse is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation operated by a board of volunteer trustees representative of the general community. Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees are open.

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Thomas R. Trotter	Immediate Past President

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Executive Director	Elynmarie Kazle



In Our Lobby Gallery

Works by Miller Horns

Miller Horns' work has been featured previously in our gallery and we are pleased to bring back newer works from his continuing output as a highly recognized member of northeast Ohio's art world. Born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1948, he's been an Akronite since moving here in 1953. Except for six months spent as a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, he continues to find both inspiration and recognition in this area. His works are part of several private collections and are also seen in public locations including Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, Advanced Elastomer Systems, Kaiser Permanente West and in the Cleveland Museum of Art permanent collection.

Among his many one-man shows since 1977 has been "The Mathews Hotel Project" which has underlined his vision for a permanent monument to mark the once-bustling Mathews Hotel, the signature location of North Howard Street as it was before the buildings were torn down. For years, the hotel was the only lodging place for many of the greatest black entertainers who came to Akron to perform. The hotel, though architecturally undistinguished, became noted not only for those who stayed there, but for its owner George Mathews and its business success in Akron. The Mathews Hotel project has been designated for an Ohio Historical marker by the Ohio Bicentennial Commission and Horns has spearheaded the design for a suitable sculpture as a monument. It will be sited between Martin Luther King Blvd. and Howard Street to commemorate an era rich in excitement, once part of Akron's cultural social setting.

Donations for the Mathews Hotel Monument can be made to ARC-Artists of Rubber City, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, at 32 Fir Hill, Akron 44304. By including the monument plans in this exhibition, Weathervane is proud to be part of this outreach project.

When Horns' exhibition closes here after *Seven Guitars*, his work will be part of The Akron Art Museum's upcoming exhibition: "Ohio Perspectives: Contemporary African-American Artists" to be seen at the museum from March 16 through June 2. You may also see him featured on Channels 45/49 on April 22 in a show titled *Sharing Art*.

Next On Our Stage -- Youth/Family Production



April 13 - 28, 2002

by Thornton Wilder

Directed by Sean McConaha

This classic play deserves repeating and Weathervane is proud to include it in our season of Youth/Family productions this year. *Our Town* visits the America of the early twentieth century as we see the changes that make family life so precious no matter what the calendar year may be. We will be proud to greet many new thespians on our stage, offering opportunities for age-appropriate cast members in many roles.

Come see *Our Town* one more time. You'll discover it never grows old in your heart and offers touching memories that linger with audiences of all ages.

GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

WEATHERVANE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

Capital Campaign



It's an exciting time at Weathervane Community Playhouse! Take a good look around and you'll see lots of changes. Most of the "big" stuff is behind the stage — a new scene shop, new classrooms and rehearsal hall. And the rest is up above you — a new enclosed production booth, new costume shop and the fly gallery.

We're grateful to the many, many people who helped us. Thanks to all our generous donors, campaign volunteers and project workers.

But we're not done yet. Much more is planned in Stage Two to make Weathervane the community playhouse our patrons deserve.

Join our growing cast of donors.
Pick up a pledge card today!

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Capital Campaign, Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, Ohio 44313. Or ask for a pledge card at the Box Office!

Weathervane Community Playhouse Capital Project Scope

Stage One

Work complete

- Scenery workshop
- Three classrooms
- Rehearsal hall
- Basement storage
- "Fly" gallery
- Elevator
- Soundproof production booth
- Costume shop
- Lighting system

Stage Two

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**SEVEN
GUITARS**

by August Wilson

Upcoming Events

◆ **Celebrity Male Style Show**

Friday, April 12 -- Doors open 6:00 p.m.

Tangier Restaurant & Cabaret, 532 W. Market Street

◆ **Akron Urban League Career Fair**

Thursday, May 16 -- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Akron Urban League, 250 E. Market Street

◆ **Akron Urban League Scholarship
Luncheon & Annual Meeting**

Saturday, May 18 -- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker -- Dr. Jeffrey Wallace, Univ. of Akron
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For more information contact:

The Akron Urban League Information Office at 330-434-3101



Weathervane Community Playhouse

67th Season - 2001-2002 - Production #493

February 27 - March 17, 2002



**SEVEN
GUITARS**

*by
August*

Sponsored by



Akron Urban League

Directed by **John Fagan**

Scenic Designer
Richard H. Morris*

Technical Director
Alan Scott Ferrall

**We thank the John A. McAlonan Fund of the Akron Community Foundation for its support of our Guest Artist Program through which we welcome Richard Morris as Scenic Designer.*

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*Seven Guitars is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.,
45 West 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.*

Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by



Ohio Arts Council

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Welcome friends!



With all the promise that a New Year brings, I ponder a new direction. I dedicated some time over the holidays and continue in February to reflect on where the next year might take us in this profoundly changed world. Weatherlane has always meant much to the health of our greater community through the past 67 years. It is imperative, now more than ever, that we continue to find ways to improve the health of our greater community through coming together and sharing good theatre.

I believe that our strongest charge continues to be to engage our community in the production of exciting work. We welcome and thank the continuing participation of you, our audience. In choosing to attend this play you complete the final piece of the experience that is live theater.

We are grateful for the support of our Trustees, Production and Women's Boards who, along with our small professional staff, must mentor, guide, collaborate, find and manage the resources of Weatherlane Playhouse. Their efforts bring ten special productions and over 150 performance nights to the boards each and every year.

As we look forward to our next season we will continue to choose plays that our community artists and participants will find challenging and interesting ... and contribute 60 to 100 hours of their time to in a four-to-eight-week period. We will choose plays with stories we are well capable of telling — and are affordable so we can keep the live theatre experience within reach of the greatest portion of our community. And last, but certainly not least, we need to choose plays that you, the audience, will find interesting — dare I say, entertaining?

I am very proud to be associated with a community treasure like Weatherlane. It is up to all of us to be ambassadors for this very important entity that we call our theatrical, cultural home. My thoughts continue to be with you and your loved ones at this time. Thanks for coming by to share this performance with us.

Elaine Kagle



Seven Guitars – Cast

Louise	Taba Aleem
Canewell	M. J. Louis
Red Carter	Raymont Scott
Vera	Tina Thompkins
Hedley	L. Arrington-Bey
Floyd Barton	Gregory A. Cosper
Ruby	Crystle Paynter

Place: Pittsburgh, PA, the Hill District Time: Spring, 1948

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission between the acts.

Note: No live animals were injured during the production, rehearsal or performance of this show.

Seven Guitars is a **Project STAGE** production. Teacher and student Study Guides, special performances, in-class discussions and special ticket prices are available.

We thank **The Sisler McFawn Foundation, Akron Community Foundation** and **Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation** for contributions for Project STAGE presentations.

Director's Notes

Directing a play as well-written as "Seven Guitars" is a gift from the Gods of theatre. How often does one come across a newly-written play that is crafted in such a way that every time a rehearsal begins, the excitement renews itself? What are we going to discover tonight? Are the things we've been attempting going to pay off? What if we change one thing here, will it affect something over there?

August Wilson writes amazingly complex plays. I compare his gifts with those of Shakespeare. In order to succeed, trust the words. In both cases, the words are intricately assembled. They are a great road map on which the journey is taken. Like any good map, there are varying ways to go to reach our final destination. In this case, that destination is tonight's performance.

So, sit back. Come along with us on the journey. Let the excitement be renewed. Will all we attempt pay off in the end? And, finally, perhaps something new about life, about art or about ourselves may be discovered.

***For your safety, we request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.**

***The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.**

***As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.**

***Please do not bring food or drink in the auditorium.**

Thank you.



Our Guest Director — John Fagan

A native of Akron, John is pleased to be returning to Akron to direct this production. He came back to his home turf to direct *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* not too long ago and we're happy to welcome him back once again, though he now lives in Greenville, South Carolina. Some of his favorite experiences at Weathervane include appearances in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound* and *Closer Than Ever*. He was also one of Weathervane's most reliable "techies" doing design work for *Road To Mecca* and *Master Harold...and the boys* among many others. Since moving to South Carolina, John has directed over 35 plays throughout the Southeast. He is a member of the Warehouse Theatre Board of Directors and, since 1999, he has been the Artistic and Producing Director of the Upstate Shakespeare Festival of South Carolina. The Festival brings free productions of Shakespearean plays to thousands of North and South Carolinians. During the summer of 2002, the Festival will present *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*. John is also the playwright of five plays which have been staged at several different theaters across the country. He thanks the Weathervane staff, Board of Trustees and the volunteers for the warm welcome back to Akron.

Next on stage



April 10 - 28, 2002

A satiric comedy by Douglas Carter Beane
Guest Director: **Tony Sias**

Contains adult language and subject matter.

Prepare yourself for a totally diverting theatrical excursion as you meet Alexa Vere de Vere, the remarkable heroine who decides to create a new life for herself to make her mark in the high-powered New York promotion world where everybody must be somebody to avoid being just anybody. Alexa is part Peter Pan, part Holly Golightly and part con artist. She decides to remold the life of young author Evan Wyler as she chooses him to write her biography. It doesn't take long for Alexa to have him envisioning a new future as he turns over his credit

cards and his common sense to her. But it's not just a story of grift and grab. It's sheer fun as a small cast prepares to surprise you as they adopt a variety of characters to dig into the world of high-priced hype, skewering the fantasies of young talent trying to attract attention in New York. With Alexa offering such observations as "eternity isn't as long as it used to be," you're bound to enjoy this show. Come see if Alexa can get away with it all. Perhaps she can't. You'll just have to call the Weathervane Ticket Office for your reservations and see what happens.



About the Play and Playwrights

Not one, but two Pulitzer Prizes, plus Tony Awards and others salute **August Wilson's** place as one of America's leading living dramatists. Having set himself the task of creating a cycle of plays documenting the African-American experience decade by decade in the twentieth century, Wilson created *Seven Guitars* as the seventh in his chronology, though they have not been written or produced sequentially and some of the remaining decades of the twentieth century remain to be addressed by the playwright. Weathervane has been proud to include Wilson's plays in our schedule within the past ten years with *Fences* (set in the 1950s) and *The Piano Lesson* (set in the 1930s).

Seven Guitars brings us to the mid-1940s and to Pittsburgh's Hill District where Wilson grew up. Born in 1945, he endured a difficult childhood and dropped out of school to spend most of his time reading his way through the city's Carnegie Library. He began writing poetry in his teens and purchased the typewriter that would change his life for a mere \$20. It was not until 1982 that he turned to play writing as he listened to the conversations and idiosyncrasies of people he encountered and began to create characters in his own mind. Many of his characters sprang to life as he wrote at the Hotel Edison in New York, filling pages in longhand at the hotel's coffee shop. Wilson now lives in Seattle with his wife and daughter.

Though it is not the musical you might expect, *Seven Guitars* is indeed filled with the riffs and rhythms of human interaction and the cadences of life in the 1940s. Each of the seven characters in the play adds his or her own gritty blues or tempo.

In fact, the play might well begin with a dirge since its prologue reveals six characters as they return from the funeral of Floyd Barton, a talented and popular musician on the verge of fame. From there we backtrack to the moments of Floyd's aspirations and his relations with each of the other characters in the backyard setting which has been designed for us by guest-artist **Richard Morris**.

Seven Guitars received its first Broadway production in 1996 after productions in both Chicago and Boston. Lloyd Richards, who had worked with Wilson on productions of his plays at Yale Repertory, was the New York director.

A Note From the Playwright

"Despite my interest in history, I have always been more concerned with culture, and while my plays have an overall historical feel, their settings are fictions, and they are peopled with invented characters whose personal histories fit within the historical content in which they live.

I have tried to extract some measure from their lives as they struggle to remain whole in the face of so many things that threaten to pull them asunder. I am not a historian. I happen to think that the content of my mother's life -- her myths, her superstitions, her prayers, the contents of her pantry, the smell of her kitchen, the song that escaped from her sometimes parched lips, her thoughtful repose and pregnant laughter -- are all worthy of art. Hence, *Seven Guitars*."



Callboard – Cast Biographies

TABA ALEEM (Louise) was trained in New York at the Afro-American Studio for Acting and Speech and appeared in many of its productions. After rearing four children, she moved back to this area and worked with the African Community Theatre at Kent State University appearing in several plays including *A Long Time Since Yesterday* as Laveer (1992) and *Panzi* (1994). Taba worked with director William Lewis in *From the Mississippi Delta*. She has played Mom in *The Fences Between* with The Rainbow Repertory Company and, in May 2001, enjoyed performing as Sojourner Truth and delivering the "Ain't I A Woman?" speech before audiences at the 150th anniversary of the YWCA and the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, a reenactment of the 1851 event. Her performance in this production is dedicated to Ronald T. Walker, scenic designer, visual artist and friend (1943-2001).

MYRON J. LEWIS (Canewell) played Boy Willie in our 1997 production of *The Piano Lesson*. He worked in a production of *The Meeting* at Detroit Theatre for Dramatic Arts and also appeared in an HBO film. He joined the Rainbow Repertory Company as Mr. Taylor in *Town House Plays*. A graduate of Morehouse College, he works with the Akron Health Department as an adolescent drug and alcohol counselor. While touring Africa in 1999, he did many original stage performances and he enjoys writing short plays and skits. He dedicates this performances with love to his mother and father who inspired his first Weathervane experience. "Love always."

RAYMONE SCOTT (Red Carter) is making his first Weathervane appearance in this production and we are always happy to welcome newcomers to our

stage. He is a graduate of Fisk University and is a Community Developer and works for the City of Akron. He plans to enter the U. S. Navy in April and dedicates this performance to his cousin K. D. Scott and the late educator, Patricia A. Turner.

TINA THOMPkins (Vera) was also a member of our *Piano Lesson* cast and added her soprano voice to *Working*. She also appeared at Weathervane in *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* just two years ago, but she's been very active in the Cleveland area, appearing most recently in *Tin Pan Alley Rag* at the Cleveland Play House. She's appeared in Red Hen Productions, with Cleveland Shakespeare, Kennedy's and East Cleveland productions. She has notched at least one TV commercial on her experience record and commutes to the Valley from Shaker Heights for this production.

L. ARRINGTON-BEY (Hedley) is a Karamu-trained actor. This is his third appearance in an August Wilson play and his second time as Hedley. The other production of *Seven Guitars* was in 2000 at Karamu and he appeared in its 1999 production of *Jitney* as Becker. He has been seen in more than sixteen productions including *First Breeze of Summer* in 1976 through Athol Fugard's *Playland* in 1993. He is best remembered as the winner of the Gilpin-Fest Service Award in the 1985-1986 season for work in another Fugard play, *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*. He toured with Karamu Productions to the Cincinnati Playhouse, John Carroll University and several other Ohio colleges as well as at Dobama Theatre.

GREGORY ALEXANDER COSPER (Floyd Barton) has been active in theater for over fifteen years. He started by taking theater classes and took what he learned to the Karamu stage. He's per-



Callboard Continued – Cast Biographies

formed in several plays at Karamu as well as at other theaters in Cleveland and other cities including his performance in Weathervane's *The Piano Lesson*. He received his B.A. Degree from Capital University and has taught theater classes at Karamu and privately for both children and adults. He is a Theater Consultant for M.B.B. Productions where he also directs productions. He is the CEO of The Eagle's Nest Management Company and is a Fashion Coordinator/business partner of Trybal Gear clothing line. "All things are possible through God. Never give up on your dreams."

CRYSTLE PAYNTHIER (Ruby) started out in the arts as a child ballet/modern dance performer in Los Angeles. Although

acting was always an interest, dancing was her joy. She took a few acting classes while still living in L.A., but it wasn't until she moved to Akron that she began pursuing an acting career as an adult. Since 1999, she has performed in both film and theater and has added stage-managing and directing to her resume. She studied theater at The University of Akron and at Karamu House in Cleveland where she appeared in *Black Nativity* and performed in *The Antwone Fisher Story*, directed by Denzel Washington. She has also been seen in a national commercial for the Sickle Cell Anemia Association. Crystle is honored to perform on Weathervane's mainstage and would like to do more print, theater and film work in the near future.

Backstage Callboard – Designer Biographies

RICHARD H. MORRIS, JR. (Scenic Design) We are pleased that this Karamu artist designed our set for *Mr. Rickey Calls A Meeting*, which was performed at Weathervane and Karamu last season. Having worked in numerous professional and community theaters since the early 1980s, Richard holds a B.A. Degree in scenic and lighting design from Kent State University. He has been scenic and lighting designer for Karamu since 1997 and includes designs for August Wilson's *Jitney* and *Seven Guitars* among a list that also includes *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Coming of the Hurricane*, *One Mo' Time*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Four Queens*, *Sophisticated Ladies* and *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*. For Cleveland Public Theatre, he designed scenery for *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Colored Museum*, *The Bacchae*, *The Tap Dance Kid*, as well as *Steal Away* and the Cleveland premiere of Laurence

Fishburne's *Riff Raff*. As Technical Director for Ensemble Theatre, he designed scenery for *The Rabbit Foot*, *Later Life* and *Meetings on the Porch*. He has also been production designer for a number of independent films such as a Richard Brooks production of *Tinted Windows* and *The Mad Magician*.

NIKKI RAFFERTY (Production Stage Manager) Nikki's volunteer work has earned Chanticleers for Best Production for both *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way To the Forum* and *Camping with Henry and Tom*. She's been a reliable backstage techie for several years and also recently helped the Actors Repertory Company by stage managing its production of the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*. The hours she's put in for Weathervane find her among the Top Ten volunteers almost every year. She lives in Akron and keeps in touch with her son in Bowling Green.



Backstage Callboard Continued – Designer Biographies

MARY KATE CLANCY (Assistant Stage Manager) is Co-Chairman of Weathervane's Production Board and also serves on the Executive Committee of our Board of Trustees. She handled stage manager responsibilities for *The Philadelphia Story*, *A Man for All Seasons* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* as well as *Blithe Spirit* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* in recent seasons. She teaches second grade for Brecksville-Broadview Heights Schools.

MICHAEL B. AYERS (Properties Design) is a first-time designer. He is a graphic designer, designing posters, logos and illustrations for shows at Firestone High School and for his daughter's endeavors at Point Park College. Michael helped his brother Chuck with some of the backdrop painting for Weathervane's *Romeo and Juliet*. He says he is "excited about this play and impressed with the cast as they were going through the rehearsal process." As properties designer, his aim is to "bring atmosphere and realism to the production."

STEPHEN MOUSHEY (Sound Design) has been a sound crew volunteer, but this is only his second time as sound designer. He designed the sound for *Of Mice and Men* last season and was a sound crew volunteer for *The Sunshine Boys*, *Dracula* and *Communicating Doors*. He and wife Eileen are awaiting the grand entrance of their second grandchild in March to join daughter Colleen Lyons' family. Steve has an M.A. Degree in family studies from Kent State University and resides in Kent.

MARK A. ZIMMERMAN (Lighting Co-design) serves on Weathervane's Production Board as the FirstEnergy Lighting Co-Chair. He is the Theatre Director at Firestone High School where he has developed a program that presents a full season of plays and musicals. Mark has over 30 plays to his credit including Weathervane

productions of *Oliver*, *The Philadelphia Story* and *Dear Gabby: The Confessions of an Over-Achiever*. He created the lighting for *The Fantasticks*, and previously set lighting for *Having Our Say*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Gross Indecency* and others. Mark received his B.A. Degree from Bowling Green State University and his M.A. Degree in Theatre Arts from The University of Akron.

ERIN DILLON (Lighting Co-design) is a senior at Copley High School and this production is her second as co-designer. She has previously volunteered with lighting responsibilities for *Dracula* and *Joseph...* She looks forward to attending Ohio Northern University to pursue a degree as a Doctor of Pharmacy.

SANDRA HARDING (Costume Co-Design) designed costumes for last season's *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting* and took on many of the costume designs for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She was awarded well-deserved accolades by the Ohio Community Theater Association for her costume designs for Weathervane Youth-theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

SHARON MORGAN (Costume Co-Design) is discovering that Weathervane is a great place to volunteer when children are gone and one has time on one's hands. The costume crew always has room to encourage more talented people like her.

RANDIE O. SASS (Production Supervisor-Costumes) designed costumes for *Gross Indecency...*, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, *Company*, *Conversations with My Father*, *Translations* and *Fences*. The previous season, she designed costumes for *Oliver!* with daughter Leah. With a Masters Degree in Library Science from K. S. U., Randie is a research and information consultant.



Production Team Members & Crews

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson	John Hujar
Tom Marshall	John Knowles
Kevin Ford	Charles Korecki
Judy Kempthorn	Devon Settles

COSTUMES

Betty Williams	Randie O. Sass
Betty Watterson	Lois Murray
Liz Raines	Ethel Soudry
Janet Heilmeier	Henrietta Cook

LIGHTS

Mandy Davis	Whitney Turner
Rachel Harold	Cherry Kassebaum
Bret T. Holden	Ashley Mains
Britta Nugent	Stephanie Kohl
Mia Osherow	Raechel Hazelett
Danielle Ruzen	

PROPERTIES

Michael B. Ayers and Family
Chuck Ayers and Family
The Riazzi Family
Diane Herman

SOUND

Donna Philips	Lois Bennett	Tom Barnes
Mary Kate Clancy		Chris Czirok

Acknowledgments

Vaughn Austin -- OCTA Representative	Chuck Myricks and Arlington Church of God
Voice of Distinction: Joe Cali -- Fight Announcer	Jack & Blanche Fagan
Rob Albrecht -- Blues Guitarist	Jack Ashton
Scott Ferrall & Charles Korecki -- Technical Assistance	Assisting Stage Managers: Tony Harding, Maryanne Cotter, M.J. Coulson
John Fagan & Eileen Moushey -- Internet Research	<i>That's All Right</i> : Sung by Gregory Cosper Guitar by Rob Albrecht

A Memorial Contribution was made to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Irving Haberman** by
Maryanne & John Cotter

Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following are the vivacious volunteers who assisted you by hostessing, house managing and staffing the boutique, office or Green Room during *The Fantasticks*

Puru & Meena Agrawal	M.J. Coulson	Younghee Miller	Suzanne Smith
Nora Barner	Eileen Creevy	Amanda Montigney	Susan Speers
Patrice Bechtol	Eileen Crist	Sheila Motter	Barb Stevic
Kitty Brown	Harriet DeVeto	Pat Obenour	Evelyn Stiggers
Sally Brown	Margaret Dietz	Barbara O'Connor	Linda Waite
Jan Budai	Cue & Helen Fleming	Jean Questel	Betty Watterson
Karen Burridge	Jill Forster	Liz Raines	Pat Weill
Amorya Farrier-Cain	Marilyn Heagerty	Joanne Reed	Betty Williams
Alberta Carlin	Linda Heath	Ruth Richardson	Mary Wolfman
Juanita Carlson	Janet Heilmeier	Randie & Leah Sass	Marie Woodall
Janet Clark	Fran Howell	Steve Schmidt	Gen Woods
Henrietta Cook	Barb Kistler	Dorothy Shafer	Jean Ann Yoe
Thelma Coss	Leslie & Richard Lund	Debra Sharp	Nancy Zeigler
John Cotter	Claudena Miller	Lois Simmons	Marge Ziegler

Future Events

*Salon Readings...

- Mar. 3 *All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*
by Robert Fulghum
Dir. by Linda Wyler Graskie
- May 5 *Skylight* by David Hare
Directed by Jim Fippin
- June 9 *Light Sensitive*
by Jim Geoghan
Directed by Bud Graskie

*Sundays at Seven: Salon Play Readings are held in the Weathervane lobby at 7 p.m. (on selected Sundays) with light refreshments and discussions following presentations. The events are free of charge. All are welcome.

April 10 - 28
As Bees in Honey Drown by Douglas Carter Beane

April 13 - 28
Our Town by Thornton Wilder
Youth Production -- Project STAGE

May 15 - June 2
Wit by Margaret Edson



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- JAN 19** DAWN UPSHAW, *soprano*
GILBERT KAUSH, *piano*
Saturday, 8 pm
- FEB 19** RED STAR RED ARMY
CHORUS & DANCE ENSEMBLE
Tuesday, 8 pm
- MAR 3** THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA
Sunday, 3 pm
Steven Smith, conductor
Garrick Ohlsson, piano
- APR 9** EVELYN GLENNIE,
percussion
Tuesday, 8 pm
- APR 30** VADIM GLUZMAN, *violin*
ANGELA YOFFE, *piano*
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Project Stage

A unique educational package for junior and senior high school students that includes reduced ticket prices!

Project STAGE is a program developed by Weathervane Playhouse to bring to young audiences the excitement of live theater. Each season, selected plays that have exceptionally high literary values are made available to junior and senior high school students.

Teachers and students receive study guides that contain material about the play and playwright to prepare the students before coming to the theater. Pre-performance, in-class discussions are conducted free of charge by Weathervane staff and volunteers.

Students, teachers and chaperones can see the play at the **special Project STAGE ticket price of \$7**. After the performance, the actors and audience may participate in a talkback session.

Dracula, October 17 - November 3,
Seven Guitars, February 27 - March 17 and
Our Town, April 13 - 28 are the **Project STAGE** offerings this season. It is not too early to start making plans to bring your students. We will be glad to help you start the arrangements.

Call our Education Department at 330-836-2323 ext. 17.

Missing Painting

Merron and Elizabeth Latta, who volunteered actively at Weathervane's first "barn" theater, painted portraits of the original Marshall Avenue structure. The painting done by Mrs. Latta hangs in our Ticket Office. A similar watercolor, done by her husband, has eluded us.

Can you help us find the painting? If you've seen a painting similar to the one in the Ticket Office, please let us know. We'd love to reunite the paintings!



Coach House Theatre

2001-2002 Season

BETRAYAL

by Harold Pinter
September 13 - 29, 2001

A Shot In The Dark

by Harry Kurnita & Marcel Achard
November 8 - 25, 2001

the last of the red hot lovers

by Neil Simon
February 14 - March 2, 2002

THE LION IN WINTER

by James Goldman
May 23 - June 8, 2002

Coach House Theatre offers a season of passion, mystery, romance and comedy as we present our 74th season of great theatre! And since theatre doesn't exist without an audience, we need you to make it complete. Join us!

Jim Fippin
Resident Director



October 12 - 21, 2001



CHRISTMAS
CAROL

November 30 -
December 16, 2001



February 1 - 3, 2002

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Weathervane Playhouse Staff

Elynmarie Kazle
Executive Director

Keith D. Campbell
Front-of-House Coordinator

Alan Scott Ferrall
Scenic Designer/Technical Director

Janis L. Harcar
Director of Marketing & Development

Sean McConaha
Dir. of Education/Producer Youth Prod.

Maryanne A. Cotter
Volunteer & Production Coordinator

John A. Cotter
Business & Public Relations Assistant

Pat Biddle/Kathy Eichler
Bookkeeper

Justin Akers
Summer Intern



Weatherlane Professional Staff

ELYNMARIE KAZLE (Executive Director) is entering her fifth WCP season. Formerly Resident Producer at Santa Monica Playhouse and Associate Managing Director for Actors Alley, she produced Ohio playwright Nancy Kiefer's *The Illustrated Woman* and Sweden's Darling Desperados' *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* to critical acclaim in L.A. where she was a theatrical producer and publicist for over ten years. Other credits include Great Lakes "Shakespeare Festival," San Diego's Old Globe Theater, NY's Brooklyn Academy of Music and Los Angeles Classical Ballet. She is pleased to be living in Akron (with husband Mark and son Banno) where she worked with Tom Skelton at Ohio Ballet. Elynmarie holds an MFA from Ohio University and is Vice-President - Membership and Development - for the U.S. Institute for Theater Technology.

JANIS L. HARCAR (Director of Marketing & Development) holds an M.A. in Arts Administration from The University of Akron and a B.S. in Music Education from Kent State University and has been a Weatherlane staff member since 1993. She serves as the Artistic Director of the Ravenna Community Choir and Director of St. Paul Lutheran Church Choir also in Ravenna. Jan occasionally serves as Musical Director for local productions.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/ Technical Director) began at Weatherlane under the tutelage of John R. Thomas. Learning the skills necessary to work full-time in the theater, Scott was hired at Cuyahoga Falls High School as auditorium manager, where he spent the next six years. During that time, he was awarded a Design Excellence citation from USITT for *Carousel*, and a place in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He has also designed

for many local high schools as well as for The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. Scott has earned two Chanticleer Awards, one as stage manager for *Fences*, the other as lighting co-designer for *A Man for All Seasons*. Scott also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players who appear at our annual Chanticleer Awards Dinner.

SEAN McCONAHA (Director of Education and Producer of Youth/Family Productions) holds a dual major in Theater Performance and Pre-Law from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an M.A. in Theater from The University of Akron. He is co-founder of the Prodigal Theatre Company and is a free-lance actor and director throughout Northeastern Ohio. Sean directed the OCTA award-winning production of *Romeo and Juliet* as well as the 1999-2000 season's Chanticleer winner for Best Production, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. He is also the Drama Director for Archbishop Hoban High School. He and wife, Beth, and daughters, Leda and Delaney, live in Canton.

KEITH D. CAMPBELL (Front-of-House Coordinator) holds a B.A. in English from The University of Akron, where he served as editor of *The Buchtelite* and sang with the Akron Symphony Chorus. During the summers of 1995 and 1996, he interned in the box office at Porthouse Theatre Company. Keith has done post-baccalaureate studies in Arts Administration at The University of Akron. This is his sixth season at WCP.

MARYANNE ARCURI COTTER (Volunteer & Production Coordinator) has been a volunteer at Weatherlane since 1984. She worked on every set from 1984-1989 as well as on props, lights or sound crew for

every show. She also stage-managed at least one show per season for that period and has won Chanticleers for *Master Harold...and the boys* and *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. She has been a member of the Production Board as head of Stage Managers and has appeared on stage in our production of *Daughters* and in the Women's Board production of *Cinderella*. Maryanne has professionally stage managed at the Halle Theater in Mayfield Heights. From 1989-1991 she was the Co-Director of Marketing and Development at the Playhouse. Maryanne and husband John live in Akron and have three grown children and two beautiful grandchildren!



JOHN COTTER (Business and Public Relations Assistant) is one of Weatherlane's newest parttime employees. His duties consist of helping Jan and Keith in the Marketing and Box Office areas. He also serves on Weatherlane's Production Board as Chair of House Managers. John is a retiree of 36 years with Ohio Edison. He has been a long-time volunteer of the Playhouse and has served on the Production Board as it's President and as Co-Chair of Properties. He has also worked backstage for many productions and has won Chanticleers for Properties Design for four productions — his most recent being last season's co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*. He is, however, most proud of his two grandchildren, Dana and Nicholas.

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Weathervane Hours

Weathervane Business Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. To place ticket orders call the **Ticket Office** at **330-836-2626**. The ticket office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. During performances, the Ticket Office opens one hour before each performance and remains open through the first intermission only. On performance Saturdays only, the Ticket Office is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ticket hours on performance Sundays begin at 1:30 p.m. Reservations may be made in person or by telephone with a credit card number.

Of course, rehearsals, set construction, classes and performance times often mean that staff and volunteers are likely to be available at other times than the hours noted during the week. For information, please call 330-836-2626. You may leave a voice mail message for a staff member, but we do not accept recorded ticket reservations. For any Ticket Office-related business, please call during Ticket Office hours.

Akron Area Arts Alliance

Weathervane Community Playhouse is a member of the **Akron Area Arts Alliance**. Its mission statement is "to utilize its collective resources to

- 1) foster communication and coordination among area cultural groups
- 2) generate greater awareness and participation in the arts and humanities in all segments of the community
- 3) promote the value of the arts and humanities to local governments and advocate its financial investment in the community's cultural activities."

Season Coupons

Seats for Weathervane’s most popular shows, especially those late in the season, often sell out fast. Saturday night seating is frequently difficult to obtain, so it’s smart to call for reservations early. *Please remember that coupons don’t guarantee your seats. You must call for reservations.* Check the production schedule in your Super Coupon book and plan to use as many coupons as you wish for the shows you plan to see. We hope you’ll use your convenient coupons frequently and won’t find yourself missing out on sold-out shows or ending the season with unused coupons. Performances and schedules are subject to change so, for the most up-to-date information, call our ticket office at 330-836-2626.

Remember, you can always buy a new Super Coupon book at the Ticket Office any time you want to treat yourself and several friends to a Weathervane show. Books of eight coupons provide a modest savings over regular admission prices.

Mission Statement Weathervane Community Playhouse

The mission of the Weathervane Community Playhouse is to entertain, inform and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the Greater Akron area. Weathervane shall provide area residents the opportunities both to attend and to participate in quality presentations of a cross-section of the finest theatrical works available. Weathervane shall provide education in the theater arts to adults and children. In meeting these goals, Weathervane shall be mindful of the standards of its audiences and shall maintain fiscally sound management.



We're Proud Of Weathervane Volunteers

Weathervane began as a volunteer organization and continues its growth thanks to the time and talent members of our community continue to invest in it. Our on-stage performers have worked long and hard to earn your applause. But their work is supported by many other unseen men and women who've helped build and paint sets, run the lights and sound, make sure that properties and set dressing items are in their proper places and do other backstage labor from stage managing to costuming and make-up. Supporting those who are actively involved in putting on each show are still more volunteers who usher, house manage, sell tickets, keep our office running and serve on our Board of Trustees, Board committees and Women's Board.

Their spirit is the backbone of our continuing operations, a valued support on which our professional staff relies.

Each month, we acknowledge the outstanding Volunteers of the Month in our lobby, but those volunteers represent all who commit their time and interest to create a great theater experience for everyone who's come to see this show.

If you have friends or relatives who volunteer generously at Weathervane, we hope you'll take a moment to thank them for their help and their support of the cultural enrichment of our community. Better yet, join them! Call us and we'll help you win your own share of the applause for a "jolly good show," an experience that offers unique challenges with every performance.

Share the Annual Chanticleer Celebration

Shortly after the final production of each season, Weathervane volunteers and friends share an exciting party to acknowledge outstanding performances by performers and technical volunteers. The top performers are awarded rooster statuettes—Chanticleers—in recognition of their work, as voted by Chanticleer "judges" who have seen all productions during the season. It's a great night to get together, share hopes, fun and festivities and is open to all.

If you'd like to take an additional part in Chanticleer night and serve as a juror to vote for the award winners, all that is required is your affidavit that you have seen all seven shows during the season, and your choices for outstanding lead performances by a male

or female in a drama or comedy, outstanding support performances, and outstanding lead and support in a musical as well as choices in technical achievement. Chanticleers are also awarded for Properties, Lights, Costumes and Sound Design, plus Best Production of the season. In addition to performance and production awards, the event also recognizes outstanding volunteers of the year.

Chanticleer ballots are available during the run of the season's final show in July or August each year. We welcome regular theater-goers who'd like to take part in the jurying and join us for the biggest nail-biting party of the year. For information, please call our office.



Put On Your Own Show

Let our space be your space for company sales meetings or seminars. Club or organization meetings, even weddings, can often be conveniently staged at Weathervane! Tell us what you may require and we'll help you with arrangements at reasonable rental rates when productions or construction are not going on at the theater. Our kitchen facilities and technical equipment may help you set up a very important gathering. For information, call (330)836-2323.

Organization Benefit Opportunities

A benefit night or matinee at Weathervane can add funds to your club or organization treasury and could be an exciting annual event. Check the schedule of this season's productions. Perhaps one of the shows will dovetail with the aims and purpose of your group.

Discounted tickets for groups of 15 or more may be sold at a profit or passed along to your members. To create a dramatic fund-raiser or special celebration, you may also plan for catered refreshments. Your fund-raising chairman can get further details on a benefit night at Weathervane by calling Front-of-House Coordinator, Keith Campbell.

Boutique Treasures

Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of Weathervane Women's Board. Shop from one hour before curtain time or during intermission to find exciting jewelry, watches, bibelots, music boxes, and other unique items and objects for yourself or for gifts. Every purchase helps make good things

happen at Weathervane. Prices are extremely reasonable and the items on sale include a delightful variety from clowns and animal figures to pens, pins and earrings. Our Boutique volunteers will also assist you with information on gallery art works which are for sale.

Gift Certificates — Always Available

Whatever the occasion, a Weathervane Gift Certificate will fit! Please friends or family members with a night (or nights) of live theater. Weathervane Gift Certificates may be issued in any amount you choose. All the recipient needs to do is to call for reservations to the preferred perform-

ance. We'll do the rest with a memorable production during our season. Just ask for a Gift Certificate at the Ticket Office. You may pay with check or charge card to give a Weathervane gift you know your friends or family will applaud.



Weathervane Traditions

Meet the cast. It's a Weathervane tradition that, after most shows, many of the cast members may spend a few minutes in the lobby area to meet and greet friends from the audience. It's your chance to thank them for their performance.

Intermission Tea is served with our compliments by our volunteer hosts and hostesses. Please enjoy a cup with us. Soft drinks are available at a nominal cost.

Opening Night Receptions welcome our audiences on the first Friday night of each production. We'll provide light snacks and refreshments after the show so you can share that "first-nighter" feeling.

For your sweet tooth, snacks are available for purchase before the show and during intermission. Refreshments are not permitted in the auditorium.

Beware of the Dreaded No-Show

Have you ever seen empty seats at a *sold out* Indians game? Weathervane has the same problem. Single-ticket buyers and subscribers who may have exchanged from another performance wonder why they weren't given those prime empty seats for the evening.

When you buy a subscription, you are *promising* to come to the theater for that ticketed performance and we hold your seat(s). These subscription seats are held until intermission. This, additionally, makes it impossible to tell if a performance is ever really *sold out* and annoys ticket buyers who see that they could have been seated in a better spot.

Subscribers: Please call the Ticket Office at 330 836-2626 if you will not make your ticketed performance. Thanks.

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coupon books are available all season. Booklets contain eight coupons and serve as pre-paid admissions for mainstage series productions. Use them one-at-a-time or all at once!



Where Theater Comes Alive!

Membership Helps Us Grow

Individuals and businesses who believe strongly in the value of community theater to enrich the area are always welcomed as new or renewing members of Weathervane Community Playhouse. For those whose names are listed in the program, there are many benefits, not the least of which is the pride you can share in supporting the mission of live theater's education and entertainment values.

Your support and commitment are welcome and appreciated any time and are needed now more than ever. For those who are already members, we suggest that an increase in your membership may be an idea whose time has come in the face of dwindling government resources.

If you truly enjoy live theater, you'll be playing a vital part every time the lights go up for each show on the Weathervane stage and we can honestly say that the show couldn't go on without you.



Who Gets On Stage at Weathervane?

The performers you see on the Weathervane stage come from throughout the greater Akron and surrounding areas. They're volunteers, just like the many men and women who supply backstage talent to make sure the show goes on performance after performance. They've committed themselves to four to six weeks of rehearsals plus performances, and their greatest reward is your applause.

Many performers come to our shows with substantial theatrical experience. Others may be new to the stage. Frequently we find that talented newcomers to our area find that Weathervane is a great way to make new friends especially if they've been involved with community productions in their former home town.

Auditions are open to all and our non-traditional casting policy opens the way for performance opportunities for ethnic minority actors and others who may be physically or mentally challenged. Except in cases where race, gender, age or disability is essential to the play, all roles are cast on the basis of talent and sincerity of purpose.

To find out how you can get on stage, check the newspaper for audition dates and times or call Weathervane at 330 836-2626 if you are interested in auditioning for a role in one of our upcoming productions or in a Youth

Theater production. We'll tell you about requirements.

Weathervane shows are never "pre-cast." When you've been in a show or auditioned, your name will be included in our file so we can send you future audition notices. Some guest directors prefer to set appointments for audition times and may ask that you come prepared with a brief monologue, improvisational subject or musical number. Copies of plays scheduled or audition scenes are often available for a nominal deposit.

When you arrive at the theater on audition nights, you'll learn about the rehearsal and performance schedule ahead. You may also register as a production volunteer if you're interested in learning about the technical opportunities in the show.

You may be asked to return for callbacks and will be notified of the director's cast selection as soon as possible. Please note that if you don't win the role you've wanted so badly, it may not necessarily reflect on your talent. The director's choice of cast members must take many factors into account to develop the proper "relationships," style and reality of the ensemble. Don't be discouraged. Come try again. The next show may suit you even better!





BANQUETS

10...100...500...1000 people

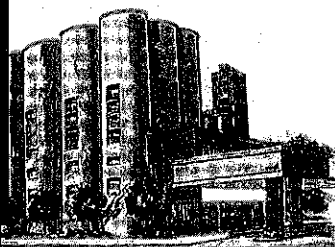
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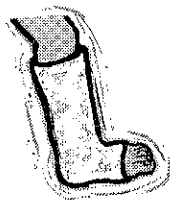
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