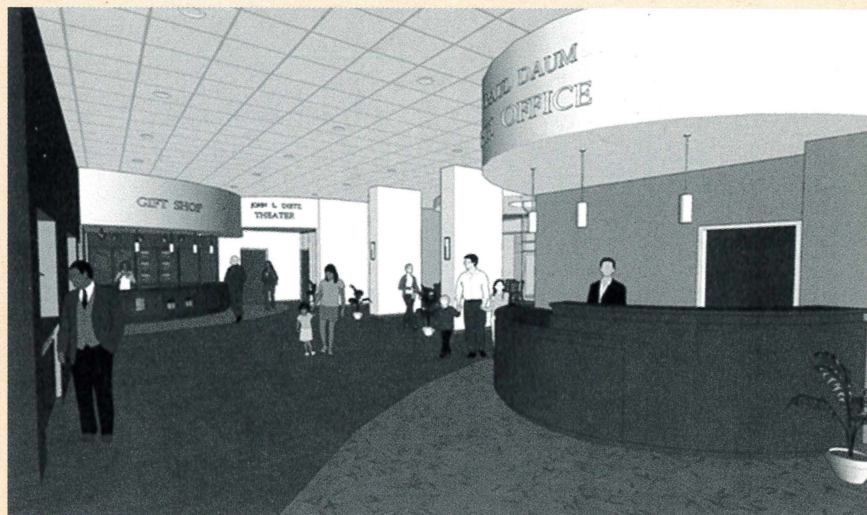
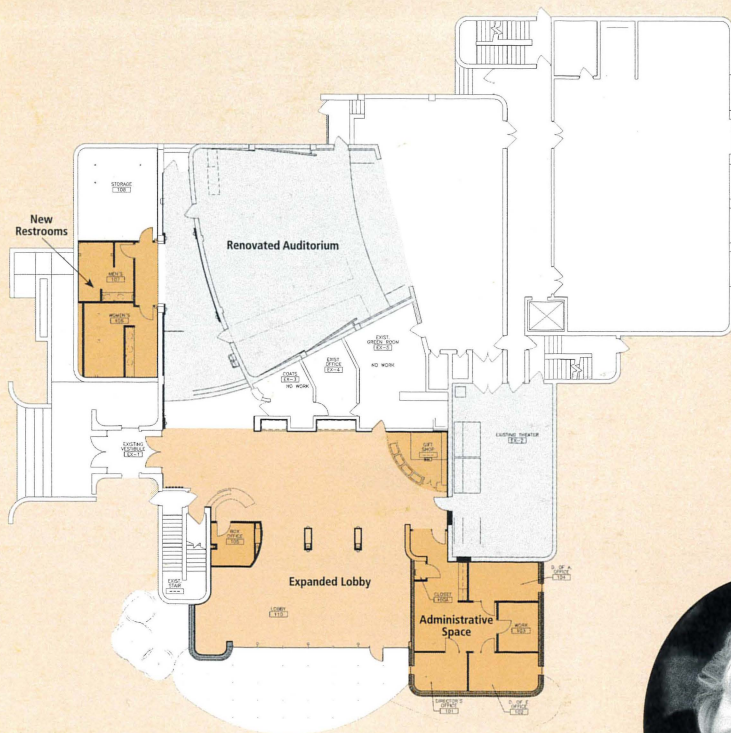


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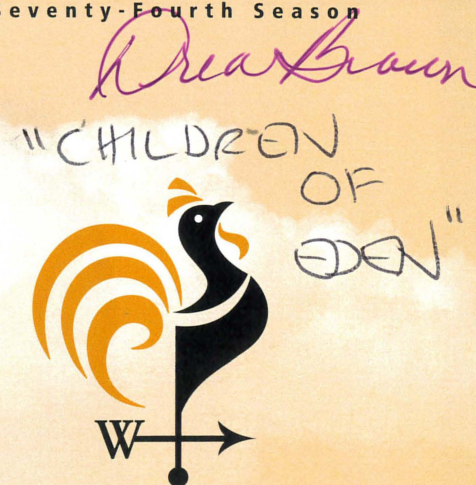
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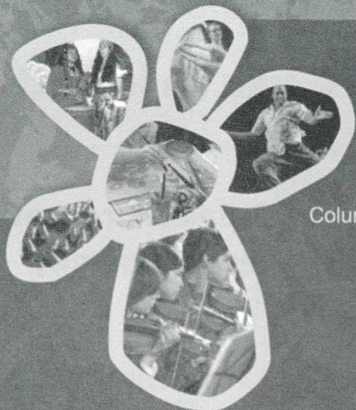
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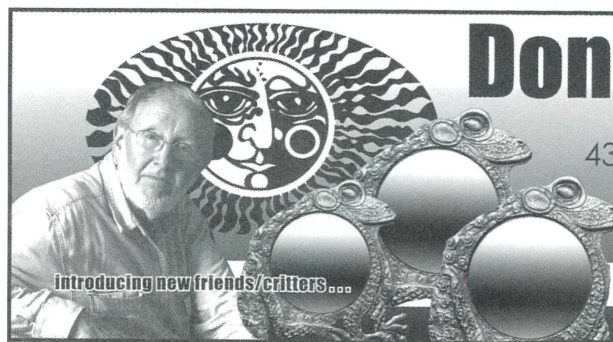
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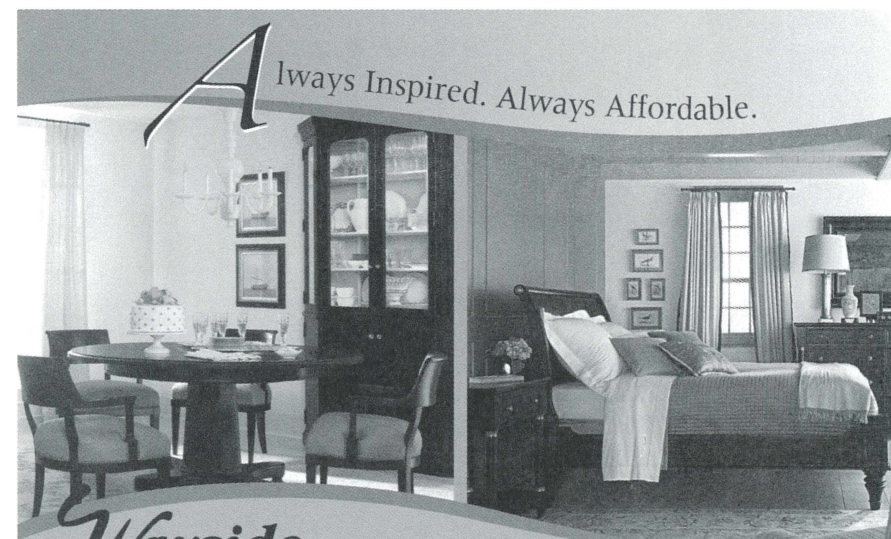


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A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

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

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

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

Weathervane Playhouse now looks forward to a third expansion and a 75th anniversary.



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Director's Notes

Children of Eden is very dear to me for many reasons. I first directed it 10 years ago and, through that production, found my voice as a director. This is my third production and I can think of no other piece I would rather work on repeatedly. It is special. It is a story I can tell honestly from my heart. I know what it means to be a daughter. I know what it means to be a parent. I have four children: two step sons, a birth son and an adopted daughter. In addition, I love my students as my children, and so I have had the opportunity to experience parenthood on many levels. I treasure the spiritual journey that this show provides. I never tire of its lessons: "The hardest part of love is letting go." There is always "hope for second chances."

Another reason this particular show is important to me is because it brought me together with three people who have become part of my theatre family. My friend and colleague, Eric van Baars, choreographed the first two productions of *Children of Eden* and our work together in 1998 cemented a life-long friendship. I also met Melissa Fucci through that first production. She was the accompanist and assistant to the Musical Director. That meeting was the beginning of our collaboration and friendship. Most importantly was the service of Larry Hartzell as the Musical Director for the very first production and our resultant collaboration with Stephen Schwartz. Although I had not yet met Larry, nor seen his work, I was inspired by the stories I had heard about him. I asked him to join our team. It was one of the best decisions of my professional career. Larry was an inspiration not only as a musical director and a teacher but also as a friend, parent, colleague and child of God. He taught us all so much about music and faith and friendship. He shared his life and his stories about his family with us. He infused each of us with a faith and a hope that we could all "Begin Again."

Last winter Larry's Father "called him home" and we are all still suffering from the loss of his presence. But Larry's spirit continues. I hear him in the pauses of the music, in the laughter of the cast, in the rustling of the trees. I often think, "What would Larry tell me to do, see, reach for, in this production?" In answering those questions, I know that he continues to be an active force in my work and in my life. I am blessed with the opportunity to continue his legacy by passing on the lessons he instilled in me.

And so, with all my heart and soul, I dedicate this show that means so very much to me to Dr. Larry Hartzell with the hope and the prayer that our work is worthy of his spirit!

Terri Kent



About the Musical and Playwright

About the Musical

Freely based on the Book of Genesis, *Children of Eden* renders the Old Testament stories into a joyous musical. In Act I, the stories of Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel take center stage. Act II tells the story of Noah and the flood. *Children of Eden* originated from a play named *Family Tree*, which was staged in 1986 at a Belleville, Ill., summer theater camp. Composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz adapted this short play into a full-length musical he re-named *Children of Eden*. With a new book by director John Caird, the show's first major professional production came in January 1991, in London's West End. When the show closed only three months later, many observers blamed its short run on the Persian Gulf War, which curtailed international tourism. For several years thereafter, the show received numerous productions, both professional and amateur, throughout the United States – and meanwhile Schwartz continued to tinker with the show, adding songs and cutting others. In 1997, the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Millburn, N.J., mounted the show with Schwartz's revisions. This production finally "froze" all of the composer's changes, and this version has become the officially licensed version of the musical. Although never produced on Broadway, *Children of Eden* remains one of the most frequently produced musicals in Stephen Schwartz's repertoire.

About the Composer and Book Writer

Stephen Schwartz (music and lyrics) was born in 1948 in New York City, where he studied piano and composition at the Juilliard School of Music (while still in high school). Upon graduating with a drama degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1968, he returned to New York and worked as a producer for RCA Records. Soon, however, he began to focus his work toward Broadway. One of his first theatrical credits was the title song he composed for the 1969 comedy *Butterflies Are Free*. At one point in the 1970s, his musicals *Godspell*, *Pippin* and *The Magic Show* were all running on Broadway simultaneously. For *Godspell*, Schwartz won two Grammys and two Drama Desk Awards. For the musical *Working*, he contributed four songs and directed the production's original Broadway production, winning the 1978 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Director of a Musical. Schwartz has also composed several songs for film. With Alan Menken, he collaborated on the scores for the Disney animated films *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the DreamWorks animated feature *The Prince of Egypt*. His most recent musical, *Wicked*, has been playing on Broadway and on tour since the fall of 2003. With the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation, he runs musical theater workshops in New York and Los Angeles, serves on the ASCAP board and is also a member of the Council of the Dramatists' Guild.

John Caird (book), the English director of the 1991 London production of *Children of Eden*, also wrote the musical's book, giving shape and form to the Old Testament-inspired stories of Adam, Eve, Noah and the Flood. He is a freelance director, writer and lyricist who works in theater, musical theater and opera. He has directed several productions at the National Theatre in London. He is an honorary associate director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he has directed over 20 classic plays. Along with Trevor Nunn, he adapted and directed the long-running musical *Les Misérables* in both London and New York. He also directed the award-winning London and New York productions of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*.



From Our Executive Director

"The Messiah is One of You"

This seems like an appropriate time to tell this story. With a nod to Benjamin Zander from his book, *The Art of Possibility*, I give you *The Monks' Story*:

A monastery has fallen on hard times. It was once part of a great order, but due to religious persecution in the 17th and 18th centuries, it had lost all its branches. In fact, there were only the Abbot and four other monks left in the mother house, all of whom were over 70. Clearly it was a dying order.

One day, the Abbot visited a nearby Rabbi to see if he could offer any advice that might save the monastery. The Rabbi commiserated saying, "I know how it is, the spirit has gone out of people." "Have you any advice that might save the monastery?" the Abbot asked. "No, I am sorry," the Rabbi replied, "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

The Abbot returned to the monastery downhearted and bewildered. The monks wondered to themselves what possible significance the Rabbi's words might have. Did he mean the Messiah is the Abbot who's been our leader for so long? Or did he mean Brother Thomas, who is a very holy man? Surely, he couldn't have meant Brother Phillip - he's too passive. But then he's always there when you need him. Or Brother Elrod - he's so crotchety. But then Elrod is very wise. Of course he didn't mean me - yet supposing he did?

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect, on the off chance that one of them might be the Messiah. And on the off-off chance that each monk himself might be the Messiah, they began to treat themselves with extraordinary respect.

Because the monastery was situated in a beautiful forest, people often came to visit. When they did, they began to sense this aura of extraordinary respect that permeated the atmosphere. As a result, their visits became more and more frequent, eventually bringing friends, and their friends brought their friends. After a while, some of the younger men, drawn to this enormously positive energy, asked if they might join. Miraculously, within a few years, the monastery became a thriving order once again, and - thanks to the Rabbi's gift - a vibrant community of light and love.

With my deep respect,

John Hedges
Executive Director



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74th Season -- 2008-2009 -- Production #535
October 9 - 26, 2008

Children of Eden

Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz

Book by John Caird

Directed & Choreographed* by **Terri Kent**

Musical Director -- **Melissa Fucci**

Assistant Musical Director -- **Jennifer Korecki**



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About Our Creative Team

Terri Kent (AEA, AFTRA) -- Director/Choreographer

Terri has served eight seasons as Artistic Director of Porthouse Theatre. Last year she directed *Anything Goes* and *The Music Man*. In previous years she directed *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *West Side Story*, *Godspell*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma!*, *Brigadoon* and *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. She has been affiliated with Porthouse Theatre since 1983 and has performed in numerous productions including *Dames at Sea*, *Quilters*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She is a member of AEA and AFTRA and has performed regionally and internationally as well. Ms. Kent has directed locally at Cain Park, the Halle Theatre and the Working Theatre. She has also served as Assistant Director and Movement Coach for a number of productions at Great Lakes Theater Festival. She is a Fulbright Professor and traveled to India in 1990 to direct and teach. She is a Professor in the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University, where she heads the musical theater program. This past season at KSU she directed *Urinetown*. In previous years, she directed *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *Children of Eden*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago*, *Side Show*, *Anything Goes* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, among others. In February, she will be directing *Jane Eyre*. She is proud to be a member of Kent State University's Foundation Board of Directors. She is especially grateful for her four children (Hunter, Morgan, Samuel and Kaishawn) and her husband, Rohn.

Melissa Fucci -- Musical Director

Melissa is excited to return to Weathervane after previously musical directing for *Little Shop of Horrors* here in 1999. Since then, she has done musical direction for *The Music Man*, *Sweet Charity*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Dames at Sea*, *West Side Story*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Guys and Dolls* and more at Porthouse Theatre. Kent State University musical directing credits include *Wonderful Town*, *Urinetown*, *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *Honk!*, *Anything Goes*, *The Wild Party*, *Children of Eden* and many more. Mel has been involved with shows at Cain Park, The Halle Theatre, and Great Lakes Theater Festival as well as at many other venues. She is a music teacher at University School, a music mentor with Opera Cleveland on Tour, and teaches in the musical-theater program at Kent State University. She is also a performer and private instructor of keyboards and woodwinds and a director for various choirs and ensembles. Mel would like to dedicate her work on this production to Larry Hartzell, mentor and friend, who first involved her with this wonderful show 10 years ago.

Jennifer Korecki -- Assistant Musical Director

Jennifer received both her B.A. and M.A. in Music Education from Kent State University and has recently completed a K-12 Gifted and Talented Endorsement. She taught vocal music at Barberton High School for 15 years and at Cuyahoga Falls High School for four years. She has directed and accompanied numerous musicals and most recently was the keyboard player for Porthouse Theatre's production of *The Music Man*. She is currently a self-employed mother and enjoys being home with her soon-to-be-two-year-old daughter, Anna. She would like to thank her husband, Charles, for his constant love and support.



Children of Eden -- Cast

Father.....	Benjamin Czarnota
Adam/Noah	James Dickason
Eve/Mama Noah.....	Amanda Davis
Young Abel.....	Courtney A. Nelson
Abel/Ham	Carson Ross
Young Cain	Bradley Beckwith
Cain/Japheth	Aaron Schoonover
Seth/Shem.....	Morgan Thomas-Mills
Seth's Wife/Aphra.....	Lena Gail Dowdell
Yonah	Miriam Henkel-Moellmann
Aysha.....	Rebecca Wolfe

Snake

Morgan Thomas-Mills, Miriam Henkel-Moellmann,
Rebecca Wolfe, Jason Leupold, Felicia Angel

Young Storytellers

Shea Lee, Madeline Elise Mazzola, Courtney A. Nelson, Bradley Beckwith

Storytellers

Anna Register, Felicia Angel, Marie Smith, Joirdan Dunlap, Richard Crafton,
Josh Hughes, Kyle Gossett, Kaitlyn Warren, Lena Dowdell, Rebecca Wolfe,
Miriam Henkel-Moellmann, Jason Leupold, Kaitlin Kramitz, Carson Ross,
Aaron Schoonover, Morgan Thomas-Mills

Musicians

Melissa Fucci -- Keyboards, Reeds
Jen Korecki -- Keyboard

Everett Brandt -- Bass
Scott Thomas -- Percussion



For Your Safety...

- ♦ We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- ♦ The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.
- ♦ As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.
- ♦ Please do not bring food or drink into the auditorium.
- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

<i>Let There Be</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Naming</i>	Father, Adam, Eve, Storytellers
<i>Grateful Children</i>	Adam, Eve
<i>Father's Day</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Spark of Creation</i>	Eve
<i>In Pursuit of Excellence</i>	Snake, Eve
<i>A World Without You</i>	Adam, Father, Eve
<i>The Expulsion</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>The Wasteland</i>	Storytellers
<i>Lost in the Wilderness</i>	Cain
<i>Close to Home</i>	Adam, Eve, Young Cain, Young Abel
<i>A Ring of Stones</i>	Cain, Eve, Abel, Adam
<i>The Mark of Cain</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>Children of Eden</i>	Eve, Storytellers

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

ACT TWO

<i>Generations</i>	Storytellers
<i>A Piece of Eight</i>	Storytellers, Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Family
<i>The Return of the Animals</i>	Orchestra
<i>Stranger to the Rain</i>	Yonah
<i>In Whatever Time We Have</i>	Japheth, Yonah
<i>The Flood</i>	Father, Storytellers
<i>What Is He Waiting For?</i>	Noah, Family
<i>Sailor of the Skies</i>	Yonah
<i>The Hardest Part of Love</i>	Noah, Father
<i>Ain't It Good?</i>	Mama Noah, Family, Storytellers
<i>In the Beginning</i>	Company

In Our Gallery --

James Porterfield (PT, MA, ATC) is a remarkable physical therapist, owner and director of the Rehabilitation and Health Center (One Park West Blvd. in Akron) and an accomplished photographer. Since our current production, *Children of Eden*, is a musical retelling of the Book of Genesis, I thought James Porterfield's photographs, most of which feature single images of nature, would transform the gallery into a Garden of Eden. His photographs comprise The James Allen Collection. With each passing glance, the Collection stirs one's imagination with something new to discover -- a dewdrop, a shadow, or a new vibrant color contrast. James photographed his travels and displayed his artwork throughout his clinics. Over time, his staff observed the positive influence that color had on their patients.

James works in conjunction with Photo Imaging Lab, headed by Sarah Monasterio. The lab prints his photographs in sizes 8 x 10 through 20 x 30. Please inquire at the Weathervane Boutique for details if you wish to purchase one of his prints.

Marci Paolucci
Gallery Director



Biographies

BENJAMIN CZARNOTA (Father/Vocal Coach) holds an M.M. degree in Voice from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and a B.M. degree in Voice and Music Theory, magna cum laude, from Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music. He originated the role of Mr. Webb in the world premiere of Ned Rorem's operatic setting of *Our Town*. His other notable roles include Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Schaunard in *La Bohème* and Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* as well as roles in *The Merry Widow*, *Susanna*, *Savitri* and *Un Ballo in Maschera* with companies such as Wichita Grand Opera, Cleveland Opera, the Janiec Opera Company and the Indiana University Opera Theater. He was handpicked by world-famous baritone Håkan Hagegård to perform the role of Anton Chekhov in Dominick Argento's *A Few Words about Chekhov* in music written for the singer.

JAMES DICKASON (Adam/Noah) holds a vocal-performance degree from Baldwin-Wallace College and lists a host of musical theater, opera and performance credits on his resume. He was in the ensemble of the 2007 Opera Cleveland production of *Tosca* and has also sung the role of Ichabod Crane in Opera Cleveland On Tour's production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. He appeared in Cain Park's *West Side Story*, Mercury Summer Theatre's *Evita* and Berea Summer Theater's *Oklahoma!* Since 2005, he has sung as a soloist with Messiah Lutheran Church in Fairview Park and Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Beachwood.

AMANDA DAVIS (Eve/Mama Noah) will be familiar to Weathervane audiences who saw her on our Mainstage this past summer in *Ragtime* and earlier this past spring as Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Last fall, she played the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Alais in *The Lion in Winter*. In 2006, she was the Nurse in the Playhouse's Young Actor Series production of *Romeo and Juliet*. In her 10-year involvement with Weathervane, she has also played roles in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Wiz* and *Stuart Little*:

The Musical. She is a senior at Kent State University.

COURTNEY A. NELSON (Young Abel/Young Storyteller) recently turned 10 years old and is in the 5th grade at Fitch Intermediate School in Olmsted Falls. Past performances include *The Music Man* (Gracie Shinn at Porthouse Theatre), *Joseph* (Children's Choir at Fairmount Performing Arts Camp), *Honk!* (Beaky at Mercury Summer Stock), *The Wizard of Oz* (Winkie/General/Munchkin at Beck Center), *Oliver!* (Workhouse Boy at Cain Park), *Peter Pan* (Lost Boy/Tootles at Tri-C West) and *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim at Great Lakes Theater Festival). She also has participated in FusionFest at the Cleveland Play House for two years. Courtney thanks Terri for making this one of her favorite productions.

CARSON ROSS (Abel/Ham/Storyteller) A native of Cincinnati and a junior Musical Theater major at Kent State University, Carson is delighted to join the Weathervane family for its production of *Children of Eden*. Carson just recently appeared as Angel in the regional premiere of *Rent* at the Barn Theatre in Augusta, Mich. His other professional work has included roles such as Lesgles in *Les Misérables* and Chino in *West Side Story*. Last summer, he appeared in Porthouse Theatre's *Peter Pan*. Other credits include Speedy Valenti in *Wonderful Town*, Victor in *Cabaret*, the Bird Seller in *Sweeney Todd* and Marius in *Les Misérables*. He thanks his friends and family for their support.

BRADLEY BECKWITH (Young Cain/Young Storyteller) returns to Weathervane after his last role as neighbor in *The Tale of the Three Little Pigs*. Bradley performed for The Players Guild of Canton as Dill in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Templeton in *Charlotte's Web* and a lost boy in *Peter Pan*. He played the role of Genie for North Canton Playhouse production of *Aladdin Jr.* He is a fifth-grade student at Greentown Elementary, where he plays violin in the orchestra, saxophone for band and sings in the choir. He plays soprano saxophone and violin for



Biographies Continued

Sunday morning mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Canton.

AARON SCHOONOVER (Cain/Japheth/Storyteller), a sophomore Musical Theater major at Kent State University, is thrilled to make his Weathervane debut in *Children of Eden*. Aaron was most recently seen at Porthouse Theatre as the March Hare and Mock Turtle in *Alice...* (an original adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*). Other credits include Eddie Lyons in *Blood Brothers*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Ren in *Footloose*, *Urinetown* and *Wonderful Town*. Thanks to family and friends!

MORGAN THOMAS-MILLS (Seth/Snake/Shem/Storyteller) is a sophomore Musical Theater student at Kent State University, and is very excited to be in his first show at Weathervane. He has been involved with musical theater all his life. In high school, his two notable roles were Van Buren in *Damn Yankees* and Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. He was seen at Porthouse Theatre as an Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and as Curly in Matthew Earnest's production of *Peter Pan*. Recently, he was in *Urinetown* as Billy Boy Bill and played various roles in *Wonderful Town*. He was the bass player for *Alice...* this past summer at Porthouse Theatre. Morgan thanks his mother, father and Terri Kent for being so supportive over the years.

LENA GAIL DOWDELL (Seth's Wife/Aphra/Storyteller) is a native of Aliquippa, PA, who anticipates graduating from Kent State University in May 2009 with a B.F.A. in Acting/Musical Theater. Some of her theatrical credits include *Sweet Charity* (Porthouse Theatre), *Oklahoma!* (Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, N.Y.) and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (KSU). In addition to her theater experience, she has studied dance for 19 years and appeared in KSU's Student Dance Festival in 2006 and 2008.

MIRIAM HENKEL-MOELLMANN (Yonah/Snake/Storyteller) is a sophomore at Kent State University who hails from Cincinnati, where she has appeared with Transit Five Productions in *A New Brain*,

Picasso at the Lapin Agile and *Time and Again: a Cabaret*. Her theatrical credits at KSU include *Wonderful Town* and *Urinetown*. She thanks her family and friends for their support – and especially Madeline for her inspiration.

REBECCA WOLFE (Aysha/Snake/Storyteller) is currently a sophomore B.F.A. Musical Theater Major at Kent State University and is so excited to be a part of *Children of Eden*! KSU Theatre: *Lysistrata*, *Elegies* and *Once More with Feeling* (Tara). Some of her favorite credits also include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Rosa Budd), *Mame* (Agnes Gooch) and *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess). Rebecca would like to thank her Mom and Dad for all of the constant support, patience and love!

JASON LEUPOLD (Snake/Storyteller) just won a Chanticleer Award for playing Mother's Younger Brother in WCP's production of *Ragtime*. He is a sophomore Musical Theater student at Kent State University, where his theatrical credits include *Wonderful Town* and *Blood Brothers*. He played Ryan in the North Canton Playhouse's *High School Musical* and was part of the ensemble in *Les Misérables* at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, his alma mater. He also played Lumiere, the magical candelabrum, in his high school's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and Huck in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

FELICIA ANGEL (Snake/Storyteller) is a sophomore in the Musical Theater Program at Kent State University. "It has been a real honor to have had the opportunity to branch out and work at Weathervane. I have gotten to work with wonderful people and an amazing volunteer program here. I hope all of you enjoy this show as much as I have. Thank you!"

SHEA LEE (Young Storyteller) is a seventh-grader at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron, where she is secretary of the Junior Thespian Troupe and a member of the Show Choir. She has performed in school productions of *The Kingdom that Forgot How to Read*,



Biographies Continued

Seussical the Musical, *The Prince and the Pauper* and *Give and Take*. Her stage credits include *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Frog Prince* and *Ragtime* (all at Weathervane Playhouse) as well as the Fairmount Performing Arts Camp production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She also co-hosted smARTS, a Time-Warner Cable TV show.

MADELINE MAZZOLA (Young Storyteller) is a seventh-grader at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn who also studies dance at the Akron Dance Institute at The University of Akron, a year-round pre-professional preparatory dance program for children ages 3 through 18. She has exhibited her dance training at Cleveland's Playhouse Square in *The Nutcracker* and *Le Corsaire*. Madeline appeared in the children's chorus of the touring company of *Evita* during its two-week stay at Playhouse Square in 2006. In 2007, she played Winnie Foster in *Tuck Everlasting* at Magical Theatre Company in Barberton and Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker* at Brecksville Theater on the Square.

ANNA REGISTER (Storyteller) is a junior Musical Theater student at Kent State University. Her recent theatrical credits include Cain Park's production of *The Wiz* and the Beck Center for the Arts' 2007 production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. A native of Memphis, Tenn., she sends her love and thanks to her family and friends for supporting her Weathervane debut.

MARIE SMITH (Storyteller) performed with the The Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players at the 2007-08 Chanticleer Awards and portrayed Emma Goldman in last season's award-winning production of *Ragtime*. Marie is also active in Weathervane's education department as an Akron After School Teacher and was the stage manager for the youth production of *The Aristocats Kids!* Her favorite credits include *We Gotta Bingo!* (Birgit/US), *Seussical the Musical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Nunsense II* (Sr. Mary Leo), *Annie* (Grace Farrell), *Rumors* (Cassie Cooper), *Red, Hot and Cole* (Bricktop) and *The Full Monty* (Susan Hershey). Marie studied voice and theater at The Ohio State

University.

JOIRDAN DUNLAP (Storyteller), a seventh-grader at St. Vincent De Paul Elementary School in Akron, Joirdan last appeared on our stage in the 2006 Young Actors Series production of *Madeline's Rescue*. She was also in Weathervane's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (in 2005) and *Winnie-the-Pooh* (in 2004). In 2004, she played Raynell in August Wilson's *Fences* at The University of Akron.

RICHARD CRAFTON (Storyteller) has been an active participant in Weathervane's Young Actors Series productions for two years and now makes his Mainstage debut in *Children of Eden*. He played Lane, the faithful butler, in our recent production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as well as the regal Lord Montague in 2007's *Romeo and Juliet*. He was one of the singing-and-dancing brothers in our 2006 and 2007 productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. His off-stage hobbies include playing the guitar and singing, and he is the recipient of a silver medal from the Royal School of Church Music. This eleventh-grade, home-schooled student lives in Akron.

JOSH HUGHES (Storyteller) hails from Beavercreek in Southwestern Ohio and is a sophomore studying Musical Theater at Kent State University. With the Muse Machine, a theater company for young people in Dayton, he appeared in *Wicked and the Songs of Oz*, *Too Darn Hot*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. He also played Hero in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Sinclair Community College in Dayton and understudied the role of Jack in *Into the Woods* at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

KYLE GOSSETT (Storyteller) is a freshman at Kent State University. His most recent theatrical role was James in *High School Musical* for 3B Productions at Waterville Playshop, the second oldest amateur theater group in the Toledo area.

KAITLYN WARREN (Storyteller) is a sophomore at Kent State University, where she recently appeared in the ensemble of



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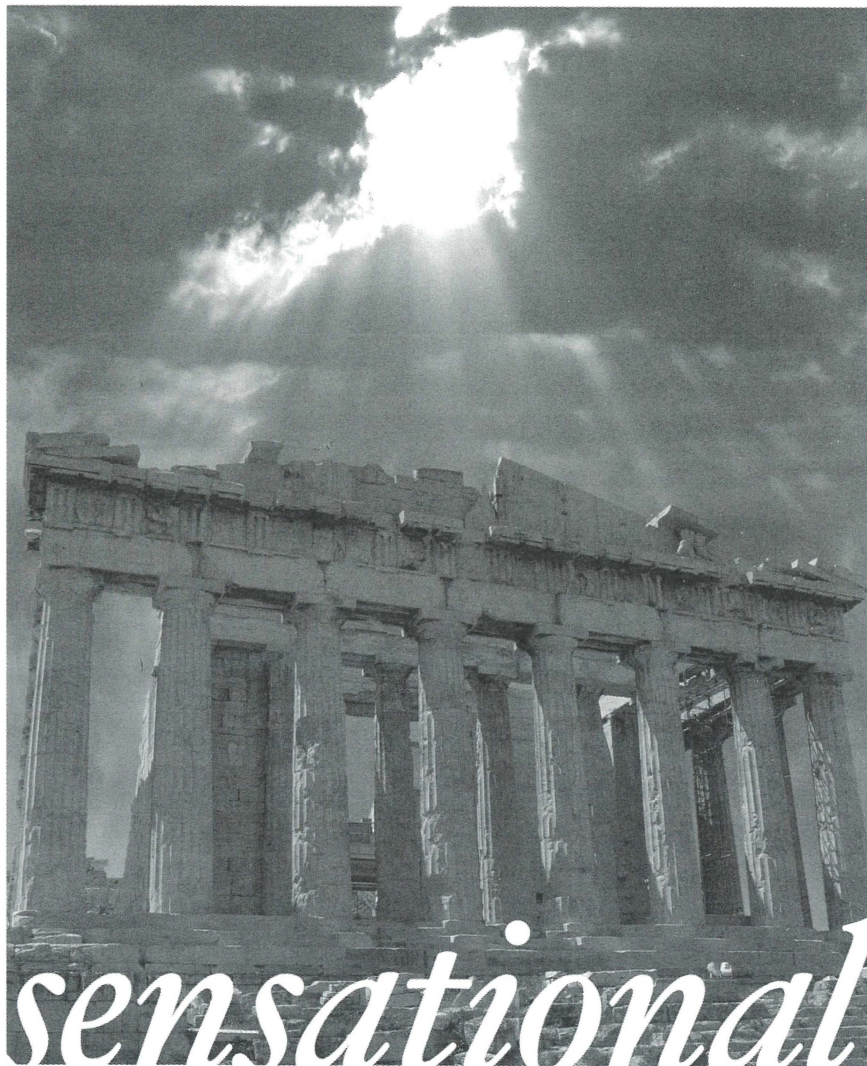
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