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Seventy-Sixth Season

"PIPPIN"



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John Hedges, Executive Director

2010-2011 Season

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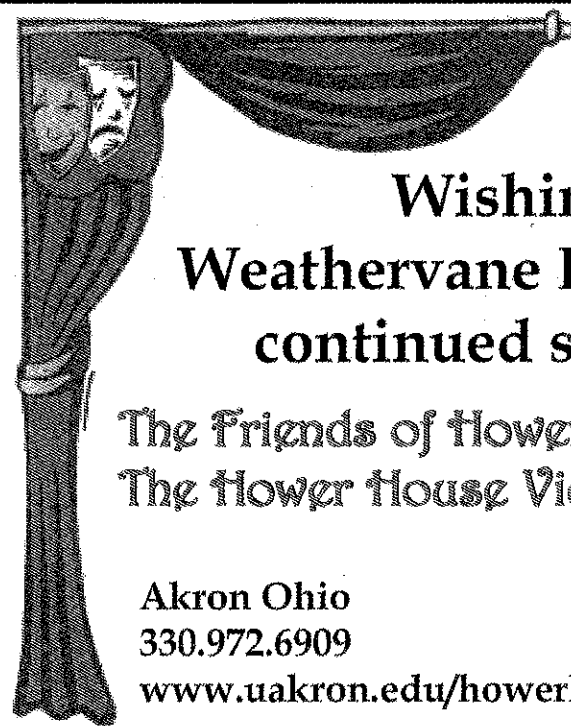


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A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members -- Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch -- and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works -- even opera -- with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935 the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan with the other founders offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938 a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. It, too, continues to this day.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1471 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-69 and from 1974-92. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned. During the 1960s the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed; these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was just completed for the opening of the 75th season.

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In the Harris Family Gallery

In honor of Weathervane's 75th year of continuous operation, the history panels created last year have been reinstalled. The original five panels -- "The Buildings," "The Founders," "Education" and "Women's Board" -- have been augmented with a panel celebrating "A Life in the Theater." This new panel covers the careers of Robert and Florence Beard, Margaret McKinley Moore and Noble S. "Jim" Elderkin, each a charter member of Weathervane.

The panels completed to date are on display in the Harris Family Gallery, and new panels will be displayed all summer long leading up to the Chanticleer Awards on August 20, 2011.

Weathervane wishes to acknowledge the following individuals with their help during this two-year-long project:

Warren Skidmore
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Sincerely,



John Hedges, Executive Director

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From Our Executive Director

Connections Along the Way

As I have the privilege of producing *Pippin* for the first time, I am struck by the connections that have occurred in my life from the first time I saw the show 37 years ago to now.

I first sat in the audience for a performance of *Pippin* in 1974 when I was a 17-year-old high school student. Playing the title role at that time was an actor by the name of Michael Rupert. I was captivated by the production and it inspired me to plunge headlong into a life in the theater.



After college, much to my good fortune, I had the opportunity to perform alongside Michael in the musical *Working* at the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire in 1980. I was an intern at the time and he was an accomplished professional actor from New York. I was thrilled! He was very supportive of me and we've been friends and have stayed in touch ever since.

I followed his successful career, from composing a dynamic new Off-Broadway musical with an edgy title in 1985 (more on that later), to winning a Tony Award in 1986 for his performance as Oscar in the revival of *Sweet Charity*, to his stunning performance as Marvin in *Falsettos* in 1992 (a role I would later have the privilege of performing myself at the Barter Theatre in Virginia in 2000).

The theater is a very small business. Earlier this season, Michael was gracious enough, upon my request, to come to Weathervane Playhouse to direct *Breaking the Code*. He had just completed the national tour of his latest Broadway show, *Legally Blonde*, and had some time off. While he was here he agreed to teach master classes and even perform at our Gala. In one interesting turn of events, a lovely couple who had seen Michael on Broadway in *The Happy Time* with Robert Coulet in 1968 (when Michael was 16) came to Weathervane to have him finally autograph their playbills -- some 42 years later!

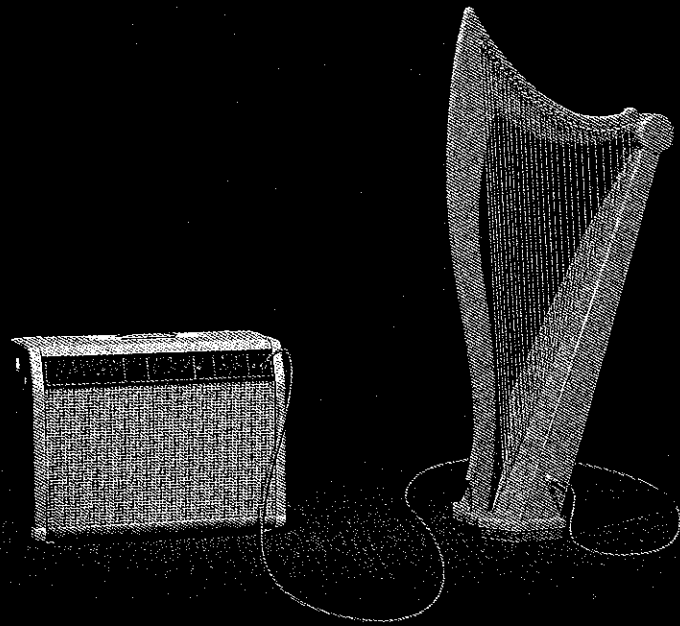
Now here we are producing *Pippin*, a show Michael had such a long association with on Broadway and around the country, and then this coming fall we are producing that "Off-Broadway musical with the edgy title" I mentioned before -- *Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down*. Hopefully, Michael will have a chance to return to Weathervane to see our production and the many new friends he has made here. We hope you'll return too.

The connections continue...

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director
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— PLAYHOUSE —

76th Season -- 2010 - 2011 -- Production #551
June 2 - 26, 2011

Pippin

**Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz**

**Book by Bob Fosse and
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Directed and Choreographed by Eric van Baars*

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About the Play and Playwright

Pippin originated at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz fashioned an original show called *Pippin*, *Pippin* as a vehicle for his fellow student members of Scotch'n'Soda, one of the oldest student theatre organizations in America. By the time the show opened on Broadway, Schwartz had settled on the title, *Pippin*, and cut all of the songs he had written for his college version.

Pippin opened in New York City at the Imperial Theatre on Oct. 23, 1972, and ran for a total of 1,944 performances before closing on June 12, 1977. The show was directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, who is also credited with co-writing the show's book with Roger O. Hirsion. The original Broadway cast featured Ben Vereen as The Leading Player, John Rubinstein as Pippin, Jill Clayburgh as Catherine, Leland Palmer as Fastrada and Irene Ryan as Berthe. *Pippin* was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won five (Ben Vereen as Best Actor in a Musical, Tony Walton for Best Scenic Design, Jules Fisher for Best Lighting Design, Bob Fosse for Best Choreography, and Bob Fosse for Best Direction of a Musical).

By the time the show closed in 1977, *Pippin* ranked as the 10th longest-running show on Broadway. The original production of *Pippin* was also notable because it was the first Broadway show to film a TV commercial with actual scenes from the show.

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ (Composer and Lyricist) was born in 1948 in New York City, where he studied piano and composition at the Juilliard School of Music (while still in high school). Upon graduating with a drama degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1968, he returned to New York and worked as a producer for RCA Records. Soon, however, he began to focus his work toward Broadway. One of his first theatrical credits was the title song he composed for the 1969 comedy *Butterflies Are Free*. At one point in the 1970s, his musicals *Godspell*, *Pippin* and *The Magic Show* were all running on Broadway simultaneously. For *Godspell*, Schwartz won two Grammys and two Drama Desk Awards. With Alan Menken, he collaborated on the scores for the Disney animated films *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the DreamWorks animated feature *The Prince of Egypt*. His most recent musical, *Wicked*, has been playing on Broadway and on tour since the fall of 2003.

BOB FOSSE (Book Co-Writer) was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1927. Recognizing his apparently natural talent for dancing, Fosse's parents sent him to formal lessons. By the time he reached high school, Fosse was a frequent performer in Chicago-area nightclubs and burlesque houses. After high school, Fosse enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and served a two-year tour of duty. Following his military service, Fosse moved to New York City and carved out a career as a performer in variety shows on stage and television. His big break came when he made a brief appearance in the 1953 film adaptation of the Cole Porter musical, *Kiss Me, Kate*. Broadway showman George Abbott was highly impressed by Fosse's dance moves in the film and invited him to choreograph the next show he was directing, *The Pajama Game*, which opened on Broadway in 1954, and also his next one, *Damn Yankees*, which opened in New York in 1955. With *Damn Yankees*, he worked closely with star Gwen Verdon, with whom Fosse established a lifelong creative and romantic collaboration (the two were married from 1960 until his death in 1987). *Sweet Charity*, which opened on Broadway in 1966, marked one of his first hits as a combined director/choreographer. Among his other notable stage credits are *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961), *Little Me* (1962) and *Chicago* (1975). Among his motion-picture credits, he directed and choreographed *Cabaret* (1972), *Lenny* (1974) and wrote, directed and choreographed the loosely autobiographical *All That Jazz* (1979). He is a nine-time winner of the Tony Award, and was nominated for four Academy Awards (winning one for his direction of *Cabaret*). Fosse staged and choreographed a variety show special for NBC-TV starring Liza Minnelli called *Liza with a Z*, which won Fosse an Emmy Award and made him the first person to ever win top honors in three entertainment mediums -- stage, film and television -- all in the same year (1973). On September 23, 1987, Fosse died from a heart attack at the age of 60.

ROGER O. HIRSON (Book Writer) was born in 1926 and got his start as a dramatist during television's "golden age" of the 1950s, during which he wrote many teleplays for such landmark drama-anthology programs as *The Alcoa Hour*, *Goodyear Television Playhouse*, *Playhouse 90*, *Studio One*, *The Armstrong Circle Theatre*, *The DuPont Show of the Week* and *The Philco Television Playhouse*. For the theater, he wrote the books for the musicals *Walking Happy* (which played on Broadway for 161 performances between 1966 and 1967) and *Pippin*. His additional television writing credits include *A Woman Named Jackie* (1991), *The Old Man and the Sea* (1990), *The Ted Kennedy, Jr. Story* (1986) and *A Christmas Carol* (1984).



Pippin -- Cast

Leading Player	Jayson Kolbicz
Pippin	Connor Simpson
Charlemagne	Henry C. Bishop
Fastrata	Maria Work
Lewis	Cody Hernandez
Berthe	Karen L. Wood
Catherine	Samantha Rickard
Theo	Theodore Mansfield

The Players

Seth Hunter – U/S Pippin
 Adam Klusty
 Cody Hernandez
 Mike L. Glavan
 John S. Catlos/Costume Co-Designer
 Kylie Casino
 Shannon Hubman/U/S Catherine/Dance Captain
 Courtney Hostetler
 Julianna Blischak
 Allison Good

INTERMISSION – 15 minutes
 between the Acts

**Comments...
 Suggestions...
 Reviews...**

John Hedges
jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com

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 and recording equipment 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 refreshments into the auditorium. However, if you have candy, please remove wrappers before the performance begins.
- NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



About Our Director



ERIC VAN BAARS (Director/Choreographer) happily returns to Weathervane since directing *The Sum of Us* in 2010 and *The Wiz* in 2002. He has directed and choreographed productions for Berea Summer Theatre: *The Melody Lingers On* and Cain Park: *Tintypes* and *Grease*. As Assistant Artistic Director of Porthouse Theatre, his directorial credits include *Pump Boys and Dinettes* and *Dames at Sea* and choreography for *Once on This Island*, *Big River*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Eric choreographed productions for the Halle Theater: *Joseph...Dreamcoat* and *A, My Name Will Always be Alice*, St. Louis Repertory: *Into the Woods*, Connecticut Rep: *Once on This Island*, and Cain Park: *Big River*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Sound of Music*.

As a Kent State faculty member in the School of Theatre and Dance, he has directed *Oklahoma!*, *Cloud Nine*, *The Diviners*, *The Wild Party*, *Working*, *Honk* and *Lysistrata*. Eric also served as co-director for the spring opera program, *One Act Wonders*, in the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music. He is a member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers and is so thankful for this wonderful cast and fabulous designers; you make the magic happen.

Director's Notes

The Players Are Coming!

Pippin -- Stephen Schwartz's 1972 follow up to his first hit, *Godspell*, is conceptual in that the entire musical takes place in real time on a stage. A theatrical troupe rolls into town and nightly reenacts the tale of a young man's search for fulfillment. Encouraged by the Leading Player, Pippin tries his hand at many pursuits and is constantly tempted to perform the ultimate trick for fame and glory. Tonight, you are their captive audience. Tonight, one of you has been selected to play the title role.

Originally a sweet coming-of-age story about a 9th century Franken prince, *Pippin* in the hands of Bob Fosse became a seductive look at the quest for happiness and fame. The show deals with disillusionment, generation gaps, dysfunctional families, and the malaise of narcissism. Pippin, fresh home from college, does not know what to do. He doesn't have a job and lives at home. Sound familiar?

Pippin was originally conceived when the quest for self enlightenment was on everyone's agenda and *I'm OK, You're OK* was a best seller. It was presented at a time when many young Americans were dropping out and dying due to recreational drug overdose. *Pippin* reflects the quest for happiness and the disillusionment that was prevalent among younger Americans during the mid-1970s. Back then our country was dealing with rising unemployment and inflation, gas shortages and an unpopular war. Sound familiar?

While working on the play with this wonderful cast and artistic team, I was struck by the many parallels between *Pippin* and the young people of today. *Pippin* is just as entertaining and resonant in 2011 as it was in 1972. It's funny how everything old is new again.

One of my earliest Broadway experiences was a ticket to *Pippin* in 1977. There, in the cavernous Imperial Theatre, I sat in a box loge, far, far downstage. The seat was sold as partial view, and I saw more backstage than onstage. I spied on the players in the wings, as they prepared for their entrances. I watched the stage hands moving scenery. It was magical. This was a pivotal moment in my education, as I was made aware of the mechanics of stagecraft on a grand scale. *Pippin* is a show about the powers of illusion and magic and the seduction of smoke and mirrors. Sitting in that box, I could see the man behind the curtain. I was spellbound and knew in that moment I had to be in the theatre for the rest of my life.

Let the Magic begin.

Eric van Baars



Our Musical Director



J.T. BUCK (Music Director) is at long last completing his MFA degree in Directing from the University of Houston this Summer! He holds a BA degree in Theatre Arts with a minor in music from The University of Akron, and currently serves as Arts Director for First Grace UCC in Akron. *The Gospel According to Tammy Faye*, for which Buck wrote music and lyrics, recently received a staged reading at the Manhattan Theatre Club starring Tony-nominee Sally Mayes and a cast of Broadway veterans and will be produced by his alma mater in Akron this fall. He has directed more than twenty productions on stages in Ohio and across the country, including productions of *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Godspell*, *The Laramie Project* and *Book of Days*. As music director, he has helmed the pit for more than forty productions, most recently for local stagings of *Songs for a New World*, *John and Jen*, and twice for Weathervane's *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. In his spare time, J.T. sleeps. This performance is dedicated to the memory of his mentor Lanford Wilson, who couldn't play an instrument, but taught J.T. everything worth knowing about music on the stage.

MUSICIANS

Alex Gerard -- Keyboard (rehearsal accompanist)

Don Day -- Bass

Mark Bussinger -- Drums

Daniel Rylander -- Percussion

Acts, Scenes & Musical Numbers

ACT I

Scene 1 -- The Opening

Magic to DoThe Players
Corner of the SkyPippin

Scene 2 -- Home

Welcome HomeCharles & Pippin

Scene 3 -- War

War Is a Science...Charles, Pippin & Soldiers
GloryLeading Player & Soldiers

Scene 4 -- The Flesh

Simple JoysLeading Player
No Time at All.....Berthe & Players
With YouPippin & Girls

Scene 5 -- Revolution

Spread a Little Sunshine.....Fastrada
Morning GlowPippin & Company
Magic to Do RepriseThe Players

ACT II

Scene 1 -- Encouragement

On the Right Track..Leading Player & Pippin

Scene 2 -- The Hearth

Kind of Woman.....Catherine
Extraordinary.....Pippin
Prayer for a DuckPippin & Theo
Love SongPippin & Catherine
Guess I'll Miss the ManCatherine

Scene 3 -- The Finale

The FinaleCompany



Cast Biographies



JAYSON KOLBICZ (Leading Player) just finished his freshman year at Kent State University, where he is studying musical theatre. He is a graduate of Whitmer High School in Toledo where he was seen in productions of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. He has also performed with the Toledo Repertoire Theatre in *The Wiz* (Scarecrow) and *Zombie Prom* (Jonny Warner). He is also an active member in Kent State's brand new a cappella group, The Kent Clarks. Jayson would like to thank his family and friends for all of their love and support. He would also like to thank his director Eric van Baars for giving him such an amazing opportunity and believing in him.



CONNOR SIMPSON (Pippin) is thrilled to be making his Weathervane debut! A sophomore musical theatre major at Kent State University this fall, Connor has been seen in KSU's productions of *Brigadoon* and *Hamlet*, as well as Porthouse Theatre's *Bye Bye Birdie* in 2010. Connor is also a proud graduate of St. Charles Preparatory School in Columbus where he appeared in such roles as Father in *Children of Eden*, Joseph in *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, and was the lead in the national high school premiere of the musical *Striking 12*. He would like to thank Eric for this incredible opportunity, his family for their constant love and support, and his mentor, Doug Montgomery, who taught him to always give 110%.



HENRY C. BISHOP (Charles) has been hanging around Weathervane for a little over a quarter of a century: from *Amadeus* to *The Great White Hope*. Favorite Weathervane roles/shows are Billy/*Chicago*, Pseudolus/*Forum* and Major General/*Penzance*, multi-roles/*Ragtime*. Favorites at other places include Grandpa/Y.C.T.I.W.Y., Macheath (Mack-the-Knife)/*Three Penny Opera* and El Gallo/*Fantasticks*. Henry is in the retirement job of substitute teaching, which he genuinely enjoys at Triway Junior High in Wayne County. Henry is married to Karen L. Wood, who plays Berthe, Charlemagne's Mother in the show, which makes for an interesting drive home every night. Karen and Henry are in an unofficial race for Chanticleer Awards, he is ahead at the moment (8). The young cast of *Pippin* has impressed Henry with its good

humor, diligence and talent.



MARIA WORK (Fastrata) was recently seen as Mrs. Kendal in *The Elephant Man* at The Players Guild, where she also had roles in *Then Waves* (World Premiere); *A Christmas Carol*, *Bad Girls on Broadway* and *Jekyll & Hyde*. She won a Best Supporting Actress Award for her performance of Truvy in *Steel Magnolias* with Canal Fulton Players. She also earned a Best Supporting Actress Award from OCTA when she portrayed Shelby in another production of the same play. Maria has been director/choreographer for musicals at Woodridge High School including *Into the Woods*, *West Side Story*, *Pippin* and *Working*.



CODY HERNANDEZ (Lewis/Player) could not be more excited to be involved in his first show at Weathervane theater! Cody is a musical theatre major at Kent State University. He has mostly been seen on Revere High School's stage. Some of his more memorable characters include: Teddy Brewster (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), Lysander (*A Midsummer Nights Dream*), Motel (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls*). Cody has also appeared in various community theaters in Ohio. He has most recently appeared in Kent State's production of *Hamlet*. Cody would like to thank his friends and family for supporting his dreams and the cast, crew and director of *Pippin* for making this such an enchanting experience.



KAREN L. WOOD (Berthe) first acted at Weathervane during the 50th season of the playhouse with the musical revue, *Cole*, and was last seen during season 74 as Grandma Rosie in *The Wedding Singer*. She has appeared in many favorite shows, including *Guys and Dolls* (Adelaide), *She Loves Me* (Amalia), *Chicago* (ensemble), *Cabaret* (Frln. Schneider), *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), *Nunsense* (Mother Superior), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Abby), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Domina) and *Ragtime* (ensemble). Karen has received seven Chanticleer awards for performances at Weathervane. Offstage, Karen volunteers as a music provider for Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County and is an elder at Creston Presbyterian Church in her hometown. Although it sounds scandalous, Karen is married to Henry "Charlemagne" Bishop.



Cast Biographies - continued



SAMANTHA RICKARD (Catherine) will be entering her senior year at Kent State University in the fall, where she is working towards a B.F.A. degree in musical theater. No stranger to the stage, Samantha has been performing in musicals since the 4th grade and has loved each and every minute since. Credits include, *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Footloose* (Ariel), *Rent*, *Assassins*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Wedding Singer*. Samantha is thrilled to be part of this wonderful production. Many thanks to Eric and J.T. Enjoy the show!



THEODORE MANSFIELD (Theo) has been seen in five Weathervane productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as a member of youth choruses from Essex School, Miller South and Weathervane. Last summer, he played the role of Jojo in our production of *Seussical, The Musical*. Theodore will be in the fifth grade at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts this fall.



SETH HUNTER (Player) is thrilled to be a part of his first production at Weathervane Playhouse. He is a freshman at Kent State University and is studying to receive a B.F.A. degree in musical theater. He would like to thank Eric and the rest of the production crew for allowing him to be a part of such an amazing show. He would also like to thank his family for being supportive of him. Past credits include: Marley's Ghost in *A Christmas Carol*, Pippin in *Pippin*, Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Danny Zuko in *Grease*, all of which, and more, he performed with Stage Right School of the Performing Arts in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.



ADAM KLUSTY (Player) is making his Weathervane Playhouse debut. Last December, he portrayed the character of Thomas Hodges in *Dear Harvey* for First Grace Arts. Adam has always enjoyed performing and is excited for this opportunity to make magic with such a talented cast. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support and love.



MIKE L. GLAVAN (Player) is a student at Kent State University majoring in musical theater. He was seen there in recent productions of *Grease* (Kenickie) and *Brigadoon* (Jeff Douglas). Other favorite roles include Paul (Company), Father (Children of Eden), Anthony (Sweeney Todd) Don Pedro (Much Ado About Nothing), John Jasper/Clive Paget (The Mystery of Edwin Drood) and Cinderella's Prince (Into the Woods), a role he has played for three different venues. He thanks Eric for this opportunity.



KYLIE CASINO (Player) is very excited to be making her onstage debut, but is no stranger to Weathervane; she has worked as part of the tech crew for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for the past three years. Other stage credits include Older Karana and a Storyteller in *Island of the Blue Dolphins* with Magical Theatre Company, numerous ballets such as *The Nutcracker* and *The Snow Maiden*, and various performances with The University of Akron's Dance Company. Kylie will graduate from college in 2012 with a B.A. degree in Dance, and hopes to join a company or the ensembles of various shows.



SHANNON HUBMAN (Player/U.S. Catherine/Dance Captain) is absolutely delighted to be making her debut on the Weathervane stage. In the fall, Shannon will be entering her junior year at Kent State University. She is pursuing a BFA degree in musical theatre and a minor in American Sign Language. A Cleveland native, Shannon has been performing on various stages in the area for years. Her most recent credits include the controversial *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (Audience Ensemble/U.S. Shawntel/Eve) at the Beck Center and Cassidy Theatre's *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?* (Dee-Dee). Shannon would like to thank everyone involved with this production. "It has been a joy and an honor to work with so many talented people. Special thanks go out to my parents for always supporting me."



COURTNEY HOSTETLER (Player) graduated this year from Jackson School for the Arts. Her credits include DeeDee in *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?* at the Cassidy Theatre,



Cast Biographies -- continued

Scarlet/Featured Dancer in *Li'l Abner* at Mercury Summer Stock, Mrs. Strakosh in *Funny Girl*, Silly Girl/Featured Dancer in *Beauty and the Beast* and Lucille in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Jackson High School and Ensemble in *Rent* at Stagecrafters. She will be attending Shenandoah Conservatory majoring in Musical Theater in the fall. Courtney would like to thank her parents, Alyssa and Ryan, and her vocal coach. Without their guidance, love and support she wouldn't be where she is today.



JULIANNA BLISCHAK (Player) returns to Weathervane after playing Issachar's Wife in the 2010 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She appeared on our stage as Miss Clavel in the 2009 production of *Madeline and the Gypsies*, played Naphthali's Wife in *Joseph* in 2008, and was the Jester in *The Frog Prince* in 2007. Next Fall, she will be a senior at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, where she played Friedrich Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.

this past Spring. She has also appeared on Hoban's stage in *Les Miserables*, *Oliver Twist* and various one act plays. Julianna is a registered member of the International Thespian Society. She hopes to pursue musical theatre in college.



ALLISON GOOD (Player) makes her musical debut in *Pippin*. She was just seen in *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*, playing the roles of Secretary for Duncan Ross and the female groom.

Last year she played the roles of Charlotte Lucas and the housekeeper on our stage in *Pride and Prejudice* as well as the Lord of the Underworld in The University of Akron's *Eurydice*. She is a senior at The University of Akron as an English major/theater minor and has earned a spot on the Dean's List for four semesters running. "I hope to go to grad school for theater," Allison says. She sends her heart-felt thanks to "my loving parents, the cast and crew, and Daniel."

Creative Team Biographies



JERRY DORTON (Stage Manager) served as co-lighting designer for *The Sum of Us* last season, stage manager for *Man of La Mancha* (2009), and the assistant stage manager for *The Lion in Winter* (2007). In 2006, he stage managed the Playhouse's revival of August Wilson's *Fences*. He has also volunteered on props and lighting crews for several other Weathervane productions. As an actor, Jerry appeared in our productions of *The Sound of Music* (2006) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2003). Elsewhere, Jerry appeared in *Don't Dress for Dinner* with Stow Players and he has also directed eleven productions at Kimpton Middle School in Stow, where he is a seventh-grade science teacher. A graduate of Crown College in Minnesota, he has a Master of Arts degree in education from Kent State University. He was named an outstanding teacher in *Who's Who of American Teachers* and chosen as the Stow PTA's outstanding educator of the year in 2010. He and his wife, Alison, have three children: Amanda, Jonas and Isaac.



ERIKA JOHNSON (Assistant Stage Manager) is glad to be working at Weathervane Playhouse again. She just finished her sophomore year at Firestone High School, where she Assistant Stage Managed *Hairspray* and appeared as the Chorus/Nym in *Henry V*. This summer, she will be returning to the Ohio Shakespeare Festival for her third season. Other credits include *The Little Mermaid* (Rip-Tide), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Philostrate), *The Aristocats* (Lafayette), and *Dear Gabby* (cast swing). She would like to thank the production team and cast for a wonderful experience, and a special thanks to Mr. Dorton for being a great stage manager!



TODD DIERINGER (Properties Designer) is thrilled to be designing props for *Pippin*. You may recall his work as props co-designer for last summer's *The Wedding Singer*. Todd served as scenic designer at

Weathervane for *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Children of a Lesser God* and *Man of La Mancha*.



Creative Team Biographies -- continued

He helps build scenery for many of our productions and serves as the Properties Dept. Chair on Weathervane's Production Board. Todd shares his passion for theatre with his father, Roger, who also volunteers in the scene shop. Todd serves as the systems administrator in the admissions office at The University of Akron. Todd says, "Theatre is a communal art and I'm proud to be part of the Weathervane community - my second family."



MIKE A. SFERRO (Lighting Co-Designer) has been working in theater for 14 years including high school, college and community and professional theaters. He is the resident lighting designer at the Medina

Performing Arts Center and The Chapel in Akron and Green. Michael teaches lighting design at Medina High School and has developed a technical theater program that is recognized as one of the best in the region. He has designed lighting for and/or stage managed more than 200 shows, some favorites being *Les Miserables*, *Anything Goes*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *West Side Story*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Oliver!* Michael is the chairman of the board of CAMEO, producer of the annual Medina summer musical. He works for Citizens Bank.



JONATHON HUNTER (Lighting Co-Designer) designed properties for our recent production of *A View from the Bridge* and our Young Actor production of *Sherlock Holmes*. Earlier this season, he

served as stage manager for *They're Playing Our Song* and was properties co-designer for *Breaking the Code*. Jonathon recently graduated from The University of Akron with his theater arts degree. Last summer, he served as the lighting designer for Mercury Summer Stock in Cleveland.



DAN "D.J." JANKURA (Sound Designer) is thrilled to return to Weathervane and join the creative team of *Pippin*. D.J. was recently the live sound mixer for *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Great Lakes Theater Festival.

Recent sound designs include *Passing Strange* for PlayhouseSquare, *Rent* for Baldwin Wallace College and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* for Porthouse Theater. For Weathervane D.J. has designed sound for *The Wedding Singer*, *The Great White Hope*, *Children of Eden*, *Ragtime*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *The*

Full Monty, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. D.J. has earned four Chanticleers and three Marquee Awards for his designs at Weathervane. He thanks his friends and family for supporting his love of the performing arts.



JOHN S. CATLOS (Costume Co-Designer/Player) was last seen on the Weathervane stage in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He received honors as top volunteer for the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 seasons and

most recently stage managed both *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and *Long Day's Journey into Night* in the Dietz Theater this season. Other stage manager credits at Weathervane include *Madeline and the Gypsies* and *The Great White Hope*. He has appeared both on and off the stage as a singer, costume designer and stage manager for numerous productions at The University of Akron and local theaters.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane staff in August of 2008. Since joining the staff he has designed *Children of Eden*, *Joseph*, *Bloody Murder*, *The Great White Hope* and *Pride and*

Prejudice and co-designed *Man of La Mancha* (for which he won a Chanticleer), *Putting It Together* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Jasen also won the 2009 YACIA Marquee Award for Best Costume Design for *Children of Eden*. Other regional designs include Porthouse Theater: *The Odd Couple*; Case Western Reserve University: *The Philadelphia Story*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Stage Door*; Ohio Light Opera: *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Robin Hood* and *The Merry Widow*.



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer) began with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 14th season as a Weathervane staff member.

Previously, he worked at Cuyahoga Falls High School and has designed sets for the Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). Scott has earned six Chanticleer Awards - one as stage manager for *Fences*; lighting designs for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying*; and co-lighting designs for *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Full Monty* and *Man of La Mancha*.



Production Team

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director
Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
Todd Dieringer
Roger Dieringer
David Ruggles
Kevin Ford
Erin Katz Ford
Jason Maurer
Jonathon Hunter
Joe Hunter
Judy Willemssen

SOUND

David Ruggles

PROPERTIES

Karen Burridge
Robyn Cooper
Joel Kirk
Jessica Maxson

LIGHTS

Steve Lawson
Carlina Coston
Jack Gatti
Susan Stout-Davis
Jason Maurer
Judy Willemssen
Dane Leasure
Josh Mansfield
Eric Mansfield
Jake Mansfield
Anthony Kenney
Leslie Johnson

COSTUMES

Susanne Abernathy
Diantha Seibert
Carol Smith
Jacqui Sukie
Kim Shores
Ruth Ackerman
Karen Burridge
Judy Adamson
Tamara French

Special Thanks to

Jasen Smith and John Catlos for allowing "Katie" the dog to be a part of our production.
Matt Smith

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.

Linda Avers
Patrice Bechtol
Mary Blazewicz
Nancy Bosshard
June Bretzin
Karen Burridge
Gail & Leonard Cheslock
Wendy Cooley
Thelma & Jim Coss
Lauretta Cypher
Debbie Shama-Davis
Margaret Dietz
Ann Edwards

Helen Fleming
Trish Forkel
Jill Forster
Janis Gallagher
Marilyn Heagerty
Linda Heath
Janet Heilmeier
Dave Hinebaugh
Frances Howell
Carol Krueger
Bunny Lacey
Nancy Mahoney
Jo McGarvey

Miltzi Mild
Sheila Motter
Lois Murray
Pat Obenour
Barbara O'Connor
John O'Neill
Marci Paolucci
Bess Raines
Ruth Richardson
Nancy Schafer
Carol Seiberling
Pearl Sentelik
Dorothy Shaffer

Debra Sharp
Lois Simmons
Sue Smith
Amy Snell
Pat Spayne
Helen Vari
Connie Velotta
Marta Williger
Mary Wolfman
Gen Woods
B.J. Zeigler

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges has an extensive background in theatre as both an actor and a producer. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the acting company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, where he performed in over 60 shows. Other acting credits include performances at Town Hall in New York and the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles. Regionally he has worked at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival, where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. John has been Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company and General Manager of New York's award-winning Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource and chaired its Strategic Planning Committee, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education and written for *American Theatre* magazine. He studied at Indiana State University and the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA degree in theatre from Stafford University. A 2009 graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV), John lives in Akron.



Show your love.

Weathervane's Annual Gala

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Eileen Burg
Honorary Chair

Patron Party
Dinner
Dessert

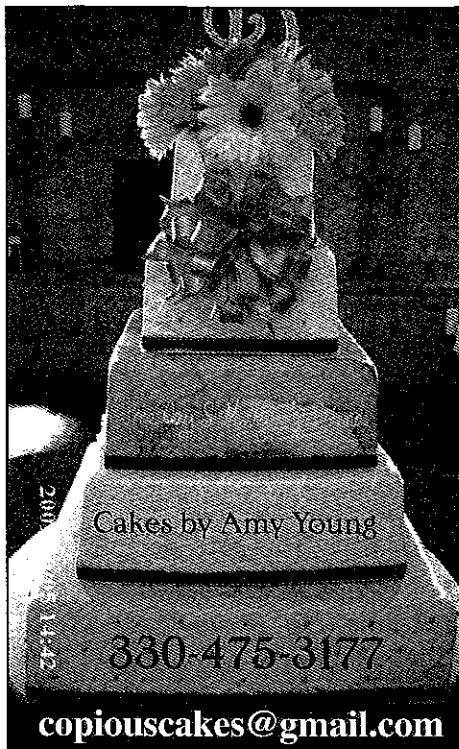
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John Hedges, Executive Director

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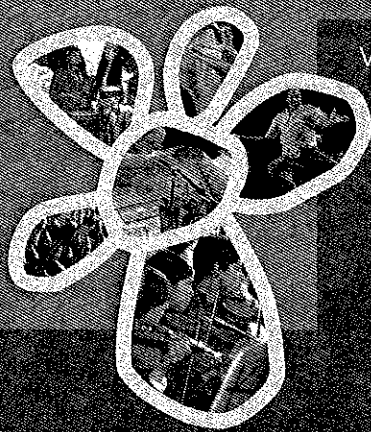
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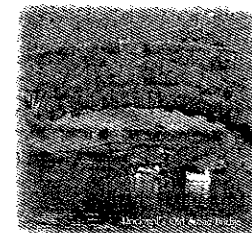


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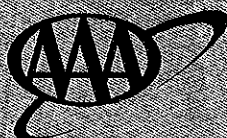
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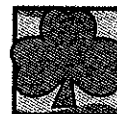
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