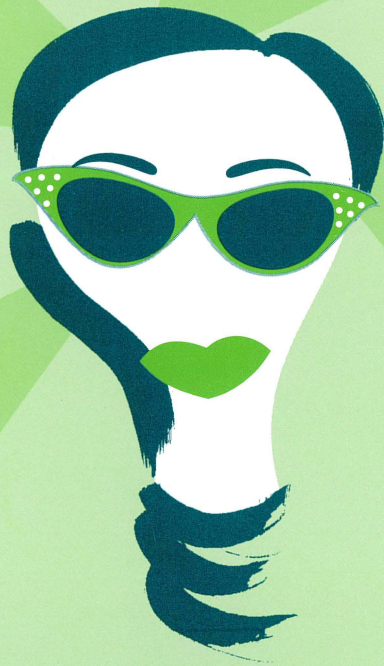


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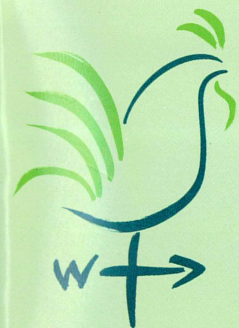
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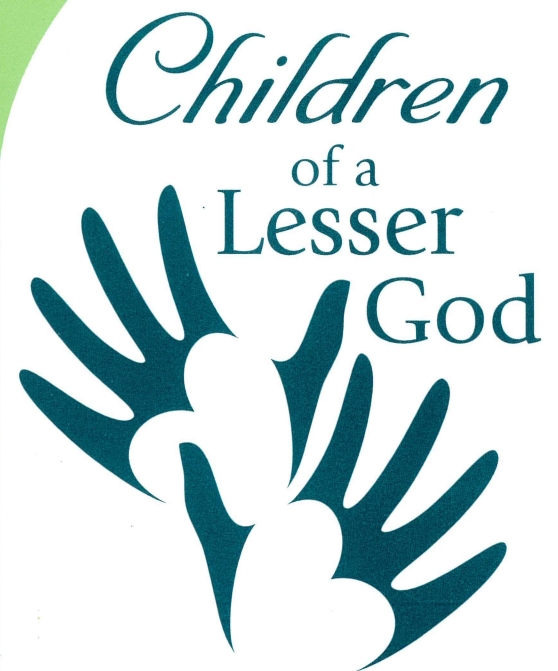
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2007-2008



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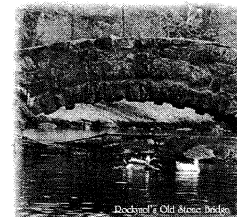
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The Frog Prince

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Book adapted by Donald J. Leonard, Jr.
Music & Lyrics by David Reiser
July 28 - August 12, 2007

I Do! I Do!

Musical by Harvey Schmidt & Tom Jones
September 5 - 23, 2007

The Lion in Winter

Drama by James Goldman
October 10 - 28, 2007

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me

Drama by Frank McGuinness
Underwritten by Margaret J. Dietz
November 1 - 17, 2007

Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber
Nov. 23 - Dec. 15, 2007

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Opera by Gian Carlo Menotti
Support provided by The John A. McAlonan Fund of
Akron Community Foundation
December 15 - 23, 2007

Moon Over Buffalo

Comedy by Ken Ludwig
January 16 - February 10, 2008

Children of a Lesser God

Drama by Mark Medoff
February 20 - March 9, 2008

The Importance of Being Earnest

Comedy by Oscar Wilde
March 27 - April 6, 2008

Enchanted April

Romantic Drama by Matthew Barber
April 16 - May 4, 2008

And the Winner Is

Comedy by Mitch Albom
Underwritten by Margaret J. Dietz
May 14 - 31, 2008

Ragtime

Musical: Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
June 4 - 29, 2007

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

Assistive-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.

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



Patron Information

* **Emergency Exits** located at the left front of the auditorium and left side of the lobby. Front door and lobby doors will also be used.

* **Restrooms** Located in lobby alcove - wheelchair accessible.

* **Handicapped Services** Seating for a limited number of wheelchairs. Please notify in advance if needed.

* **Assistive Listening Devices** Available thanks to the generosity of Virginia and J. Robert Wilson.

* **Patrons:** Expecting a call? 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 and Recording Devices** is prohibited during performances.

* **Curtain times** vary from show to show. Always check your tickets carefully to note performance times.

* **Latecomers** will be 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** Please remain seated until the auditorium lights are on. Parking lot illumination assures that getting to your car will be easy and secure.

* **Smoking** is permitted outside the building.

* **Lost and Found** items will be held at the Ticket Office until claimed.

* **Comments** from audience members are always welcomed. Please feel free to write to WeatherVane to express your views and opinions about our productions. Send your comments to: *Executive Director, WCP.*

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Youth Education

Weathervane offers professionally taught classes to children and teens in acting, musical theatre, dance and technical theater. This year we are offering an all new class on podcasting! Fall and spring classes are held on Saturdays, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons for home school students. Two-week Hands on Theatre (HOT) camps are offered throughout the summer as well as intensive one-week classes in musical theater and auditioning. We also offer a comprehensive two-week Summer Stock program for teens. Next summer, students will produce, design and stage a full production of *The Outsiders*, based on the book by S.E. Hinton. Partial scholarships are available for all classes.

Children and teens may also audition for roles in Young Actor Series productions. Parents and family members also have the opportunity to participate by volunteering to assist designers and working backstage.

Weathervane works with area schools by providing education outreach and stu-

dent study guides as part of our Project STAGE program. This program brings public and private school students to see three productions each season. This season, *The Lion in Winter*, *Children of a Lesser God* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be featured in the Project STAGE events. Tickets are \$8.

For more information about classes or audition dates for the Young Actor Series, please call Melanie YC Pepe, Director of Education, at 330-836-2323x17.

Adult Classes

Professionally taught adult theatre classes this season include: **Audition Workshop** taught by Terry T. Burgler, **Acting at the Beginning** taught by Mark Moritz, **Comedy Science 101**, **Physical Storytelling**, **Introduction to Stage Combat** and **Swordplay for the Stage** taught by John C. Davis, **The BUSINESS of Voice Acting** taught by Joe Cali and **The ART of Acting** taught by Rohn Thomas. Look in the education brochure for more information on this season's classes.



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Weathervane appreciates the continuing strong support of individuals, corporations, foundations and other donors who help finance the Playhouse'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. Memberships are renewable annually, beginning at \$75 (Contributing), and continuing at Sustaining, Patron, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond 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 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 Playhouse. 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 Playhouse'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 you.

*** Capital Project** The construction segment of the Capital Project in 2000 included a scene shop with basement storage, a 2nd-floor classroom and rehearsal hall, soundproof production booth, elevator and fly gallery pocket above the stage and installation of the rigging system for the fly gallery. Donations for Stage Two of the project continue to purchase classroom furnishings, update the lighting system, renovate the lobby and replenish the Capital Fund for maintenance and repairs.



History *From the Barn to the Valley*



Four society women urged Weathervane Playhouse into existence in 1935 - Grace Hower Crawford, Laurine 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 chandelier 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 Playhouse 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 Phillip Arnoult'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.



Ticket Information

* **Tickets** Purchase in person or charge by phone with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at 330-836-2626, Mondays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on performance Saturdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. or online at weathervaneplayhouse.com. *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 20 minutes before curtain time to pick up your tickets.

* **Special seating** Please inform us if you have seating preferences due to visual, auditory or other physical needs. Please remember orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with season subscribers and advanced group sales taking first priority.

* **Season Subscriber 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 re-

placements. An upgrade fee applies when changing from a Preview Night. *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.*

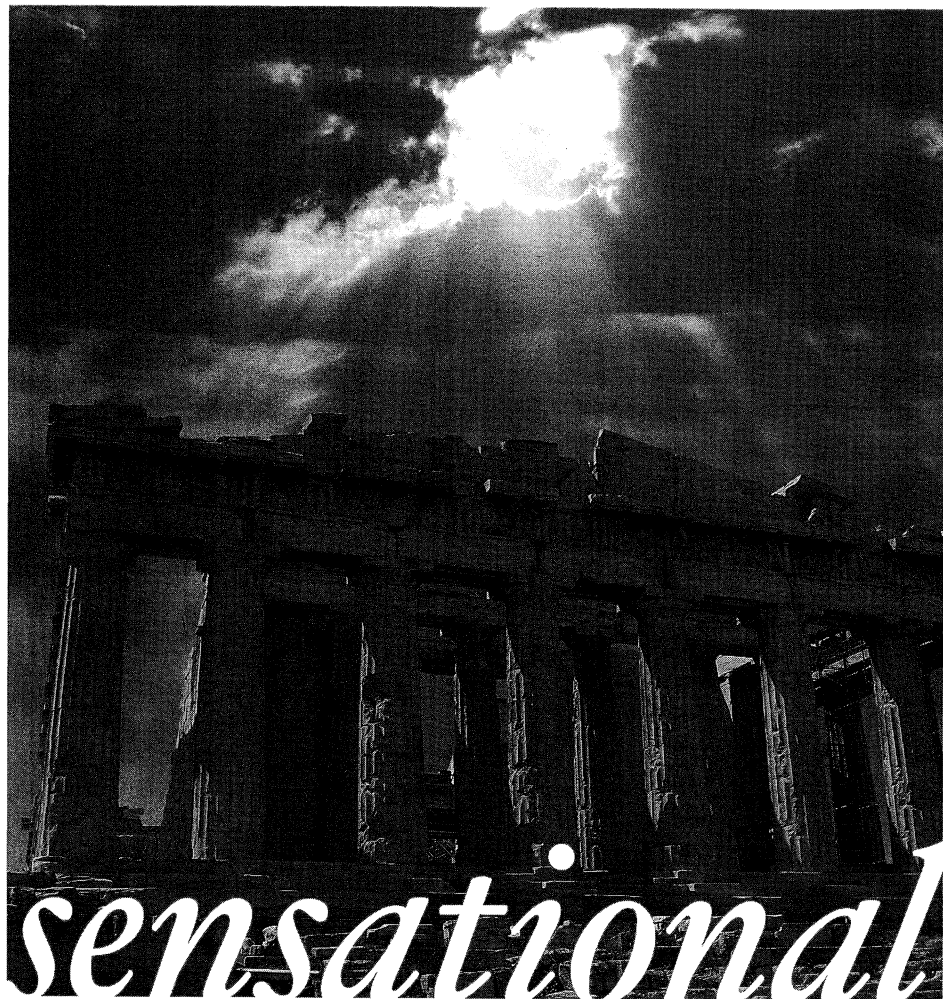
* **Student Rush Tickets** go on sale 30 minutes before curtain time for main stage performances only. Students with a valid ID may purchase any remaining tickets for half price. Rush tickets cannot be reserved in advance.

* **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 Playhouse or to plan a fund-raising event for larger groups.

* **Gift Certificates** are available at any time in any amount you choose.

* **Recycle your playbills** If you do not wish to keep the playbill, please drop it in our recycling box as you exit the Playhouse.

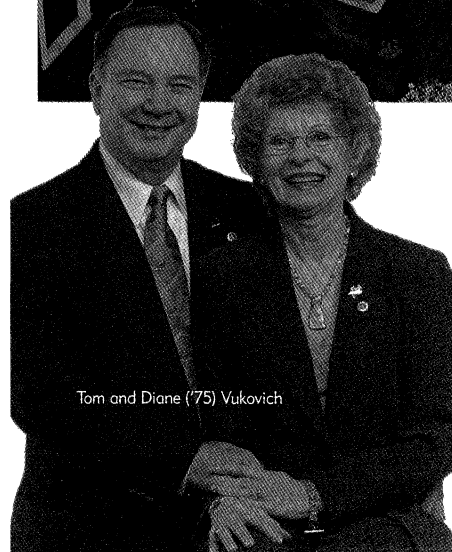
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Women's Board

The Women's Board was formed in 1938 to "offer voluntary service and financial assistance to the Playhouse." 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 workers. The Women's Board operates the Gift Boutique and Bank One Art Gallery.

New members are welcomed.

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Costumes Henrietta Cook, Helen Vari	Newsletter Nancy Zeigler
	Nominating Pat Obenour
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Boutique Treasures

Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of our 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 jewelry and some special items for the men in your life. Our Boutique volunteers will also assist you with information on gallery art works.



Board of Trustees

Weathervane Community Playhouse is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation operated by a board of volunteer trustees representative of the general community.

Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the public.

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



JOHN HEDGES (Executive Director) has an extensive background in professional theatre as an artist and an arts administrator. As Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, John led the theatre's expansion and growth while doubling its annual operating budget to \$1.3 million. John has been Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company, Managing Director of the Maine Stage Company and General Manager of New York's award-winning Pearl Theatre Company. He has served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource, chaired their Strategic Planning Committee and been a conference panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre and Education and has written for *American Theatre* magazine. He is an alumnus of Indiana State University, the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware and holds an honorary MFA in Theatre from Stafford University in England.



JANIS L. HARCAR (Director of Advancement) holds a Master of Arts degree in Arts Administration from The University of Akron and a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Kent State University. She has been on staff since 1993. She served Weathervane as Interim Executive Director during the 2006-2007 season. She was the recipient of Weathervane's Trustee Award in 2003 and 2007. She is a proud mother of two and "Grammy" of two!



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) began at Weathervane under the tutelage of John R. Thomas. 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, The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. Scott has earned five Chanticleer Awards -- one as stage manager for *Fences*, the others as lighting co-designer for *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Full Monty* and lighting designer for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. He enjoys writing the end-of-the-season revue for The Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players who appear at our annual Chanticleer Awards Dinner.



MELANIE Y.C. PEPE (Director of Education/YAS Producer) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kent State University. She has been teaching at Weathervane since 1998 and has served as the supervisor of our City of Akron-sponsored Neighborhood Playhouse program. She served as Development Associate for our Capital Campaign for two years. Melanie also does work in make-up design and has worked with NEOUCOM, College of Medicine; Blue City Productions and Firestone High School's Visual and Performing Arts Program. She lives in Akron with her husband, Christopher, and three children; Jude, Xavier and Calista.



KEITH D. CAMPBELL (Director of Audience Development) holds a B.A. degree 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.



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. Barbe 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 and was costume coordinator for *Angels in America: Part II, Perestroika* in May 2006. In 2007, she designed lights for our Dietz production of *String of Pearls*. Earlier this season, Barbe was seen onstage in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* as a shepherdess.

LISA MANSFIELD (Patron Services Manager) holds a B.A. degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and History from the University of Akron. A stay-at-home mom since 1994, Lisa continues to be active in the community serving breastfeeding mothers through La Leche League and volunteering at Children's Hospital. The *Akron Beacon Journal* named Lisa a "Woman of Excellence" in 2005 for her service to military families. A stage actress in high school, Lisa is excited to return to one of her first loves, the theater. She lives in West Akron with her high school sweetheart, and now local TV anchor, Eric Mansfield, and their three sons, Joshua, Jacob and Teddy.

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 Chanticleers for her properties co-design of *The Philadelphia Story* and her properties design of *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Kathy served as Resident Master Carpenter and Master Painter for the Theatre Department at Firestone High School for six years. She lives in West Akron with husband Doug in their recently empty nest.

DREAJEAN WASHINGTON-BROWN (Data Services Manager) holds a M.S. 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 and Carestone at Mt. Zion in Jonesboro, GA.

BENJAMIN REXROAD (Public Relations and Outreach Assistant) is frantically trying to finish his B.A. degree in Theater at The University of Akron. He continually works in arts venues across northeast Ohio including E.J. Thomas Hall, Carousel Dinner Theatre and Weathervane Playhouse. Weathervane is always finding new uses for Ben, first as a behind-the-scenes volunteer, then as House Manager and, of late, as an instructor in the Education Program. He has recently been hired by Coventry High School, his Alma Mater, to direct the shows for their drama department. In July, Ben was nominated for the Arts Alive! Award in the Rising Young Star/Leadership category.



A New Logo for Weathervane



Weathervane
—PLAYHOUSE—

missing word "Community" does not in any way change the incorporation or the mission of the theater. The old rooster was developed by **Sam Scherr**, former Trustee, of the design firm of **Smith, Scherr, and McDermott** of Bath about the time the Weathervane Lane facility was built in 1969-1970.

The sign on the "side" of the building was a donation by **Jim and Doris Parshall**, he a past president, who gave \$10,000 in 1977 to locate a logo where it could be seen from the intersection of Merriman Road and Weathervane Lane.

Many Thanks to Our Season Sponsors

Ohio Arts Council -- Season Sponsor

WKSU 89.7 FM -- Season Sponsor

WCLV 104.9 FM -- Season Sponsor

OMNOVA Solutions Foundation:
Project STAGE

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company:
Young Actors Series

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Project STAGE

Minx Design -- Graphic Designer

Tiffany's Bakery -- Opening Night Cakes

Margaret J. Dietz -- 07-08 Dietz Productions

Summa Hospitals Foundation:
Ragtime

Akron Community Foundation (Shaw Fund),
the Sisler McFawn Foundation and
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation:
Project STAGE

The John A. McAlonan Fund of ACF:
Amahl and the Night Visitors



Next On Stage



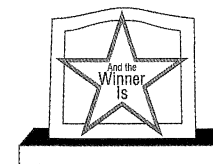
The talented teen actors of Weathervane will present Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* from March 27 to April 6, under the direction of **Melanie Y.C. Pepe**. A wealthy Londoner pretends to have a friend in the country in order to avoid unwelcome social obligations. Considered by many to be the funniest play in the English language, it boasts memorable characters and sparkling wit in a romantic farce that turns on mistaken identity, Victorian manners and the sheer brilliance of the witty Wilde. Warning: accents, butlers and corsets will be used in this production! This Young Actors Series production falls under the umbrella of our education-based program called Project STAGE (Students Through Acting Gain Education). With the support of funding from Akron Community Foundation, the Sisler McFawn Foundation and OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, three weekday-morning "student matinees" will introduce a new generation of theater-goers to this classic work of theater. Book your tickets now by calling (330) 836-2626 or by connecting online to weathervaneplayhouse.com!



Coming Productions



April 16 - May 4
Romantic Comedy by
Matthew Barber
Directed by
Bob Belfance



May 14 - 31

Comedy by
Mitch Albom
Directed by
Eileen Moushey

In the Dietz Theatre



June 4 - 29

Book: Terrence
McNally
Novel: E.L. Doctorow
Music: Stephen
Flaherty
Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens



From Our Executive Director

The Exhilaration of Challenge



When I was a young man in my early 20s I moved to New York City and, for nearly a decade, I experienced one of the greatest and most basic challenges of my life -- the challenge of discovering who I was.

Like a lot of people, I grew up in a small community where the people and the environment I was exposed to -- my parents, siblings, teachers and friends -- began to define, in many ways, my persona based on their perceptions and assumptions about me. Whether it was consciously or subconsciously, by the time I was a young adult I had made certain decisions about myself and I set out to live my life accordingly.

But then a tremendous thing happened. I was fortunate to have an opportunity to reassess all of that. Faced with a tidal wave of people in New York literally getting in my face and asking, "who are you?" I began a life-long journey toward coming up with a meaningful answer to that question.

My point is that I can see clearly the relationship between the challenges I've experienced in my life and the opportunities they've presented to me - between adversity and self-realization - and I want to tell you that I wouldn't have it any other way.

So, here we are now in the middle of an Akron winter facing significant regional and national economic issues while living in a world of violence and unrest. Now is not the time to become pessimistic or disheartened. Now is not the time to retreat. Now is the time to look at these challenges and realize that what we do and how we respond to them will define our individual and collective character. Now is the time to literally ask ourselves "who am I?" and to let our actions define us -- to ourselves and to our children. Now is the time to stand up and do what we know is right and, if we have the courage to do that, we will be able to look back on these times with deep gratitude for the opportunity -- the opportunity of self-realization.

I look forward to joining with you -- here at Weathervane Playhouse and in northeast Ohio -- in facing the exhilaration of the challenge together.

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director



Weathervane Community Playhouse

73rd Season – 2007-2008 – Production # 534

February 20 - March 9, 2008



By Mark Medoff

Project STAGE performance
sponsored in part by
Akron Community Foundation,
Sisler McFawn Foundation and
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation

Direction by Larry Nehring

Assistant Director **Christine Mason**

Scenic Designer
Todd Dieringer

Stage Manager
Judy Willemssen

Lighting Design by
Leah Magnus

Costume Design by
Helen Vari

Sound Design by
Dan "DJ" Jankura

Properties Design by
Timothy H. Champion

Technical Director
Alan Scott Ferrall

Children of a Lesser God is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by



Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 – Fax: 330-873-2150 – For staff Emails -- please see website
www.weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Play & Playwright

About the Play

Children of a Lesser God takes place at a state-run school for the Deaf. Much of the play's onstage action takes place in the mind of James Leeds, a teacher of the Deaf at the school, whose memories of his experiences at the school allow the play to progress in a non-linear fashion. James is a newly hired speech therapist at this institution, where many deaf children grow up together in a culturally Deaf environment. It is here that he meets Sarah Norman, a graduate of the school who still lives on campus and earns her keep by working as the school maid. Sarah is proud of her culture and language -- American Sign Language -- and takes great exception to Hearing people who would seek to change her by forcing her to use her voice or to read lips. These two strong characters fall in love and have to find their way through the difficult path of cultural differences, stereotypes, discrimination and the expectations of those close to them.

The play was originally written for Hearing audiences, with many scenes using only spoken English. In order to make this production equally accessible to Deaf audience members, director **Larry Nehring** has incorporated two actors who will "shadow interpret" the spoken words. These "shadows," while not actually acting in the scene, make the spoken dialogue visible for every audience. In this way, Deaf audience members do not need to focus their attention to a remote corner of the stage, a traditional spot for American Sign Language interpreters.

Children of a Lesser God originated in a workshop production at New Mexico State University in April 1979 (and was directed by the playwright, **Mark Medoff**). A second production in October 1979 at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles primed the production for a commercial transfer to the New York stage. On March 30, 1980, the show opened at the Longacre Theatre, where it ran for 887 performances, closing on May 16, 1982. The New York production starred **Phyllis Frelich** as Sarah and **John Rubenstein** as James (both of whom won Tony Awards for their performances). The show also won the 1980 Tony Award for Best Play. Playwright Medoff adapted his own play (along with two other screenwriters, **Hesper Anderson** and **James Carrington**) for the 1986 film of the play, which starred **William Hurt** and **Marlee Matlin** (who, in her screen debut, won the Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role).

About the Playwright

Mark Medoff was born in Mount Carmel, Ill., in 1940. He was educated at the University of Miami (bachelor's degree) and Stanford University (master's degree). He wrote his first play, *The Wager*, while employed in Washington, D.C., at the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute. *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?* was his first play to be produced in New York. His Broadway breakthrough came with *Children of a Lesser God* in 1980, and his screenplay adaptation for the 1986 film earned him an Academy Award nomination. Although Medoff may be best known for *Children of a Lesser God*, he is the author of 25 other plays. For the past two decades, Medoff has served on the faculty at New Mexico State University, where he has chaired the theater department and also co-founded the American Southwest Theatre Company.



Children of a Lesser God

James Leeds **Ryan McMullen**
 Sarah Norman **Kristen Bowen**
 Mrs. Norman **Christine Anastasia Mason**
 Orin Dennis **Jesse Catalano**
 Lydia **Rachel Rebekkah Gerard**
 Mr. Franklin **David Myers**
 Mr. Klein **Brian Armour**
 Shadow Interpreter **Cynthia Seal**
 Shadow Interpreter **James Lenahan**

Time: 1975

The Place: The memory of James Leeds

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Track Your Favorites

Keep track of your favorites all season long and you'll be prepared to vote for our Chanticleer Awards at the end of the season. Use this list as a guide...

Sound Design	Supporting Actor -- play & musical
Lighting Design	Lead Actress - play & musical
Properties Design	Featured Actress -- play & musical
Costume Design	Supporting Actress -- play & musical
Lead Actor - play & musical	Best Production
Featured Actor -- play & musical	

***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 Our Director

Larry Nehring (Director) directed Weathervane's 2005 production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. Nehring says he is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane as the director of such a challenging play. It is, he says, the melding of his two great loves -- theater and American Sign Language. He has been an ASL interpreter for the last 15 years, and started learning ASL when he was 12. As an actor, director, theatrical interpreter and fight choreographer he has been very active all over northeast Ohio, working with Great Lakes Theater Festival, Cleveland Play House, Playhouse Square, Cleveland Signstage Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Bad Epitaph, Magical Theatre Company, the Beck Center for the Arts, Cain Park, Willoughby's Fine Arts Association and Clague Playhouse among others. He has also been a cast member of the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, toured internationally with *Sunshine Too* (a deaf/hearing theatre company based in Rochester, N.Y.), and taught at numerous international conferences. Viewers of PBS may recognize him from his role as George Washington in the 2006 TV miniseries, *The War that Made America*, a documentary shot in Pittsburgh that detailed the French and Indian War. Larry is the Artistic Director of the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors' Guild. He lives in Lakewood.

Director's Notes:

Landmark theatre is rare. *Children of a Lesser God* is one of those groundbreaking plays that has awakened its audiences to a culture that is often overlooked. Many consider Deafness as just a handicap. No thought is given to the community that might manifest itself in a population with communication needs that are significantly different from what is considered the "majority". People who cannot hear will find more ease communicating through a visual medium, using language of gesture and facial expression, than they will through an auditory medium. That's a pretty basic concept. However, as in politics and religion, the "Majority" has little patience for any "Minority" and so spoken communication is often the only accepted form. Despite the fact that Hearing people have no difficulty learning signed languages, there is a prejudice against the users of this means of communication. They are lumped into the heading Handicapped, and treated as not having communication, mobility, or the capacity for thought.

This is a relatively recent concept for deafness. Prior to 1880, sign languages were used internationally to educate the Deaf. Intelligence was not measured by spoken word, but by communication. While no one would argue that the Deaf and Hearing were considered equal on a global scale, there were opportunities for sign language users to excel. However, at a conference of Educators in early September, 1880, it was decided that sign languages were to be banned from education and a period that could well be named "The Dark Ages" began for the Deaf. Lip reading and speech became the norm, and communication skills were only measured by spoken languages. (Written English is, arguably, only a written form of the spoken language.)

American Sign Language virtually went underground. It was an embarrassment to many, a display of a handicap, and a badge of honor to those who came from a strong Deaf heritage. Almost every group that is considered a culture has a country that it can look to as a homeland, a language that is recognized globally as legitimate, music, food, and distinctive artforms to celebrate. Deafness, when seen as a handicap, has none of these. When seen as a culture, a community of like-communicating people emerge. People who use a visual language to share their thoughts, tell jokes, sculpt poems in the air, and pass on their stories, experiences and values. It is a vibrant culture

continued...(following Creative Team bios)

Director's Notes continued...



Cast Callboard

RYAN MCMULLEN (James Leeds) last appeared at Weathervane in the 2005 production of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, in which he played Joe Pitt. He was also in the Weathervane casts of *Noises Off* and *Three Days of Rain*, both in 2004. He has toured throughout America with Cleveland Signstage in productions of *Aladdin*, *Snow White*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda*. At The University of Akron, he played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company in Akron, he appeared in *The Long Christmas Ride Home*. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls.

KRISTEN L. BOWEN (Sarah Norman) is a Mayfield Heights resident who graduated from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), the world's largest technical college for Deaf students (and one of the nine colleges of Rochester Institute for Technology in Rochester, N.Y.). At present, she is working on an associate's degree in personal-computer enterprising at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland. As a student at NTID, she helped with costume design on several theatrical productions and played Mrs. Van Daan in the NTID Performing Arts 2001 production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Says Kristen, "I would like to thank my mom and dad for all their help and patience during this production. I would like to thank my family and friends who helped me practice. I also want to thank everyone who comes to see this show and tries to understand what it's like being Deaf."

CHRISTINE ANASTASIA MASON (Mrs. Norman and Assistant Director) is a Kent resident and recent graduate of the American Sign Language interpreter-training program at Kent State University. Mason now serves as an ASL interpreter

for Beachwood City Schools. She received her formal training in fine arts at the University of Michigan, after which she worked as a studio artist and created large-scale paintings and Chinese dragons for the theater. Mason says that "a strange sequence of events" introduced her to the Deaf community, which in turn inspired her to begin her formal training in ASL interpretation, which led to an expanded interaction with the local Deaf community. Along the way, she stumbled upon perfect love and married a poor soul whose life as an English teacher was to be consumed by sign language, feral cats and papier-mâché. Most recently, she interpreted a production of *Alice in Wonderland* at Twinsburg High School, consummating a perfect marriage of her passions for art and language. Thus, today she clammers happily into this weird and wonderful multi-cultural collaboration of theater friends with this production.

JESSE CATALANO (Orin Dennis) is a student at Kent State University majoring in history and American Sign Language. He looks forward to becoming a teacher. In 1999, he graduated from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), the world's largest technical college for Deaf students. He appeared in the 1998-1999 NTID Performing Arts productions of *The Odd Couple*, *West Side Story* and *The Tempest*. Upon his graduation from NTID, he reprised his role as Stephano in *The Tempest* along with his fellow cast members when the show was remounted in a 2000 production at the Interborough Repertory Theater in New York City. He lives in Kent.

RACHEL REBEKKAH GERARD (Lydia) is a native and resident of Madison, Ohio, who makes her Weathervane debut with this production. She has studied edu-



cational interpreting at Kent State University and also studied dance for 14 years at the Fordu School of Dance in Madison. Her theatrical credits include roles in the 2006 and 2007 productions of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Beck Center for the Arts, and *Suessical* and *The Foreigner*, both at Madison High School. "LMI, Mom and Dad!"

DAVID MYERS (Mr. Franklin) is an Akron resident celebrating his fourth onstage appearance at Weathervane. He played Herr Zeller in the Playhouse's 2006 production of *The Sound of Music*, Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* in 2005 and Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace* in 2003. He is a graduate of Taylor University (with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and computer science) who teaches at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy in Cuyahoga Falls.

BRIAN ARMOUR (Edward Klein) has been a musician for the past 13 years but makes his stage debut with this Weathervane production. This junior at The University of Akron studying secondary education says his long-term goal is to make a career out of acting. He lives in Copley and plays in a local band that specializes in soulful rhythm-and-blues/inspirational music. Brian says, "I would like to thank my mother, Diane Armour; my brother, Michael Armour, Jr.; and my encouraging friends, Aisha Ray and David Jones. He also thanks John Hedges and

Larry Nehring for this opportunity and the entire cast for bearing with me while I learn the ropes."

CYNTHIA SEAL (shadow interpreter) is a newcomer to Weathervane. She is an Elyria resident and part-time staff member of Cleveland Signstage Theatre, having served the organization as a deaf actor and as an American Sign Language translator and instructor. She has served on the board of the Deaf and Deaf-Blind Committee on Human Rights, an advocacy group based in North Olmsted. She is also a support-service provider for Deaf-Blind members. She points a big "thank you!" with pride to her support team -- her hearing mom, Pat; her Deaf dad, Steve; her young hearing son, J.J., and many friends.

JAMES LENAHA (shadow interpreter), a newcomer to Weathervane, is a Lakewood resident who says he "loves the challenge of this show." Lenahan has many northeast Ohio theater credits to his name, including roles in the Beck Center for the Arts productions of *Porgy and Bess* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. At Cuyahoga Community College's Metro campus, he appeared in *Othello*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *From Cleveland to Hollywood*. For the silver screen, he got to play a construction worker in *Spider-Man 3*, for which a number of scenes were shot in Cleveland. "Many thanks," Lenahan says, "to Larry Nehring for talking me into doing this show."



JUDY WILLEMSSEN (Stage Manager) says, "When I found out Weathervane would be doing *Children of a Lesser God*, I jumped at the chance to be stage manager. I fell in love with Deaf theatre the first time I saw a performance of Cleveland Signstage." For many years Judy has been involved in Deaf theatre by serving as a member of Signstage's board of trustees. She has also designed props and sound and developed teacher's guides for Cleveland Signstage and Signstage on Tour. Says Judy, "I want to thank the cast of COLG. We have Deaf, Hearing-Impaired, experienced actors and non-experienced actors in the show. Each of them gives to Weathervane a gift of magic."

TODD DIERINGER (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to be creating a set again for Weathervane after his designing debut last year with *The Sisters Rosensweig*. He began volunteering here as "the fly guy" on the props crew of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Todd returned to that task for last summer's award-winning production of *The Full Monty*. In addition to making scenery fly, he has served on set-construction crews for nearly every production since 2005. Todd has a bachelor's degree in public relations from The University of Akron, where he also studied theater. He currently serves as the systems administrator in the admissions office at UA. Todd says, "Many thanks to my family, friends and the amazingly talented volunteers at Weathervane."

LEAH MAGNUS (Lighting Designer) Leah has held backstage roles for almost every show at Weathervane since 2003, when she ran spotlight for *Gypsy*. In 2006, she worked on the lighting crew for *Madeline's Rescue*; served as assistant stage manager and properties designer for

Joseph 'and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; provided properties design for *Angels in America: Perestroika*; served as assistant lighting designer for *Lend Me a Tenor*; and served as master electrician for *Wait until Dark*. For the 2007 production of *All My Sons*, she designed the lighting. A senior in the Visual and Performing Arts program at Firestone High School, she served as assistant stage manager for *The Colored Museum* and the school's *One Act Play Festival*. She was Weathervane's Erin Dillon Youth Award winner at the 2006 Chanticleer Awards and she took first place in properties design at the 2007 State Thespian Conference. Most recently, she designed the lighting for Coach House Theatre's *Drowning Sorrows*. Leah says her favorite Weathervane experiences to date have been working on props crew for both parts of the *Angels in America* plays.

DAN "D.J." JANKURA (Sound Designer) is a student studying technical theater at Kent State University who lives in Cuyahoga Falls. For Weathervane's Production Board, he chairs the Sound Department. With his expertise in this field, he aided and guided the team that recently installed the sound console in the rear of the Grace Hower Crawford Main Stage auditorium. This season, he worked on the sound crews for *The Frog Prince*, *I Do! I Do!* and *Moon Over Buffalo* -- and he coordinated and manipulated the dozens of body microphones worn by the "cast of thousands" in our most recent production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

HELEN VARI (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane Women's Board in 2006 and says she is "thrilled to be a member of the Costume Committee and associated with such a creative and talented



Creative Team Callboard Continued

group of women." This show mark's Helen's first foray into costume design. A resident of Rootstown Township, she is a certified public accountant who retired from the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine (aka NEOUCOM), where she met another Weathervaner, Margaret Dietz, who first introduced her to the Playhouse. Her past civic involvement includes a stint as treasurer of the Portage County unit of the American Cancer Society and a seat on the board of the Rootstown Water Company. At present, she is a member of the Rootstown Township Zoning Commission and occasionally substitute-teaches. Besides enjoying her role as doting Grandma to her grandchildren, she enjoys reading, camping, her "red hat" group and occasional

casino-gambling trips with friends. For her costume-design venture, Helen thanks Henrietta Cook, Dorothy Kies, Judy Adamson and Randie Sass for being mentors and helping every step of the way.

TIMOTHY H. CHAMPION (Properties Designer) While Tim is familiar to Weathervane audiences for his on-stage antics, he has also wrought much havoc over many years backstage and behind the scenes. In addition to service on the Board of Trustees, Tim has crewed props for six of our productions, run the light board and operated follow-spot for four others, and directed the Salon Series reading of *Lettice & Lovage*. Tim is a lawyer engaged in the practice of trust, estate, probate and real estate law at Champion & Company, LPA in Fairlawn.

which could not and would not be suppressed. State schools for the Deaf became the last bastion for the culture, an island where Deaf people would get an education, find role models, and could work within their own community. Although many learned trade skills and found jobs in various industries, they rarely were seen in the Hearing community.

It was not until the late 1950s that serious research began on American Sign Language. William Stoke published the first dictionary of the language and was able to document the grammatical structures and linguistics of the language. It would still take three decades for schools to accept it as a real language, offering courses for graduation credits.

This is the world that inspired this play. A culture chomping at the bit for recognition, tired of oppression, and ready to make its presence known. The early 1970s was a time of political upheaval: Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement, Women's Lib. Where was the voice for change for the Deaf? The National Theatre of the Deaf was its cultural voice, showing that Sign could be a beautiful art-form for Hearing audiences. Gallaudet College in Washington, DC taught Liberal Arts while the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY provided college training in technical fields. But it took this play for the mainstream Hearing folks to start acknowledging the abilities of Deaf people. This play, ironically written by a Hearing man, became the best proponent for Deaf independence. Its leading Deaf characters, Sarah and Orin, demand to pursue their own destinies, not destinies bestowed upon them by Hearing people.

Within two decades, Deaf students at Gallaudet led an international, televised revolution which placed a Deaf man in the Presidency of the University, ASL programs and Interpreter Training Programs were set up in many universities, and a Deaf woman, Marlee Matlin, won the Oscar for Best Actress for her work as Sarah Norman in the film version of *CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD*. The silent world of Deaf culture rose to public prominence with no small help from the play you are about to see.



Production Team Members & Crews

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
Kevin Ford
Tom Marshall
Erin Katz Ford
Todd Dieringer
Roger Dieringer
John Hujar

Dan Levan
Kristofer Sperry
Evelyn Sperry
Leah Magnus
Justyn Jaymes
Jennifer Maxson

LIGHTS

Erin Katz Ford
Leslie Johnson
Ian Bolden

COSTUMES

Henrietta Cook
Dorothy Kies
Randie O. Sass
Judy Adamson
Nadine Bowen

SOUND

Jerry Mirman
Joyce Stadler

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tom Marshall, Diana Nabring & GuitarFemme on Ebay
Charles Korecki and Cuyahoga Falls High School

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

January -- **Karen Burrige**

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

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

Meena & Puru Agrawal	Erin Katz Ford	Sheila Moore	Amy Snell
Susan Baker	Jill Forster	Lois Murray	Ethel Soudry
Patrice Bechtol	Carol & Steve	Pat Obenour	Susan Speers
Mary Blazewicz	Garritano	Barbara O'Connor	Susie Stech
Connie Bowen	Marilyn Heagerty	John O'Neill	Barbara Trotter
Gail & Leonard	Linda Heath	Marci Paolucci	Helen Tschantz
Cheslock	Janet Heilmeier	Jean Questel	Helen Vari
Henrietta Cook	Dave Heltebran	Bess Raines	Michelle Williams
Ralph Cooley	Fran Howell	Ruth Richardson	Marta Williger
Wendy Cooley	Nancy Humes	Randie O. Sass	Mary Wolfman
Thelma Coss	Chuck Kelades	Carol Seiberling	Gen Woods
M.J. Coulson	Leslie & Richard Lund	Debra Sharp	B.J. Zeigler
Margaret Dietz	Nancy Mahoney	Lois Simmons	Nancy Zeigler
Helen Fleming	Mitzi Mild	Sue & Richard Smith	



Our Remembrances -- Betty Williams

Even a few weeks before her death, **Betty Williams** had Weathervane's best interests at heart. On Monday, January 9, the Women's Board's annual lunch/meeting was held. Even though Betty could not be here, she sent a beautiful cake commemorating Weathervane's 37 years at 1301 Weathervane Lane, during which many Depression-era luncheons with soup and bread were served. Betty also saw to it that her specialty, home-made rolls and bread, were provided. Helping her with her project were Dorothy Kies, WB superior cake baker, and Betty's daughter, Norma, who did the decorating.

Betty died Jan. 22 at home after a long battle with ill health, which she never allowed to slow her down. Betty, who joined Weathervane in 1972, became "The Costume Lady" after 30 years of dressing Weathervane's many casts. Her multiple contributions to the Playhouse included serving as president of the Women's Board twice and heading the Puppet Show committee for 10 years. She won Chanticleers for her costuming and, in 1997, "the Bettys" – Betty Yoe, Betty Quaint, and Betty Williams – received Trustee Awards for their years of contributions and achievements. Betty's family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Playhouse. A memorial service is being planned for Monday, March 31.

Gifts to Weathervane's Endowment Fund were made
in Memory of **Betty Pauline Williams** by

Susan & Patrick Baker	Janis L. Harcar	Betty & Frank Ricci
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In the Bank One Visual Arts Gallery

Our exhibit features work produced by artists who are Deaf. These young artists are "speaking" to us through their work. There are many things to learn about the particular challenges that face those who cannot hear. My hope is that, through this production and this exhibit, those of us who inhabit the "hearing" world, will discover new ways of thinking about the many facets and complex layers that are a part of the psyche and soul of those who are Deaf.

Anthony Albani was born Deaf and grew up learning SEE (Signing Exact English) but now is fluent in American Sign Language which his whole family knows. He graduated from Austintown Fitch High School in 2004. His main interest is photography. He hopes to find a junior college that offers an Associate Degree so that he can continue his studies. In the meantime, he works at Avry's Orthotic Facility. These photographs were taken on family vacations with his digital Canon Powershot A450 and were printed for him by **Kevin Olds of Kevin Olds Imaging**.

The following artists are students at Hoover High School in North Canton:

Maria Film (18) is a senior. She was born Deaf and has always attended mainstream classes. She communicates using speech, lip-reading and signing and enjoys working in the kitchen at Outback Steak House.

Kelsie Heil (17) is a sophomore. She got her first hearing aids when she was 13 months old and her cochlear implant at age five. She is on the girls' basketball team and a member of the ASL Club.

Rashelle Gold (16) is a freshman. She got her first hearing aids at age two and her cochlear implant at age seven. She communicates with sign language but also reads lips. She is a member of the ASL Club.

Marilyn Hlass is the Deaf Education teacher for North Canton Schools. **Vicki Mooney** and **Susan Cammel** are the American Sign Language teachers, **Janet Baran** and **Chris Triner** are the Art teachers and **Danielle Judy** and **Christina Warren** are the Interpreters -- all are at Hoover High School.

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Director



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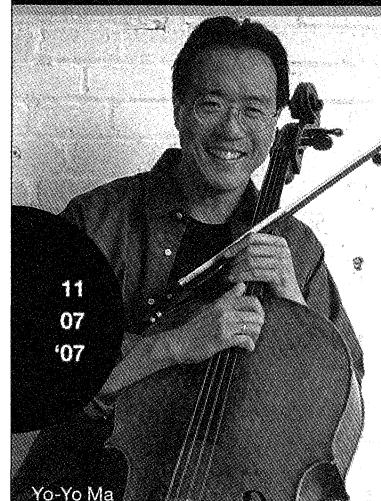
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Kathryn Stott piano
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Lawrence Brownlee tenor
Martin Katz piano
Tuesday, February 12, 2008 • 7:30 pm

The Cleveland Orchestra
Sunday, March 16, 2008 • 3 pm

Irish Chamber Orchestra
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 • 7:30 pm

Garrick Ohlsson piano
The Margaret Baxtresser Annual Piano Concert
Tuesday, May 6, 2008 • 7:30 pm

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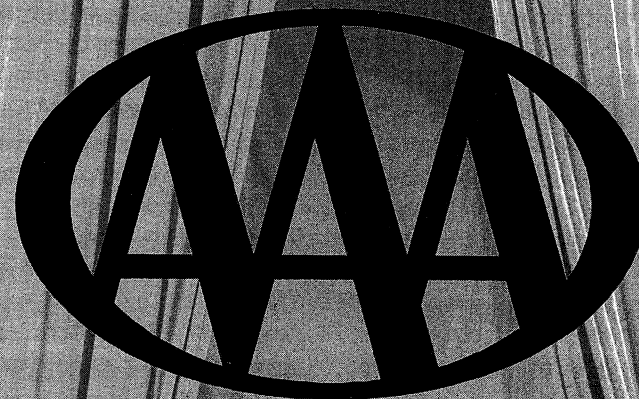
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Volunteering at Weathervane

Weathervane began as a volunteer organization and continues its growth thanks to the time and talent that members of our community 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, Production Board, Advisory Board 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 life-enriching opportunities for all involved.

Share the Annual Chanticleer Celebration

Let's talk Chanticleer! Shortly after the final production of each season, Weathervane volunteers, subscribers and friends share an exciting awards show and party to acknowledge outstanding work by performers and technical volunteers. And, if you have seen all of the six Mainstage productions, you are eligible to be a judge!

The top performers, as chosen by the Chanticleer "judges," are awarded rooster statuettes -- "Chanticleers" -- in recognition of their work. It's a great night to get together and share in the fun and festivities. The Chanticleer Awards event is open to all.

Awards are presented for outstanding lead performances in a drama or comedy, outstanding lead performances in a musical, outstanding featured and sup-

porting performances in a drama or comedy, outstanding featured and supporting performances in a musical and outstanding achievement in sound design, lighting design, properties design and costume design. The final award of the Chanticleer evening goes to the Best Production of the season.

In addition to performance and technical awards, the event also recognizes the Top 25 outstanding volunteers of the season, who represent all the volunteers whose time and talents create the memorable theater experiences of every Weathervane season.

We welcome you to take part in the biggest nail-biting party of the year. Make sure to pick up your ballot at the end of the season and join us!



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! In addition, you receive complimentary tickets to see the shows plus the pride in knowing you are joining nearly 1 million volunteers nationwide to support community theater! 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 selling tickets 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.



Who Gets On Stage?

Our volunteer performers come from throughout greater Akron and northeastern Ohio. They've committed themselves to four or more weeks of rehearsals plus performances. Their greatest reward is your applause.

Many performers come with substantial theatrical experience. Others are new to the stage. Auditions are open to all and our non-traditional casting policy opens the way for many performance opportunities. Except in cases where race, gender, age or disability is essential to the play, all roles are cast on the basis of talent.

Local newspapers carry audition dates and times or call Weathervane at 330-836-2626 to be added to the audition mailing list. Some 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 Playhouse on audition nights, you'll learn about the rehearsal and performance schedule. 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. So, don't be discouraged and please audition again.

Beware of the Dreaded No-Show

Have you ever seen empty seats at a sold out sporting event or concert? Weathervane has the same problem. 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). This makes it impossible to tell if a performance is ever really sold out and annoys other 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. Thank you.

Weathervane Traditions

Meet the cast Many cast members spend a few minutes in the lobby area to meet and greet friends after performances. It's your chance to thank them for their performance.

Intermission Tea is served with our compliments by our volunteers. Soft drinks are available at a nominal cost.

Opening Night Receptions welcome audiences on Main Stage first Friday performances. We provide light refreshments after the show so you can share in the celebration.

For your sweet tooth snacks are available for purchase before the show and during intermission. Refreshments (other than water) are not permitted in the auditorium.

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Mission Statement

The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure, information services, meeting spaces, and programs for all ages that support, improve, and enrich individual, family, and community life.

Core Values

Excellence

Striving for excellence in all we do.

Service

Providing service that is dynamic, responsive, and respectful of our customers, colleagues, and co-workers.

Learning

Fostering life-long learning and individual enrichment.

Integrity

Operating with the highest level of honesty and respect for staff, community, and library resources.

Innovative Thinking

Encouraging innovative thinking as a means for addressing needs and challenges in order to improve the library.

Inclusion

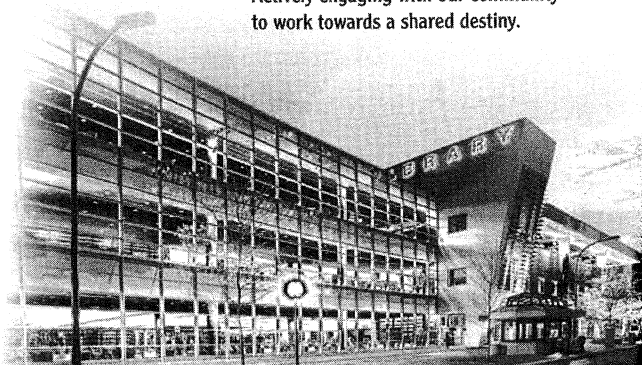
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