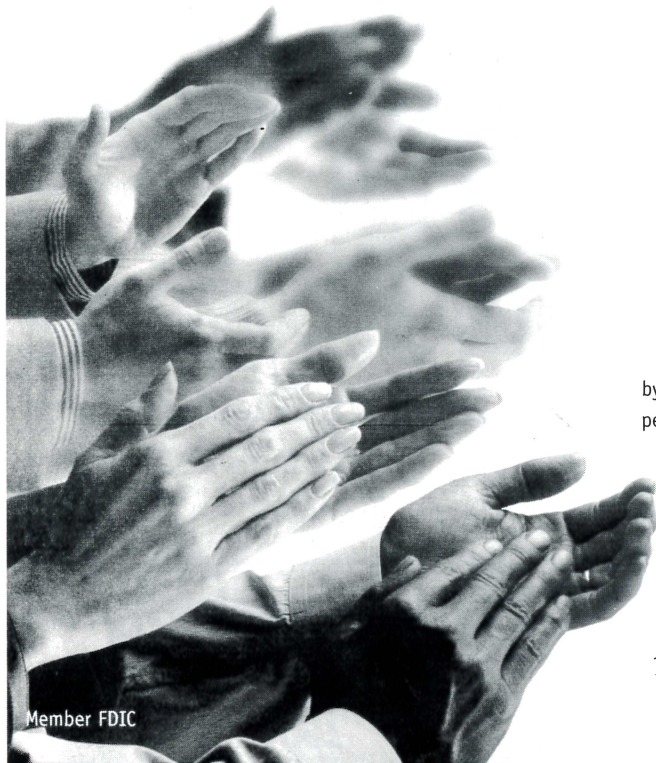


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production no. 486

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By John Steinbeck

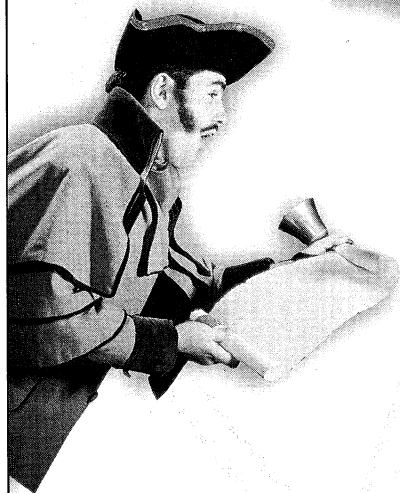


of mice and men

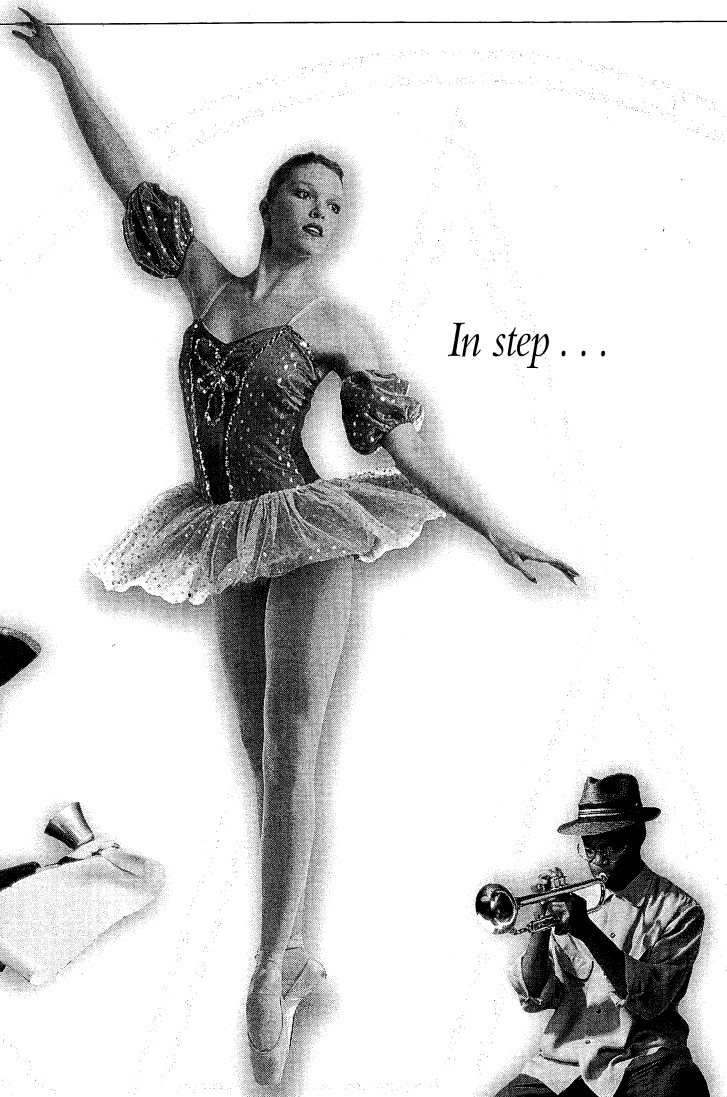
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March 1 - 18, 2001

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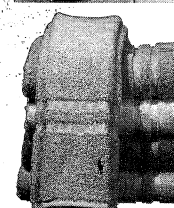
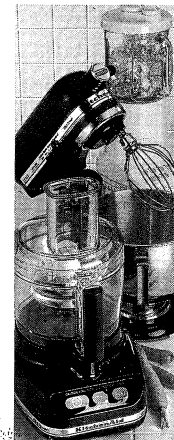
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★ **Emergency Exits** are located at the left front of the auditorium and the left side of the lobby. Front door and main lobby side exits will also be used in case of emergency.

★ **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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2000-2001 MAINSTAGE SEASON PRODUCTIONS #483 - #489

October 12 - 29, 2000

The Glass Menagerie

Drama by Tennessee Williams

November 2 - 19, 2000

Gross Indecency

The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

A new play by Moises Kaufman

January 18 - February 11, 2001

The Philadelphia Story

A magical story by Philip Barry

March 1 - 18, 2001

Of Mice and Men

Drama by John Steinbeck

April 26 - May 13, 2001

Communicating Doors

Comic mystery by Alan Ayckbourn

May 24 - June 10, 2001

Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting

by Ed Schmidt

June 21 - July 15, 2001

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Book by Burt Shevelove and

Larry Gelbart

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Program subject to change.

YOUTH/FAMILY THEATRE SEASON

July 29 - August 13, 2000

Stuart Little

Dramatized by Joseph Robinette

Music by Ronna Frank

Lyrics by Joseph Robinette

& Ronna Frank

based on the book by E.B. White

November 25 - December 23, 2000

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber

March 7 - 24, 2001

Anne of Green Gables

by Alice Chadwicke

Program subject to change.



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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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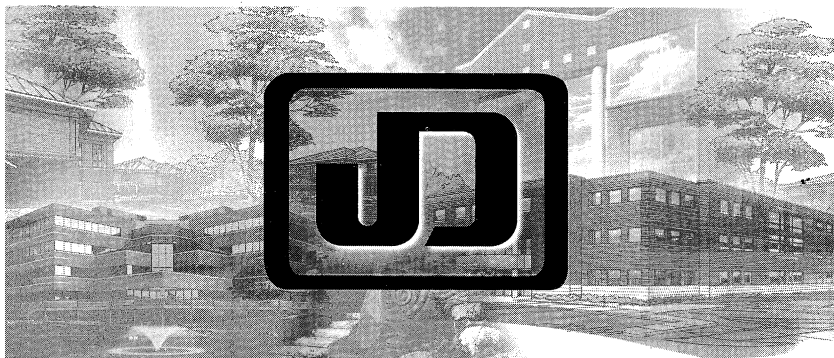
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From the Barn to the Valley A Brief Weathervane History



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-1960's, 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.



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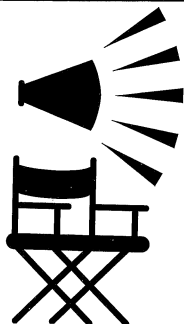
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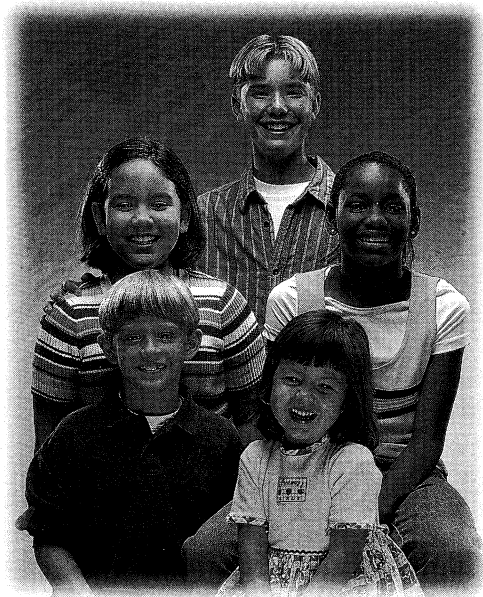
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Women's Board

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.

2000-2001 Women's Board Officers

Karen Burridge	President
Sally Brown	First Vice President
Bunny Lacey	Second Vice President
Marta Williger	Corresponding Secretary
Betty Watterson	Recording Secretary
Jill Forster	Treasurer
Nancy Zeigler	Assistant Treasurer

2000-2001 Women's Board Committee Chairs

Marci Paolucci	Art Gallery
Mary Wolfman	Boutique Co-Chair
Mary Morehart	Boutique Co-Chair
Barbara O'Connor	Boutique Treasurer
Dorothy Kies & Henrietta Cook	Costumes Co-Chairs
Janet Clark & Younghee Miller	Hostess Co-Chairs
Betty J. Zeigler	Nominating
Marta Williger & Pat Weill	Newsletter Co-Chairs
Karen Burridge	Cast Suppers
Marilyn Heagerty	Office Volunteer Scheduler

Hospitality, Production for Children and Membership committee chairs had not been secured at the time of this printing.

The Women's Board welcomes new members.

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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.



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 is 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.

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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.



Callboard Continued

JUDY TRACY (Curley's Wife) debuts on our stage in this Weathervane production and we're glad to greet her. Since she's become a full-time mother, she's managed to find time to perform as Nurse Flynn in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and as Galloway in *A Few Good Men* with Streetsboro Community Theatre and has also worked with Stow Players. Her degree in Electrical Engineering came from The University of Akron and she's now working on her Masters Degree at Kent State University. Originally from California, she lives in Stow with husband Ted and two little Tracys, Brooke and Austin.

JOHN BUSSER (Slim) is another of the several actors new to Weathervane. He's commuting from Parma to join this cast and, like several other cast members, has also performed at Chagrin Valley Little Theater where he was seen in *A Flea In Her Ear*. He's also been on stage at Beck Center as Brian in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and Roy in *The Odd Couple*. Earlier this year, he performed in *Mere Mortals* at Willoughby Fine Arts and he also enjoyed the semi-improvisation of *Flanagan's Wake* at Kennedy's in Cleveland where he played Father Fitzgerald. Trained as a commercial artist, he uses his fine eye as a pre-press technician for Watt Printers.

MIKE KASCHAK (Carlson) enjoyed being in the cast of one of Weathervane's Salon Readings a couple of years ago and worked with Penny Frese in the Coach House Theater production of *Ladies of the Camellias* last year, but this is his first time in a Weathervane Main Stage production. However his life is filled with drama as he teaches the subject, along with English, at Cuyahoga Falls High School. He has directed the school's fall play for the past five years and also serves as yearbook advisor. He earned his Masters Degree in Education

Administration from Kent State University. Along with other academic studies, he is also pursuing Principal Certification. He and his wife Stacia are Akronites.

NICK FRITSCH (Whit) makes his Weathervane debut in this production. He's studying art at Kent State University but he was active in the Falls High Little Theater as a performer until his graduation last year and enjoys the opportunity to continue "on the boards." He's able to recommend top film performances as a Customer Service Representative for Blockbuster Video. Living in Cuyahoga Falls, he commutes down the hill to Weathervane.

TOM C. BARNES (Crooks) accumulated an active theatrical resume while volunteering at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and then began providing backstage and on-stage volunteer power to Weathervane productions just a couple of years ago. He was seen most recently as Elvis Mooney in *The King of the Kosher Grocers* and also appeared as Lymon in *The Piano Lesson*. He was unseen in *Little Shop of Horrors* for which he provided the voice of the show's remarkable plant. We've also welcomed him on the sound or lighting boards in our new production booth. A graduate of The University of Akron, Tom has a wide variety of interests to pursue in his Akron home when he comes home from daily work as an estimator for State Farm Insurance, including art, music, travel and computers.

ELLIOTT COOK (Musician) is dividing his senior year between Hudson High School and Kent State University. An accomplished musician on a number of instruments, Elliott plays guitar in his own band and also teaches violin. He has been a member of the Akron Youth Orchestra and performed in *Cottonpatch Gospel* at Aurora Community Theatre. He hopes to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.



Backstage Callboard

RALPH B. COOLEY (Scenic Design) received his Masters Degree in art and design from the Chicago Institute of Art and continues to enjoy working as an artist and designer as well as culinary expert when time permits from his job as a construction expert for F. J. Crisp. He's delighted to have the opportunity to create a set design for Weathervane where he has more often been seen on stage, performing roles that have earned Chanticleer Awards for him. Weathervane audiences will remember him most recently as Izzy in *The King of the Kosher Grocers* last season and as Gramps in *On Borrowed Time*, Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, among other performances. He was also recognized for Acting Excellence in the finals of the OCTA statewide competition two years ago. Ralph lives with wife, Wendy, in Stow.

VAUGHN G. AUSTIN (Production Stage Manager) If you collect Weathervane Playbills, you'll find Vaughn's biography in at least one of them every season. He's stage-managed 15 shows over 20 years and has been the frequent sound designer for almost as many. He chairs Weathervane's Sound Division on the Production Board. Vaughn has made room on his shelves for three Best Production Chanticleers and another three for Sound. Born in Pittsburgh, Vaughn earned his Chemical Engineering degree at Penn State University and is now Operating Systems Programmer for Alltel Information Services. He is a member of the Medina Corvette Club and keeps his classic Corvette at his home in Brunswick.

STEPHEN J. MOUSHEY (Sound Design) has volunteered on Weathervane's sound crew with regularity, but this show marks his first opportunity to design sound for a show. He's also worked on lighting crews. He has a Masters Degree in Family Studies from Kent State University and works for

Stinaff's Data Forms. He's also a helper for *Mysteries By Moushey*, the business created by his wife, Eileen, and is the official Body Removal Team Captain for those productions. He's proudly been announcing his family's latest production - Nora, a granddaughter who was born in October. The Moushey family lives in Kent.

BETTY WILLIAMS (Co-Costume Design) has an exemplary history of more than 25 years of volunteering with Weathervane, including presidency of our Women's Board. She's also in charge of the annual Piper Puppet Show scheduled for this spring. She's made her most indelible mark on our Costume Department record and has put costumes together for such a long list of shows that our Backstage Callboard doesn't have room to list them all. She spent most of the recent months watching construction of the new spaces at the theater including the costume room, which will make creating costumes and storing them far more organized and effective. Until the new costume room was ready, she and her fellow stitcher-designers have been making do with cramped spaces and storage. Though she's recently had to turn down donations of clothing usable for the stage, there may be more space and safer storage in the new costume room. It seems the addition of our elevator has her smiling more often than ever!

PAT OBENOUR (Co-Costume Design) is delighted to share the costume chores with Betty Williams and is happy to get first crack at using the new Costume Room. She's enjoyed working on stage in the plays for young audiences which Weathervane Women's Board produced prior to the growth of the Education Department and Youth Theater productions. Her dancing experience came in handy when she joined the Hot Box Dancers in *Guys and Dolls*. She spends a lot of time traveling and keeping up with her three daughters and seven grand-



Backstage Callboard -- Continued

children and also touring the United States and foreign countries. She has been a member of the Weathervane Women's Board long enough that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.

SCOTT SUTTON (Lighting Design) commutes from Canton where he's been a long-time volunteer for the Players Guild. He got his start at age 12 and has accumulated an impressive technical resume, including stage managing and working on sound for the Guild's productions. He also lent technical expertise to Goodyear Community Theater productions. He was welcomed for his first Weathervane production when he worked on *The Piano Lesson* just a couple of years ago and we're happy to see him

back. Scott is a Network Administrator for Famous Enterprises.

JACK L. HERMAN (Properties Design) joined the cast of *Gross Indecency...* at Weathervane last fall and has also helped with our Sundays at Seven Salon Reading series. He is the founder and president of Tree City Players, Kent's community theater. He's been involved in theater for over 20 years, serving as producer, director or technical advisor for both professional and amateur productions in northeastern Ohio. He's had his hands full corralling hay and straw among other properties required for this production. Jack lives in Kent with wife Kara and two sons, Justin and Michael, and daughter Rachael.

Weathervane's Second Annual Technical Workshop

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Former Volunteers: Come on down and see how things have changed!

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9:00 - 9:30	Theater Tour	1:00 - 1:45	Costumes
9:30 - 10:15	Stage Management		Lights
	Shop/Set Building	2:00 - 2:45	Sound
10:30 - 11:15	Sound		Props
	Props	3:00 - 3:45	Stage Management
11:30 - 12:15	Costumes		Shop/Set Building
	Lights	3:45	Sign up
BREAK			Q & A in House



Production Team Members & Crews

SET CONSTRUCTION

Tom Marshall Pat Neary
Terry Bailey Liz Neary
Colin Cook Ruth Richardson
Stephanie Pleli

SOUND

J.T. Buck
Mary Kate Clancy
Lois Bennett
Ian Haberman
Bunny Lacey

PROPERTIES

M.J. Coulson
John Cotter

COSTUMES

Dorothy Kies
Henrietta Cook

LIGHTS

Justin Herman Barbara Langhorne
Donna Philips Diane Herman
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For *Of Mice and Men*:

Many thanks to Tom Barnes and Vaughn Austin for their time and expertise in helping this first-time designer – Stephen Moushey.

Thanks to Dede Klein for making us aware of the talents of Stephen Benjamin.

Tom Marshall, Monie Kerrigan, Keith Colwell, DVM & Pat Obenour

Thanks To Our Volunteers

The following are the vivacious volunteers who assisted you by hosting, house managing, staffing the boutique or office during *The Philadelphia Story*

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Sherry Anderson	Ruth & Paul Eisenzimmer	Lois Murray	Lynetta Starkey
Evelyn Ballance	LaVerne Ferguson	Barbara O'Connor	Helen Tschantz
Chris Beattie	Helen & Cue Fleming	Pat Obenour	Linda Waite
Patrice Bechtol	Jill Forster	Betty Oberdorfer	Betty Watterson
Bonnie Boatright	Sandra Harding	Jo Ann Oelschlager	Pat Weill
Dreajean Brown	Marilyn Heagerty	Donna Philips	Betty Williams
Kitty Brown	Linda Heath	Jean Questel	Marta Williger
Jan Budae	Dave Heltebran	Joanne Reed	Mary Wolfman
Karen Burrige	Loris Horwitz	Ruth Richardson	Mona Wolfman
Alberta Carlin	Barb Kistler	Randie & Leah Sass	Marie Woodall
Juanita Carlson	Jane Krimmer	Diantha Siebert	Gen Woods
Henrietta Cook	Bunny Lacey	Linda Shearl	Jean Ann Yoe
John Cotter	Leslie & Richard Lund	Lois Simmons	Marge Zeigler
M.J. Coulson	Claudena Miller	Suzanne Smith	Nancy Zeigler
Margaret Dietz	Younghee Miller	Susan Speers	



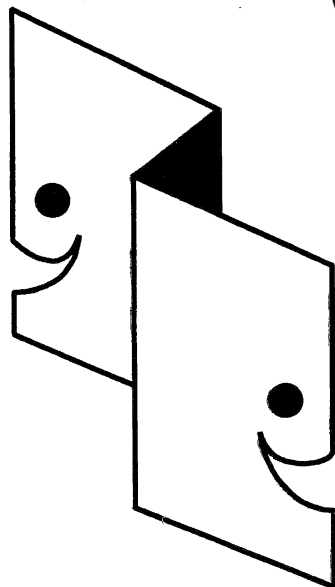
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Weatherwane Professional Staff

ELYNMARIE KAZLE (Executive Director) is entering her fourth WCP season. She spent ten years in Los Angeles as a theatrical producer, manager and theatrical publicist. Formerly Resident Producer at Santa Monica Playhouse and Assoc. Managing Dir. for Actors Alley, she has produced Ohio Playwright Nancy Kiefer's *The Illustrated Woman* and Sweden's Darling Desperados' *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane* to critical acclaim in LA. Professional credits include Great Lakes "Shakespeare Festival", NY's Brooklyn Academy of Music, Opera Columbus and Pasadena Playhouse. She began her professional career as apprentice to Tom Skelton at the Ohio Ballet. Elynmarie holds an MFA in Dance, Theatre & Opera from Ohio University and currently serves as Interim 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. She has been Director of Marketing & Development for Weatherwane Playhouse since 1993. She serves as accompanist for the Ravenna Community Choir and is Director of Ravenna's St. Paul Lutheran Church Choir. Jan occasionally serves as Musical Director for local productions.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) has attended The Ohio State University and Tisch School of the Arts but currently remains without a degree to call his own. Scott began at Weatherwane as a volunteer under the guidance of John R. Thomas. Meanwhile, he was Auditorium Manager at Cuyahoga Falls High School, earning a Design Excellence Award from U.S.I.T.T. and a place in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He has built or designed shows for Stow, Medina, Kenmore, Walsh Jesuit and Archbishop Hoban High

Schools. Professionally, he has designed for The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. Scott has two Chanticleer Awards to his name, one as Stage Manager for *Fences*, the other as co-designer of lights for *A Man for All Seasons*. Scott also writes the end-of-the-season revue featuring the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players who appear at the annual Chanticleer Awards Dinner.

SEAN McCONAHA (Director of Education) 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 last season's Chanticleer winner for Best Show, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. He is also the Drama Director for Archbishop Hoban High School here in Akron. 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 & 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 Keith's fifth season at Weatherwane.

MARYANNE ARCURI COTTER (Volunteer & Production Coordinator) has been a volunteer at Weatherwane 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 year 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



Weatherwane Professional Staff -- Continued

on stage in the production *Daughters* and in the Women's Board production of *Cinderella*. She has professionally stage managed at the Halle Theater in Mayfield Hts. From 1989-1991 she was Co-Marketing and Development Director here at the playhouse. Maryanne and husband, John, live in Akron and have three grown children and two beautiful grandchildren!

COLIN COOK (Assistant Technical Director) began volunteering at Weatherwane in 1994 mentored by former Executive Director, Neil Thackaberry. Since then, he has learned the trades of the theater including lighting, set construction and design, sound and properties. He has joined our Production Board as Lighting Co-Chair and remains very active in the Akron and Cleveland area both in performance and technical theater.

MELANIE Y.C. PEPE (Development Assistant) holds a BFA in Theatrical Arts from Kent State University. Her studies included dramaturgy, directing, acting, stage combat, make-up design and theatre management. These varied interests led her to participating in more than twenty productions during

her studies there. Melanie also worked as a fight choreographer and stage manager at Schoenbrunn Amphitheater and Cleveland Public Theatre, and co-directed two plays for the Immo Theatre Company. After graduating, she left the theatre scene for a while in order to sing with the rock band, "Imaginary People." Melanie returned to theatre work as the resident make-up designer at Firestone's Performing Arts Campus and is thrilled to join the staff at Weatherwane.

JOHN COTTER (Business and Public Relations Assistant) is one of Weatherwane's newest part-time employees. His duties consist of helping Jan and Keith in the Marketing and Box Office areas. He also serves Weatherwane's Production Board as chair of house managers. John recently retired from Business Interiors & Equipment, after retiring from Ohio Edison with 36 years of service. His last position at Ohio Edison was as the chief Payroll Accountant and, for BIE, he was the Benefits Coordinator. John is looking forward to spending more time with his grand-daughter, Dana, and her new sibling, Nicholas.

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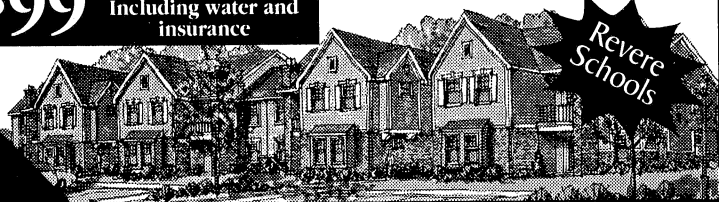
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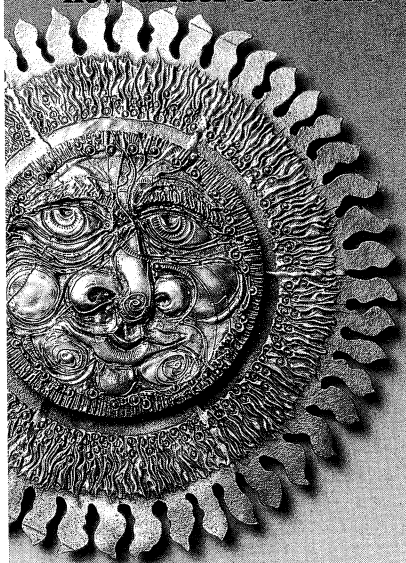
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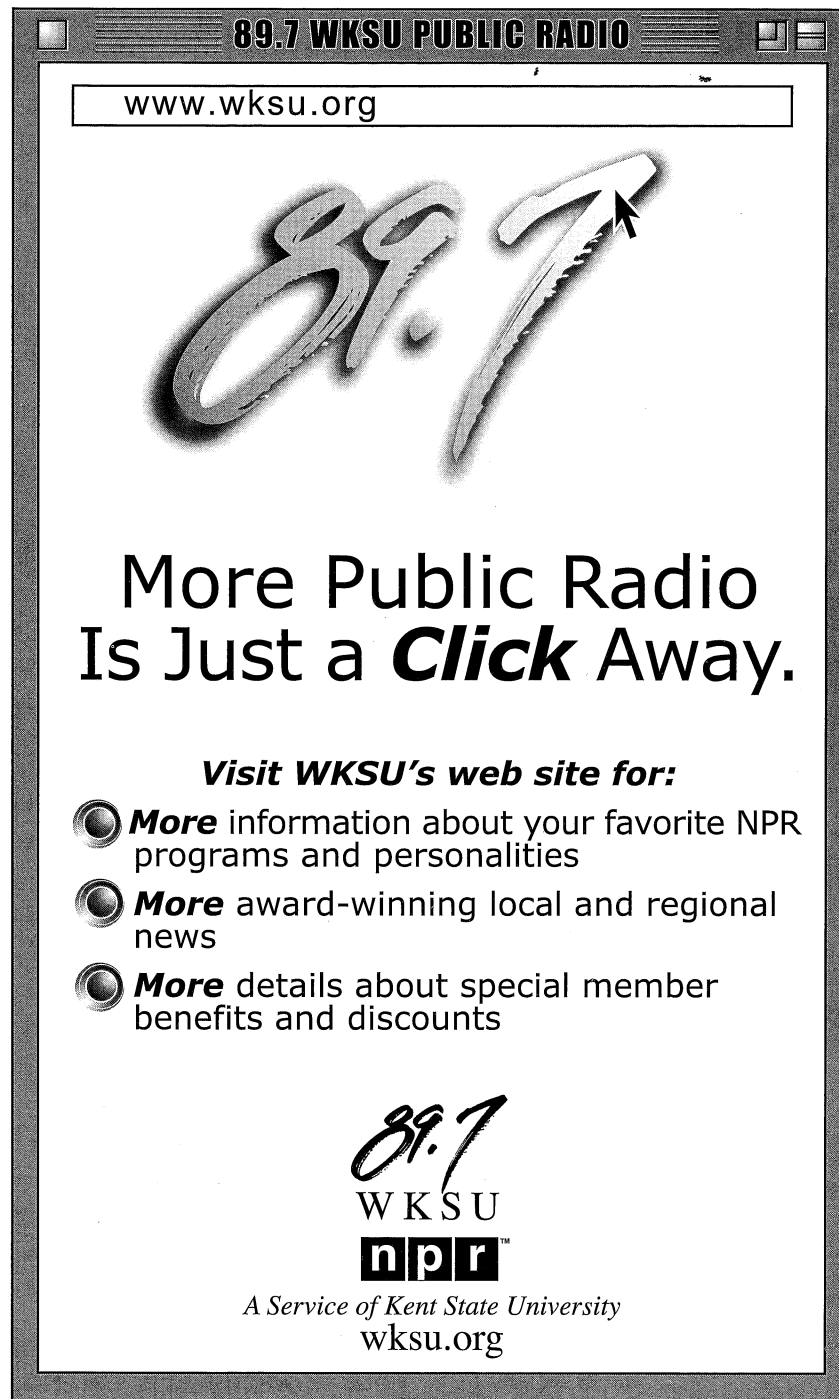
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The image shows a screenshot of a web browser window. The title bar at the top reads "89.7 WKSU PUBLIC RADIO". The address bar contains the URL "www.wksu.org". The main content area features a large, stylized "89.7" logo with a mouse cursor arrow pointing to the top of the "7". Below the logo, the text "More Public Radio Is Just a **Click** Away." is displayed. Underneath this, a heading "Visit WKSU's web site for:" is followed by three bullet points, each preceded by a radio button icon. The first bullet point says "More information about your favorite NPR programs and personalities". The second says "More award-winning local and regional news". The third says "More details about special member benefits and discounts". At the bottom of the page, there is another "89.7 WKSU npr" logo, with "WKSU" in a serif font, "npr" in a bold sans-serif font inside a black box, and a trademark symbol. Below the logo, it says "A Service of Kent State University" and "wksu.org".

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**Log onto our web site for
our monthly Arts Calendar.
www.akronareaarts.org**



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 up-

coming 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!





Theater Education at Weathervane



Youth Theater

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 2000-2001 season, we offer professionally taught classes in acting, stagecraft 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 Theater 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 two productions each season. This season, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Of Mice and*

Men will be featured in the **Project STAGE** events.

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, Careers in Theater and Acting for the Camera. 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 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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E. J. Thomas Hall - The University of Akron

Events from March 2001 - May 2001

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

*The Akron performance is sponsored by
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company*

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$15
Thursday, March 8, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$15
Friday, March 9, 8 p.m., \$60, \$50, \$25
Saturday, March 10, 2 & 8 p.m., \$60, \$50, \$25
Sunday, March 11, 1 p.m., \$60, \$50, \$25 &
6:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$15

Tim Conway and Harvey Korman

Together Again

Friday, March 23, 6 p.m. & 9 p.m., \$45, \$40, \$30

Oscar Arias Sanchez, University of Akron Forum

Lecture, sponsored by The Honors Program.

Tuesday, March 27, 8 p.m., \$8

The John S. Knight Lecture presents Jane Goodall

Monday, April 2, 8 p.m., free

University of Akron Steel Drum Band

Friday, April 6, 8 p.m., \$14

University of Akron Dance Company

Wednesday & Thursday, April 11 & 12, 8 p.m.,
\$12 general admission

Ragtime

Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$30
Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$30
Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m., \$55, \$45, \$30

Tickets available at the Thomas Hall Ticket Office, all
Ticketmaster Centers or Charge-By-Phone at
330/945-9400 (Akron), 216/241-5555 (Cleveland).

Discounts to specific shows are available for seniors,
children, UA students and groups of 20 or more.
For event information, discounts and disability
ticketing call Thomas Hall, 330/972-7570.
Visit our website at www.ejthomashall.com.



Broadway &...



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Weathervane Community Playhouse [a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation] is 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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Membership on Board committees is not restricted to Trustees.

If you would like to volunteer, please call the Weathervane office - 836-2626.

Weathervane Production Board

Production Board chairs are appointed by the Board of Trustees and are responsible for all aspects of technical production and staging. Chairs appoint and supervise volunteer heads to handle responsibilities for each production during the season and provide assistance in volunteer training.

Chairman - Mary Kate Clancy

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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!

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

Work and Funding in progress

- Library
- Reception/meeting area
- Lobby renovation
- "Fly" system
- Classroom furnishings/equipment
- Offices
- Building exterior repair and seal
- Capital fund - for maintenance & renovations through 2010

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!

Capital Campaign

Funding Status

Up to \$1,000

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As of February 18, 2001

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A Weathervane Salute To Our Donors

Weathervane Playhouse gratefully acknowledges the financial support of our corporate, foundation and individual members. Their Membership helps keep admission prices low and helps us to maintain the high standards of production you've come to associate with Weathervane. This list will be updated throughout the season.

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This special trust established at National City Bank provides sponsorship for one classic play (at least 50 years old) in the Weathervane repertory each season. This trust was set up for a period of 25 years and will fund this type of activity through the year 2002.

If you would like to provide this type of support for Weathervane, please contact Janis Harcar, Director of Marketing & Development.

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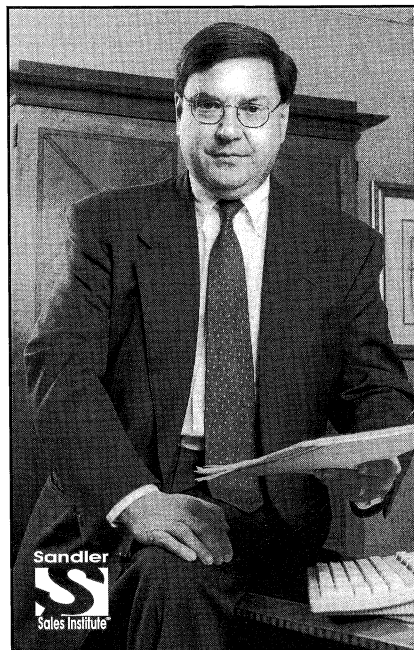
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 Community
 Theatre
 Association**

Psst...

Look us up on the web at
www.weathervaneplayhouse.com



Saturday Theater Classes for Children

All Classes will be held Saturdays April 7 - May 26, 2001

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

(Grades K - 3) Max Class Size: 10

9:30 - 10:30 am Tuition: \$110

Students will work with cultural stories to create small plays about the world.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

(Grades 2, 3, & 4) Max Class Size: 12

9:30 - 10:30 am Tuition: \$130

A class designed for students who have had some formal training, as well as beginners. Young actors will learn how to develop acting skills and create original theater pieces.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT FOR THE STAGE

(Grades 4, 5, & 6) Max Class Size: 12

9:30 - 10:30 am Tuition: \$150

A class designed for the young actor who has already had a course in Acting One or Movement and Voice. Vocal expression and movement will be used to create solo or group performances based on themes of culture.

BEGINNING MUSICAL THEATRE

(Grades 1, 2, 3) Max Class Size: 15

9:30 - 10:30 am Tuition: \$160

The class will focus on the skill and artistry of singing, dancing and acting.

ADVANCED MUSICAL THEATRE

(Grades 7 - 12) Max Class Size: 15

1:00 - 2:30 pm Tuition: \$175

Must have previous musical theatre training.

BACKSTAGE PASS

(Grades 7 - 12) Max Class Size: 15

10:00 - 11:30 am Tuition \$125

Basics of stagecraft and design are taught in our state-of-the-art scene shop.



SHAKESPEARE ROCKS!

(Grades 6, 7, 8) Max Class Size: 15

10:45 am - 12:15 pm Tuition: \$140

A class designed for the more advanced student. Character analysis and scene work from Shakespeare's comedies will be the focus.

ADVANCED ACTING WORKSHOP

(Grades 9 - 12) Max Class Size: 15

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Tuition: \$150

Twentieth Century plays will be the material used for focus on interpretation and character development.

MAKEUP, MASKS AND SCARS

(Grades 7, 8, & 9) Max Class Size: 10

10:45 am - 12:15 pm Tuition: \$160

Designed for the advanced student, the class will focus on the use of makeup and masks for the stage and their use in the history of theater. (Fee includes makeup kit.)

INTERMEDIATE MUSICAL THEATRE

(Grades 4, 5, 6) Max Class Size: 15

11:15 am - 12:45 pm Tuition: \$160

Solo work is required -- Broadway musical standards. Students Must have *some* theater or musical theater training.

New Offerings

THE ART OF STAGE MANAGEMENT

(Grades 9 - 12) Max Class Size: 15

11:30 am - 12:45 pm Tuition: \$125

The how-to of running a show.

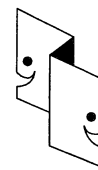
IMAGINATION

STORY WRITING WORKSHOP

(Grades 3, 4, 5) Max Class Size: 15

12:15 - 1:45 pm Tuition \$175

Each child will write his own original fantasy story which will be used to create characterizations and improv.



Next On Our Stage

Communicating Doors by Alan Ayckbourn

Director -- Nancy Cates

Ayckbourn is Britain's most popular playwright, though few of his 62 plays have reached the United States. This one was a winner in Chicago in 1995. The play is challenging for actors and audience alike as it changes time with every opening of the doors that lead us to 1974, 1994 and 2014. One can scarcely catch one's breath in this murder mystery-comedy-time travel tale. When was the murder committed, and how could it have been different? You'll be guessing and enjoying the laughter throughout. Call early for reservations but don't expect us to explain it all on the phone when you call. This is a play full of surprises you'll have to enjoy on your own.

Anne of Green Gables by Alice Chadwicke

Director -- Asha Soulsby



Anne of Green Gables is just the right sort of show for young audiences and an ideal opportunity for young performers who are testing their wings in Weathervane's Youth Theater productions. The story, based on the novel by Lucy Montgomery, introduces a red-headed orphan who finds a place of her own with an elderly couple who need a boy to help out with farm chores. But Anne Shirley is neither a boy nor a skilled chore-lad. Yet she convinces the Cuthberts that she can handle their needs on the farm as well as

any boy and wins approval from all who meet her in this new setting, despite a few troubles along the way. Set in the early 20th century, the play reminds one of times gone by as it introduces younger audiences to the "way things used to be."

Check the included calendar for performance schedules and make reservations for your family soon.

Future Events

AUDITIONS:

Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting--March 25 & 26 at Weathervane, by appointment

beginning at 7 p.m. Auditions at Karamu House--March 27 & 28 at 7 p.m.

Tech Workshop--April 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at Seven: Salon Reading Series*

March -- no reading

April 1 -- *Amy's View*, by David Hare,

Directed by J.T. Buck

May -- *The Winter's Tale* by Shakespeare

May 6 -- *Bent*, by Martin Sherman, Directed by Vince Morvatz

June 3 -- *Lettuce and Lovage* by Peter

Shaffer, Directed by Timothy H. Champion

TBA -- *Split* (second reading) by Mayo

Simon, directed by Bill Bushnell

March 7 - 25--*Anne of Green Gables* by Alice Chadwicke (Youth Production)

April 26 - May 13--*Communicating Doors*

May 24 - June 10--*Mr. Rickey Calls a*

Meeting at WCP, opens June 28 at Karamu

Thursday, June 14 -- Annual Weathervane

Gala; mark your calendar now!

Saturday, August 18 -- Chanticleer Awards

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

Register by phone with Visa, MasterCard or Discover -- Call 330-836-2626



Welcome to the Playhouse!

If you are an old friend, welcome back! If you are new to our theatre you are in for a special treat. In over twenty years that I have been producing, promoting and involved in theatre communities all around the world, I have never experienced what I have found at Weather-vane. Nowhere else have I found so many individuals committed to our community oriented artistic vision ... Weathervane so very successfully includes such a large number of volunteers in the playmaking process. This inclusion benefits us all.

With our strong volunteer base, professional staff and spacious theatre facility we are ideally suited to provide first-rate, intimate theatrical experiences for adults, families and youth. We are committed not only to presenting published works but taking risks in the development of new plays and emerging artists. With our diverse outreach, we are ideally situated for developing the local cultural base for live theatre. We are constantly working to keep our programming, educational efforts and collaborations with other arts organizations progressive, far-reaching and exciting.

In the past four years we have expanded our professional staff to support the growing need for artistic programming. We have implemented evaluation strategies in all areas, particularly in education and production, to better serve you, our public. We've taken a hard look at our facility and evaluated the needs for this decade and beyond, and determined what we will need to improve to accommodate our growing programs. We've added two shows to our season specifically designed for young audiences and expanded internship opportunities and partnerships with local arts organizations.

Our guest artist program has raised the artistic bar, not only in the area of stage direction but in play selection, design and technical areas. Last season we hosted three playwrights who came to Akron participate in the playmaking process and to teach theatre workshops. This is a big step forward for our theatre in terms of the impact we have not only locally, but also regionally and nationally.

Major challenges that face us this year include raising money for our fly system and lobby renovation and completing Phase One of construction. At the same time, we must continue to provide challenges for our Ohio-based professional artists and volunteers, continue to make a strong and informed stand to revitalize our diversity efforts and finally, to stabilize our financial base as we complete our capital campaign. That is where you can help. The potential is limitless. If you have not yet joined us as a member of the theatre, take a look at the form included with tonight's playbill. You and your company can make a difference.



Emmanuel Kozle



Weathervane Community Playhouse
66th Season - 2000-2001 - Production #486
March 1 - 18, 2001



of mice and men

by John Steinbeck

Project STAGE sponsored by
The Sisler McFawn Foundation and **TARGET**

Directed by Dr. Penelope A. Frese

Production Stage Manager
Vaughn G. Austin

Scenic Design
Ralph B. Cooley

Lighting Design
Scott Sutton

Properties Design
Jack L. Herman

Assistant Technical Director
Colin James Cook

Technical Director
Alan Scott Ferrall

Costume Design by
Betty Williams & Pat Obenour

Sound Design by
Stephen J. Moushey

Volunteer & Production Coordinator
Maryanne Arcuri Cotter

Of Mice and Men is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by  **Ohio Arts Council**

Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, Ohio 44313-5186
Ticket Office - 330-836-2626 — Business Office - 330-836-2323 — Fax - 330-873-2150



About the Play & Playwright *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck chronicled the people and the times of America's Great Depression in both novels and drama during the mid-1930s, and frequently his novels were translated into theatrical works either by himself or other dramatists. However, *Of Mice and Men* was dramatized by its author and met with success in its first American production in 1937. It became a film in 1939 and even an opera in 1982. A New York revival brought the story back to Broadway in 1974.

Steinbeck was born in 1902, living most of his life in Salinas, California. His artistic successes included *The Moon is Down*, *Tortilla Flat*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. *Of Mice and Men* received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1937 and his book earned the Pulitzer Prize in 1940. He died in 1968.

The drama follows the lives of two itinerant workers in the Great Depression as they seek out job after job and try to follow the American Dream until it turns into a tragic nightmare.

Of Mice and Men is a Project STAGE production, providing special weekday morning performances and post-performance discussions with audience, performers and director. Study guides for teachers and students have been prepared for this production.

In Our Gallery

Art by Individuals from the County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Visual art-making is a creative process which can be experienced and enjoyed by all. For those individuals with mental retardation, developmental disabilities and/or handicapping conditions, art therapy and the art experience provide avenues of opportunity. When making art, people who have apparent limitations have access to greater self-expression and communication, decision-making and, many times, pure enjoyment.

The art displayed for this production was created by individuals who work at three of the work centers of the County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. In addition to the schematic and representational drawings presented, the art techniques are as varied as the individuals who created the work. Techniques include wet-on-wet watercolor paintings and a melted crayon process. Making art can be a celebration of life and the artists featured would like you to celebrate with them.

Jacquelyn M. Martin, Art Therapist – CSMR/DD

Memorial Contributions were made to
the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Mal Obenour** by
Bob & Connie Velotta
B.J. Zeigler
Mel & Mary Wolfman
The Weathervane Women's Board

Memorial Contributions were made to
the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Sally Wachter** by
Bob & Connie Velotta
The Weathervane Women's Board



Of Mice and Men -- Cast

George	Stephen Benjamin
Lennie	Cliff Bailey
Candy	Robert Baab
The Boss	Roslyn Sears
Curley	Derek Koger
Curley's Wife	Judy Tracy
Slim	John Busser
Carlson	Mike Kaschak
Whit	Nick Fritsch
Crooks	Tom C. Barnes
Musician	Elliott Cook

The play takes place in an agricultural valley in Northern California.
The time is 1937.

ACT I

Scene 1: A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Thursday night.

Scene 2: The interior of a bunkhouse. Late Friday morning.

ACT II

Scene 1: The same - About 7:30 Friday evening.

Scene 2: The room of the stable buck, a lean-to. Saturday night.

Scene 3: The barn. Mid-afternoon, Sunday.

Scene 4: The same as Act I, Scene 1. Sunday night.

There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts.

- *For your safety, we request that you remain seated until the house lights come up at intermission and after final curtain calls.
 - *The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this production.
 - *As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones or pagers are turned off during the performance.
 - *Please do not bring food and drinks into the auditorium.
- Thank you.



About Our Director -- Dr. Penelope A. Frese

Dr. Penelope A. Frese is a free-lance director whose production of *Conversations With My Father* at Weathervane won the Chanticleer for Best Production in 1996. She returned to direct *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Tartuffe* on our stage and has also directed productions at Coach House Theatre, Kent State University and Hiram College. She is the past director of ACTOR, a junior high touring company located in Hudson and she has appeared on stage in productions at Weathervane, Stan Hywet, Cleveland Public Theatre and in a CBS pilot, *True Detective*. In her "other life," Penny manages her husband's lecture schedule, and often joins him, speaking both nationally and internationally on behalf of children and families with serious mental illness. She is the producer of an award-winning video on childhood depression, *Claire's Story*. Penny and her husband Fred have four children and live in Hudson.

Director's Notes

Steinbeck wrote *Of Mice and Men* with the vision of its performance as a play. Its deceptively simple plot is devoid of the author's commentary or judgment; in fact, the original title for the work was *Something that Happened*. Yet, the popularity of the novella and the play in schools and theaters since its publication in the late 1930s belies its simplicity and bears ample testimony to the ability of the piece to strike a resonant chord in an American audience.

Of Mice and Men is richly textured, drawing on a whole variety of literary, historical, mythic and religious elements. English teachers love it for its literary devices of foreshadowing and symbolism. The piece is also an accurate picture of the socio-economic situation of California farm workers in the late Depression. The play's detail, language and characterizations are true to this particular piece of Americana; and the themes of the play address the questions as old as biblical Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Using those elements particular to theatre -- staging, light, sound, costume, characterization and the wonderful intimate dynamic of live performance -- we have attempted to maintain and build upon the textural richness of the original work. We hope that this production, like the book, is not only immediately engaging, but also revisits your imagination again and again as something to be pondered. That is, after all, the hallmark of good art.

Penny Frese

Weathervane Playhouse Staff

Elynmarie Kazle Executive Director	Maryanne Arcuri Cotter Volunteer & Production Coordinator
Keith D. Campbell Front-of-House-Coordinator	Colin J. Cook Assistant Technical Director
Alan Scott Ferrall Scenic Designer/Technical Director	Melanie Y.C. Pepe Development Assistant
Janis L. Harcar Director of Marketing & Development	John A. Cotter Business & Public Relations Assistant
Sean McConaha Director of Education	Pat Biddle Bookkeeper



Callboard -- The Cast

STEPHEN BENJAMIN (George Milton) has been working extensively with the Chagrin Valley Little Theater as performer, director and chairman of the Production Board. Now living in Solon, Stephen holds a Masters Degree from Kent State University in Behavior Disorders and has trained and performed at the Long Beach Playhouse and Playhouse West, where he studied with Jeff Goldblum. Some of his more recent roles include Fox in *Speed the Plow* at Fine Arts in Willoughby and Shep in *Rainbow Grill* at Chagrin Falls Little Theatre. His directing credits include *Sylvia*, *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *The Cemetery Club*. He also directed the Ohio premiere of *Oleanna* at Riverstreet Playhouse. Weathervane welcomes him back after a 15-year absence when he portrayed Eugene in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* on our stage.

CLIFF BAILEY (Lennie) Cliff is delighted to return to Weathervane where he was last seen as Henry VIII in *A Man For All Seasons*. Previous to this, Cliff performed the role of A. of Ephesus in *Comedy of Errors* for the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival. Other favorite roles include Tchbutykin in *Three Sisters*, Stuart in *Beyond Therapy* and, of course, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Cliff works as a Stagehand with I.A.T.S.E. Local 48 and on the Run Crew at the Cleveland Play House. He is also an avid patch collector and a member of the Rockton Lodge #316 F. & A.M. He extends special thanks to longtime friend and colleague, Penny Frese. **ROBERT BAAB** (Candy) has just finished performing in Weathervane's production of *The Philadelphia Story* and we are happy to see him returning to our stage. Just a couple of seasons ago, he was seen here in *Cabaret*, earning a Chanticleer Award for his performance as Shultz in that production. We've also seen this Wooster resi-

dent as, Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and as Harry the Horse in *Guys and Dolls*. He's also been a frequent performer in productions at the Players Guild, including *Our Town*, *Plain & Fancy* and *Talk Radio*. He works as an anesthesiologist at Wooster Clinic.

ROSLYN SEARS (The Boss) says she is happy to be back at Weathervane, working with Penny Frese, who directed her in *Tartuffe* just a couple of seasons ago. She's been more active with both Tree City Players and Coach House recently, adding performances in *Charley's Aunt*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Six Rms Rv Vu* and other productions to her growing resume. She's also served as a stage manager for Coach House Theater where she's been awarded their Royal Coach Award for her performances in *Sunday in New York* and *Six Rms Rv Vu*. Recently, Roz joined the Board of Kent's Tree City Players though her home is in Akron with her understanding husband Don. She's a graduate of The University of Akron with an associate degree in culinary arts.

DEREK KOGER (Curley) We're happy to welcome a newcomer to our stage. Derek, who lives in Solon and works as Art Director at Hepburn Superior, has been an active performer with Chagrin Valley Little Theatre as well as Dobama and Aurora Theaters. At Chagrin Valley, he played in *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Early One Evening* and *A Flea in Her Ear* and, at Aurora, he appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor* and as Bud Frump in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He is a founding member of the Cleveland Improv Company and has also been writing and appearing at Cleveland's Dobama Theater in the critically acclaimed production of *The Gulf*. He has studied improv at The Second City. He earned his degree in journalism from Western Michigan University and enjoys writing and spelunking.



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.



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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 836-2626 if you will not make your ticketed performance. Thanks.



I Want to Know More About Opportunities for Involvement at Weathervane

Complete and detach this form and return it to the Ticket Office or mail to:
Volunteer Opportunities, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

I am interested in the following areas: (Check as many as you wish)

☐ Acting	☐ Costuming	☐ Box Office
☐ Set Building	☐ Orchestra	☐ House Managing
☐ Painting	☐ Sound	☐ Play Reading/Selection
☐ Usher	☐ Lighting	☐ Board Membership
☐ Backstage Crew	☐ Classes	
	☐ Fund Raising	
☐ Other _____		

☐ Best time to reach me at the above phone number _____

☐ I am a subscriber. ☐ I am a donor.

I HAVE AN OPINION...

About tonight's play _____

About the current season _____

About future seasons _____

I have a fund-raising idea. _____

We appreciate, and often respond to, opinions offered about our work. Be sure to fill in your name and address above if you wish a response or would like to be contacted.



Boutique Treasures

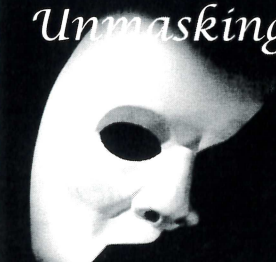
Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of Weathervane Women's Board. Shop from one hour before curtain time or during intermission to find exciting jewelry, watches, bibelots, music boxes, and other unique items and objects for yourself or for gifts. Every purchase helps make good things happen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

performance. 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.



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Dress Up With Weathervane

Churches, schools, individuals and other theater groups may find rentable costumes or theater properties and stage dressing for their own productions in the Weathervane wardrobe and set storage areas. Please call (330)836-2626 to arrange for a consultation on your special production needs.



Weatherovane Hours

Weatherovane Business Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at (330) 836- 2323. To place ticket orders, the **Ticket Office** at **(330) 836-2626** is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and re-opens one hour before performances. 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

Weatherovane 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

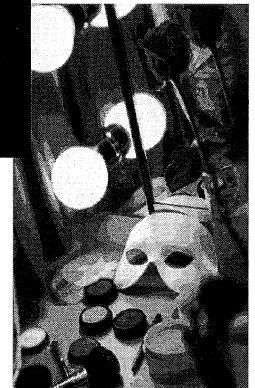
Seats for Weatherovane's most popular shows, especially those late in the season, often sell out fast. Saturday night seating is frequently difficult to obtain, so it's smart to call for reservations early. *Please remember that coupons don't guarantee your seats. You must call for reservations.* Check 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 Weatherovane show. Books of eight coupons provide a modest savings over regular admission prices.

Mission Statement

Weatherovane Community Playhouse

The mission of the Weatherovane Community Playhouse is to entertain, inform and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the Greater Akron area. Weatherovane 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. Weatherovane shall provide education in the theater arts to adults and children. In meeting these goals, Weatherovane shall be mindful of the standards of its audiences and shall maintain fiscally sound management.



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community.

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connects us to the
vitality of the
ancient art of drama.

B

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Before You Throw It Out, Ask Us

Weathervane can often make good use of your used furniture and household items such as lamps, picture frames, kitchenware and decorative pieces in reasonably good condition so please think of Weathervane when you're redecorating, cleaning or moving. Small rugs, carpet remnants, draperies or curtains are also appreciated. We're always hunting for items you may think are out of style or "period" pieces from turn of the century to the present.

Our wardrobe department also appreciates donations of clothing, shoes, wom-

en's purses, hats and jewelry, as well as usable patterns and lengths of fabric.

Please call before bringing donations to the theater so we can tell you what may be needed most by our property or wardrobe department.

If we can't make use of your much-appreciated gifts, they may be passed on to another charity. We also, every so often, hold a rummage sale to clear our storage areas of items that we find we haven't been able to use. Your donations are appreciated and you may even see a favorite piece on stage some day.



What Can You Do as a Weathervane Volunteer

Here's a quick introduction to the responsibilities volunteers undertake to make our shows work night after night. If you'd like to try your hand at any of these jobs, please call our Production and Volunteer Coordinator, Maryanne Cotter, at (330) 836-2323. Volunteers with 100 hours or more of service are eligible for a special Weathervane membership!

★ **Stage Management** - Duties include assisting the director throughout the rehearsal period, calling cues, keeping backstage safe and orderly, and coordinating the technical needs of the show with the actors. A fulfilling responsibility for those who enjoy planning, communicating and taking charge. Once the director's work is done, it's the Stage Manager who runs each performance.

★ **Set Construction** - Use your building skills, carpentry or painting techniques to help make illusion come to life. We appreciate all the help we can find to design and build sets, move them and tear them down after a show to make new ones.

★ **Costumes** - Designers and workers are vital. We need skilled and even unskilled seamstresses to make or alter costumes, create patterns, care for costumes during a show and keep our wardrobe department organized. Add your design ideas or learn from other hard-working volunteers.

★ **Lighting** - Experience is a plus, but you can learn by assisting others who know computers and electrical requirements. We'll train eager volunteers to help hang, focus, and add color to lighting instruments. We'll also teach you how to run the light board and follow spots. You'll take pride in knowing that nobody can see the show without you.

★ **Sound** - Create the music and sound effects tapes that enrich the aural environment for each show or add "live" backstage sound. Run the sound system

for technical rehearsals and productions. We'll help you learn.

★ **Properties** - All the items that help "dress" a set and all those used by actors in rehearsal and performance (from tea sandwiches to "deadly" weapons and "shattering" windowpanes) must be borrowed, built or cooked. We need many volunteers to work on each performance. If you are clever at building things or have friends with "neat stuff" they'll loan, volunteer here.

★ **Box Office** - If you enjoy dealing with the public, we can use your help during office hours and on show nights to assist in taking money and answering the phone to take reservations.

★ **Ushering** - Welcome audience members with your smile, showing them to their seats, passing out programs, and serving refreshments at intermission. Your help is always welcome.

★ **House Manager** - The theater's unofficial representative greets the audience, tears tickets and guides theatergoers to ushers for seating. You'll work with the stage manager to coordinate the timing of intermissions and remain in the lobby throughout the show to handle any emergency.

★ **Office Volunteer** - Put a few morning or afternoon hours to good use answering phones, taking reservations, helping with mailings, working with staff, and greeting customers and visitors. Many friendly people are needed to help.

*We Applaud
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*Where's the Other View
of the Barn?*

Many years ago, Merron and Elizabeth Latta, who volunteered actively at Weathervane's first "barn" theater, painted portraits of the original Marshall Avenue structure.

A painting done by Mrs. Latta hangs in our Box Office. But a similar watercolor, done by her husband, has eluded us. We suspect that some Weathervane fan may have purchased the Merron Latta painting.

Can you help us find the painting? If you've seen a painting somewhat similar to our Ticket Office watercolor, please let us know. It would be wonderful to reunite the husband-wife team with both paintings of the theater they both loved so much.

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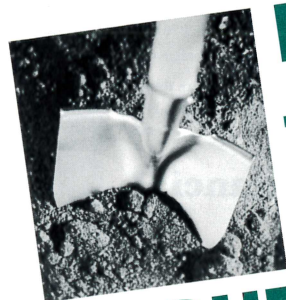
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On May 30, 2000, over 100 well-wishers and volunteers joined U.S. Congressman Tom Sawyer, the Board of Trustees, and the staff of Weathervane Community Playhouse to break ground on its \$1-million expansion and renovation to the 30-year-old Merriman Valley facility.



Architect Frank Horn, Treasurer Jim Horvath, Campaign Committee Chair Eileen Mousbey, Congressman Tom Sawyer, Executive Director Elynmarie Kazle, and Board President Tom Trotter (l-r) dig in for Weathervane's \$1-million expansion project.

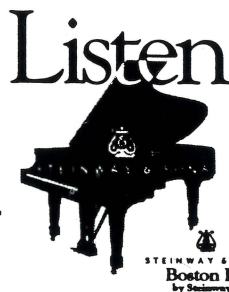
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