

WEATHERVANE

COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

John L. Dietz

John L. Dietz Theater Production No. 4

2005-2006

ANGELS-IN- AMERICA

A Gay Fantasia on National Themes

PART TWO:
PERESTROIKA

By Tony Kushner

Simply Grand
ENTERTAINMENT

*Sponsored by
Margaret J. Dietz*

May 18 - June 4, 2006



History

From the Barn to the Valley



Four society women urged Weathervane Playhouse into existence in 1935 - Grace Hower Crawford, Laurie Schwan, Helen Troesch and Muriel Maclachlan. They started with amateur theatricals at Coach House Theater, then as now part of Akron Woman's City Club. Back then Coach House was a club theater with closed membership and profits going back to the club. This left nothing for theatrical expansion or experimentation, so the ladies set up shop in a barn owned by U.S. Senator Charles Dick on Marshall Avenue. They had no money so they planned a carnival. After expenses, they cleared \$65 and declared themselves good to go.

Friends assisted in cleaning the barn that had been a garage for the Senator's cars. They scrounged for seats, curtains and a coffee pot. Seven fully costumed and staged plays were presented during the first three weeks of the summer of 1935. The audience applauded while bringing cushions from home to sit on -- the benches were hard. There was no running water or heat in the barn, but the operation had a name -- Weathervane, named for the chancicleer on the cupola of the barn. The ladies agreed that they would produce everything -- comedy, tragedy, Shakespeare, new works -- even opera. They also decreed that anyone who fit a part could be on their stage.

"The barn" was home until 1951 when it was sold, leaving the troupe homeless. The Board renovated a cement block building on Copley Road. This served until the late 1960's when the troupe moved to the Valley. In the early years,

directors came from the membership and were charged with casting, costumes, settings and publicity. By 1960, there were so many shows that Bob Belfance was hired as theater director. Along with custodian/ticket manager Nora Scott, the two-person staff relied on volunteer support.

A Women's Board was formed in 1938 to offer volunteer and financial assistance. The Youth Theater Workshop grew out of classes offered by the original founders. Muriel Maclachlan was particularly energetic in teaching children, bringing in experts in dance and voice to assist her in teaching the youngsters. Muriel's classes grew until they became today's Education Department. Project STAGE©, a program with reduced-price, school day matinees for students, was added in the early 1990s.

A fund-raising drive in the late 1960s built the present facility on Weathervane Lane. The Playhouse opened in 1970 with Maggie Moore's production of *Dark of the Moon*. Grace Crawford, who died in 1971, left a legacy to pay off the mortgage. Construction made possible by the most recent Capital Campaign added classrooms, rehearsal space, scene shop, additional prop storage, elevator, library, fly gallery, stage mechanics, a sound-proof production booth and a costume shop, and also upgraded the roof and HVAC system.

Weathervane celebrated its 500th Mainstage production with the award-winning *The Laramie Project* in February, 2003. The John L. Dietz Classroom Theater for students and black box productions had its inaugural production as part of our 70th Season, opening with *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* in January 2005.



Volunteer

Responsibilities

Here's a quick introduction to the responsibilities volunteers undertake to make our shows work. If you'd like to try your hand at any of these jobs, please call us. We'll help you learn! 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 great opportunity 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. Help is needed days and evenings.

*** Costumes** Designers and workers are vital. We invite skilled and unskilled seamstresses to make or alter costumes, create patterns, care for costumes during a show and keep our wardrobe department organized.

*** 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. *Nobody can see the show without you.*

*** Sound** Create the music and sound effects tapes that enrich the aural envi-

ronment for each show or add "live" backstage sound. Run the sound system for technical rehearsals and productions.

*** 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. Many volunteers are needed to work on each performance.

*** Office Volunteer** 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. You may also help with mailings, work with staff, and greet customers and visitors.

*** Ushering** Welcome audience members with your smile, show them to their seats, pass out programs, and serve refreshments at intermission. Your help is always welcome.

*** House Manager** This 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.

Weathervane Playhouse is a member of American Association of Community Theatre, Akron Area Arts Alliance and Ohio Community Theatre Association.





Women's Board

The Women's Board was formed in 1938 to "offer voluntary service and financial assistance to the Playhouse." Women's Board has energized youth education programs, sponsored productions, spearheaded fund raisers and paid for many of the amenities we appreciate in the Green Room/kitchen. Members of this active group are invaluable as hostesses, office helpers and backstage. The Women's Board sponsors an annual puppet presentation for children and also operates the Gift Boutique and Bank One Art Gallery.

New members are welcomed.

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Boutique Treasures

Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of our Weathervane Women's Board. Shop from one hour before curtain time or during intermission for great gift items. Prices are extremely reasonable and the items on sale include a

delightful variety from clowns and animal figures to pens, pins and earrings and some special items for the "men" in your life. Our Boutique volunteers will also assist you with information on purchasing gallery art works.



Including Weathervane Playhouse in your philanthropic plans helps us to continue producing theater that enriches our city and can provide you with tax advantages. Call us at 330-836-2626 for more information.



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

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Did you know that the average cost, per seat, to produce a Weathervane show is \$32.85? Thanks to the generosity of the following individuals, corporations and foundations, the cost of your seat is \$20 or less! We gratefully acknowledge their support.

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Weathervane Community Playhouse gratefully acknowledges **IBM, SBC, The Lubrizol Foundation, ExxonMobil Foundation, Merrill Lynch and Illinois Tool Works Foundation** for contributions made through matching gifts programs.

Weathervane Community Playhouse gratefully acknowledges **The Sisler McFawn Foundation and OMNOVA Solutions Foundation** for contributions for Project STAGE presentations and Youth Outreach Programs.



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Mainstage (Grace Hower Crawford) Series

Prices range from \$60 - \$110

Over the Tavern
Fences
All My Sons
Smokey Joe's Café
The Sister Rosensweig
The Full Monty

Snowbird \$70

Over the Tavern (GHC Series)
Fences (GHC Series)
The Sisters Rosensweig (GHC Series)
The Full Monty (GHC Series)

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Pick 4
Write in 4 titles

Kit 'n' Kaboodle \$145

All 12 shows including one
TBA for the John L. Dietz Theatre

Early Bird subscriptions
now on sale!

Coming Soon in the Dietz Theatre

The Last 5 Years

Contemporary Musical
by Jason Robert Brown

November 1 - 18, 2006

One of the most important musicals to emerge from the recent off-Broadway scene, this time-shifting, two-person musical tells the story of a relationship from two points of view. Jamie, an up-and-coming writer, recounts his story beginning on their first date, while Cathy, a faltering actress, recounts her story in reverse, starting with their breakup and moving backwards through time until their first meeting at the end of the show. Their stories meet in the middle then end with Cathy saying goodbye at the end of their first date, and Jamie saying goodbye forever.



Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to Weather vane and a very special theatrical experience.



Welcome to Weather vane, the John L. Dietz Theater and our production of *Angels in America: Perestroika*.

We are proud to present this production for our community. However, it would not have taken to the boards if not for the strong support of **Margaret J. Dietz, the Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation**, our corporate and individual supporters, and the dedication, talent and time of our volunteer actors, designers and crew. It is through these combined efforts, plus you the audience, that we are able to have such outstanding theater made by, with and for our community.

Why do we present shows like *Perestroika*? To many, theater is entertainment but it is also a live community experience. I strongly believe that, for the privilege of your taking the time to see our productions, we have a responsibility to use it wisely. At times it is critical to take a deep breath, to create a break from everyday life, and at other times to present works that reflect and examine our society. Through all of these types of experiences, we make our community a better place in which to live. With that in mind, we select works like *Lend Me a Tenor* that gather people together for a night of relaxation, laughter and fun. And some, like this current production, stimulate discussion, thought and social discourse. To me, both are crucial to the role that the performing arts can play for the greater community.

Throughout these pages you will see announcements for upcoming events, projects and plays that you have an opportunity to attend next season at the Playhouse. Next year's program will have area premieres of comedies and musicals, community collaborations and a new venture with Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theater. I urge you to take advantage of any and all that strike your fancy. We do this for you. Please tell us what you like and what you would like to see more of... Weather vane is YOUR community theater and we encourage you to take part in directing its future. Thanks for coming to this performance, for supporting live theater and when the time comes.... DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Yours truly,

Emmune Kizle

Weather vane Playhouse

Dynamic Productions, Strong Outreach, Continuing Education



Weather vane Community Playhouse

71st Season – 2005-2006 – Dietz Production #4
May 18 - June 3, 2006



Directed by **Sean McConaha**

Stage Manager
Rachel Lones

Scenic/Lighting Designer
Alan Scott Ferrall

Properties Designer
Leah Magnus

Costume Designer
Jordan Cooper

Sound Designer
Judy Willemssen

Costume Coordinator
Barbara Trotter

Sponsored by **Margaret J. Dietz**
Additional underwriting from the **Gay Community Endowment Fund**
of Akron Community Foundation

Angels in America is produced through special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc., 56 E. 81st Street, New York, NY 10028-0202. The script to this play may be purchased from BPPI at <http://www.BroadwayPlayPubl.com>.
Perestroika was originally produced by Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum.

Weather vane productions are sponsored in part by



Weather vane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weather vane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 – Fax: 330-873-2150 – Email for all staff: please see website
www.weather vaneplayhouse.com



About the Play & Playwright

Tony Kushner was born in Manhattan on July 16, 1956. His parents, both classical musicians, moved a year later to Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Kushner spent his childhood there. Growing up as a gay Jew in the deep South, he has later said, made him more conscious of his distinctive identity than he might have been in heavily Jewish New York City. Kushner returned to the city for college, receiving a degree in medieval literature from Columbia University. After graduating, he taught in Louisiana for three years, then returned to New York for good, studying for an M.F.A. at New York University and writing and producing plays. His early works include an adaptation of Pierre Corneille's *The Illusion* in 1988 and *A Bright Room Called Day* in 1990. Kushner was recently nominated for an Academy Award for the screenplay of Steven Spielberg's *Munich*.

Nothing in Kushner's early career, however, predicted the overnight success he attained when part one of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, opened in Los Angeles in 1992. Critical reaction to the play was immediately and overwhelmingly positive: the influential *New York Times* theater critic Frank Rich, for instance, called it "a searching and radical rethinking" of American political drama and "the most extravagant and moving demonstration imaginable" of the artistic response to AIDS. The play's part two, *Perestroika*, was greeted with similar adulation the following year. Kushner received bushels of awards for *Angels in America*, not least of which were Tony Awards for Best Play in 1993 and 1994 and 1993's Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Outside liberal literary and theatrical circles, however, the play sometimes sparked controversy. A 1996 production of *Angels* in Charlotte, North Carolina took place only under protection of a court order after local officials threatened to prosecute actors for violating indecent-exposure laws.

It is impossible to appreciate the play without understanding something about the history of the AIDS crisis as well as the broader story of gays and lesbians in America. Although men and women have engaged in homosexual behavior in all times and cultures, it was only in the twentieth century that homosexuality came to be seen as a fundamental orientation rather than a specific act. In the United States, the modern gay rights movement began after World War II. Gay bars and political organizations existed mostly in secret in the 1950s and 1960s, but New York City's Stonewall riot in 1969 helped usher in a period of growing openness among gays and greater public acceptance.

Although gay life flourished in the 1970s, many gays saw the 1980s as a period of retrenchment and tragedy. The first cases of AIDS were diagnosed among gay men in 1981. Within ten years more than 100,000 people died of the disease in the United States alone. In the early years of the epidemic, ignorance and fear resulted in widespread discrimination against AIDS patients, and the national media reported the story in a sensationalistic manner, if at all. Gays' anger about the mainstream reaction to AIDS became interlinked with political frustration, as a conservative backlash that began in the late 1970s hindered the cause of gay rights. For many gay activists, Presidents Reagan and Bush symbolized the opposition: both men's administrations were at best uneasy with and often hostile to the gay cause, and Reagan remained silent on the subject of AIDS until 1987. *Angels in America* opened in Los Angeles in the same week that Bill Clinton, the first presidential candidate to openly reach out to lesbian and gay voters, defeated George Bush. Among gays, the play inevitably became associated with a sense of euphoria and political optimism.



Angels In America -- Cast -- Perestroika

Roy Cohn		Jim Viront
Joe Pitt		Scott Shriner
Harper Pitt		Celeste Cosentino
Belize		Jonathan Wray
Louis Ironson		Scott Crim
Prior Walter		Sean Derry
Hannah Pitt		Dede Klein
The Angel		Dana North

Setting: New York City -- January 1986 - February 1990

Act I -- *Spoof* (Jan. 1986)

Act II -- *The Epistle* (for Sigrid, Feb. 1986)

Act III -- *Borborygmi* (The squirming facts exceed the squamous mind, Feb. 1986)

10-minute intermission

Act IV -- *John Brown's Body* (Feb. 1986)

10-minute intermission

Act V -- *Heaven, I'm in Heaven* (Feb. 1986)

Epilogue -- *Bethesda* (Feb. 1990)

***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 into the theater.**

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

 Weathervane Playhouse is handicapped accessible. Ramps are available to the front doors. The Dietz Theater is on the main level.

 Ohio Relay System 1-800-750-0750 TDD. Call to have your ticket order placed.



Angels in America -- Director

Sean McConaha is the Director of Education at Weathervane Playhouse. He holds a dual major in theater performance and pre-law from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a Master of Arts degree in acting and directing from The University of Akron. Sean directed the multiple-award-winning productions of *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The King of the Kosher Grocers*. His other work includes *The Chosen*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Hamlet*, *Our Town* and last season's *Three Days of Rain*. Sean also is the Artistic Co-Director of The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company. Its inaugural production was Sam Shepherd's *The Late Henry Moss*. He lives in Bolivar with his wife, Beth, and daughters, Leda and Delaney, and twins, Griffin and Zoe.

Director's Notes

The Red and Blue Symphony:

When I first saw *Angels in America*, I was amazed by the depth and humor of its writing, and the vibrancy and passion of its characters. When I read the script, I was even more impressed by its worldview and incredible analysis of our nation. This is a play that does not preach, but illuminates the spirit of a disparate and troubled country.

While the play is a dark comedy involving gays, Mormons, Jews, and Roy Cohn set against the darkness of the Reagan years, it is also about searching for grace and coming to terms with loss in a dark, painful world. We have begun the new millennium and AIDS has crept out of the dark, unspoken corners of the world and has become a full-blown pandemic. We are approaching an age that could be critical for man. When God is losing significance, when values, morals and justice are becoming warped, when definitions of family and society are rapidly changing, this play looks at these issues and tries to suggest the painful process of change and growth that must occur if we are to survive.

Fantasy, reality, comedy, tragedy, compassion, prejudice, historical figures, fictional characters, angels and ghosts are all on stage to challenge conventional concepts of what is real in the world and beyond it.

Tony Kushner's self-described "Gay Fantasia on National Themes" was one of the first plays to feature AIDS without being driven by disease. His incorporation of such varied characters as a repressed homosexual Republican Mormon, his pill-popping wife, a young Jewish man dealing with the dying of his lover, Ethel Rosenberg, and real-life McCarthy henchman and closeted AIDS victim Roy Cohn, gives a panoramic breadth to the piece.

The synchronicity of the piece tosses away staid ideals including physical interconnectivity for such spiritual connections as the moment in which the fevered AIDS dreams of a dying man intersect with the hallucinations of a woman on Valium. This is a play of political poetry and of religious realignment. Everyone is suffering here, but redemption is coming.

I hope that these talented actors and technicians have created a fantastic world for you to immerse yourselves in for a few hours — a world that is true to the spirit of the master who created it. Thank you for being a part of the newest Weathervane theatre tradition and enjoy the show.

We dedicate this production to all those who have lost a loved one to this disease and to Margaret Dietz, a champion of Weathervane and our guardian angel.



Cast Callboard

JIM VIRONT (Roy Cohn) recently played the title role in *The Late Henry Moss* at The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company. Weathervane welcomes him back as he continues the role of Roy Cohn in this production. Jim is self-employed as a hobby-show vendor and graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelors degree in Theatre Arts. A Canton resident, his other work includes Col. Jessup in *A Few Good Men* (Beck Center), Freddie in *Noises Off* (Youngstown Playhouse), Jonathan in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Chief Bromden in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and Fulk in *A Cry of Players* at The Players Guild of Canton.

SCOTT SHRINER (Joe Pitt) is honored to join the cast of *Angels*. He's been seen in 10 mainstage Weathervane shows in the past 10 years, most recently as Max in *Lend Me a Tenor* and Nick Cristano in *Over the River and through the Woods*. He won a best featured actor Chanticleer Award for 2004's *Three Days of Rain* and other past shows here include *Loot*, *Noises Off*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Complete...Shakespeare Abridged*. Other recent roles include Jack Lane in *The Herbal Bed* at Actors' Summit, Antonio in *Twelfth Night* with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival at Stan Hywet and Hal in *Proof* and Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* both at Coach House Theatre. Scott thanks his beautiful wife, Kelly, for putting up with his many "personalities" as his theatrical endeavors continue.

CELESTE COSENTINO (Harper Pitt) *Perestroika* is Celeste's first production at Weathervane but she has been a part of our teaching staff this season. Locally, she has worked with The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company where she was last seen as Alice in *Closer*. She is a native of Cleveland where she has worked with

Ensemble Theatre, Dobama, Cain Park, Willoughby Fine Arts Association and Notre Dame College. Celeste is a graduate of Ohio University's School of Theatre. While in Athens, she worked as an actor for stage, film and radio, as well as working behind-the-scenes as a director. She dedicates her performance to the memory of a dear friend and amazing actress, Alice White.

JONATHAN D. WRAY (Belize) has appeared in more than 60 theater, film, commercial and television productions. Stage performances include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Oedipus*, *Fences*, *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting* and *On the Hills of Black America*. TV/Film credits include *The Wire*, *Law and Order*, *China* and *The Soul Searchers: Middle Skin*. Thanks to my family for their support and Ella for sharing the stage with me. Peace and love....

SCOTT CRIM (Louis Ironson) holds a Bachelors degree in theatre from Mount Union College and was seen in Weathervane's productions of *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He has also been active at The Players Guild (Emcee in *Cabaret*) and Coach House Theatre (*The Lion in Winter* and *Love Letters*). He recently appeared in the Coach House production of *The Real Thing* and participated in an industrial film for The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Along with singing with Summit Choral Society, Scott also participates in some of our Salon Readings including *Sky Lights* and *Immigrant*. He has toured with The Illusion Factory children's theater and taught with The Cleveland Youth Theater.

SEAN DERRY (Prior Walter) is Co-Managing/Artistic Director of The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company located in downtown Akron, which is where he



Callboard Continued

was last seen as Baylis in *Blackbird* and Ray in *The Late Henry Moss*. You may have also seen Sean as Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Coach House Theatre or as Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Willoughby Fine Arts Center. Sean's Weathervane credits include *The Chosen*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*. Sean is also directing *The Bang* and the Clatter's production of *Griller* by Eric Bogosian this summer.

DEDE KLEIN (Hannah Pitt) is happy to be reprising the role of Hannah Pitt. Favorite roles include B in *Three Tall Women*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter* and Bella in

Lost in Yonkers. Dede won Chanticleers for her roles in *The Little Foxes* and *Blithe Spirit*. When not on stage, she is a flight attendant for American Airlines. She lives in Hudson with Bear, Duff, Tartuffe, Angel and Ragamuffin. "Figurez Vous."

DANA NORTH (The Angel) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting from Wright State University where she appeared as Mrs. Norman in *Children of a Lesser God*, as Alice in *Pizza Man*, as Queen and Cockney in *My Fair Lady* and as Ashby in *Am I Blue*. She appeared for Weathervane in *The Laramie Project* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Dana wrote, directed, acted and produced a one-person show *Solve It Again, Sam*. She and her husband, Greg, live in Norton with their children, Megan and Michael.



Backstage Callboard

RACHEL LONES (Stage Manager) is a student at Kent State University. She is a graduate of Firestone High School where she stage managed *Evita* and *A Servant of Two Masters*. She served as assistant stage manager for *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. Rachel teaches theater classes for WCP in the Akron AfterSchool program.

JORDAN COOPER (Costume Design) was properties co-designer for our recent production of *Wait until Dark* and, earlier this season, played the role of Don Pedro in *Much Ado about Nothing*. He was also Props Master for *Over the River...* and on the props crew for *Lend Me a Tenor*. Jordan served as our Assistant Stage Manager for *Crowns* and played piano during *Joseph*, our holiday production.

BARBARA TROTTER (Costume

Coordinator) Please see staff bios.

JUDY WILLEMSSEN (Sound Design) thanks Tom C. Barnes for leading the way on this production.

LEAH MAGNUS (Properties Design) is a sophomore theatre student in the Visual and Performing Arts program at Firestone High School. She has been a Weathervane volunteer since 2001. This season she has been involved with every youth, mainstage and Dietz Theatre production including serving as assistant lighting designer for *Lend Me a Tenor* and master electrician for *Wait until Dark*. Her favorite experience was being on the props crew for both of our productions of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic & Lighting Design) Please see staff bios.



Production Team Members & Crews

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Tom Marshall
Erin Katz
Kevin Ford

LIGHTS

Rachel Lones

PROPERTIES

Leah Magnus

SOUND

Judy Willemsen

COSTUMES

Barbara Trotter Henrietta Cook
Randie Sass Dorothy Kies

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kathy Kohl
Tom C. Barnes
Lynise Patterson

estatesalestuff.com - Tom Marshall
Bill Van Nostran - Publicity Volunteer

Pump Boys and Dinettes

Musical by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan,
John Schimmel and Jim Wann

On Highway 57, somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna, stands a gas station and a sign that reads "Double Cupp Diner." Four guys work at the station and the Cupp sisters work as waitresses. This show is part pop-country concert and part musical theater. A triumph in every way, *Pump Boys and Dinettes* celebrates the value of friendship and life's simple pleasures! (*rights pending*)

August 28 & 29

WCP's annual benefit for Community AIDS Network

Expect campy fun!



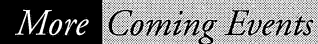
June 14 - July 16, 2006

Directed by **Kevin Joseph Kelly**
Musical Director -- **Heidi Herczeg**

The hills of the Merriman Valley come alive with this beloved tale of love against all odds. Maria, who wants to become a nun, is sent to serve as a governess to a widowed naval captain and his seven unruly children. As she wins the hearts of the children, her heart discovers its own budding love.

JUNE - JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			14	15	16	17
				22	23	24
22					30	1
2				6	7	8
					14	15
16						

Preview Wednesday & Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.
Other Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 2:30 p.m.



Angels in America Part II: Perestroika -- Performances through June 3

The Sound of Music -- Performances June 14 - July 16

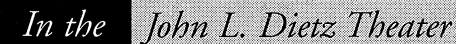
Fat Men in Skirts -- (In the John L. Dietz Theatre) For ADULT audiences - July 28 - August 6 -- Tickets \$12 in collaboration with Just Life and Company

Madeline's Rescue -- Young Actors Series -- Musical July 29 - August 13 -- One of the most beloved characters of children's literature takes to the stage in a sunny musical adaptation. Take a delightful plunge into the plucky Madeline's daredevil adventures with her fellow schoolgirls and their newfound friend, a dog named Genevieve.

Chanticleer, Weathervane's "Red Carpet" Awards Event -- August 19 at the Playhouse!

Pump Boys and Dinettes (rights pending) -- Benefit with Community AIDS Network -- August 28 & 29.

The Sunday Salon Reading Series will resume in the Fall.



Once Weathervane had a theater to call its very own on Copley Road in the 1950's, the wish/need for another smaller "black box" theater surfaced. This space would provide a venue for meetings, children's activities, play readings, cabaret and small revues, and experimental productions, perhaps by local playwrights. A goal of the Capital Campaign, which began in the year 2000, was to add new classrooms for the many children's programs being held by the theater. The Capital Campaign raised \$1,750,000 and provided a two-story addition to the playhouse. New classrooms became reality as well as installation of a fly system over the stage.

One of the classrooms sponsored by **Margaret J. Dietz** and named in memory of her 12-year-old son, **John L. Dietz**, became the “black box” theater so long awaited. John was a sixth grader at Akron’s Rankin School at the time of his death in 1971 following an auto accident. A darling little boy with a passion, even at that age, for play-acting, he had just finished playing a clown in a youth theater production of *Aesop’s Fables*, a rock musical for kids.

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches was the first full presentation held in Weathervane's new "black box" theater. Running from Jan. 23 to Feb. 5, 2005, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play was directed by Sean McConaha.

Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show by Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy (July 28 - 30 and Aug. 4 -6, 2005) was the second production for the Dietz Theater. *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* was remounted November 10 - 19, 2005 as a preface to Part Two: *Perestroika*, which is now presented May 18 - June 3, 2006.

Advertise for your company in
Weathervane playbills for a full season
September 2006 - August 2007.

Ad Space Reservations are now being accepted for
the 2006-2007 Weathervane Playbill.

Call Janis Harcar

Director of Marketing & Development

330-836-2323 X16 for details or email her at

jharcara@weathervaneplayhouse.com



Home is Where the HeART is



Weathervane's
2006-2007 Season

Home
is where the
HeART is

July 29 - Aug. 13, 2006

Young Actors Series - Musical

Madeline's Rescue

Story by Ludwig Bemelmans, Adapted by
Constance Congdon, Music by Mel Marvin

July 28 - August 6, 2006

A John L. Dietz Theatre Production in collaboration with Just Life and Company

Fat Men in Skirts

by Nicky Silver

Aug. 28 - 29, 2006

Special Event Benefit (CAN)

Pump Boys & Dinettes

Musical by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel, Jim Wann
(rights pending)

Sept. 6 - Oct. 1, 2006

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

Over the Tavern

Comedy by Tom Dudzick

Oct. 11 - 29, 2006

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

Fences

Drama by August Wilson

Nov. 1 - 18, 2006

A John L. Dietz Theatre Production

The Last Five Years

Musical by Jason Robert Brown

Nov. 24 - Dec. 17, 2006

Young Actors Series

Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber

Jan. 17 - Feb. 4, 2007

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

All My Sons

Drama by Arthur Miller

Feb. 17 - March 5, 2007

Young Actors Series

Romeo & Juliet

Drama by William Shakespeare

March 8, 9, 10, 2007

Special Event

Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre

March 21 - April 15, 2007

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

Smokey Joe's Café

Musical Revue by Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller

April 25 - May 13, 2007

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

The Sisters Rosensweig

Comedy by Wendy Wasserstein

April 30 - May 5, 2007

Annual Puppet Show - TBA

May 16 - June 2, 2007

A John L. Dietz Theatre Production - TBA

June 13 - July 8, 2007

Grace Hower Crawford (Mainstage) Series

The Full Monty (rights pending)

Musical by Terrence McNally & David Yazbek

Please see our list of subscription packages on another page of this program
and join us for a full season of exciting theater!



Weathervane's Professional Staff

ELYNMARIE KAZLE (Executive Director) is in her ninth Weathervane season. Her 25+ year theatre career began in stage management then moved into producing, fundraising and public relations. She's had the pleasure of working with a wide range of artists from Baryshnikov to Tommy Tune to Viggo Mortenson, in theaters such as The Mark Taper Forum, San Diego's Old Globe, Sacramento Theater Company, Opera Columbus, Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Akron played an important part of her career early on when she apprenticed with Tom Skelton at Ohio Ballet. In addition, past experience includes a stint with the *Wall Street Journal*, working at Brandt & Brandt, Robert Freedman Dramatic Agency serving as cultural ambassador to Sweden. She has served six years as USITT's VP of Membership and Development where she founded the nationally-known Stage Management Mentoring Project. She lives in Akron with husband Mark and her 10-year-old 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 was honored with the 2003 Trustees Award.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) began at Weathervane under the tutelage of John R. Thomas. This is his ninth season. Before Weathervane, he worked at Cuyahoga Falls High School where he was awarded a Design Excellence citation from USITT

and a place in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He has designed for many local high schools as well as for The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. This past year he was awarded an Excellence in Set Design from the Ohio AACTFEST for *A Lesson Before Dying*. Scott has earned four Chanticleer Awards -- one as stage manager for *Fences*, the others as lighting co-designer for *A Man for All Seasons* and lighting designer for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. He 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 a free-lance actor and director throughout northeastern Ohio. Sean directed the OCTA award-winning production of *Romeo and Juliet* as well as Chanticleer winners for Best Production, *The King of the Kosher Grocers* and *A Lesson Before Dying* and the inaugural Dietz production of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*. He lives in Bolivar with wife, Beth, daughters, Leda and Delaney, and twins Zoe and Griffin.

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 joined the Weathervane staff in November 1996 and was honored with the 2005 Trustees Award. He lives in Akron.



Professional Staff continued

JOHN COTTER (Business and Public Relations Assistant) has the duties that come with helping Jan and Keith in the Marketing and Box Office areas. He also coordinates our Acme Community CashBack program and urges everyone to save their Acme register tapes and bring them to him at the Playhouse. John retired after 36 years with Ohio Edison and has been a long-time volunteer of the Playhouse having served on the Production Board as its President and Co-Chair of Properties. He has worked backstage for many productions and has won Chanticleers for Properties Design for four productions. He is, however, most proud of his four grandchildren, Dana, Nicholas, Kristin and Sammy.

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 theater career as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction and props crews. She won a Chanticleer for properties co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*. Kathy also serves as Resident Master Carpenter and Master Painter for the Theatre Department at Firestone High School. She lives in West Akron with hus-

band Doug and their three children, Stephanie, Zachary and Katie.

DREAJEAN L. BROWN (Data Services Manager) holds a Master of Science degree in Technical Education and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from The University of Akron. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Akron Alumnae Chapter. Drea says her major priority is spoiling her grandchildren. Balancing her time with work and family, she still finds time to crochet baby blankets for the Neo Natal Unit at Children's Hospital in Akron, and lap afghans for the Life Care Facility in Pittsburgh, PA.

BARBARA TROTTER (Volunteer Coordinator) holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications from the New York Institute of Technology. She teaches speech and communication courses at Stark State College of Technology in North Canton. Barb began volunteering with Weathervane Community Playhouse in 2000, working backstage on props crews. She designed costumes for the productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Proof*, both in 2003. A member of the Weathervane Women's Board, Barb lives in Akron.

Many Thanks to Our Season Sponsors

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Much Ado about Nothing

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company --
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Sisler McFawn Foundation -- Project STAGE
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Project STAGE

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Sound of Music*

Margaret J. Dietz -- *Perestroika*
Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron
Community Foundation -- *Perestroika*



Theater Education

Youth Education

Weathervane offers professionally taught classes in acting, stagecraft, musical theatre and improvisation for children up to age 18. Fall and spring classes are held on Saturdays and two-week Hands on Theater (H.O.T.) workshops are planned throughout the summer. The cost is minimal with a limited number of scholarships available and discounted fees for Weathervane members.

Children may also audition for roles in many 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 as part of our Project STAGE program, which brings public and private school students to see as many as five productions each season. During the 2006-2007 season, *Fences*, *All My Sons* and

Romeo & Juliet will be featured in the Project STAGE events. Tickets are only \$8.

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

Adult Classes

Professionally taught Adult Theatre classes include Classical Drama, Improvisation, Scenic Design, Stage Lighting and Directing. These classes help actors expand their performance and public speaking skills. Look for classes in the spring.

Learning On the Job

Every production participant becomes part of Weathervane's continuing education process. You'll learn from more experienced volunteers 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.

Weathervane's Annual "Red Carpet" Event

Come celebrate the events of the 2005-2006 season with a grand celebration to be held at the Playhouse. The event will be *Black Tie Optional* and features a grand buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, desserts, entertainment and awards!

Annual Chanticleer Dinner and Awards

August 19, 2006