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Where Theatre Comes Alive!

2002-2003

Sixty-Eighth Season

The **Chosen**



By Aaron Posner & Chaim Potok
Based on the book by Chaim Potok

production no. 497

M A I N S T A G E

September 18 - October 6, 2002

Cast & Crew Entered into Computer 9/24/82



On cue . . .

In step . . .

In tune . . .

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68th Season

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on the web at www.weatherVaneplayhouse.com

2001-2002 MAINSTAGE SEASON PRODUCTIONS

#497 - #502

September 18 - October 6, 2002

The Chosen

Drama by Aaron Posner & Chaim Potok
Based on the novel by Chaim Potok

October 16 - November 3, 2002

The Wiz

Musical based on L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
Music & Lyrics by Charlie Small

January 15 - February 9, 2003

Arsenic and Old Lace

Comedy by Joseph Kesselring

February 26 - March 16, 2003

The Laramie Project

Drama by Moises Kaufman
& The Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

April 2 - 19, 2003

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

Comedy by Jess Borgeson, Adam Long
& Daniel Singer

June 18 - July 20, 2003

Gypsy

Book by Arthur Laurents
Music by Jule Styne
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Program subject to change

YOUTH/FAMILY PRODUCTIONS

July 27 - August 11, 2002

The Emperor's New Clothes

by Charlotte Chorpenning
Story by Hans Christian Anderson

November 23 - December 22, 2002

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber

March 15 - 30, 2003

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare



WEATHERVANE WOMEN'S BOARD

presents

The Brementown Musicians

Performed by the Piper Puppets
April 26, 2003



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. Please turn off your cell phones, pagers and audible watches.

★ **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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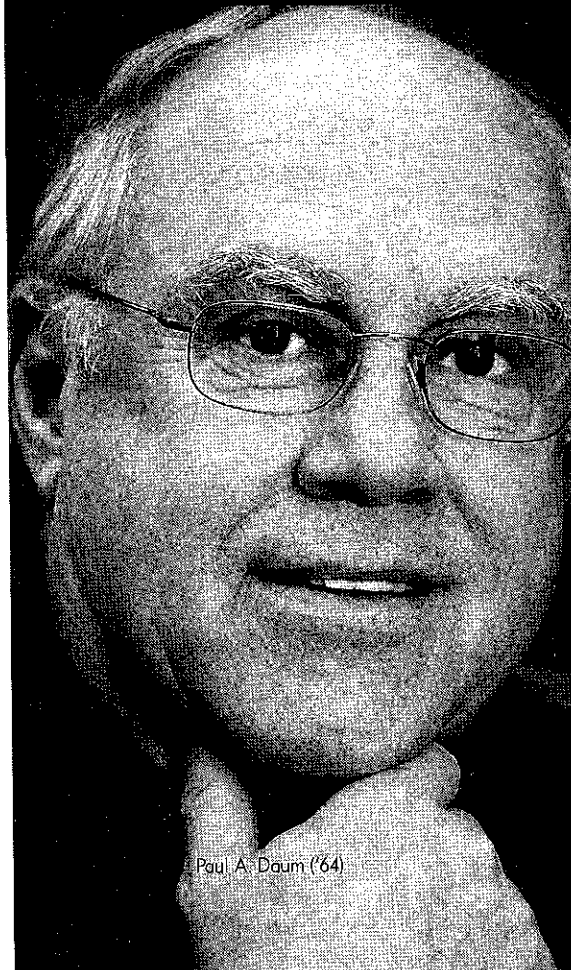
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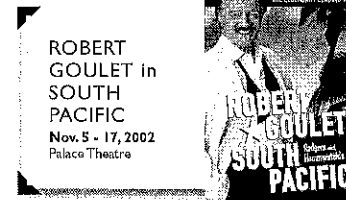


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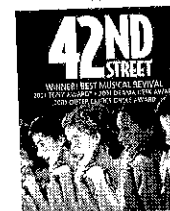
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August 17, 2003
State Theatre
ON SALE FEBRUARY 8TH



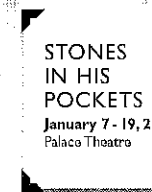
ROBERT
GOULET in
SOUTH
PACIFIC
Nov. 5 - 17, 2002
Palace Theatre



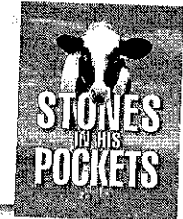
42ND
STREET
Feb. 18 -
March 2, 2003
Palace Theatre



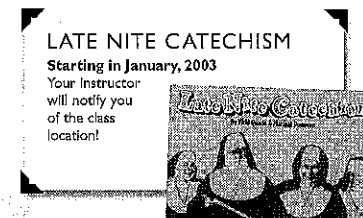
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musical
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POCKETS
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Palace Theatre



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April 6, 2003
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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 theatergoers. 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 a Preview Night 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.

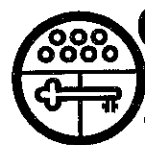
★ **Gift Certificates** are available through the Ticket Office at any time in any amount you choose.

★ **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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THE CREATIVE BUILDERS



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.

2002-2003 Women's Board Officers

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

2002-2003 Women's Board Committee Chairs

Marci Paolucci	Art Gallery
Mary Wolfman & Barb Kistler	Boutique
Barbara O'Connor	Boutique Treasurer
Henrietta Cook & Dorothy Kies	Costumes
Lois Murray & Mina Agrawal	Hostesses
Alberta Carlin & Pat Weill	Newsletter
Marta Williger & Barbara Stevic	Cast Suppers
Marilyn Heagerty	Office Volunteer Scheduler
Lois Simmons & Linda Shearl	Hospitality
Liz Raines & Thelma Coss	Puppet Show
Betty Williams & 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 included 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 continue to 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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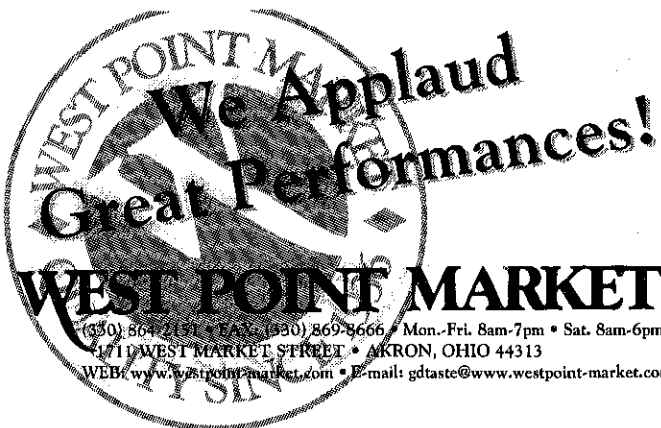
Dress Up With Weathervane

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.



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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, *The*

Chosen, The Wiz, The Laramie Project and *Hamlet* will be featured in the **Project STAGE** events. Tickets are only \$8.

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

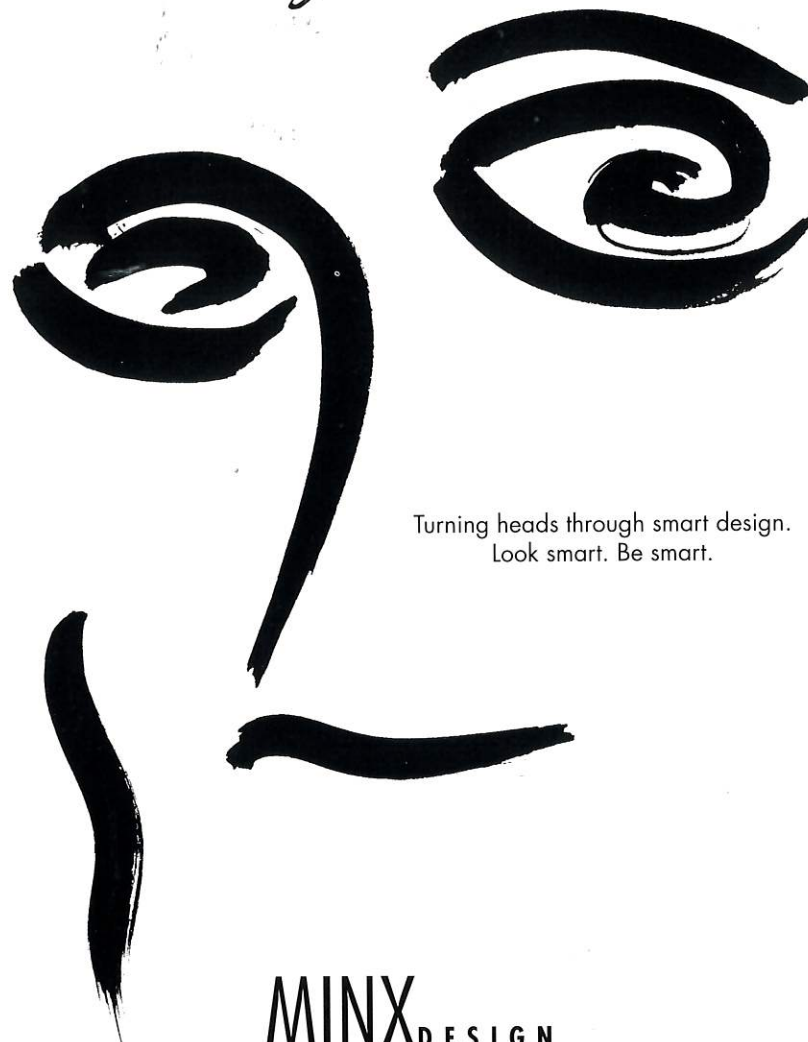
Adult Classes and Theater Training

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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Miss Saigon, 8 shows! October 1-6, EJ
The John S. Knight Lecture presents James A. Baker III, October 21, EJ
Swing!, October 24, EJ
The Georgian State Dance Company, October 25, EJ
Barrage, November 5, CT
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, November 7, CT
Time Warner Cable & AMC presents *Roman Holiday*, November 8, free, CT
Tim Conway Show, November 9, CT
Organ Concert with Lyn Larsen, November 10, CT
Dr. Drew Pinsky, *lecture*, November 14, EJ
Mandy Patinkin In Concert, November 16, EJ
Warren Miller's *Storm*, (ski/snow board movie), November 16, CT
Lord of the Dance, November 24, EJ
Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, 5 shows! November 29-December 1, EJ
Colors of Christmas starring Peabo Bryson, Jon Secada, Jody Watley, and Oleta Adams, December 12, EJ
TubaChristmas, December 21, free, CT
Apollo Theater Amateur Night - Auditions, January 10, CT
Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, January 12, CT
Sesame Street Live "Let's Be Friends" January 16-19, CT
Andrae Crouch, January 18, EJ
STOMP, January 21-22, CT
Coretta Scott King, *lecture*, January 27, EJ
Apollo Theater Amateur Night - Live on Tour!, February 14, CT
The Mark of Zorro! (silent movie) with Organ, February 15, CT
The Little Angels, *Children's Folk Ballet of Korea*, February 23, CT
Madame Butterfly by The London City Opera, February 28, EJ
University of Akron Dance Company, March 6 & 7, EJ
David Brooks, *lecture*, March 10, EJ
AEROS, March 14, EJ
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, March 14, CT
P.D.Q. Bach & Peter Schickele: *The Jekyll and Hyde Tour*, March 15, EJ
Arturo Sandoval, March 16, EJ
BLAST!, 8 shows! March 25-30, EJ
Apollo's Fire, *The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra*, March 28, CT
Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me, April 3, CT
Lani Guinier, *lecture*, April 7, EJ
Keith Lockhart Lecture & UA Symphony Orchestra, April 10, EJ
The University of Akron Steel Drum Band, April 11, EJ
Elton John & Tim Rice's *AIDA*, 8 shows! April 15-20, EJ
Carrot Top, April 24, EJ
President Gerald R. Ford, *lecture*, April 28, EJ
Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett, May 3, CT
Vagina Monologues, 8 shows! May 6-11, CT
Michael Feldman's *Whad'Ya Know?*, May 17, CT

Show Location: EJ = E. J. Thomas Hall CT = Civic Theatre

Performances, dates and times subject to change.

To receive a complete 2002-03 season brochure, call Thomas Hall at 330/972-7595.

Be watching our web sites ejthomashall.com and akroncivic.com for updated season information.



Weathervane Professional Staff

ELYNMARIE KAZLE (Executive Director) begins her sixth season for WCP. She has spent 25 years in theater first as a stage manager then in producing, fundraising and as a public relations rep for theaters across the US. She's had the pleasure of working with a wide range of artists from Mikhail Baryshnikov to Michael Korie, Ed Asner to Chita Rivera in theaters such as San Diego's Old Globe, Sacramento Theater Company, LA Classical Ballet, Opera Columbus, Great Lakes (Shakespeare) and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Akron was important to Elynmarie early in her career when she served as lighting apprentice to Tom Skelton and Ohio Ballet in the early 1980s. Her diverse experience in Marketing/PR includes a stint with the Wall Street Journal. She is currently VP for Membership and Development of USITT, VP of the Akron Area Arts Alliance and the founder of the nationally-known Stage Management Mentoring Project. She lives in Akron with her husband Mark and son Banno.

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 Weathervane 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 Weathervane 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 and wife, Beth, and daughters, Leda and Delaney, live in Canton.

KEITH D. CAMPBELL (Supervisor Front-of-House & Patron Services) 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 seventh season at WCP.

JOHN COTTER (Business and Public Relations Assistant) has the duties that



Professional Staff continued

Marketing and Box Office areas. He also serves on Weathervane's Production Board as Co-Chair of Auditions. John is a retiree of 36 years with Ohio Edison and has been a long-time volunteer of the Playhouse serving on the Production Board as its President and 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 co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*. He is, however, most proud of his two grandchildren, Dana and Nicholas.

KATHRYN A. KOHL (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in Elementary Education from BGSU and a Master of Business Management Degree from Aurora College in Aurora, IL. She began her volunteer career on the lighting crew of *Oliver!* and, since, has been on many lighting and set construction crews. She served as Properties Designer for *Dracula* and won a Chanticleer for properties co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*.

Kathy also volunteers as Resident Master Carpenter and Master Painter for the Theatre Department at Firestone High School where she recently was awarded the Helping Hands Award, and with the Show Choir program at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. Kathy lives in West Akron with husband Doug and their three children, Stephanie, Zachary, and Katie.

DREAJEAN L. BROWN (Data Services Manager) rejoined the staff in August. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Technical Education and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from The University of Akron. She retired from the field of education six years ago and now is the Office Manager for the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Akron Alumnae Chapter. Drea spends her spare time with family and friends and enjoys reading, crocheting and traveling.

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Weatherovane Playhouse is handicapped accessible. Ramps are available to the front doors, auditorium and seating.

Assisted-listening devices for the hearing impaired are available at the Ticket Office.

Large-Type program inserts are available at the Ticket Office. These copies are not full playbills but contain information unique to this production. These inserts are photocopied and are available in limited quantity.

American Sign Language interpretations are scheduled for selected Sunday performances.

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Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees are open.

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WEATHERVANE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

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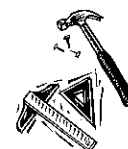


Weathervane Community Playhouse Capital Project Scope

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

A new campaign

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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!

Welcome to our Season of Celebration!



Nearly 70 years ago four talented and dedicated women had a vision for providing live theatrical experiences for and with the members of our community. Our founding "mothers" envisioned a playhouse that continues to enrich our community with thought-provoking theater, stimulating workshops and a wide array of hands-on artistic opportunities for all. We honor this spirit and vision with a 68th season that will ignite discussion, entertain us and keep our spirits in high gear.

I am pleased that we begin with *The Chosen*. This touching story about father and son relationships is very close to our hearts while the exploration of cultural and religious differences and how we deal with those differences is a critical global issue today.

We follow this story with the joyful musical, *The Wiz*, a rhythm and soul version of the classic story *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. We are very pleased to be collaborating with Firestone Theatre's Visual and Performing Arts Program on this wonderfully entertaining theatrical experience.

This is also the season of our 500th mainstage production — *The Laramie Project*. Please join our Trustees as they plan a celebration in February for this very special milestone in Weathervane history.

Participating and working in the arts together we can build a bridge to better understanding. We invite you to come to the theater and take part in the process. It can be a rewarding, mind expanding experience.

There is much to celebrate. Thank you for coming. Enjoy the show!

Edmundie Kerle

Executive Director



Weathervane Community Playhouse
68th Season – 2002-2003 – Production #497
September 18 - October 6, 2002



by **Aaron Posner
& Chaim Potok**

Based on the book by
Chaim Potok

Directed by
Sean McConaha

Lighting Designer
Erin Katz

Sound Designer
Tom C. Barnes

Properties Designer
John Cotter

Costume Designer
Betty Watterson

Production Stage Manager
Maryanne Arcuri Cotter

Assistant Stage Manager
Lisa Shay

Scenic Designer
Alan Scott Ferrall

The Chosen is produced by special arrangement with
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Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by



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Director's Notes

As we work to reconcile the events of last September 11, we must look to the past to find clues of how other eras have survived great tragedy and loss.

The characters of *The Chosen* are passionate, literate men who wish to make sense of the devastation of the Holocaust and to restore the very fabric of their lives, emotionally and religiously. And, in the end, make a difference in the world. We as Americans are forever trying to make sense of evil and destroy it and yet we still strive to be fair and non-prejudicial with our feelings and actions.

The senseless loss of life, whether it is 3000 in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington or 6,000,000 throughout Europe, is a tragedy of epic proportions. We must learn to suppress the hate we feel inside and work to better the world with our contributions, no matter how large or small. The way we deal with adversity and tragedy in this country is what makes us a beacon for the world to follow.

The world inhabited by the characters of *The Chosen* is a familiar one and yet a world away from most of our experiences as parents and children. We would find Reb Saunders "treatment" of his son to be bordering on abusive today, but his son has nothing but respect for him and the choices that he makes as a father and religious leader. Each of the fathers is passionate in his beliefs and hopes for his son's future. However, in the end, their love and respect for their sons overrides all other notions and doctrines.

We hope to touch you with this simple story of friendship and family. We need to be able to tell more stories that connect us to a place or time where the world faced a challenge and was able to overcome many obstacles, within its smaller parts, to succeed in saving the whole. This idea can save relationships, families and, in extreme cases, the world. Tolerance, respect and compassion are the cornerstones of a world that could eventually live in peace.

I wish to thank the cast and crew for their time, talents and patience. My sincerest thanks to the numerous members of Akron's Jewish community who were instrumental in the creation of this piece. And, finally, thank you to my friend and mentor, Libby Jacobs. I thank her for her passion and desire to work with me to make this production a success and for pushing me to remember how to "let it go" and trust the instincts and the talents that God has given me.

Love, Peace and Understanding,
Sean McConaha



The Chosen – Cast (In order of appearance)

Reuven Malter	Richard Worswick
Young Reuven Malter	Simon Siegel
Reb Saunders	Michael Pitt
David Malter	Sean McConaha
Danny Saunders	Sean Derry

Place: Williamsburg Section of Brooklyn, New York

Time: 1944-1949

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

Our Director — Sean McConaha

Sean McConaha is Weathervane's Director of Education and Producer of Youth/Family Productions. He has a dual major in Theater Performance and Pre-Law from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an M.A. degree in Theater from The University of Akron. He is co-founder of the Prodigal Theater Company, a floating company of graduate school friends which surfaces whenever there is extra time to "put on a play!" Their most successful production was David Ives' *All in the Timing* at Cleveland's Cabaret Dada and The Vault in Akron. Sean has been a free-lance actor and director wherever his skills are needed in northeastern Ohio. For Weathervane, Sean directed *The Glass Menagerie*, the Ohio Community Theater Association award-winning production of *Romeo and Juliet* as well as the 1999-2000 season's Chanticleer winner for Best Weathervane Production, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. He and wife Beth and two darling daughters, Leda and Delaney, live in Canton.

***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.**

***NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.**



About the Play & Playwright

Aaron Posner is the co-founder and resident director of the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia, where he has directed more than 30 productions over the last 14 years including several world-premiere adaptations. His adaptation of Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* was originally presented at the Arden and Pittsburgh's City Theatre and won the 1999 Barrymore Award for Best New Play.

Chaim Potok, a scholar and ordained rabbi whose best-selling novel about Hasidic Judaism explores the wrenching decision to forsake a close-knit parochial community for the world outside, died on July 23, 2002 at the age of 73. He came to international prominence in 1967 with the publication of *The Chosen*, the first American novel to make the fervent, insular Hasidic world visible to a wide audience. He conjured up a universe of men in dark caftans and fur-trimmed hats, the sounds of Yiddish in the streets and Hebrew in the synagogues and the Talmudic explications delivered with knife-edge precision in a neighborhood shul. Potok was expected to follow in the footsteps of his rabbi father. Instead, because he wanted to be a writer, he went to the Jewish Theological Seminary, a Conservative Jewish institution in New York City. To his friends and family, this choice was as great a defection as becoming a gentile. He served as a U.S. Army chaplain in Korea, then earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and was editor in chief of the Jewish Publication Society.

The setting of *The Chosen* echoes his own experience as a young man. It is located in a Brooklyn neighborhood during World War II and shows the effect on its inhabitants as information about the Holocaust becomes public and the State of Israel is created. The story deals with a friendship between two gifted boys: Danny Saunders, son of an Hasidic Jew, and Reuven Malter, an Orthodox Jew from a modern Orthodox background. Though the two live five blocks from each other, they meet at a baseball game during which Danny hits a line drive that smashes pitcher Reuven in the face. When Danny goes to the hospital to apologize, their friendship begins.

The adult Reuven is the narrator, telling the story of the two boys and their fathers. Danny's father is a disciplined rabbi who demands silence rather than conversation and expects Danny to become a rabbi in his likeness. Reuven's father is a gentle man, a writer and scholar who believes Zionism is the only recourse for Jews worldwide.

The play explores the tensions within Judaism and between Judaism and the modern secular world. Reuven's world is one of open inquiry, of engagement with secular thought and politics. Danny's, on the other hand, is a universe apart, immersed in the study of Torah and Talmud.

The Chosen has been translated into more than seven languages and became a movie starring Rod Steiger. "The play is the book," said an approving Potok, "translated onto the stage, with a wonderful fluidity."



Callboard – Cast Biographies

RICHARD WORSWICK (Reuven Malter) was last seen on our stage as the photographer, et al., in April's *As Bees in Honey Drown*. He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and studied theater at Indiana University. He has performed at Dobama, Cleveland Play House and Berea Summer Theater. He retired after 22 years as Director of Patron Services for the Music Arts Association's Cleveland Orchestra. He was named to Northern Ohio Live's Awards of Achievement for Community Events. He is a member of Weathervane's Board of Trustees and gardens or travels when otherwise unoccupied.

SIMON ANTHONY SIEGEL (Young Reuven Malter) is a junior at Akron's Firestone High School. He has spent his summer juggling at Six Flags. He has been on our stage in *Our Town* (2002) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2000 & 2001). He has also appeared at Coach House in *The Lion in Winter* (2002), at Western Reserve Playhouse in *Black Coffee* (2001) and at Hudson Players in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (2002).

MICHAEL PITT (Reb Saunders) earned a B.A. degree in mathematics and psychology at Kent State University, and is a member of MENSA, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. He is a frequent player on the Weathervane stage and was seen in *The Mousetrap* (1999), *Company* (1998) and *Born Yesterday* (1997). He has also appeared in *Inherit the Wind* for Streetsboro Players, *Noises Off* and *Lend Me a Tenor* for Hudson Players, *Anything Goes* for Aurora Playhouse and *Ladies of the Camelias* for Coach House. "To everyone who thought a rabbi was the LAST

thing I'd ever become—Guess what, Guys?"

SEAN MCCONAHA (David Malter) has made his career in theater locally for the past ten years. Recent directing credits include *Junk Bonds* (World Premiere) and Sam Shepard's *Cowboy Mouth* at the Cleveland Public Theatre as well as independent productions of *Hopscotch*, *Fool for Love* and *Christie in Love*. He has co-directed *Comedy of Errors* and *Merry Wives of Windsor* at Stan Hywet Hall. As a performer he was seen as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stan Hywet Hall and has performed with the Magical Theatre Company as a member of the acting ensemble for five years. Other favorite roles include Luigi in *Can't Pay, Won't Pay* directed by Dario D'Ambrosio (Manhattan Theatre Club) and Eddie in *Tango* directed by Jan Borna (Public Theatre of Prague.)

SEAN DERRY (Danny Saunders) is a self-employed videographer, born in Zanesville, OH, with acting credentials in New York City—on stage at the Mary McArthur Theatre, Lester Martin Theatre and Mannie Greenfield Theatre. He has studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, the Bobbie Chance Studio in Los Angeles, Otterbein University and English and Education at The University of Akron. He's into adventure racing (running, mountain biking, kayaking) and has traveled extensively around the world. His goals in life are to be an unconditional loving husband and father; a caring and helpful neighbor, and a working actor who listens sensitively, reacts truthfully and is vulnerably "in the moment." Sean lives in Stow with wife Deanne Marie and two daughters.



Backstage Callboard -- Designer Biographies

MARYANNE ARCURI COTTER (Production Stage Manager) has long been one of our most reliable stage managers. She has won Best Production Chanticleers for *Master Harold...and the boys*, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, and last season's *Wit*. She has also stage managed professionally at the Halle Theater in Mayfield Heights. In her twenty years at Weathervane, she has worked backstage on too many shows to count doing props, lights, sound and set construction. She has served on the Production Board as head of Stage Managers. She appeared as an actress on stage in *Daughters*. Until recently she has served as Volunteer and Production Coordinator. She and her husband John enjoy frequent visits to the New York theater scene. While proud of their children, they are crazy about their grandchildren Dana and Nicholas.

LISA SHAY (Assistant Stage Manager) found her way into Weathervane activities through the costume shop where she helped out, then wore one of the costumes for her role of Panacea in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. A graduate of Auburn University in Chemical Engineering, she and her husband Bryon are new to the Akron area. While living in Pensacola, Florida, Lisa did costume design for a production of *Amadeus* and performed on stage in *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Quilters* and *Guys and Dolls*, among others.

JOHN COTTER (Properties Design) is another dedicated long-time Weathervane volunteer. His work behind the scenes has earned him Chanticleer Awards for best props for *The Philadelphia Story*, *Sherlock's Last Case* and *Translations* in addition to the Chanticleer he won for

stage managing *My Three Angels*. John has chaired season ticket campaigns and the Chanticleer Awards event. As an Aeros fan, he helped organize special Weathervane fund raising sales at Aeros home games. He currently serves on the office staff as Business and Public Relations Assistant. He too is delighted with those grandchildren, Dana and Nicholas.

ERIN KATZ (Lighting Design) developed her interest in technical theater while a student at Copley High School. She was co-lighting designer for our Youth/Family production of *Charlotte's Web* and worked backstage on *Stuart Little* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Erin received the Youth Recognition Award at the Chanticleer dinner and is beginning her second year of studies at The Ohio State University.

TOM C. BARNES (Sound Design) is a graduate of The University of Akron and built an active theatrical resume while volunteering at Weathervane where he provided backstage and onstage assistance. He has been seen as Crooks in *Of Mice and Men* and as Elvis Mooney in *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. He also appeared in *The Piano Lesson* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He won Chanticleers for his sound designs for *Dracula* and *Communicating Doors* and also designed sound for *Sylvia* and *Having Our Say*. He enjoys art, music, travel and computers.

BETTY WATTERSON (Costume Design) has been volunteering at Weathervane for almost three years and enjoyed working with Chris Schueneman on costumes for *Charlotte's Web*. She is a member of the executive board of the Weathervane Women's Board serving as



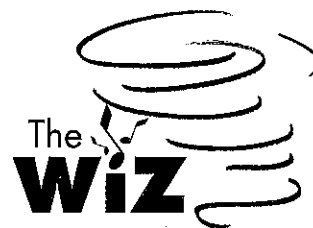
Backstage Callboard Continued -- Designer Biographies

recording secretary. She also worked backstage on running crews. A veteran of the United States Coast Guard (SPAR), Betty sells tickets at Montrose Movie Theater and enjoys travel, golf and crossword puzzles.

LIBBY JACOBS (Creative Consultant) has directed three of Weathervane's plays that earned Best of the Season Chanticleers: *Wit*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

and *Lost in Yonkers*. She's also brought her special touch to productions of *Working*, *The Miracle Worker* and *Romance, Romance*. She was Artistic Director at Coach House Theatre for seven years and also founded and directed Actor's and Playwright's Theatre. She has staged several of the plays that she has written and has also acted in a number of impressive productions.

Next On Our Production Schedule



A musical version of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum.

Book by William F. Brown.

Music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls

October 16-November 3, 2002

Charlie Smalls was a true New York character who gave his first public piano concert at age five. He attended the Henry Street Settlement, Julliard and the High School of the Performing Arts. He served in the U.S. Air Force and in 1970 teamed with producer Ken Harper to develop *Oz* into a contemporary black musical. Dorothy's adventures in *Oz* are memorable but, set to Smalls' music, the show provides a dazzling mixture of rock, gospel and soul. It's a new modern fantasy and radiates so much energy you won't be able to keep from tapping your toes.

The Wiz opened in 1975 starring Stephanie Mills with a black cast that intermingled songs of fantasy and humor with songs of protest. It ran for 1,672 performances and garnered seven Tony awards and one for Best Musical of the 1974-75 season. A film version released in 1978-79 starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson was not as successful. Dorothy, on screen, was a child of the inner city.

The characters are all here but they've been given a contemporary twist. The wicked witch is a big mean mama, and the Cowardly Lion is distracted by some very unusual poppies. Baddest of all is the Wiz himself, a dude who really has his act and his wardrobe together. Director/Choreographer is Eric van Baars who was our choreographer for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Also on board are Musical Directors Bernadette Salley and David Spondike.

This production is presented in collaboration with Firestone High School's drama department under the direction of Mark A. Zimmerman.

The Wiz is a Project STAGE presentation.



In the Bank One Gallery

Works from Merkaz Judaica

A gallery of handcrafted Judaica and contemporary Jewish books

Larry Solomon strives to help you strengthen your connection to Judaism through the arts at his gallery, Merkaz Judaica. The gallery takes Hiddur Mitzvah, the commandment to increase the beauty of all commandments or rituals, as its motto. Catering to all streams of Judaism, Solomon takes special care to listen and try to find exactly what you need.

The gallery includes artists of international acclaim from many countries. The collection focuses not only on beautiful graphic art, but on unique, handmade ritual items as well. Sculptors from around the world have works in the gallery.

Items from Merkaz Judaica were exhibited at Weathervane during the run of *Fiddler on the Roof* from June 19 to July 14 this past season. The gallery collection includes works by sculptors from around the world; the book collection and resource center covers a wide range of topics and materials. It runs from great summer fiction, to Sifre Kodesh ("Holy Books"), to ideas for parents and teachers for Jewish crafts and lessons. The children's book collection captures the attention of many parents and children for hours!

Visit the gallery at 27629 Chagrin Blvd. #106 in Woodmere.

www.merkazjudaica.com email: shlomo@merkazjudaica.com

"Seek the company of those who seek the Truth.

Avoid the company of those who have found it." Vaclav Havel

Future Events

*Salon Readings...

Sept. 29 *Lebensraum*

by Israel Horowitz

Directed by Ryan Keytack

Oct. 20 *God's Trombones*

Adapted from the book by

James Weldon Johnson

Directed by Reva Golden

Oct. 16 - Nov. 3

The Wiz

Musical by Charlie Smalls

Mainstage--General Audiences

Auditions

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor

Dreamcoat, Sept. 24 & 25

H.O.T. Fall Workshops

10-Week classes begin September 21

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



Production Team Members & Crews

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Kevin Ford

Kathy Kohl

Lee Lechner

Ruth Richardson

Tom Marshall

LIGHTS

Justin Herman

Mike Sferro

Michelle Sinsky

Leah Sass

Whitney Turner

Danielle Rusen

Steve Lawson

PROPERTIES

M.J. Coulson

Dan Cotter

Marcia Deist

Barbara Trotter

Donna Philips

Lois Bennett

Jeffrey Hudson

SOUND

Justin Herman

Nikki Rafferty

COSTUMES

Dorothy Kies

Chris Schueneman

Henrietta Cook

Connie Velotta

Acknowledgments

Vaughn Austin --

OCTA Representative

Sally & Erin Katz

Randie Sass

West Hill Hardware

Dick Lund--Youth Theatre

Makeup Demo Table

Temple Israel

Cleveland Playhouse

Libby Jacobs

Tom Marshall &

Cuyahoga Valley Antiques

Sarah Rzepka

Esther Hexter

Rabbi Levinski

Rabbi Lipper

Tim Champion

& Ron Meinen for hosting

Jim Stuart during *Fiddler*

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 *Fiddler* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

Puru & Meena Agrawal

Nora Ahrens

Rolf Ahrens

Evelyn Barr

Mary Brazier

Amorya Farrier-Cain

Alberta Carlin

Juanita Carlson

Eileen Christ

Janet Clark

Eileen Creevy

Amanda Davis

Margaret Dietz

Jerry Dorton

Patty Drake

Sally Dudley

Becky Duhon

Ruth & Paul Eisenzimmer

Cue & Helen Fleming

Gina Foster

Ian Haberman

Marilyn Heagerty

Linda Heath

Fran Howell

Kim Jameyson

Barb Kistler

Pam Klemm

Jody Klyka

Leslie & Richard Lund

Linda Mateen

Chris Meneer

Claudena Miller

Younghee Miller

Marisue Murphy

Pat Obenour

Barbara O'Connor

Jennifer Palazzo

Jean Questel

Liz Raines

Joanne Reed

Robin Renner

Ruth Richardson

Matt Schueneman

Clyde Shaw

Lois Simmons

Suzanne Smith

Dave Stebbins

Pam Steffek

Barbara Stevic

Evelyn Stiggers

Jacqui Sukie

Helen Tschantz

Linda Waite

Betty Watterson

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Gen Woods

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Nov. 2002--3 tickets @ \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Dec. 2002--1 ticket @ \$1,000

Jan. 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Feb. 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

March 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

April 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

May 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

June 2003--2 tickets @ \$250

July 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Aug. 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Sept. 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Oct. 2003--3 tickets 2 \$100, 1 ticket @ \$50

Tickets on sale in the lobby before the show and at intermission.

You could be a lucky winner more than once!



Memorial Contributions were made to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
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Weathervane Women's Board

Ken Wilhelm

Betty & Glen Williams

Mary & Mel Wolfman

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June & Dan Zeno

Firestone Theatre

2002-2003 Season



book by
William F. Brown
music and lyrics by
Charlie Smalls

October 3-5, 2002

7:30 p.m.

produced in collaboration with Weathervane Playhouse

The Man Who Came to Dinner

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

December 5 - 7, 2002

7:30 p.m.

Grease

book, music, and lyrics by
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

February 27, 28, & March 1, 2003

Firestone High School

333 Rampart Avenue, Akron

(330) 873-3408



Community Cash Back Program

Weathervane is signed up to be a recipient of the Acme **Cash Back** Program. Bring in your Acme register tapes (as often as possible) to **John Cotter** at Weathervane and we'll receive a 1% return on them until May 19, 2003. (We turn them in periodically so there's no need to hold on to them for long.)

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Betty Williams

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Christine Schueneman

Dorothy Kies

Henrietta Cook

A Memorial Contribution was made to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Ramona Ferguson** by **Ardith & Bill Keck**

The Weathervane Women's Board
made Memorial Contributions to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Jim Kies, John Davies & Mal Obenour**

Memorial Contributions were made to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **John Davies** by **Margaret J. Dietz & Judy & Richard Kotick**

A Memorial Contribution was made to the Weathervane Endowment Fund
in honor of **Addie Bishop** by **The Moushey Family**

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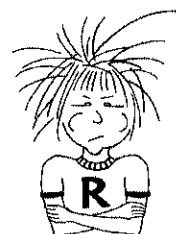
Great American Hymns of Faith
Friday, October 25, 2002
ST. BERNARD CHURCH • 7:30 PM

An American Requiem
Saturday, March 29, 2003
ST. BERNARD CHURCH • 7:30 PM

Christmas Candlelight Concerts
December 20, 21, 22, 2002
ST. BERNARD CHURCH • 7:30 PM

An Ohio Bicentennial Celebration
Saturday, June 21, 2003
E.J. THOMAS PERFORMING ARTS HALL • 8:00 PM

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL 330/434-SING (7464)



Ramona Quimby
Oct. 16 - 27, 2002



Nov. 29 -
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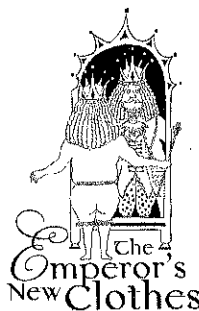
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River City Brass Band
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Tues., Feb. 18, 2003 - 8 p.m.
Joshua Bell, violin

Sun., Mar. 9, 2003 - 3 p.m.
The Cleveland Orchestra

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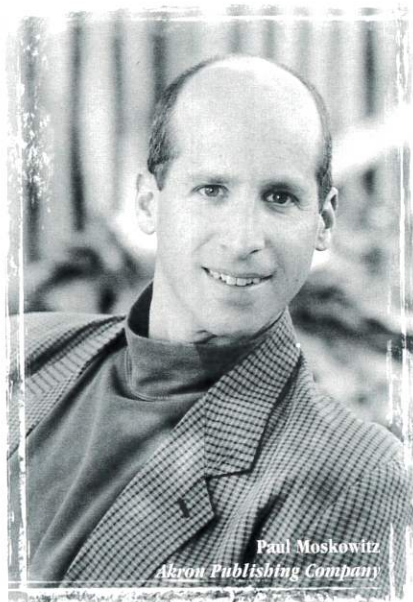
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Weathervane Hours

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.



Before You Throw It Out, Ask Us

Weathervane can often make good use of used furniture and household items so please think of us when you're redecorating, cleaning or moving. Small rugs, carpet remnants, draperies or curtains are also appreciated.

Our wardrobe department also appreciates donations of clothing, shoes, women'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.

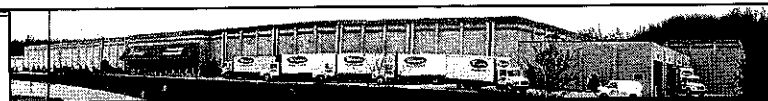
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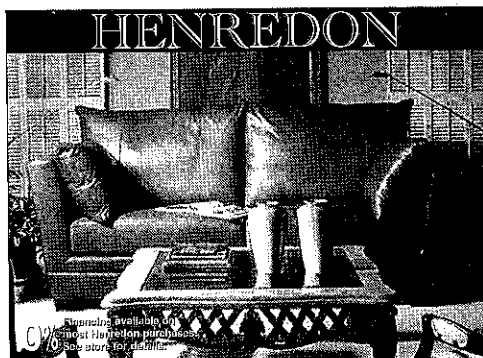
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AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

There's something in it for you.



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.

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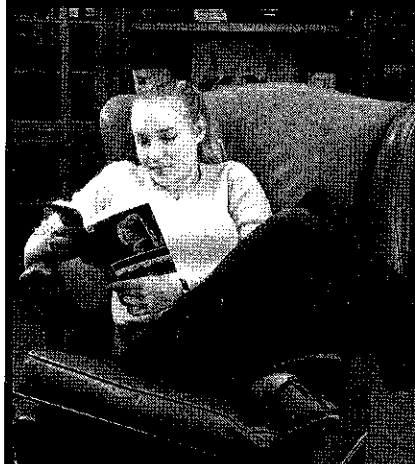
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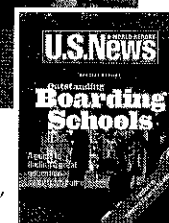
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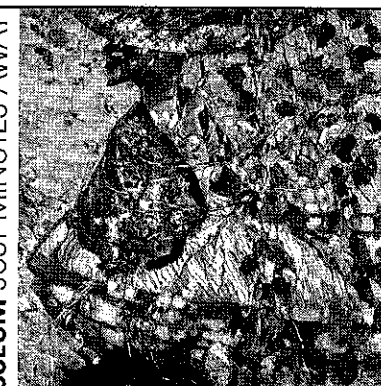
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Weatherwane Traditions

Meet the cast. It's a Weatherwane 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 sporting event or concert? Weatherwane 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.

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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 Weatherwane 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 Weatherwane stage and we can honestly say that the show couldn't go on without you.



Who Gets On Stage at Weatherwane?

The performers you see on the Weatherwane 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 Weatherwane 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 Weatherwane 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.

Weatherwane 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!



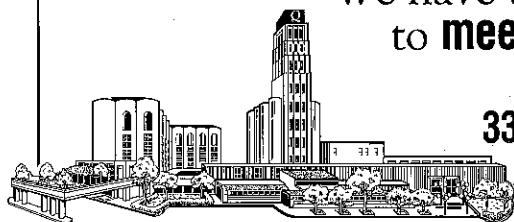
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I Want to Know More About Opportunities for Involvement at Weathervane

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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Acting	<input type="checkbox"/> Costuming	<input type="checkbox"/> Box Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Set Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra	<input type="checkbox"/> House Managing
<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound	<input type="checkbox"/> Play Reading/Selection
<input type="checkbox"/> Usher	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Backstage Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Classes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising	

_____ 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.



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.

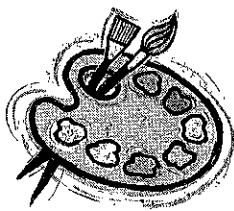
★ **Properties** - All the items that help "dress" a set and all those used by actors in rehearsal and performance (from tea sandwiches to "deadly" weapons and "shattering" windowpanes) must be borrowed, built or cooked. We need many volunteers to work on each performance. If you are clever at building 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 theater-goers 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.



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- Luis M. Proenza
President, The University of Akron

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