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*Orea*

Mainstage Production No. 517

**2005-2006**

## CROWNS

*A gospel musical based on  
the best-selling book  
"Crowns: Portraits of  
Black Women in Church Hats"*

*Adapted by Regina Taylor  
from the book by  
Michael Cunningham &  
Craig Marberry*

Simply Grand  
ENTERTAINMENT

January 11 - February 5, 2006





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To all Weathervane Playhouse Patrons:

# This Invitation is for You!

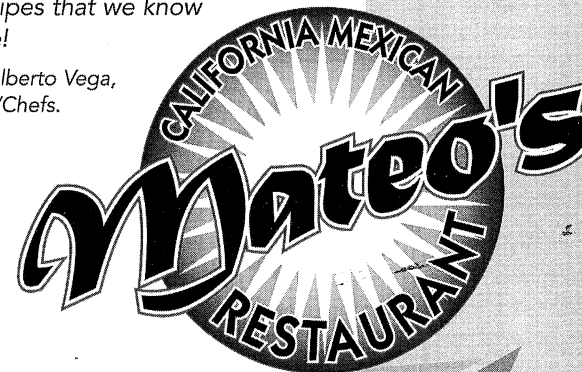
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**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

Adapted by Jessie Braham White

July 30 - August 14, 2005

**Much Ado about Nothing**

Comedy by William Shakespeare

September 14 - October 2, 2005

**Over the River and through the Woods**

Comedy by Joe DiPietro

October 19 - November 6, 2005

**Joseph and the**

**Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber

Nov. 25 - Dec. 18, 2005

**Crowns**

by Regina Taylor

A gospel musical based on the best-selling book *Crowns*:

*Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*

January 11 - February 5, 2006

**Anitgone** by Sophocles

February 17 - March 5, 2006

**Lend Me a Tenor**

Comedy by Ken Ludwig

March 22 - April 9, 2006

**Wait Until Dark**

Thriller by Frederick Knott

April 26 - May 14, 2006

**Aladdin** Performed by the Piper Puppets

May 6, 2006

**The Sound of Music**

by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

June 14 - July 16, 2006

**Angels in America**

by Tony Kushner

*Millennium Approaches* -- Nov. 10 - 19, 2005

*Perestroika* -- May 18 - June 4, 2006

*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 time** Wed./Thurs. at 7:30 p.m., Fri./Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2:30 p.m.

❖ **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 with interest. Please feel free to write to Weathervane to express your views and opinions about our productions. Send your comments to: *Executive Director, Weathervane Community Playhouse.*



Patron Generosity

Weathervane appreciates the continuing strong support of individuals, corporations, foundations and other donors who help finance the theater's operations, capital improvements and endowment program. Weathervane is classified as a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. Following are some of the many ways in which you can take pride in your support of the art of theater in our community.

❖ **Become a Weathervane Member**

Your annual support makes you a voting member of Weathervane Community Playhouse. You'll receive discounts on educational programs and other benefits, based on the membership level you choose. Members are invited to Weathervane's annual meeting and to other special events. 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 theater. Please check whether or not your company participates in such a program.

❖ **Designate Gifts To Local Foundations**

Several of this area's larger foundations accept memorial and tribute gifts in the name of specific organizations such as Weathervane Community Playhouse. Such gifts help assure continuing grants to the theater's operations and special projects. We are enormously grateful for the impressive history of foundation support in this community.

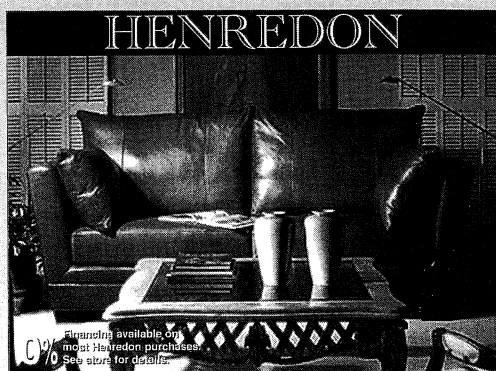
❖ **Sponsor or Underwrite a Production**

Our productions may be underwritten by local corporations or foundations. Benefits can include private "command performances" and special receptions for employees and friends when your business chooses this important method of support. Please call 330-836-2626. We'd like to discuss this kind of opportunity with 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.



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## 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 chanticleer 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,

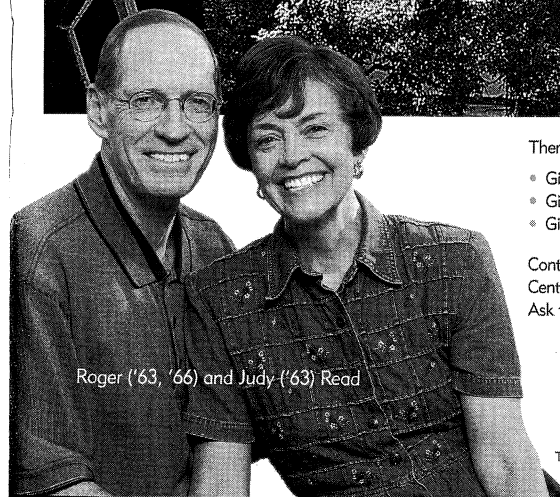
directors came from the membership and were charged with casting, costumes, settings and publicity. By 1960, there were so many shows that Bob Belfance was hired as theater director. Along with custodian/ticket manager Nora Scott, the two-person staff relied on volunteer support.

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.

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## Volunteer Sign-Up

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

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About tonight's play \_\_\_\_\_

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**How?**  
By participating in a new initiative to collect and preserve Summit County's rich musical heritage!

If you are willing to donate your materials to the Library, please contact the Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030, by e-mail at [speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org) or visit the Web site at [www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html](http://www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html)

All materials will be housed in the Library's new Special Collections Division at Main Library

Special Collections, the Library's division responsible for maintaining local history materials, is planning a permanent collection of area music from Summit County-based musicians, professional or amateur, past and present.

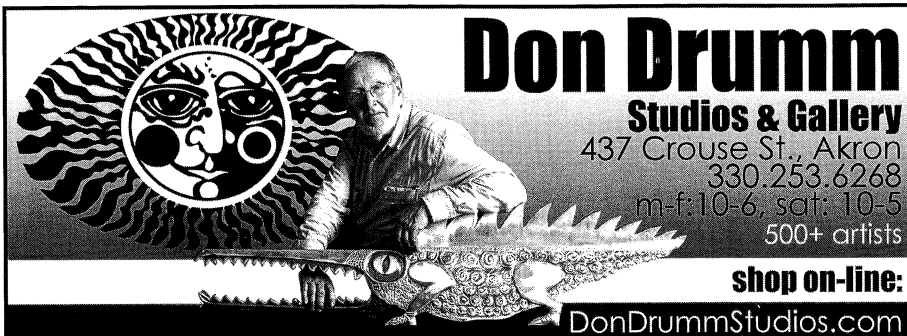
Our local music wish list includes recordings by local

- pop
- rock
- blues
- jazz
- gospel
- classical
- R&B
- rap/hip-hop
- country
- folk and ethnic recording artists

Also accepting related historical materials such as photographs, posters, programs, flyers and videos.







# Don Drumm

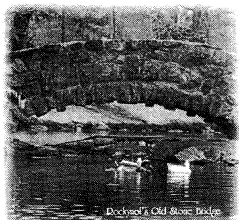
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## Ticket Information

❖ **Tickets** Purchase in person or charge by phone with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at 330-836-2626, Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on performance Saturdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. *Reservations are also required when using coupons from your Weather-vane 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. 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 theater 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 theater.

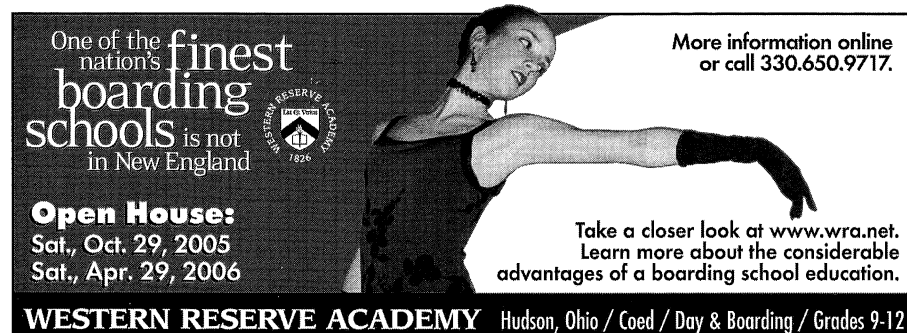


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### 2005-2006 Officers

**Lois Simmons** . . . .Corresponding Sec.  
**Sue Smith** . . . . .Recording Sec.  
**Jill Forster** . . . . .Treasurer

Art Gallery .....	<b>Marci Paolucci</b>
Boutique .....	<b>Mary Wolfman</b>
	<b>B.J. Ziegler</b>
Boutique Treasurer	<b>Barbara O'Connor</b>
Cast Suppers .....	<b>Randie Sass</b>
Costumes .....	<b>Henrietta Cook</b>
Hospitality .....	<b>Janet Budai</b>
	<b>Marta Williger</b>
Hostesses .....	<b>Bess Raines</b>
	<b>Wendy Cooley</b>

House Committee . . . . .	<b>Sue Smith</b>
Membership . . . . .	<b>Lois Simmons</b>
Newsletter . . . . .	<b>Lois Simmons</b>
	<b>Pat Weill</b>
Nominating . . . . .	<b>Nancy Ziegler</b>
Murder Mystery . . . .	<b>Karen Burridge</b>
Puppet Show . . . . .	<b>Betty Williams</b>
	<b>Leslie Lund</b>

## 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.

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## 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 theatres 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 also worked backstage for many productions and has won Chanticleers for Properties Design for four productions. He is, however, most proud of his three grandchildren, Dana, Nicholas and Kristin.

**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 husband Doug and their three children, Stephanie, Zachary and Katie.

**DREA JEAN 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 the Director of Administration for the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition. 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.

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



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 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.



*In the Bank One Visual Arts Gallery*

**Debra Calhoun** has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in U.S. History, both from The University of Akron. She is a self-taught quilter who, in 1995, was artist-in-residence at both Hillcrest Elementary School and Portage Path Elementary School, followed in 1997 as artist-in-residence at King Elementary School. Most recently she has had solo exhibits at the Lucy Laney Craft Gallery, Augusta, Georgia, and at the Ponder Art Galler at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. Her work has also been featured at the Akron Woman's City Club, the Akron Art Museum, and Tomorrow's Treasures.

"*Crowns* reminds me of the ladies who went to the church I grew up in, the Greater Bethel Baptist Church in Akron. I remember too many times sitting behind either one of the sister elders, or the minister's wife, who wore these large fabulous intricate hats," remembers Debra. "Quilts, like those hats the women wear, carry a language and tradition all their own. The messages are visible displays of the culture of African people. These quilts, jackets and pillows are traditionally made, and they also tell stories. I hope after viewing my work and experiencing *Crowns*, the observer walks away with a greater understanding of the legacy and history of African-Americans."

*Track Your Favorites*

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

Sound Design	Supporting Actor -- play & musical
Lighting Design	Lead Actress - play & musical
Properties Design	Featured Actress -- play & musical
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*Thanks for your help! We look forward to another successful season!*





## Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to Weatherlane.



I am very pleased to welcome 2006 with *Crowns*, Regina Taylor's delightful gospel tale. Two summers ago I was attending a late fall baseball game for my son's little league team and, I admit it, I was on the cell phone. I had called up Michael Haney, an old friend of mine. Michael, who is now Associate Artistic Director for Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, has directed for us twice, *Sylvia* and then *Camping with Henry and Tom*. I was calling to ask what he was seeing out there that was new, what we might look at for interesting community programming. He said we should really take a look at *Crowns*, which his theatre was in the process of producing. I

requested a copy of the script and did some research. It really looked like a great fit for us. Play Selection agreed and selected it for this season.

Next the task was to find the very best team to work with our community artists. The name Dale Shields, a fellow OU graduate, came up again and again as I asked other Weatherlane directors for recommendations. I spoke with Dale and he was very interested. He then suggested we might contact Ed Ridley, a wonderful director and musician with whom he had worked at the Cleveland Play House and the very talented choreographer, Michael Medcalf. All three came aboard. Finally we were fortunate to get some wonderful designers and a talented cast filled entirely of Akron residents, a first for us in a long long time.

Winter shows are always tricky. Weather issues, church concerts and family engagements make this one of the most difficult slots of the year. But this company has risen to the challenge and we are enthusiastic about being able to bring *Crowns* to you. A big hearty thank you to all -- directors, designers and our tireless cast and crew. We are most fortunate that you so strongly believe in what we do that you devote precious time out of your busy holiday season to this project. This company has been a blessing and a joy to work with and now they will be spending a little quality time with you. Enjoy!

I wish you all the best for 2006, see you at the theatre.

*Edmundie Kyle*




Weatherlane

Community Playhouse

71st Season – 2005-2006 – Production # 517

January 11 - February 5, 2006

With support from

 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

# CROWNS

*The gospel musical based on the best-selling book*  
by Regina Taylor

adapted from the book by

Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry

Directed by **Dale Ricardo Shields**

Musical Director -- **Edward E. Ridley, Jr.**

Choreographer -- **Michael Medcalf**

Assistant to the Director

**Marcus Bentley**

Assistant Musical Director

**Tommie Garrett**

Stage Manager

**Nichole Strong**

Assistant Stage Managers

**Jordan Cooper & MAZ**

Costume Design by

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**Jerold A. Mirman, Jr.**

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**Pauline Geraci**

Scenic Designer/Technical Director

**Alan Scott Ferrall**

*Crowns* is produced by special arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service,  
440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

CROWNS was originally produced by the McCarter Theater Center, Princeton, New Jersey, and by Second Stage Theatre, New York City. CROWNS was originally commissioned by the McCarter Theater Center and was developed with the assistance of the Sundance Theatre Institute.

Weatherlane productions are sponsored in part by



Weatherlane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weatherlane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186  
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 – Fax: 330-873-2150 – For staff Emails -- please see website  
[www.weatherlaneplayhouse.com](http://www.weatherlaneplayhouse.com)



## About the Play & Playwright

The story of *Crowns* started in 1998. **Michael Cunningham**, a commercial photographer living in Winston-Salem, N.C., was told by a friend about the beautiful hats her relatives had worn to a reunion. "I could just see all those women in hats covered in buttons and fur and jewels. My ma was a minister, so I could just see them." So he set out to take as many portraits as possible of African-American women wearing their church hats. He put ads in local newspapers and asked ministers to announce the project to their congregations. Sixty women volunteered. **Craig Marberry**, a former television reporter who knew Cunningham, heard about the project and offered to write interviews with the owners of the hats. "From the outside, it might appear that this is based on self-glorification. But it's not. It's a tradition intrinsic to the black experience. It's based on showing respect for God and church and being part of a wonderful sorority of hat lovers," said Marberry. An agent was found and Doubleday bought the book rights. The Trenton N.J. City Museum became involved in the premiere of the new play written by **Regina Taylor** when it held an unrelated hat-themed exhibition. The hat story took on a life of its own, with tea parties, notecards and, of course, hats! A school teacher remarked, "When you wear a hat, you're different! You realize your own queenly attributes!" There is one man in the cast. He represents the spirit of the crossroads, a vital part of the women's histories and appears in different roles throughout the play. He touches the stories that the women tell, often bringing momentary life to the fathers, brothers, husbands and preachers who have influenced the lives of the other characters. (Quotes from The Star Ledger 10/9/02)

## About the Playwright

**Regina Taylor** played the pivotal role of Lilly Harper in the critically acclaimed series *I'll Fly Away* from 1991-1993, which earned her a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Drama Series and an NAACP Image Award. She recently received the Women in Film Gracie Allen Award for her portrayal of Anita Hill in the television film *Strange Justice*. While attending Southern Methodist University, Taylor made her professional acting debut in the CBS television film *Crisis at Central High*. Her additional television credits include the series *Law & Order*, the films *Cora Unashamed* and *Making the Case for Murder: The Howard Beach Story* and, on CBS, the mini-series *Children of the Dust*. Her feature film credits include *The Negotiator*, *Courage Under Fire*, *A Family Thing*, *Lean on Me*, *Losing Isaiah* and *Clockers*. Taylor was the first black woman to play Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* on Broadway. Her other Broadway credits include *As You Like It* and *Macbeth*. She has appeared Off-Broadway and regionally in numerous productions including *Machinal* and *A Map of the World* at the Joseph Papp Public Theater, *The Illusion* at the New York Theatre Workshop, and *The Tempest*, for which she received a Dramalogue Award. Taylor also starred in the Off-Broadway production *Jar the Floor* at the Second Stage Theater in New York. A Distinguished Artistic Associate of Chicago's Goodman Theater, Taylor collaborated on and appeared in the play *Millennium Mambo*, which premiered at New York's Signature Theatre in early 2001. As a playwright, Taylor was honored by the American Critics' Association for *Oo-Bla-Dee*. *Drowning Crow*, Taylor's adaptation of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, was produced last season at the Goodman. She also wrote the stage production of *A Night in Tunisia*, which was performed during the 2000 Shakespeare Festival, last season at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and is currently running at George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, N.J.



## Crowns Cast & Musicians

Yolanda/Ogun (green and red) ..... **Neysa J. Fuller**  
 Mother Shaw/Obatala (Orisha of wisdom - creativity) ... **Charessa Lejoyce Banks**  
 Velma/Oya (Orisha of storms - purple) ..... **Jocelyn E. Grant**  
 Jeanette/Yemaya (Orisha of seas - blue) ..... **Telsha L. Curry**  
 Wanda/Oshun (Orisha of the rivers, water - gold/yellow) . **Patricia (Dolly) Roebuck**  
 Mabel/Shango (Orisha of fire - red and white) ..... **Rhonda K. Brown**  
 Man/Preacher/Elegba (Orisha of crossroads - red and black) ..... **Daniel Shaw**

## Musicians

**Tommie Garrett** - Keyboard

**Christopher Corprew** - Percussion

*"Crowns" is performed without an intermission.*

## Scenes:

THE PROLOGUE: The time before.

THE MORNING: The Dawning of Life.

THE PROCESSION: The long walk to becoming.

THE MORNING SERVICE: The discovery of self.

THE BAPTISM: The immersion into life's work and passion.

THE WEDDING: The union of our spirit selves with ourselves, and others.

THE FUNERAL: The separation and celebration of spirit and body.

THE EVENING RECESSIONAL: The final glorious journey.

**\*For your safety, we request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.**

**\*The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.**

**\*As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.**

**\*Please do not bring food or drink in the auditorium.**

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



## About the Directing Team

### Our Director

**Dale Ricardo Shields**, B.F.A., M.F.A. from Ohio University, most recently directed *Topdog/Underdog* at the Beck Center for the Arts where he also teaches in the Conservatory Program. He performed with the St. Paul Civic Symphony at The St. Paul Landmark Center as the Narrator in Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*. His extensive professional credits as a director, stage manager and actor (Broadway and Off Broadway) include: the Joseph Papp Public Theatre (New York Shakespeare Festival), the Actors Studio, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Playwrights Horizon, Weathervane Playhouse (Newark, OH), the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Cleveland Play House, the Beck Center, the Near West Side Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Hilberry Repertory Theatre, Karamu House, the Henry Street Settlement House and the Negro Ensemble Company. His directing credits include: *Man of La Mancha*, *Rumors*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, *Golden Boy*, *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Before It Hits Home*, *Three Ways Home*, *The Real Ma Rainey*, *The Brownsville Raid*, *Of Mice and Men*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Quartermaine's Terms*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. As an actor, he appeared in the New York revival of *Anyone Can Whistle*, the Lincoln Center premiere of *Lily* directed by Tom O'Horgan, *The Bill Cosby Show*, *Another World*, *Guiding Light*, *Saturday Night Live*, commercials and film. Mr. Shields is a member of AEA, SAG, AFTRA, AGMA and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC).

### Our Musical Director

**Edward E. Ridley, Jr.** is pleased to reprise his musical direction of *Crowns*, which recently appeared at the Cleveland Play House. Other recent productions include *The Piano Lesson*, *Daughter of a Buffalo Soldier* and *Tony and Tina's Wedding*. In addition to extensive theater work, he serves as Music Director for the Christian Fellowship Center Church. Ed's versatility and talent as a performer have allowed him to accompany such great artists as Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Walter Hawkins and Clark Terry. Of the many blessings in Ed's life, his greatest treasures are his lovely wife Josephine and their three children, Gabrielle, Sarah and Joel.

### Our Choreographer

**Michael Medcalf** in 1998 founded the Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre, a contemporary dance company dedicated to celebrating, teaching and promoting diversity through dance. Today, his experience, professionalism, and leadership as its executive and artistic director have established the company as one of the most relevant and respected arts organizations in Northeast Ohio. As a professional dancer, Medcalf has worked intimately with prominent choreographers such as Talley Beatty, Katherine Dunham, Donald McKayle, Ronald K. Brown, Bill T. Jones, Cleo Parker Robinson, Dianne McIntyre, Gary Abbott, Eleo Pomare, Dwight Rhoden and David Rousseve among others. Highlighting his professional performing career is his work as a soloist and principal ensemble member of the Denver-based Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. Medcalf has served as the choreographer for Cleveland Municipal School District's All-City Musical for the past four years. This production of *Crowns* marks Medcalf's first engagement with Weathervane Community Playhouse and collaboration with Dale Shields and Ed Ridley.



## Musical Numbers

<i>Where I Belong</i> (Rap)	Yolanda
<i>In the Morning</i>	Mother Shaw & Company
<i>Ain't that Good News</i>	Mother Shaw
<i>When the Saints Go Marching In</i>	Mother Shaw & Company
<i>We're Marching to Zion</i>	Company
<i>Oh Lord, I'm Waitin' on You</i>	Wanda
<i>I'm on The Battlefield</i>	Mother Shaw & Mabel
<i>That's All Right</i>	Company
<i>One of them Mornings</i>	Velma
<i>And I Don't Know</i>	Yolanda
<i>I'm on The Battlefield</i> (Reprise)	Company
<i>If I Could Touch the Hem of His Garment</i>	Man/Preacher
<i>Run and Tell That</i>	Mabel
<i>His Eye is on the Sparrow</i>	Velma
<i>None but the Righteous</i>	Mother Shaw
<i>Lord, When I've Done the Best I Can</i>	Velma
<i>Wade in the Water</i>	Company
<i>Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around</i>	Company
<i>'Tis the Old Ship of Zion</i>	Mother Shaw
<i>Take Me to the Water</i>	Mother Shaw & Company
<i>Yonder Come Day</i>	Man & Company
<i>I've Got Joy Like a Fountain</i>	Yolanda
<i>This Joy that I Have</i>	Velma, Mabel & Company
<i>I Got a Crown</i>	Company

Additional musical arrangements by Edward E. Ridley, Jr.

### Director's Notes

It has been a pleasure to play a part of Akron's artistic community by working with the producer, staff, cast and volunteers of Weathervane Playhouse. I thank **Elynmarie Kazle** for this opportunity. What a gift this theatre is to your city! Please continue to support them. My first introduction to *Crowns* was through the book *Crowns* by Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry. I bought copies to give to my mother and other special women in my life. It is a wonderful celebration and history of Black Women and African and African-American culture. I was given a ticket to see the New York production of the show by Lillias White, a cast member, and was blessed to take over the production stage manager duties for The Cleveland Play House production last year. During the rehearsal process of this production, I lost my father and also lost my mother right before I started working on the Cleveland production. This musical will always proudly remind me of their spirit. I dedicate my work and my art to my parents who met singing gospel music and made it a part of my life. I must thank the very talented **Ed Ridley** and **Michael Medcalf** for being so gracious -- let's do it again and again. The gifted seven cast members have been a blessing to me. I thank all of you for sharing your experiences with me and allowing me to be me. During the rehearsal process, I found myself singing, clapping, laughing and, sometimes, crying along with its memories and cultural history. I hope you all find memories in this show. Bless you!

Dale Ricardo Shields, Director





## Cast Callboard

**NEYSA J. FULLER** (Yolanda/Ogun) is a native of Akron. She has performed across the state of Ohio for various social functions, dinners and banquets. Neysa holds a bachelor of arts degree in Applied Psychology with an emphasis in counseling from Cedarville, Ohio University where she sang in the Women's Choir, Gospel Choir and Ensemble and was a member of the Student Government Association band. Currently, she directs her church singing ensemble, is a member of the Christian band, One Body, and attends The University of Akron where she is a graduate student working toward a degree in school counseling. Neysa is making her stage debut in this production.

**CHARESSA LEJOYCE BANKS** (Mother Shaw/Obatala) is a native of Akron and a graduate of North High School. She holds a degree in Broadcast Journalism/TV and Radio Communication from Pasadena City College in California. Her singing career began when she shared her God-given singing talent with the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Sunshine Choir. She is very appreciative of her gift and is truly honored to be a part of the *Crowns* cast and working with such a prestigious director, choreographer and musical director. Thanks, thanks, thanks.

**JOCELYN E. GRANT** (Velma/Oya) makes her third appearance on our stage in this production. She was previously seen in *Little Shop of Horrors* as Chiffon and in *The Wiz* as Evillene (the Wicked Witch of the West). She is an alumnus of the Magnet Arts Program at Firestone High School. She is currently a third year student at The University of Akron majoring in English and is a choir member and minister-in-training at the United Baptist Church. She is also a member of the Christian music ensemble, Renewed. Jocelyn continues to participate in community events hoping to

help pave the way for other young people to follow in her footsteps.

**TELSHA L. CURRY** (Jeanette/Yemaya) earned a baccalaureate degree in English with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in Linguistics from The University of Akron where she added a variety of dance classes to her studies. She has been employed as a substitute teacher in Akron Public Schools. Telsha has studied at the prestigious Alvin Ailey School of Dance in New York and at the School of Cleveland Contemporary Dance Theatre under the artistic leadership of Michael Medcalf. She has been teaching dance and aerobics in the National Youth Sports Program for the past three summers. She combines her love for God with her God-given talent and often performs original liturgical dance during worship services at Arlington Church of God. She is thrilled to be a part of this production working with such talented directors.

**PATRICIA (DOLLY) ROEBUCK** (Wanda/Oshun) was born in Akron where she graduated from Archbishop Hoban High School and attended The University of Akron. Although she has enjoyed theater for many years, this is her theatrical stage debut. She has been a member of the Arlington Church of God Chancel Choir for more than 25 years and serves as assistant director of the Children's Choir. She is a staff member of the Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop (YEPAW), which uses the arts to encourage young people to pursue a lifestyle of excellence.

**RHONDA K. BROWN** (Mabel/Shango) is an Akron native and has been singing since she was five years old. She has distinguished herself throughout the greater northern Ohio area with her unique song stylings and musical interpretations. As a student at The University of Akron, she



## Cast Callboard Continued

was a member of the University Gospel Choir. She has also been a member of the Akron Symphony Orchestra's Gospel Meets Symphony Choir for the last 12 years serving as a section leader and lead singer. She has also performed as the opening singer for several popular artists including the world-renowned jazz singer, Phil Perry. Rhonda's interests include performing with the choir at Arlington Church of God. She is performing in the cast of the Gospel Musical - *Paul: A Musical Journey* - written by local composer, Charles Myricks, Jr. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Brown, Sr. of Akron.

**DANIEL SHAW** (Man/Preacher/Elegba) is also a native of Akron. His creative endeavors include drama as well as musi-

cals. He has appeared in night clubs and showcases in the New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. As a singer, tap dancer and musician, he has performed with the Hunter's Point Ensemble in San Francisco in *Mr. Big Time Buck White* and also at Sweetwater's in New York City. Most recently, Daniel worked in *Joe Louis Blues* (Sidney Bechet) at the Oscar Hammerstein II Center for Theater Studies (Columbia University Campus), N.Y. He has also appeared in the HBO movie *Proximity* with James Coburn and Rob Lowe. Daniel worked behind the camera as a Production Assistant on *The Cosby Show* for Carsey-Warner Productions. He is a former student at the Center for The Media Arts of New York



## Backstage Callboard

**MARCUS BENTLEY** (Assistant to the Director) holds a bachelors degree in Social Work from The University of Akron. He most recently performed in *Paul: a Musical Journey* as the Narrator at the Hanna Theatre in Cleveland. He also directed and appeared in *Freshly Fallen Snow* at the Arlington Church of God. He gives many thank to Elynmarie, Dale Shields and the entire Weathervane team for the wonderful experience.

**TOMMIE GARRETT III** (Assistant Musical Director) is a graduate of Brush High School currently majoring in composition and music performance at Cleveland State University with Ed Ridley. He has performed with many artists including Melba Moore, Silk and gospel singer, Douglas Miller.

**NICHOLE M. STRONG** (Stage Manager) is a native of Akron. She appeared in *The King and I* at Bowling

Green State University as a royal dancer. She has participated in several choral groups such as Schola; Black United Students Choir and Gospel Meets Symphony Choir. Nichole studied dance with Sheila Gibson (Toledo, OH) and Kelly Berrick (Cleveland, OH) and voice with Brenda Justice from Akron.

**JORDAN COOPER** (Ass't. Stage Mgr.) played keyboard for all 19 performances of this year's *Joseph*. He made his stage debut as the Mad Hatter in *Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party* and made a return to our stage as Colonel Pedro in *Much Ado about Nothing* earlier this season.

**MARK A. ZIMMERMAN** (MAZ) (Ass't Stage Mgr.) is chair of Weathervane's lighting department and Theatre Director at Firestone.

**DAVID B. COOPER** (Costume Designer) is making his official Weathervane debut as



## Backstage Callboard Continued

costume designer. As a professional hairstylist in Tallmadge for 18 years, he also keeps busy working with area middle and high schools designing hairstyles for their theater productions. Designing for the Carousel Dinner Theatre is also on his list of credits. David has performed with local theater groups and enjoys singing in Gospel choirs. He and his wife Deb are the proud parents of Alison and Jordan, who are also Weathervane performers and crew members. A special thank you to the GREAT costume ladies for all their support and encouragement! I couldn't have done it without you!!!

**DEE HALL** (Milliner) Her hats come with attitude! Keeping a clear head after her job was downsized, Dee followed her heart to fulfill a lifelong dream when she launched her own companies, Heads, Hearts and Hands (HHH) and Hall's Mark. After a 20-year career in media, event marketing and business development, Hall found it to be almost a 360-degree return to her creative side. Because of her entrepreneurial spirit and creative abilities, the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) selected Hall as one of the featured small businesses of 2005. "I've always loved hats. As a child, I always had a hat on my head." Hall specializes in custom creations, and produces unique, one-of-a-kind millinery pieces for men, women and children as well as for private clients, trunk shows, wedding head pieces, whimsical hats for the Red Hat Society and boutique hats that can be found in Safiros of Legacy Village, Eye Candy Gallery in Tremont, and Oz Collectibles in Cleveland. (From an article by Margaret Briller)

**CHARLES KORECKI** (Lighting Design) designed lighting for Weathervane's *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *The Wiz*, the last two sea-

sons' productions of *Joseph* and our spectacular production of *My Way* in 2003. He designed sound for this season's *Joseph*. Charles is a graduate of Albion College, is Theater Operations Manager at Cuyahoga Falls High School and recently wed Jen Wennerstrom. Congratulations to both!

**RYAN DURFEE** (Lighting Design) designed sound for *Much Ado about Nothing* earlier this season as well as last season's *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*. He is a student at Kent State University and has worked for a sound and lighting company where he has hung lighting for such classic rock groups as Blue Oyster Cult and Bad Company and even President George W. Bush on his visit to the Timken Company. Ryan designed lights for our youth production of *Our Town* in 2002.

**JERROLD A. MIRMAN, JR.** (Sound Design) most recently served as stage manager for *Over the River and Through the Woods*. He also stage managed *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* and was assistant stage manager for *Noises Off*. He designed properties for *The Grapes of Wrath*, all three were productions in the 2004-2005 season. He won a Chanticleer for lighting design in 1985 for *Foxfire* and was seen on stage in *Major Barbara*, 1776 and *Man of La Mancha*. He has fond memories of appearing in the 1978 production of *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln* starring Weathervane's fabled Flo Beard. He is emergency dispatcher for police, fire and EMS for Copley Township.

**PAULINE GERACI** (Properties Design) was properties designer for last season's *Three Days of Rain*. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Point Park College in Pittsburgh and has been employed in the financial industry since 1984. She lives in Akron. Welcome back!



## Production Team Members & Crews

**Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director**

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

### SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson Judy Willemssen  
Erin Katz Charles Korecki  
Kevin Ford Kristopher Sperry  
Tom Marshall Spencer Burke  
Todd Dieringer

### LIGHTS

R.T. Rinoh Kristi Hagenbush  
James McAnich Zach Long  
Clay Owen Eric Fawcett  
Kevin Root

### COSTUMES

Betty Williams Henrietta Cook  
Dorothy Kies Karen Burrige

### SOUND

Alison Cooper David Ruggles  
Leah Magnus D.J. Jankura

### PROPERTIES

Cache Albert Kathy Shocklee  
Alexandria Amos Hannah Middendorf  
Laura Brenner Elizabeth Heimbaugh  
Susan Michael Bob Myer

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cue Fleming -- Archivist  
Bill Van Nostran -- Publicity Volunteer  
John Budd & Computer Nerds  
Merriman Road

### Thanks to Our Volunteers

The following are the vivacious volunteers who assisted you by hosting, house managing and staffing the boutique, concession stand, office or Green Room during *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

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Kathleen Bartholet	Linda Hale	Bess Raines	Linda Waite
Patrice Bechtol	Linda Hall	Ruth Richardson	Betty Watterson
Jan Budai	Marilyn Heagerty	Randie & Brian Sass	Pat Weill
Karen Burrige	The Jewell Family	Mary Scafidi	Judy Willemssen
Henrietta Cook	Pam LaForce	Lois Simmons	Betty Williams
Wendy & Ralph Cooley	Leslie & Richard Lund	The Simmons Family	Mary & Mel Wolfman
Sue Cordle	Karen Morrow	Gina Singleton	Gen Woods
Thelma Coss	Sheila Motter	Chris & Steve Smalley	Richard Worswick
John Cotter	Pat Obenour	Sue & Richard Smith	Marlene Wyzynski
M.J. Coulson	Barbara O'Connor	Fran Snell	Nancy Zeigler
Margaret Dietz	Colleen O'Connor	Ethel Soudry	
Kirsten Fitzgerald	June Olea	Jack Steward	
Helen Fleming	John O'Neill	Helen Tschantz	



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Comedy by  
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April 9, 2006

Director  
Nancy Cates

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**Attention K-12 Teachers:** discount tickets are available for the following productions -- *Crowns*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Wait Until Dark* and *The Sound of Music*. Please inquire at the box office for further information. *Discount not available on previously purchased tickets.*



More Coming Events

**Warm Spanish Men** -- a new musical written and directed by Milian France January 15, 2006 at 4 p.m. Free; discussion and light snacks follow the reading.

Step-Up production: (to be retitled) **Immigrant**, a musical by Bonnie Eavers and Chuck Kieper will take its next steps on our stage as directed by Susan Speers on April 3 and 4. Tickets \$10.

**Wait until Dark** -- Mainstage Thriller by Frederick Knott. April 26 - May 14, 2006.

**The Sound of Music** -- Mainstage Musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. June 14 - July 16, 2006.

Women's Board **New Membership Tea** on May 10 at 6:30 p.m. features **Carol Starre-Kmieciak** who, for the evening, will be Cleveland's pre-eminent TV reporter, Dorothy Fuldheim.

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Keith D. Campbell

Supervisor, Front-of-House  
& Patron Relations

Alan Scott Ferrall

Scenic Designer/Technical Director

Janis L. Harcar

Director of Marketing & Development

Sean McConaha

Dir. of Ed./Producer Youth Prod.

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Who's Afraid of  
Virginia Woolf?

by Edward Albee  
January 19-February 4, 2006

PICASSO AT THE  
LAPIN AGILE

by Steve Martin  
March 23-April 8, 2006

MURDER ON THE NILE

by Agatha Christie  
June 1-24, 2006

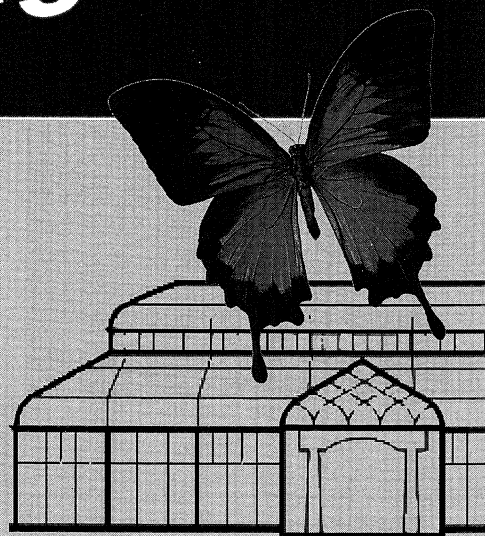
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**Olga Kern**, *piano*  
Thursday, February 2, 2006 • 8 pm

**The Cleveland Orchestra** with  
**Osmo Vänskä**, *guest conductor*  
Sunday, February 26, 2006 • 3 pm

**Frederica von Stade**, *mezzo-soprano*  
& **Samuel Ramey**, *bass*  
Tuesday, March 28, 2006 • 8 pm

**Tokyo String Quartet**  
Tuesday, May 9, 2006 • 8 pm

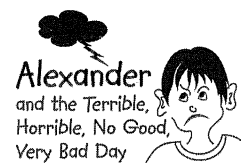
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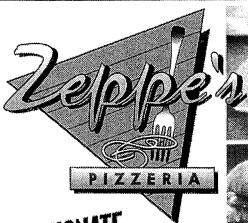
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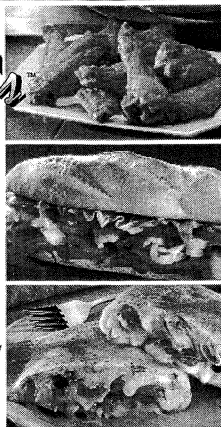
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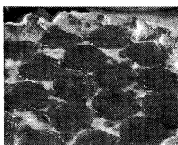
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## Volunteering at Weathervane

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 and Women's Board.

Their spirit is the backbone of our continuing operations, a valued support on which our professional staff relies.

Each month, we acknowledge the outstanding Volunteers of the Month in our lobby, but those volunteers represent all who commit their time and interest to create a great theater experience for everyone who's come to see this show.

If you have friends or relatives who volunteer generously at Weathervane, we hope you'll take a moment to thank them for their help and their support of the cultural enrichment of our community. Better yet, join them! Call us and we'll help you win your own share of the applause for a "jolly good show," an experience that offers unique challenges with every performance.

### Share the Annual Chanticleer Celebration

**Let's talk Chanticleer!** Shortly after the final production of each season (August 19, 2006), Weathervane volunteers, subscribers and friends share an exciting awards banquet and party to acknowledge outstanding performances by performers and technical volunteers. And, if you have seen all of the six main-stage productions, you are eligible to be a judge!

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

Awards are presented for outstanding lead performances by a male or female in a drama or comedy, outstanding support performances, and outstanding lead and support in a musical, as well as choices in technical achievement. Chanticleers are also awarded for properties, lights, costumes and sound design, plus best production of the season. In addition to performance and production awards, the event also recognizes the Top 25 outstanding volunteers of the 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!



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## 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 Community Playhouse

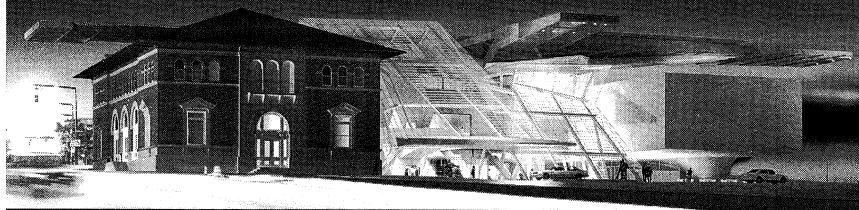
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## Who Gets On Stage?

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 theater 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 to develop the proper "relationships," style and reality of the ensemble. Don't be discouraged.

### 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.



## Theatre 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 Theatre (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. This season, *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Crowns*

and *Antigone* will be featured in the Project STAGE© events. Tickets are \$8.

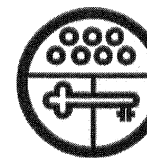
For information about classes or audition schedules for Youth Productions, please call our Director of Education at 330-836-2323.

### Adult Classes

Professionally taught adult theatre classes have included classical drama, improvisation, scenic design, stage lighting and directing. These classes help actors expand their performance and public speaking skills. Look for new schedules for classes periodically.

### 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.



## Old Trail School

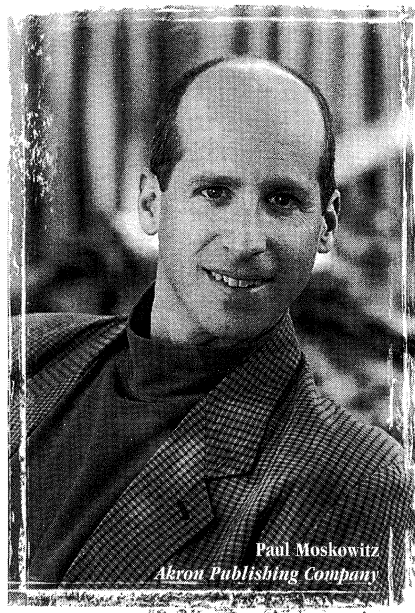
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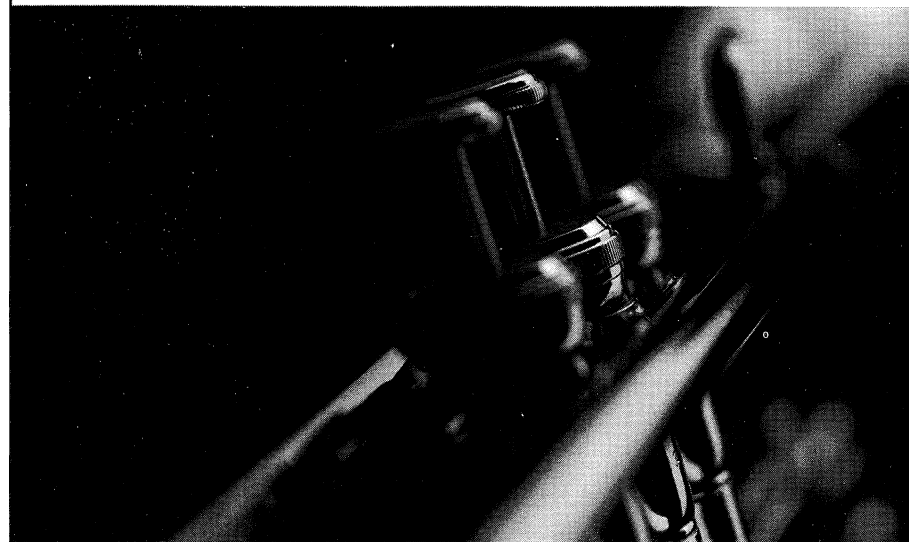
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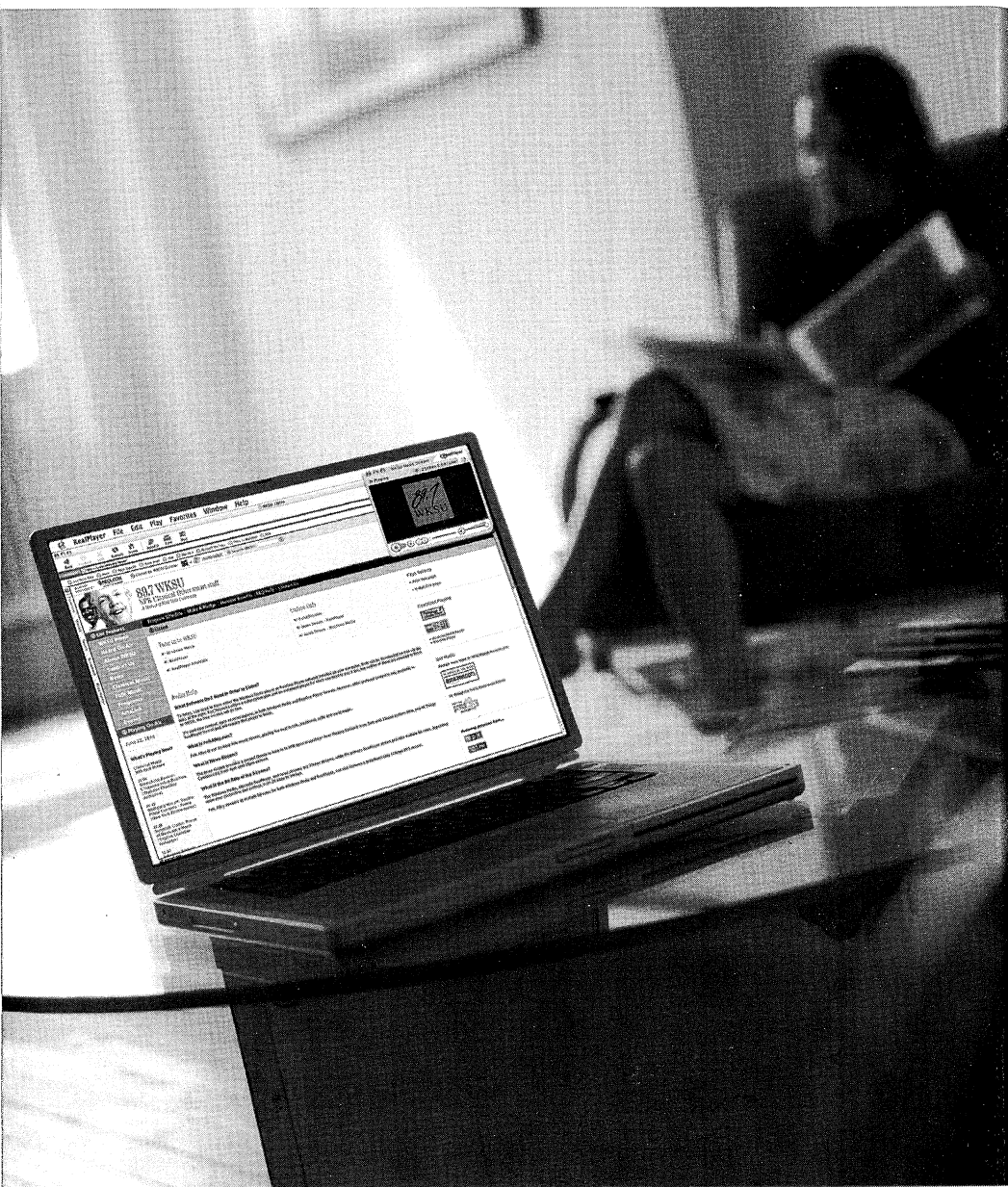


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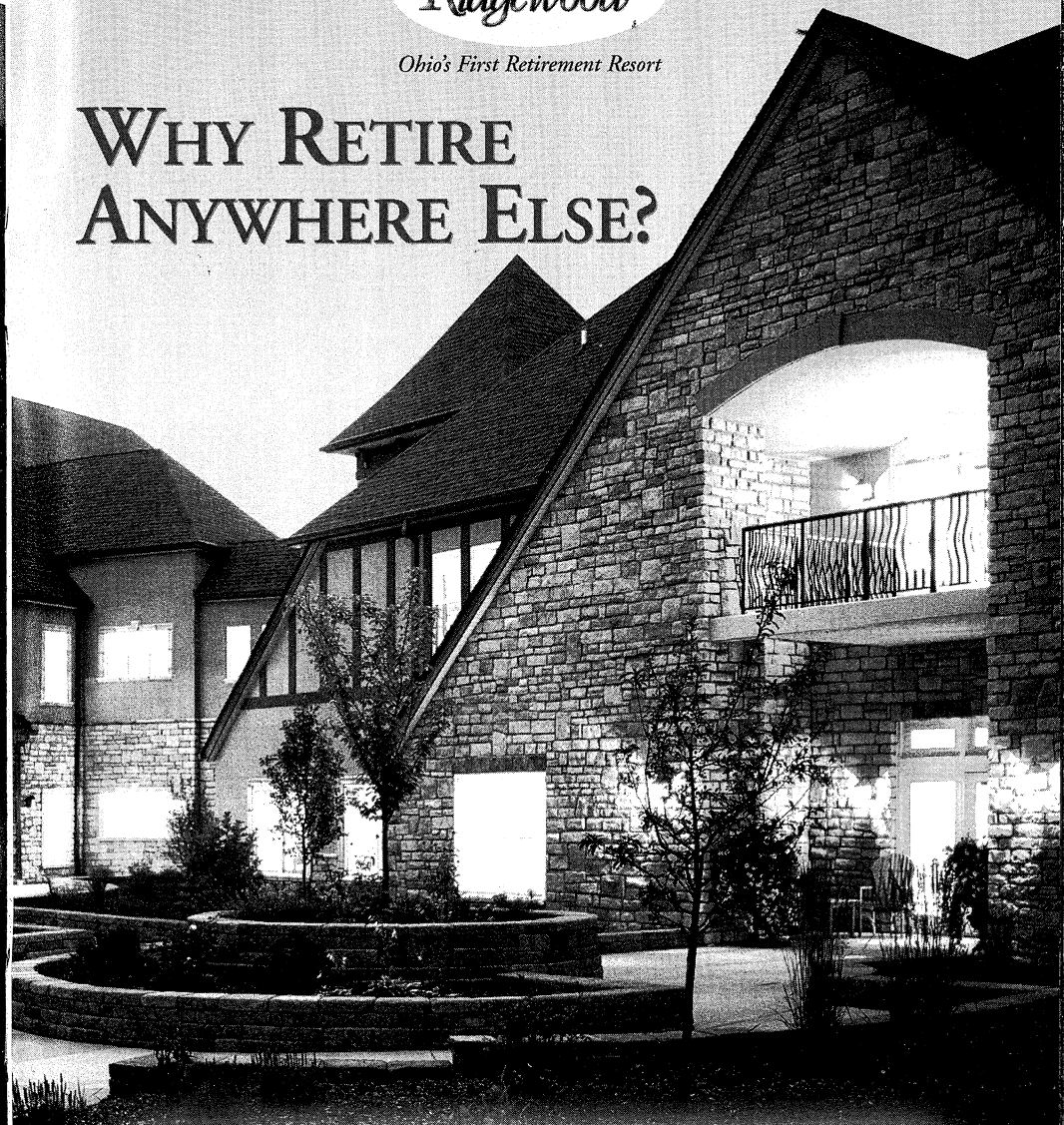
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