



Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE

John Hedges, Executive Director

The stories of Your Life

2012 | 2013

Seventy-Eighth Season

Next Fall

2012-2013 Season Dietz Production #18 Jan. 10 – 26, 2013

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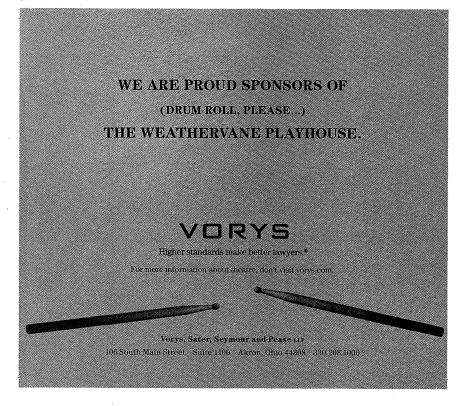
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A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

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

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

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

Weathervane's Legacy Society

Your Legacy Gift to Weathervane can be as simple as including the playhouse in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or making the theater a beneficiary of your retirement savings plan.

For more details contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626, ext. 13

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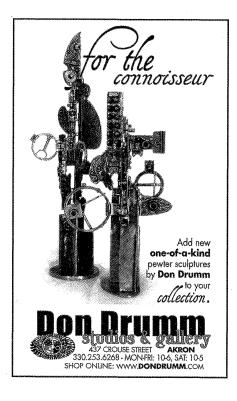




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Comments... Suggestions... Reviews...

John Hedges

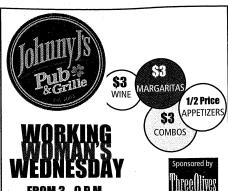
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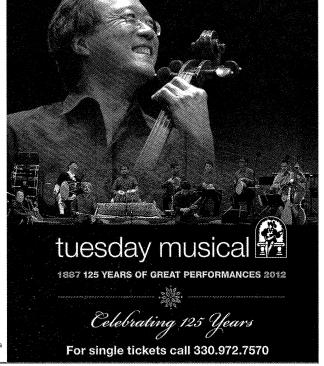
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From Our Executive Director

What We're Really After

When I had the privilege of addressing Leadership Akron's Twenty Ninth Class this past December, I described Weathervane's business model as one that:

- *Is driven by altruistic rather than commercial priorities.
- *Produces an entirely new set of artistic products each year that are extremely labor-intensive, with very little working capital, and no test marketing to indicate whether or not there'll be any buyers for those products.
- *Has limited the access to those products to certain days and times throughout the year that the general public can actually "consume" them.

*And, even if those products become wildly successful, they are still unable to pay for themselves, they do not financially benefit any individual associated with the company, and are subsequently discarded to produce more untested, labor-intensive, limited-access artistic products.

I further told these important business and community leaders that money is a means to an end at Weathervane, not an end in and of itself – perhaps a notion that smacks of heresy or even foolishness to those who work in the for profit world. I went even further and asserted that the creation of theater at Weathervane is a means to an end as well. So then the question is: what are we really after?

I told the group that the end goal for us as a nonprofit organization can be described in similar terms as the Red Cross defines its mission as "to serve the most vulnerable" (when they could say, "to gather bandages and administer food to disaster victims"), or the Salvation Army which describes its goal as "making citizens of the rejected" (as opposed to "distributing clothing to those without any"). The end objective for Weathervane – and for live theater as an art form in general – is to be a catalyst for a more tolerant, empathetic, imaginative, and enlightened society.

Through seeing life from someone else's point of view and figuratively "walking in their shoes" there can emerge a greater sense of understanding and empathy for others – and for ourselves. In a very real sense, we believe this holds out the promise of helping with very practical societal issues such as rising crime rates, tensions between races, homophobia and, yes, even global conflict. These are the things we're really after at Weathervane Playhouse.

As you let the themes and messages of this stunning new play work on you throughout this performance and in the days and weeks to follow, I invite you to not only consider how your worldview may have been enhanced or even altered by what you've seen, but to also consider the importance of the mission we have taken on. It is through this work of "holding the mirror up to nature" that we as theater artists endeavor to make a positive contribution to our society and to be a part of the larger solutions that we all desperately seek.

Sincerely,

John Hedges Executive Director





Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE —

78th Season -- 2012-2013 -- Dietz Production #18 January 10 - 26, 2013

NEXT FALL

By Geoffrey Nauffts
Directed by Jerimie Newcomb



Costume Designer
JASEN J. SMITH

Scenic Designer
ALAN SCOTT FERRALL

Next Fall is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186 Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Play and Playwright

Next Fall is a witty and intelligent play about faith, devotion and unconventional love. The play's central story focuses on the five-year relationship between Adam and Luke, a couple that exemplifies the notion that opposites can attract. Luke is a devoutly evangelical Christian and an aspiring young actor. Adam is a slightly older (and slightly more neurotic) atheist. But this play goes beyond a typical love story. Next Fall portrays the ups and downs of this unlikely couple's five-year relationship with sharp humor and unflinching honesty.

When a sudden accident changes everything for the couple, Adam finds that he must turn to Luke's family and friends. A timely and compelling new American play, *Next Fall* forces us all to examine what it means to "believe" and what it might cost us not to.

Next Fall premiered in June 2009 as a Naked Angels production at the off-Broadway Peter Jay Sharp Theater. The production then transferred to Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre, where it opened on March 11, 2010, and played for 132 performances. The Broadway production of Next Fall was nominated for two Tony Awards (for best play and for best direction of a play) and two Drama Desk Awards. Among its many producers on Broadway was musician Elton John and his partner, David Furnish.

About the Playwright

Next Fall playwright Geoffrey Nauffts is also an actor whose New York credits include the original Broadway production of A Few Good Men. His off-Broadway credits as a performer include June Moon and Snakebit. He has directed short plays by Kenneth Lonergan, Frank Pugliese, David Marshall Grant, Theresa Rebeck and Suzan-Lori Parks, as well as Naked Angels' critically acclaimed production of Steven Belber's Tape in New York, Los Angeles and London. He wrote, directed and co-starred in the award-winning 1999 short film Baby Steps with Kathy Bates and co-wrote Jenifer, a 2001 movie of the week for CBS. In 2008, he won the Theater Visions Fund Award from the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation for Next Fall. For television, he has written for ABC's Brothers and Sisters and USA's Political Animals.

Nauffts also has a connection to Summit County. He graduated from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson in 1979. In a 2009 interview with *The New York Times*, Nauffts spoke about his formative years in Northeast Ohio. "I loved where I grew up (in Hudson), but it was tough – being gay, it made me an outsider, and I just hoped it would go away," he told the *Times*. "I mean, my first love was a girl, and though I was completely conflicted, it taught me about connecting with someone. There was nothing like *Will & Grace* on TV. It was a very *Amos 'n' Andy* time for gays."

Memorial donations were made in memory of **Betty Marie Van Nostran** by

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The Place: Manhattan
The Time: The action takes place in the present,
as well as the five-year period leading up to it.

There will be one 10-minute intermission between Acts I and II.

Act I

Scene 1 – The present. A small waiting area off an ICU at Beth Israel hospital.

Scene 2 – Five years earlier. A rooftop.

Scene 3 – The present. The hospital waiting room.

Scene 4 – Five years earlier. Adam's apartment.

Scene 5 – One year later. Adam and Luke's new apartment.

Scene 6 – The present. The hospital waiting room.

Act II

Scene 1 – The present. The hospital waiting room.

Scene 2 – Three years earlier. Adam and Luke's apartment.

Scene 3 – A year later. Adam's apartment.

Scene 4 – The present. A small makeshift temple in Beth Israel.

Scene 5 – One year ago. Central Park.

Scene 6 – The present. Luke's hospital room.

Scene 7 – Yesterday. Adam's apartment.

Scene 8 – The present. The hospital waiting room.

PLEASE...

- Turn OFF your cell phone/BlackBerry because even silenced calls and text messages interfere with the sound system backstage, on stage and throughout the theater.
- Be sure your cell phone/BlackBerry is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- NO PHOTOS inside the theater.
- Unwrap cough drops or mints before the performance begins.

For Your Safety...

- We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.

Chanticleer Awards, August 2013

Keep track of your favorites! If you see all seven mainstage shows, OR the Dietz shows OR all three Young Actor productions, you will be able to cast your vote at the end of the season in the following categories:

Sound Design, Lighting Design, Properties Design, Lead Actor -- play & musical, Supporting Actor -- play & musical, Lead Actress -- play & musical, Supporting Actress -- play & musical, Best Production, Youth Production Technical Element, Dietz production Technical element, Actor & Actress performances in a Dietz production.



About Our Director



JERIMIE NEWCOMB (Director) most recently served as Director for the World Premiere staged reading of The Red Badge of Courage at Kent State University. Prior to that, he was the Assistant Director for the play Shooting Star here at Weathervane. He has worked at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as a Directing Fellow for its MFA Playwriting Workshop. Mr. Newcomb has also served as Student Festival Coordinator for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: Region 3 for the past two years. Directing credits include David and Lisa, Furies, Land of the Dead, Rabbit Hole, Mr. Marmalade, Love at Twenty, Coax and Helter Skelter. Assistant Directing credits include: Damn Yankees and The Sound of Music (Porthouse Theatre), Tons of Money, Crazy for You and A Chorus Line. Stage Management credits

include Crimes of the Heart, Alice in Wonderland, The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Mikado, Dance '10: TranscenDANCE and All Night Strut. Jerimie also served as Consulting Stage Manager for Kent State University at Stark Theatre's productions of Dating is Tough to Do... and Songs for a New World. Jerimie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Studies (Directing) from Kent State University.

Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

If you've enjoyed your experience at Weathervane, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see a contribution box near the lobby's exit doors.)

As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 65% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane patron gave just \$1 extra after each show, we would be able to meet our goal for Individual Contributions! Won't you show your appreciation of this performance with a "Thank You Dollar" after the show?

And now, your "Thank You Dollars" go even further. For every dollar you give, the H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron Community Foundation will match it one to one, thus doubling your contribution!

Gnide:

Thank You Applause! Cheer!!\$3 Bravo!!!

\$4 AND MORE!

On behalf of all of us here at Weathervane, I thank you for your support. Sincerely,

John Hedges, Executive Director

Bring your Group Leaders:
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Cast Biographies



SCOTT SHRINER (Adam) is happy to return to Weathervane. His many performances here have included Chanticleer award-winning roles in Lend Me a Tenor, Three Days of Rain, Moon

over Buffalo and All My Sons. His favorite role is Nick Cristano in Over the River and through the Woods in 2005. Scott also is a company member of Ohio Shakespeare Festival and a frequent performer at Coach House Theatre. He sends love to Emily.



BRIAN WESTERLEY (Luke) has lived and worked in Ohio and Los Angeles. While in L.A., Brian became an accomplished director, working with the Blank Theatre and Drama West, as well

as writing the plays Caught Up in a Moment and Denial is Not a River in Egypt. He also appeared in the world premiere of *The Day* I Said Goodbye and in the L.A. Opera's production of Tosca. He was instrumental in building the show Shark Tank into a major production. Brian has won numerous awards for his theatrical work, including trophies for directing and three in a row as Outstanding Lead Actor. He has appeared in Jake's Dilemma, Driving Miss Daisy, Butterflies Are Free, A Christmas Story, To Kill a Mockingbird, Angels in America and Inherit the Wind.



KYRA KELLEY (Holly) is excited to make her Weathervane debut in *Next Fall*. She spent last semester working as a teacher for Weathervane's Äkron After School program as well as

coaching figure skating at Kent State Ice Arena. Kyra was last seen on stage with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival in A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Merchant of Venice (Jessica). Other recent roles include Miss Wilkinson in Move Over, Mrs. Markham at Coach House Theatre and Sookie/Emily in Mr. Marmalade at Kent State. Kyra sends a big thank you to the cast and to Jerimie for this opportunity to play. And of course, lots of love to Mom and the guys.



JASON LEUPOLD (Brandon) is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane for his first show in the Dietz Theatre. Jason has his BFA degree in Musical Theatre from Kent State

University (Class of 2011). Audiences may recognize him from his recent performance as John Jasper in The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Before that, he was seen as Warner Huntington III in Legally Blonde at the Beck Center. As always, much love to his family and his wonderful fiance for their continued love and support.



MARY MAHONEY (Arlene) is thrilled to be back at Weathervane after just performing in August: Osage County this past fall. She has enjoyed performing in theatre

for more than 25 years. Some of Mary's favorite roles are Doris in Same Time Next Year, Sally in David Selby's Final Assault, Lenny in Crimes of the Heart, Rosemary in Picnic and the Witch/Lucy in The Lion, Witch & the Wardrobe. She started directing, too, (The Sunshine Boys) and found that to be a blast. Mary has been working professionally in industrials, commercials and voice-overs for more than 15 years. You may recognize her as Isaly's current Chipped Chopped Ham lady on television. XOXO to hubby Mark.



JAMES RIZOPULOS (Butch) is excited to be in his first play at Weathervane Playhouse as Butch in Next Fall. Born in Santa Monica, CA, James grew up in Akron and is a class of '89

Firestone graduate. After completing a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at the University of Čincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, he spent 11 years in Los Angeles as a commercial actor with roles for Microsoft Network, Science Channel, MTV Music Videos and various regional ad campaigns. James has also been featured in many roles at the Patricia Corbett Theater in Cincinnati including Teach in American Buffalo and Aldo in Italian American Reconciliation. In 2006, he "boomeranged" back to Akron to live near family. James and his wife, Alexis, have two beautiful daughters, Mara and Cali.

Creative Te

Creative Team Biographies



GREG BEALER (Stage Manager) is happy to be back stage managing at Weathervane. He last worked here as stage manager for *Italian American Reconciliation*. Greg has stage managed for

Weathervane, Coach House Theatre and The Ohio Shakespeare Festival. Also a director, some of his credits include Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shakespeare (Abridged), Twelfth Night, and Hamlet. Acting credits include Edward in Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, Phillip in Move Over Mrs. Markham, Mr. De Pinna in You Can't Take It with You and Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream.



DAVE KRUPLA (Lighting Designer) is a graduate of Kent State University where he studied lighting design. Previous credits include *The World Goes Round* at Porthouse Theatre, *Ragtime* at

Kent State University, Cloud 9 at Kent State University, and The Crucible at Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus. Most recently he was the Assistant Lighting Designer for Great Lakes Theatre's Production of Sondheim on Sondheim. He has also worked at The Santa Fe Opera as a member of the Stage Department. He also spent the last three summers working as an electrician at Porthouse Theatre in Cuyahoga Falls. He thanks director Jerimie Newcomb for this opportunity.



JASON BRYAN MAURER (Sound Designer) was stage manager for last season's *The Drowsy Chaperone* and also assistant stage manager for our 2011 *Joseph*. He was lighting co-

designer for Three Tall Women, assistant stage manager for 3 Guys Naked from the Waist Down and stage managed Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. He most recently played the roles of Actor 3 in Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Jason was also seen in our production of A View from the Bridge. He directed the Ohio premiere of Dear Harvey at First Grace Arts in Akron.



KAREN BURRIDGE (Properties Designer) is always glad to be back at Weathervane and she is so excited about this play. Karen is a strong supporter of equal rights for everyone and this play

gives us very human reasons to support each other. She designed properties last season for our production of *Amadeus* and previously for 3 Guys Naked from the Waist Down. She was costume designer for Be My Baby for

Western Reserve Playhouse and *Elephant's Graveyard* and *Legally Blond* for Firestone High School. She was co-designer of costumes for Akron's All-City musical *Hairspray* at The Akron Civic Theater. Karen lives in Kent with her wonderful husband Patrick.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008 as its Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Since then, he's

designed costumes for such Weathervane productions as Children of Eden, Bloody Murder, Intimate Apparel, Pride and Prejudice and The Mystery of Edwin Drood, among others. His co-design credits include *Putting It Together* (with Adam Thatcher) and Man of La Mancha (with Hedy Jones), the latter of which earned him and his collaborator the Chanticleer Award for best costume design of the 2008-2009 season. He also won the 2009 Marquee Award for best costume design from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on Weathervane's Children of Eden. His other regional costumedesign credits include Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera (Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, Robin Hood and The Merry Widow).

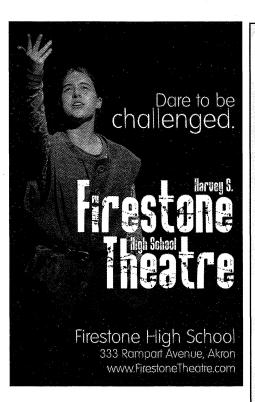


ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic/Properties Designer) began at Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 16th

season as a Weathervane staff member. Other design work includes Cuyahoga Falls High School, The Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). At Weathervane, Scott has earned seven Chanticleer Awards -- one as the stage manager for Fences; one each for his lighting designs for The Laramie Project, A Lesson Before Dying and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; and one each for his co-lighting designs for A Man for All Seasons, The Full Monty and Man of La Mancha. In his spare time, Scott has written three one-act children's plays that tour local schools: Two Swords, a Bag of Marbles and a PB & J, The Mystery of the Missing Robot and How the Bee Learned to Spell: A Fable. He also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at Weathervane's annual Chanticleer Awards banquet. He was the recipient of the 2012 Trustees Award.

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Weathervane's Legacy Society is only about a year old and already we have a growing number of people who have told us they are planning to remember Weathervane in their estates in the years to come.

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 and, if you would like to have your name added to our Legacy Society, please contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626 or jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com.



In the Harris Family Gallery

The exhibit created by the Third Graders of Crouse Elementary School for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is enjoying an encore presentation during the run of Next Fall. There is something so fresh, immediate and appealing about children's artwork that a second look would be inspiring and uplifting. In the production of Next Fall, one of the main characters, Luke, is both artistic and childlike in temperament. Luke expresses his creative side through acting and a flair for interior design. The children's art is a pleasant adjunct to those aspects of his personality.



Production Team

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

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson John Tynan Kevin Ford Roger Dieringer Joe Hunter Erin Katz Ford **Todd Dieringer**

COSTUMES

Jasen J. Smith Diantha Seibert Carol Smith Ann Lyman

SOUND

Jason Bryan Maurer Ian Haberman Lois Bennett Audrey Fliegel Sue Snyder Wyatt Haves

PROPERTIES

Karen Burridge Pat Burridge Samantha Lewis

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

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

Alyce Altweis Stacy Bechtel Phyllis Bernel June Bretzin Karen Burridge Courtney Burton Mary Campbell Gail & Leonard Cheslock Wendy Cooley Ann Edwards Helen Fleming Jill Forster William Fortunato

Janis Gallagher John Grafton Shaneen Harris Chuck Hass Marilyn Heagerty Carol Krueger **Bunny Lacey** Pam & Doug Lightner Anna Long Ann & Fred Lyman Joanna Mack Nancy Mahoney Jo McGarvey

Michele McNeal Megan Nelson Pat Nichols Patricia Obenour John O'Neill Ian Oppenheim Marci Paolucci Lucy Randles Ruth Richardson Christina Sanyo Nancy Schafer Pearl Sentelik **Dorothy Shaffer**

Debra Sharp Sue Smith Jeanne Steele Jacqui Sukie Barbie Trotter Verna VanderKooi Helen Vari Marta Williger Parents of the "Joseph" cast members

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges is currently in his sixth season as Executive Director of Weathervane Playhouse. He has enjoyed an award-winning career as both a producer and an actor. In 2012 he received a BroadwayWorld Regional Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of Michael in the Cleveland premiere of God of Carnage at Dobama Theatre. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the Resident Acting Company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia where he performed in more than 60 shows. Other acting credits include performances at Broadway's Town Hall, the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire, where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in The Cherry Orchard. Film work includes Freedom (Best Supporting Actor, SA International Film Festival) as well as The Crimson Fold. John has been Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company and General Manager of New York's Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, and written for American Theatre magazine. He studied at Indiana State University, the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA degree in theatre from Stafford University. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV) and he and his wife, Cheryl, live in Munroe Falls.

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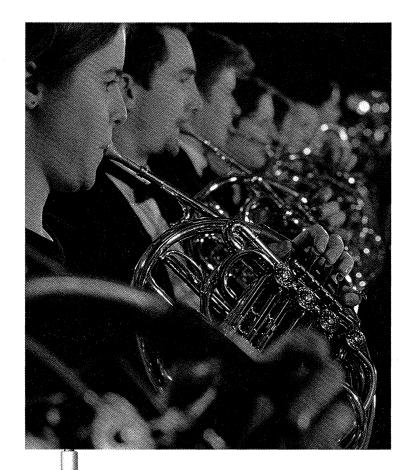
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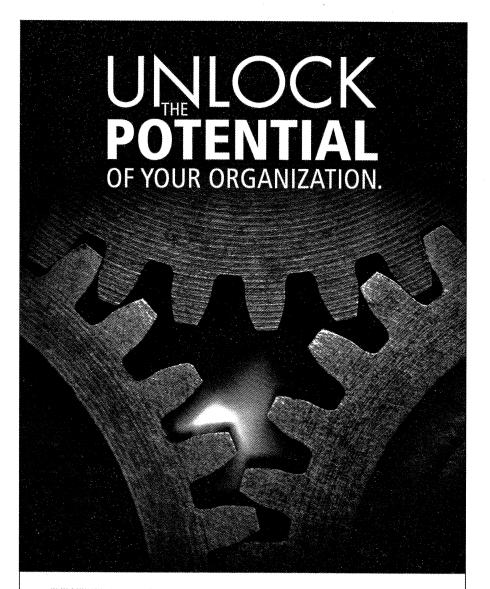
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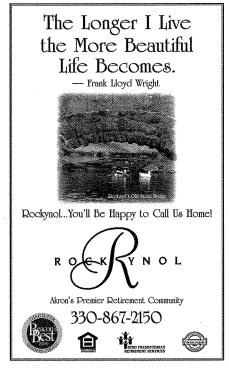


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