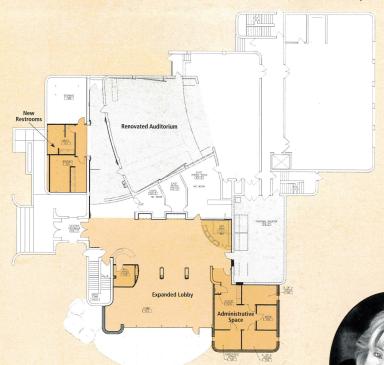
#### Weathervane Playhouse is Setting the Stage for the Future

Coming in 2009...



New Seats • New Bathrooms • Expanded Lobby



"I urge you to support Weathervane Playhouse's Capital Campaign. Live

Olympia Dukakis Academy Award-winning Actress

theater is where I started and continue to work and is an essential element

to a thriving and enlightened community."

Mainstage

September 4 - 21, 2008

Children of Eden October 9 - 26, 2008

**Bloody Murder** January 15 - February 1, 2009

A Doll's House

March 19 - April 5, 2009

**Perfect Wedding** 

April 30 - May 17, 2009

Man of La Mancha

June 4 - 28, 2009

John L. Dietz Theater

Love! Valour! Compassion! October 30 - November 15, 2008

**Intimate Apparel** February 26 - March 14, 2009

Young Actor Series

Go, Dog. Go! and Disney's **The AristoCats Kids!**July 25 - August 10, 2008

Joseph and the Amazing

**Technicolor Dreamcoa** November 25 - December 21, 2008

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** February 10 - 22, 2009

Special Presentation

**Amahl and the Night Visitors** December 6 - 20, 2008

Seventy-Fourth Season

"A DOLLY HOUSE"



Weathervane — PLAYHOUSE —

John Hedges, Executive Director

Life Is Believing 2008-2009 Season

1301 Weathervane Lane • Akron, OH 44313-5186 www.weathervaneplayhouse.com



**EXPERIENCE MORE** 



At Audio-Technica, we are grateful for, and very proud to support, the local arts near our company's U.S. headquarters in Stow, Ohio. We look forward to many years of inspiring listening. Wherever your passion for music takes you, experience more.

audio-technica.com

(A) audio-technica.



One chance. Get it right. Make an impact.

Specialized Services, Equipment Rental & Sales for theatre, corporate functions, schools, churches, community gatherings, and concerts.

We are proud to support The Greater Akron Community and beyond with a polished, professional level of service for live events and the people who support them.

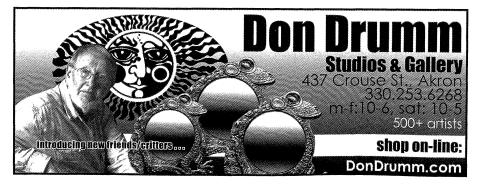
- Wireless microphone systems
- Specialized microphones
- Theatrical and LED lighting fixtures
- Intelligent lighting consoles
- P.A. systems, digital mixing consoles, and monitors
- Video projectors, screens, and dress kits
- Special effects, cables & accessories

Live event audio recording: packages from 2 to 24 tracks Video display, recording, editing, and post-production On-site delivery, setup, and pickup for rental equipment Technical support on all levels, even after hours

1653 Merriman Rd. Suite L5 / Akron, Ohio 44313 Office: 330-835-9910 Fax: 330-835-9914 sales@ClearGoldAudio.com www.ClearGoldAudio.com









# akron area arts alliance

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS & CULTURE

#### www.akronareaarts.org

event calendars for 45 arts organizations educational & volunteer opportunities

#### www.summitartspace.org

7 gallery exhibitions annually featuring local artists free educational art workshops directory of local artists

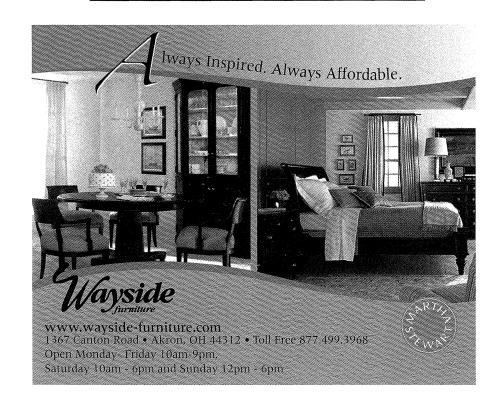
330-376-8480 ■ akronaresarts@abcglobal.net



EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS. ATHLETICS AND THE ARTS

Toddler - Grade Eight • Located in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

www.oldtrail.org • 330.666.1118



# Free rent.

On the world's best music.

#### Always at your public library.

Your Akron Summit County Public Libraries have been offering free rent on the best music, movies, books, education and more since 1874. That makes checking us out worth checking into. Visit **www.akronlibrary.org** or stop in today.





#### Weathervane Staff

### John Hedges Executive Director \*

Janis L. Harcar Director of Advancement

Director of Advancemen

**Keith D. Campbell**Director of Audience Development

Melanie Y.C. Pepe Director of Education

Young Actor Series Producer

Alan Scott Ferrall

Scenic Designer / Technical Director

Barbara Trotter

Coordinator of Volunteers

Lisa Mansfield

Patron Services Manager

**Benjamin Rexroad** 

Public Relations and Outreach Assistant

Jasen Smith

Costume Shop Manager / Costume Designer

#### **Nancy Humes**

**Education Assistant** 

Kathryn A. Kohl

Assistant Technical Director

Ian S. Haberman

Artistic Advisor

**Caroline Klein** 

Bookkeeper

S & B Services -- Shannon Brown
Cleaning Services

INV Design Coeilie Co

MINX Design, Cecilia Sveda Graphic Designs

Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.





#### 2008-2009 Board of Trustees

#### Officers:

Christopher C. Esker	President
Chas Schreckenberger	First Vice President
Aaron Berke	Second Vice President
ucy J. Randles	Secretary

Jim Horvath.....Treasurer Jack Steele ......Assistant Treasurer Helen Fleming......Women's Board President

#### **Trustees:** Barbara Baskin

Desiree Bolden Chic Carlson Timothy H. Champion

Geoff Coyle III Sandra Emerick Mary Adams Fazio Barry Friedman Michael Gaffney

Malia Gelfo Jay Hershey Lucille Humphrey Unhee Kim **Gregg Manes** 

Margo Parker Bess Raines Tom Trotter Margaret Dietz Ex-Officio

#### 2008-2009 Women's Board

14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	
	President
First V	
Second V	ice President
Correspond	ing Secretary
	Second V

Janet Heilmeier ......Recording Secretary Susan Baker ......Treasurer Susie Stech ......Assistant Treasurer Margaret J. Dietz ......Immediate Past President

959000	2006060000000000000
Art Gallery	Marci Paolucci
Boutique	Mary Wolfman
Assistants:Lois Murray, Boutique Treasurer	Patrice Bechtol, Janet Clark Barbara B. O'Connor
Cast Suppers	Wendy Cooley Carol Seiberling
Costumes	Henrietta Cook Helen Vari
Hospitality	

	\$69 <b>5</b> 64946869869868
Hostesses	Patrice Bechtol
Assistant	Pat Obenour
House	Sue Smith
Membership	Bunny Lacey
Newsletter	
Nominating	
Office	Leslie Lund
Special Events/Ways & Means	Susie Stech

#### 2008-2009 Production Board

Chair	Alan Scott Ferrall
Auditions	Sue Smith
Lighting Department	Erin Katz Ford
Sound Department	Dan Jankura
Properties Department	Jerry Mirman, Jr.
Properties Co-Chair	Todd Dieringer
Costume Department	

Stage Managers	Judv Willemsen
Women's Board RepI	Helen Fleming/Jill Forster

#### Ex-Officio:

Executive Director	John Hedaes
Producer of Young Actor Productions	Melanie Y.C. Pepe
House Managers	
Trustee Liason	



#### 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 1960s 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. The 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.

# Want to get involved? Call Barbara Trotter, Coordinator of Volunteers

330-836-2626 ext. 29



#### **Our Generous Donors**

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals, corporations and foundations.

Super Founders (\$10,000+)
City of Akron Department of
Planning & Urban Dev.
Akron Community Foundation —
Shaw Fund
GAR Foundation
John A. McAlonan Fund of ACF
Amahl sponsorship
Ohio Arts Council
Weathervane Women's Board

Founder's Circle (\$5,000+)
Mary & Dr. George L. DeMetros
Charitable Trust
Margaret J. Dietz
John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron
Community Foundation
W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Fdn.
The Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised
Fund of Akron Community
Foundation
Sisler McFawn Foundation
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith
Memorial Foundation
Margaret Clark Morgan Fdn.
Summa Health System Foundation

Platinum Members (\$1,000+) Francia Albrecht Susan and Patrick Baker Roger G. Berk Trust Glenn R. and Alice V. Boggess Memorial Foundation Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs FirstMerit Foundation Helen Davison Fleming ★ Goodvear Tire and Rubber Co. Charlotte and Jim Horvath ★ The Lehner Family Foundation Laura R. & Lucian O. Moffit Fdn. The R.C. and Katherine M. Musson Charitable Foundation **OMNOVA Solutions Foundation** National City Bank M.G. O'Neil Foundation Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation

**Gold Members** (\$500 - \$999) The Anonymous Trucker Mary Ann and Doug Bell
underwrites set for La Mancha
Sandra ★ and Scott Emerick
Janet and Jim Heilmeier
Mrs. Annetta Karam
Shelley and Tom Koutnik
Eileen and Gary Leidich
Leslie and Richard Lund
In honor of Margaret J. Dietz from
Hank Dietz, Fred Dietz & Susie
Dietz Pardee
Michael Russell
Summit County Internists &
Associates
Mary and Mel Wolfman

**Silver Members** \$250 - \$499) Akron Tool and Die Sophie & Steve Albrecht Barbara Baskin ★ Desiree★ and Bruce Bolden Brockman, Coats, Gedelian and Beverly and Curt Brown Chic Carlson ★ Frank C. Comunale Roger Dieringer Todd Dieringer Mary Beth and Richard Ellison Barry Friedman \* Malia Gelfo ★ GoJo Industries, Inc. Mary and Roy Hartz Melissa Owens & John Hedges

Jav R. Hershev ★ Libby and Dr. Jack Jacobs Bonnie M. Jones Martha Kaltenbach and Thomas R. Trotter ★ Unhee Kim ★ Barbara and Dr. Edward L. Koosed Margaret and John McBride Patricia S. Obenour Barbara B. O'Connor John P. O'Neill Lucy and Ted Randles★ Judy and Roger Read Dr. & Mrs. Douglas W. Sanders Steven Schmidt & Rick Krochka Beverly Smith Susan D. Speers

Mr. & Mrs. James R. Vargo Connie and Bob Velotta Mona Wolfman Zuckerman Consulting Group

**Patron Members** (\$150 - \$249) Dr. Miriam F. Agins Amer Insurance Company David Ashe Kathleen Ashcroft Mary and Roland Bauer Henry Bishop and Karen Wood Lisa and Chuck Avers Sally J. Childs Mr. & Mrs. G.F. Coyle III Alice Ann Davies Marie and Marc Dusini Christopher C. Esker ★ Dr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Farkas Mary and John Fazio ★ FirstMerit Bank/Akron Flexsys America L.P. Diana and John Gaver Janis and Raymond Harcar Marilyn Heagerty Lillian L. Hudimac Judy and Richard Kotick Margaret Knepper Anne and Bill Lowery Mogen Real Estate Co. Virginia Moline Sheila Motter The Moushey Family Jo Ann Oelschlager Cynthia Ross and Jessica Posey John M. Ream Helene and Bill Rogovy Kim and Chas Schreckenberger★ Sue and Richard Smith Thomas M. Stephan Helen Vari Leo Weill Harold F. White Libby and Jeff Wilson Richard Worswick and John

Sustaining Members (\$100 - \$149) Carol and Ken Button

Grafton



#### Our Generous Donors - continued

Sustaining Members Cont. **Brad Custer** Rebecca DeBolt Claire and Jim D'Ianni Cathy and Lloyd Doering **Bridgit & Steven Dolin** Jon A. Fiume Jeane Galehouse Shirley and Al Gates Ellen F. and Karl S. Hay Mary Ann and Dr. Thomas Jackson Dr. Lawrence B. Kaye, DDS Mary Beth Kluge Bruce G. Kriete Carol Krueger Ingrid and Frank Kunstel Pamela Langston-Cox Gregg Manes ★ Margaret McDowell Lloyd Patti Margolis The Maynard Family Foundation Martha S. Mazak Jo McGarvev Vieven and Danny Moore Nan and Dr. George Nankervis Marta & Ian Oppenheim Bessie M. Raines\* Gloria Reich Nancy and Harold Rex Wendy and David Ruggles **Betty Sandwick** Lois and Paul Simmons Jean and Ethel Soudry Jack T. Steele★ Sarah and Ed Steinmark Paula and John Troche

Linda Waite

Edith & Norbert Weisend
Betty J. and Ken Zeigler
June and Dan Zeno
Laurie Zuckerman and Steve
Johnson

**Contributing Members** (Gifts of \$75 - \$99) Aaron S. Berke ★ Carol Boyd Timothy H. Champion ★ Janet & Donne Clark Mr. & Mrs. John DeYoung Hope E. Everhart Linda Heath Jennifer P. Hodges Shirley E. Jordan Judy and Denny Miller Margo Parker ★ Jean Ouestel Barbara and Jim Shriner Barbara and Russell Stevic James Switzer and Gretchen Laatsch Linda Werntz and Robert Cunningham

#### Other

Meena and Puru Agrawal Akron Tile and Fireplace Co., Inc. Eleanor and Richard Aron Robert Baab Mary B. Blazewicz Loretta E. Bower Jeff Brinton Dawn B. Carson County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation

Patricia and Thomas Doak Gwynn R. Ennnis George J. Gauthier Jean Gent Maryanna P. Hamburg Bart P. Hamilton David W. Kellogg Phyllis Lerch Caryn Lintner Arlene McKinnon Scott E. Robishaw Dr. & Mrs. John B. Saks Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Saghy Sue and Joe Schaut Raymone Scott Pearl D. Sentelik **Beverly Spaeth** Sheila and Larry Wallerstein Anna M. Zender

#### 100-Hour Memberships

Jean Blair Robyn Cooper Maryanne Cotter Erin Katz Ford Kevin Ford Holly Humes Dede Klein Marcia & Tom Marshall Talley-Nitzel Family

Matching Gifts Allstate Giving Campaign AT&T FirstEnergy The Lubrizol Foundation

★ Denotes Trustees

Thank you to all our donors!

"Giving to others is a key element in well-being. It's abundantly clear from a number of studies that people who live generous lives also live happier lives."

Dr. Stephen Post Why Good Things Happen to Good People

# Setting the Stage for the Future

We are proud to list the following Capital Campaign Donors as of March 11, 2009

Francia A. and Fred I. Albrecht Kathy Ashcroft Sandy and Mark Auburn Mary Rebecca Babcox Susan and Patrick Baker Mary Jane Baron Patricia R. Basile Barbara Baskin Patrice Bechtol Aaron Berke Mrs. D. Loraine Boesche Glenn R. and Alice V. Boggess Memorial Foundation Ann and Dave Brennan Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Company Eileen Burg Karen Burridge Chic Carlson Dawn B. Carson Timothy H. Champion Sally Childs Mary Kate Clancy Janet and Donne Clark Barbara Colonna Wendy and Ralph Cooley
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Geoff Coyle III
Marie and Harry Covington Estate of Paul Daum Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust Roger Dieringer Margaret J. Dietz Sandra and Scott Emerick Christopher C. Esker Dorothy and Stephen Farkas Mary Adams Fazio FirstMerit Foundation Helen Davison Fleming Barry Friedman Corina and Michael Gaffney GAR Foundation Diana and John Gayer Malia Gelfo Ruth Jane Grimwood Janis L. and Raymond A. Harcar Sandra and Antony Harding Marilyn L. Heagerty John Hedges Janet and Jim Heilmeier Jav Hershey Charlotte and Jim Horvath Alma Fave Houston Sharon Horwitz Lucille Humphrey Kathryn M. Hunter Kimberly and Jess Hurst Annetta Karam David W. Kellogg Unhee Kim Dede Klein

Mary Beth Kluge

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Koosed

Judy and Richard Kotick Shelley and Tom Koutnik Maureen and Jim Kovach Carol W. Krueger Bunny Lacey Eileen and Gary Leidich Jennifer and David Lenz Carvn A. Lintner Margaret McDowell Lloyd The Lubrizol Foundation Leslie and Richard Lund Nancy M. Mahoney Sally Ann and William J. Manby Gregg Manes C. Blake, Jr. and Beatrice K. McDowell Foundation Jo McGarvey Virginia Moline The Moushey Family Lois J. Murray Elizabeth and Charles Nelson Northern Ohio Golf Charities Patricia Obenour Barbara B. O'Connor **OMNOVA Solutions Foundation** John O'Neill Marta Williger and Ian Oppenheim Melissa Owens Susan Dietz Pardee Margo Parker Lisa A. Plant Mary Kay and Ernie Pouttu Jean Questel Bessie M. Raines Lucy and Ted Randles Thelma and Dr. Joseph F. Rapotec Judy and Roger Read Nancy and Harold Rex Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reynolds Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation Helene and Bill Rogovy Dr. and Mrs. John Saks Nancy M. Schafer Kim and Chas Schreckenberger Carol Seiberling Richard Shirey Robert B. Showalter Barbara and Jim Shriner Lois Simmons The Sisler McFawn Foundation Susan D. Speers State of Ohio Jack T. Steele Thomas R. Trotter and Martha Kaltenbach Dr. Julia A. Grossman and James R. Vargo Helen and Frank Vari Connie and Robert Velotta Wayside Furniture Weathervane Women's Board Mona Wolfman John Grafton and Richard Worswick Peg and Dave Yeager Betty J. and Ken Zeigler



#### Introducing...

# Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

This may bring to mind the old joke of an actor asking for a tip and getting the reply "Don't go into Show Business." But this is no joke...

If you like what you've seen at this performance, 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 60% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane patron gave just \$1 extra this season, 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?

Guide: Thank You \$1

5% of a \$20 ticket

Applause!

\$2

10% of a \$20 ticket

Cheer!!

\$3

15% of a \$20 ticket

Bravo!!!

\$4

20% of a \$20 ticket

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

Sincerely,

John Hedges Executive Director



#### From Our Executive Director

#### Hail to the Directors!

Shortly after I began at Weathervane someone asked me how I choose who gets to direct the shows. In the interest of transparency – and on the occasion of unveiling our guest director's work on *A Doll's House* (the wonderful Matthew Earnest) – I thought I would pass along the criteria I use in making these very important decisions.

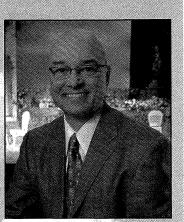
#### I expect directors . . .

- \*To be dedicated to the art of theater and to aspire to something greater than merely "putting on" the play.
- \*To engender an environment of challenged, supportive, creative safety.
- \*To recognize and generate maximum meaning from every moment of the play.
- \*To embrace collaboration and treat everyone at the playhouse with dignity and respect.
- \*To be able to discern dramatic structure and to commit to bringing the work of the playwright to life.
- \*To communicate openly and honestly with co-workers and to always go to the person who has the best chance of answering your question or solving your problem.
- \*To be a source of positive energy.
- \*To teach our actors as well as direct them and to guide them toward higher standards of achievement than they may think possible.
- \*To encourage our actors to truly live in the world of the play and engage in authentic action rather than to play qualities, attitudes or states of being.
- \*To take the necessary steps to ensure that the actors will be able to technically deliver the play once in the theater.
- \*To have a high level of commitment to improving the lives of both the participants of the play as well as the attending audience members of the playhouse.
- \*To maximize the drama onstage and to minimize it off.
- \*To see the big picture and to work with the Executive Director to do what is best for both the production and for the theater.
- \*To leave personal issues at the door.
- \*To never raise their voice in anger toward anyone.
- \*To never work at the playhouse under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- \*To joyously contribute to the party that is Weathervane Playhouse.
- \*To desire to change the world through theater.

Weathervane is blessed with the extraordinary talent and leadership of our guest directors throughout the year. They represent key artistic partners to me. I extend to all of them my deep appreciation and respect.

Sincerely,

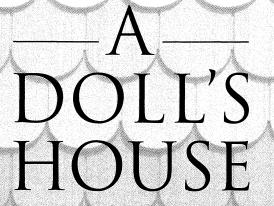
John Hedges, Executive Director



#### Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE

74th Season -- 2008-2009 -- Production #537 March 19 - April 5, 2009 -



by Henrik Ibsen
A New version by
Matthew Earnest



Stage Manager

BENJAMIN REXROAD

Costume Designer
MELISSA OWENS

Lighting Designer
RYAN DURFEE

Sound Designer
TOM C. BARNES

Properties Designer
KATHY KOHL

Scenic Concept by Matthew Earnest



Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by Ohio Arts Council

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

#### **About the Play**

A Doll's House tells the story of Nora Helmer, a child-like housewife married to Torvald Helmer, a successful banker. Nora and Torvald live a typical upper-middle-class life with all the trappings of materialistic prosperity – but Nora gradually comes to question who she is and to question why her husband – and, in effect, society at large – would treat her as a mere plaything or object to be moved by others.

The play premiered in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 1879 and instantly inflamed passions on either side of the play's controversial ending. Ibsen's 19th century European audiences held marriage high in regard as a quasi-holy covenant. Consequently, playgoers and critics in 1879 were scandalized by the playwright's scathing criticism of matrimony. In structure, A Doll's House presented an abrupt departure from the romanticized contrivances that dominated the popular theater of his day. Ibsen's dialogue presented a natural flow of speech (versus a flowery, artificial style) and its characters were depicted as very real people (versus stereotypes or stock characters). Although some people call it the first true "feminist play," Ibsen in his day rejected such a claim. Instead, he said his objective was to present the problem of conventional marriage, expose its thorny issues and to then let the characters "unravel" the issue. His aim was not so much to preach as it was to reveal. Many biographers have noted that he told people that he cared less for women's rights and more for human rights.

The storm of criticism surrounding *A Doll's House* provoked Britain to ban the play in England under the 1737 Licensing Act, which for many years served as a censorship arm of the British government. As a gauge of the play's controversy, the lead actress in the first German production of the play refused to play the role of Nora unless Ibsen wrote a new ending. Against his protests, the playwright relented and penned an alternative ending. Ibsen biographers have noted that this "new ending" proved to be unpopular and the playwright also regretted being pressured to change his work. Today, however, rare is the production that does not use his original ending.

After its 1879 Copenhagen opening and subsequent European productions, A Doll's House opened in New York City in 1889 with Beatrice Cameron as Nora. Since then, 12 revivals of the show have been mounted on Broadway. The most recent revival, in 1997, featured a Tonywinning Janet McTeer as Nora in a new version adapted by Irish playwright Frank McGuinness (whose Someone Who'll Watch Over Me was staged in Weathervane's Dietz Theater last year). Ibsen's drama has also inspired several television and film versions, including two in 1973 (one with Claire Bloom and Anthony Hopkins in the leading roles, and the other starring Jane Fonda as Nora).

In this Weathervane Playhouse production of *A Doll's House*, director Matthew Earnest's own adaptation retains the essence of Ibsen but employs a modern tone of language. The setting remains a beautifully appointed Norwegian home but has been updated to the present day. Absent from the stage in Earnest's version are the Helmers' three children, Helene the maid, and nursemaid Anne-Marie. Earnest's version premiered in 2006 at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina.

Updated to the 21st century, *A Doll's House* remains relevant because it continues to provoke the same questions it inspired 129 years ago. Has marriage progressed to a true state of equality? In a post-Feminist Revolution era, can a husband and a wife forge a truly equal partnership? Does money or power emerge as the dominating force in matrimony? In light of the present-day furor over same-sex marriage, even the question of marriage itself is up for grabs on all fronts. What might Ibsen make of our own time? What might the playwright say about an age that can produce a viable female candidate for president of the United States – even though women's wages in the workplace do not match those of their male counterparts? In an age in which our popular culture presents us with such television programs as *Desperate Housewives* and *The Real Housewives* of *Orange County*, what message does Nora Helmer's final revolt transmit to the young women – and men – of today?

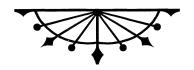


#### A Doll's House -- Cast

Nora Helmer	Emily Pote
Torvald Helmer	Michael Riffle
	David P. Myers
Kristine Linde	Gina Buck
	Adam Thatcher

#### Setting:

ACT I: The Helmer's home on Christmas Eve 15-minute intermission
ACT II: Same, Christmas Day 15-minute intermission
ACT III: Same, the day after Christmas



A Doll's House is a Project STAGE production.
Project STAGE is supported by
The Sisler McFawn Foundation
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation



#### 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.

#### **About Our Adapter/Director**

Matthew Earnest returns to Ohio having directed Alice..., Peter Pan and Our Town at Porthouse Theatre, and as the 2008 Roe Green Visiting Director at Kent State University, his own translation of Bertolt Brecht's The Caucasian Chalk Circle. He most recently directed the American premiere of Juán Mayorga's Himmelweg at Burning Coal Theatre Co. in Raleigh, NC. Matthew's many productions of plays, operas, original literary adaptations and musicals have been seen across the U.S., Europe and in Africa. As Founding Artistic Director of NYC's deep ellum ensemble, Matthew wrote and directed multi-disciplinary theater works that toured around the world from 1995 until the company disbanded in 2007. He has directed his own original English versions of Ibsen and Chekhov and his own translations of Büchner and Brecht. Awards: Top 10 production of the year from The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Raleigh News & Observer (twice) and Dallas Morning News; Cleveland Scene -- Best Director (2007); three Times Tributes (Cleveland); Audience Favourite (Dublin Festival Fringe); a BIFF Award (NY International Fringe Festival); a Dallas Observer Best of Dallas Award; and the Dallas Theater Critics' Forum Award. Matthew is a Drama League Directing Fellow, and since 1999 he has been an associate artist at Germany's English Theater Berlin, where he returns this fall to direct Charles L. Mee's Full Circle.

#### **Director's Notes**

"To be a poet, first of all, is to see." - Henrik Ibsen

In 2006 I created a new English version of Henrik Ibsen's very famous play, *A Doll's House*, as I couldn't get excited about any of the many translations that already existed. Most of them, except for maybe two, were written by academicians to be read in literature classes, not really to be played by actors. The two translations I did like, by Christopher Hampton and Frank McGuinness, are certainly of the highest quality and were most definitely written to be played, but they are very English (Hampton) and Irish (McGuinness) in their idiom and use of the English language. Language and the Theater belong to everyone, and an American audience shouldn't have to try to decode phrases like "auld sod" or "Fancy that" if indeed the play is not about cultural decoding, which *A Doll's House* is not. How would a Cantonese or Pakistani company, for example, stage a production of an American play like *A Streetcar Named Desire*? The play would have specific meaning for their culture in this specific moment in time, and they would have to find ways, in language, gesture, etc., to communicate it to their specific audience.

I speak not a word of Norwegian, so it was necessary to pore over several literal translations of the play and to sift through the five or six English translations I admired, recording differences in thought and impulse all along the way. When I had settled on the basics of the play's architecture – each character's line allotment, the playwright's use of silence and sense, etc., I was then ready to choose language to express each thought, a long process to be sure. Because Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) is one of the greatest writers of the World Theater, and because I am a lifelong student of his work, I considered every comma as I strained to hear his voice across time. Known as the Father of Modern Drama, Ibsen revolutionized the Theater when he dared to write plays that discussed the way we live now, and he took a lot of heat for it – people rioted in the streets, got arrested in theater lobbies, and the leading lady of the first German production refused to play Nora unless Ibsen rewrote the ending. He did rewrite it, and though the new ending was only seen in that particular production, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

But all the trouble was worth it. *A Doll's House* has perhaps a different set of meanings for us in 2009, but it is as vibrant and at times as hard to take as it must have been in 1879. My hope is that by using American English spoken by American actors, our production can be fully experienced by our American audience.

Matthew Earnest

Receiving an award from the Norwegian Women's Rights League 26 May 1898



#### **About the Playwright**

Considered by many critics and writers to be the father of dramatic realism, Henrik Ibsen today ranks among the literary giants in Western culture. Breaking away from the contrived, formulaic melodramas and comedies of manners that were popular with Victorian-era audiences, Ibsen instead created real characters with real problems. From politics to marriage to venereal disease, his plays provoked audiences with their pointed examinations of social problems, exposing ideas and situations that simultaneously shocked and delighted a wide range of his critics.

Ibsen was born March 20, 1828, in Skien, Norway, a small port town on the Scandinavian country's southeastern tip. Financial stress plagued Ibsen's merchant-class parents shortly after his birth, and biographers have suggested that the family's monetary challenges caused his mother to seek solace in religion and his father to plunge into a deep depression. At the age of 15, Ibsen left his hometown for Grimstad (a present-day two-and-a-half-hour drive from Skien), and here he served as an apprentice to a pharmacist. He attempted to enter a university in the capital city of Oslo but failed the entrance exams. Undeterred, Ibsen focused on his writing, publishing his first play, *Catiline*, in 1850 when he was 22, though no productions of it were staged. In that same year, his first staged production, *The Burial Mound*, garnered little attention in Norway but nonetheless encouraged him to keep writing. He soon began working at the Norwegian Theater in Bergen, where he gained valuable hands-on experience in over 100 productions as a writer, producer and director.

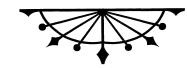
In 1858, Oslo's National Theater appointed him as its creative director, and he married Suzannah Thorensen. The couple produced one child – a boy named Sigurd – but the low wages Ibsen earned in the theatrical realm offered little financial security for the young couple and their child. Disenchanted with life in Norway, Ibsen left his wife and son for a sort of self-imposed exile spent largely in such places as Rome and Sorrento (a small city on the southwestern coast of Italy) as well as Dresden and Munich in Germany. For their time, the Ibsen marriage was "wholly untraditional," according to biographer Astrid Saether. During these years, his wife and son traveled back and forth between Norway and Ibsen's continental locations, but Ibsen himself did not return to Norway until 1891.

Removed from his native Norway, Ibsen's popularity and fortune began to rise. The critical and financial success of his early plays, such as *Peer Gynt* and *Brand*, encouraged him to incorporate his own convictions and judgments into his next plays, producing such works as *A Doll's House* (1879) and *Ghosts* (1881). Ibsen exposed the hypocrisy of late-Victorian attitudes toward marriage, the social status of women and even the then-taboo subject of venereal disease. For this, he was celebrated throughout Europe and America as one of the most famous and most controversial writers of his age.

Ibsen's subsequent plays continued to expose social issues – but rather than taking one side of an issue, he insisted on revealing the fallacy of both sides. His 1882 play, *An Enemy of the People*, criticizes both right-wing and left-wing elements of his fellow Victorians. The *Wild Duck* (1884) attacks what Ibsen suggests are the self-delusions society holds, and *Hedda Gabler* (1890) examined the psychological underpinnings beneath the individual's freedom and self-fulfillment in conflict with a stratified society.

Ibsen's dramatic output and ideas shaped the literary world in his day and beyond. His contemporaries – such as Anton Chekhov, Luigi Pirandello and George Bernard Shaw – celebrated and advanced the emergence of realism as developed by their Norwegian counterpart. And succeeding playwrights, such as Arthur Miller, demonstrated an Ibsen-like influence in their dramatic insistence on truth and all of its complicated consequences.

Bedridden after several paralyzing strokes, Ibsen died May 23, 1906, in Oslo.



<sup>&</sup>quot;I thank you for the toast, but must disclaim the honor of having consciously worked for the women's rights movement. I am not even quite clear as to what this women's rights movement really is. To me, it has seemed a problem of mankind in general. My task has been the description of humanity."

Henrik Ibsen

#### **Cast Biographies**

EMILY POTE (Nora Helmer) This is Emily's first production with Weathervane Playhouse and her seventh play with Matthew Earnest. A member of EMC and a graduate of Kent State University and a resident of New York City, Emily has performed at the Warehouse Theatre (SC) and most recently at Porthouse Theatre in Alice. Emily continues to work with Matthew Earnest's company in New York on original productions and adaptations. Her favorite roles include, Hestia, Emily Webb, Wendy Darling, Alice and Nina (The Seagull). Love to the family and friends. Para o Amor da minga vida, Obrigado, obrigado, obrigado.

MICHAEL RIFFLE (Torvald Helmer) was recently seen as Theseus and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science. He performed locally with Medina County Show Biz Co. in *The Boys Next Door* (Jack) and *The Nerd* (Willum), with Fourth Wall Productions in *The Bank Guards* (Ben) and *Two Man Kidnapping Rule* (Jack), with the Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company in *Defender of the Faith* (Man) and with The University of Akron in *Twelfth Night* (Feste). Michael enjoys rocking out in RockBand.

DAVID P. MYERS (Nils Krogstad) was last seen on our stage in *Children of a Lesser God* as Franklin in 2008. Before that, he was Herr Zeller in *The Sound of Music* (2006), a role for which he earned a Best Supporting Actor Chanticleer Award, Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* (2005) and Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2003). David teaches economics and apologetics at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and is a graduate of Taylor University.

GINA BUCK (Kristine Linde) is currently enrolled as a theater major at Kent State University. This is her first production at Weathervane Playhouse and her second time working with Matthew Earnest. She has been seen in Funnyhouse of a Negro, Caucasian Chalk Circle and Lysistrata. Her next production will be at the Black Box Theater, KSU, in Ubu Roi. Special thanks to all who support, and love to all friends and family.

ADAM THATCHER (Dr. Rank) recently graduated magna Cum Laude from the State University of New York (SUNY), Fredonia, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He was stage manager for our production of A Midsummer Night's Dream and choreographed this past December's production of Amahl and the Night Visitors. He has been seen in such productions as The Fantasticks, The Elephant Man, Doctor Faustus, Side Show and A Little Night Music. He has worked with such Broadway stars as Jodie Langel, Mike Cannon and Victoria Clark and recently performed for RWS and Associates in New York. Adam has also performed in various musical theater workshops in Aichi, Japan.

#### **Creative Team Biographies**

BENJAMIN REXROAD (Stage Manager) recently served as co-stage manager for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and, earlier this season, as stage manager for *Children of Eden*. He is finishing his degree in Theater, Marketing and Public Relations at The University of Akron. He stays involved with arts venues across Northeast Ohio, including Cleveland Public Theatre, the former Carousel Dinner Theatre and, of course, Weathervane Playhouse. Ben also teaches in our Education Program. In any spare moments when he isn't working, he volunteers as Technical Director at his alma mater, Coventry High School.

MELISSA OWENS (Costume Designer) is thoroughly enjoying designing her first Weathervane production, and thanks Jasen and Matthew for their friendship and support. Favorite costume designs include Cinderella (Northern Michigan University); A Beatrix Potter Christmas, The Wind in the Willows, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and The Sanders Family Christmas (Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA); The Laramie Project (Emory and Henry College); A Little Night Music and Godspell (Ashland University) and Freedom, an award-winning independent film. Happily relocated to Akron with her dear husband John, she is a professional actress and the very proud mother of Mary and Rachel.



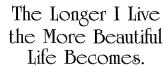
#### **Creative Team Biographies** - continued

RYAN DURFEE (Lighting Designer) is a senior at Kent State University from which he will be graduating in May with a degree in Theatre. His most recent projects include Assistant Lighting Designer for both A New Brain and Jane Eyre at Kent State University. His past lighting designs at Weathervane include Romeo & Juliet, The Emperor's New Clothes, as well as co-designing for As Bees in Honey Drown, Crowns and Our Town. Upon graduation Ryan plans on pursuing his career as a freelance lighting designer. Ryan thanks his girlfriend Kristi for all her love and support.

TOM C. BARNES (Sound Designer), a fervent sound designer, created sound for our Dietz production of *String of Pearls* and many other WCP designs in the past. For BNC, he designed sound for *Closer* and *Beggars in the House of Plenty* and, for Tree City Players, *The* 

Diary of Anne Frank and Biloxi Blues. Tom was recently seen on our stage as Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in last summer's Ragtime. Previously he appeared at WCP in A Lesson Before Dying, Of Mice and Men, Little Shop of Horrors and The King of the Kosher Grocers, among others.

KATHY KOHL (Properties Designer) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in business management from Aurora University in Aurora, IL. She began her theater career as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction and props crews. At WCP, she won a Chanticleer for her properties codesigns for *The Philadelphia Story* and *Enchanted April*. She lives in West Akron with her husband, Doug, with whom she has raised their three children: Stephanie, Zachary and Katie.



- Frank Lloyd Wright



Rockynol...You'll Be Happy to Call Us Home!



Akron's Premier Retirement Community
330-867-2150













#### **Production Team**

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

#### SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson Tom Marshall Kevin Ford Erin Katz Ford Len Cheslock Dan Levan

#### SOUND

Michelle Connor Cheryl Stadler

#### COSTUMES

Susanne Abernathy John S. Catlos Jasen J. Smith

#### **LIGHTS**

Leslie Johnson
Jason Day
Susan Stout Davis
Erin Katz Ford
Judy Willemsen
David Ruggles
Kevin Ford
Dan Jankura
Kristi Hagenbush
Sam Harold

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Matt Smith

#### **Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers**

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

Peru Agrawal Ron Cuirle Stephanie D'abrosca Margaret Dietz G.G. Glenn Marilyn Heagerty Linda Heath Chuck Kelades Leslie Lund Sheila Motter John O'Neill Ruth Richardson

Pearl Sentelik Sue Smith Barbie Trotter Michelle Williams

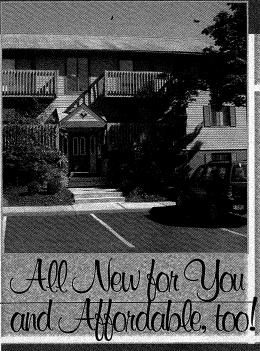
#### JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges has an extensive background in theatre as both an actor and a producer. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the acting company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, where he performed in over sixty shows. Other acting credits include performances at Town Hall in New York and the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles. Regionally he has worked at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in The Cherry Orchard. 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 award-winning Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors Equity Association, served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource and chaired its Strategic Planning Committee, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education and written for American Theatre magazine. He studied at Indiana State University and the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA in theatre from Stafford University. He lives in Akron with his wife, Melissa Owens, and their daughters Rachel and Mary, and is a current class member of Leadership Akron.















#### Oversized 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Suites from \$579

Come and visit our Extreme Makeover suites that include new cabinets & countertops, new ceramic tile & carpet, and amenities you won't believe. See the new Cedarwood Village today!

#### **CEDARWOOD VILLAGE SUITES** feature:

- **■** Two Heated Pools and Clubhouse
- Fully Equipped Fitness Center
- Three Outdoor Tennis Courts
- **■** Garages with Remotes
- Along MetroParks Hiking/Biking

and more! Private Patio or Balcony, Pets Welcome Walk to Merriman Shops and Dining, Five Minutes from Downtown, Convenient Leases.

Call Today! 330-836-971

Cedarwood Village

1343 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313 Leasing Office: 330-836-9711



For other beautiful Karam managed properties, visit karamcompanies.com or contact us at: 265 W. Portage Trail, Suite 100 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223



# SAFE AND SECURE.

# YOUR ASSETS YOUR FUTURE YOUR PEACE OF MIND

Talk with us. Together we'll make a plan.

## CHAMPION & COMPANY, LPA

Timothy Champion David Champion Wayne Rice Attorneys & Counselors at Law

Elder Law and Eldercare
Property, Estate and Wealth Preservation Planning
Fiduciary Services and Probate Law

3296 West Market Street (across from Summit Mall) www.championcompanylpa.com

330-865-7722

# Supporting Artists Locally and Globally

Offering fair trade products handmade by artisans all around the world.

Mon-Thurs: 11-8 Fri-Sat: 11-9

Sun: 1-5



350 W Market St + themarketpath.com + 330-258-9003

a ministry of:

First Grace

Home to the new:

First Grace Childcare Center

Opening Fall 2008 • Infants—Preschool

350 S Portage Path + www.firstgraceucc.org + 330-762-5839

## Home: For the Arts in 2009

#### Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

December 5 - 20 and Christmas Eve Dec. 24 at 10 p.m.

Bach's Spring

A Birthday Concert of Bach's music at its most lively. March 20, 2009 at 8 p.m.

*Bach at Leipzig*May 1 - 15, 2009

1776 In Concert

July 3 & 4, 2009 at 7 p.m. (note special time)

NEW MUSICAL WORKSHOP

August 2009

stompin' out the fooltlights

Rock music from some of Broadways's most exciting shows! October 2 - 11, 2009

> First Grace United Church of Christ 350 S. Portage Path www.firstgraceucc.org



Akron Woman's City Club COACH HOUSE THEATRE

2008/09 Season
Eighty One Years of Live Theatre

# STEEL MAGNOLIAS

by Robert Harling October 2-19, 2008 Directed by Nancy Cates

## LIGHT UP THE SKY

by Moss Hart

December 4-21,2008 Directed by Terry Burgler

## Appointment with Death

by Agatha Christie February 12-March 1, 2009 Directed by Jim Fippin

## Tonight At 8:30:

"The Red Peppers" & "Shadow Play (2 musical plays by Noel Coward) April 2-19, 2009 Directed by Nancy Cates



by Ray Cooney & John Chapman May 21-June 7, 2009 Directed by Terry Burgler

Box Office: 330.434.7741

Elegant Dining before each Show at The AWCC 732 W. Exchange St. Reservations: 330.762.6261 www.coachhousetheatre.org



Professional Theatre for Young Audiences & Families
Producing Directors Holly Barkdoll & Dennis O'Connell

2008-2009

In Residence

**Holes** Oct. 10 - 24, 2008

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Dec. 5 - 21, 2008

The Secret Life of Girls Jan. 27 - Feb. 1, 2009

Miss Nelson Is Missing May 6 - 22, 2009

On Tour

Call for availability

The Princess & the Pea

Lincoln: A Man for the Ages

**KidScripts** 

www.magicaltheatre.org

330/848-3708

565 West Tuscarawas Ave • Downtown Barberton

## und graduste and gradusted the programs Hiram College



You'll know it when you've found the college where you belong.

Weekend College.

Students earn their bachelor's degrees by taking classes every other weekend. 330,569.5162.

Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies. Students earn their master's degrees in as few as two years by attending classes every other Saturday, 330.569.6111.



www.hiram.edu/future

# Akron Tile & Fireplace, Inc.

The Shop in the Valley
1812 Merriman Road • Phone 300-867-4087

Gifts & Accessories Fireplace Fixtures & Accessories Gas Grills & Gas Logs



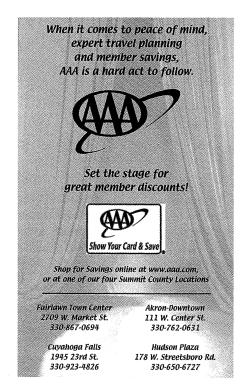
Sacominia SINCE 1932

Dinner before or after the show *Minutes from the Playhouse* 

Fresh Fish ★ Handcut steaks Pasta with homemade sauces

1561 Akron-Peninsula Road 330-923-7999

Open 7 nights a week ★ Sunday 4:00







# Exceptional Performance.

Vorys is proud to support Weathervane Community Playhouse. Like the Playhouse, Vorys is committed to providing exceptional performance:

- Named a Go-To Law Firm<sup>™</sup> five years in a row by Fortune 500 general counsel surveyed by Corporate Counsel.
- Rated a Primary Firm for Corporate Law, Securities, Employment and Litigation in the 2007 BTI Power Rankings.
- Named a Cross Practice Powerhouse Law Firm by Fortune 1000 companies — one of only 37 law firms that have earned this national distinction.

Call us today to find out how Vorys can partner with you to develop your legal solutions.



Legal Counsel

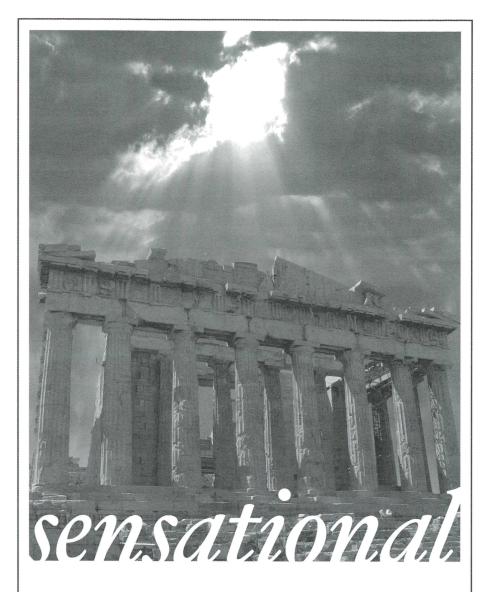
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP 106 South Main Street Suite 1100 Akron, Ohio 44308

330.208.1000 | www.vorys.com



NPR. Classical. Other smart stuff. 89.7 WKSU

A Service of Kent State University



Just because it's not new doesn't mean it's not *cool*.



