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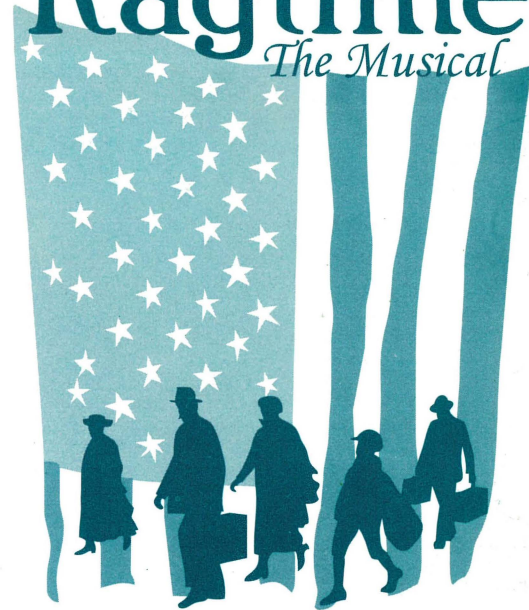
Grace Hower Crawford
(Mainstage) Series
Production No. 533

2007-2008



Season
— of the —
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Ragtime
The Musical



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Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow

June 4 - 29, 2008



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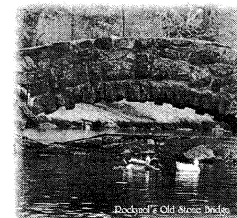
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2007-2008 Season - Weathervane Community Playhouse

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The Frog Prince

Based on a tale by The Brothers Grimm
Book adapted by Donald J. Leonard, Jr.
Music & Lyrics by David Reiser
July 28 - August 12, 2007

I Do! I Do!

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

The Lion in Winter

Drama by James Goldman
October 10 - 28, 2007

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me

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

Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

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

Amahl and the Night Visitors

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

Moon Over Buffalo

Comedy by Ken Ludwig
January 16 - February 10, 2008

Children of a Lesser God

Drama by Mark Medoff
February 20 - March 9, 2008

The Importance of Being Earnest

Comedy by Oscar Wilde
March 27 - April 6, 2008

Enchanted April

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

And the Winner Is

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

Ragtime

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



Patron Information

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

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

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

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

* **Patrons:** Expecting a call? Leave name and seat number with the House Manager. *Please turn off your cell phones, pagers and audible watches.*

* **Beverages and Food** may not be taken into the auditorium during performances.

* **Use of Cameras and Recording Devices** is prohibited during performances.

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

* **Latecomers** will be seated at the rear of the auditorium during a suitable break in the play if space is available and may take their reserved seats after intermission.

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

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

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

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

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

 Assistive-listening devices for the hearing impaired are available at the Ticket Office.

 Large-Type program inserts are available at the Ticket Office. These copies are not full playbills but contain information unique to this production. These inserts are photocopied and are available in limited quantity.

 American Sign Language interpretations are scheduled for selected Sunday performances.

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



Youth Education

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

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

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

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

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

Adult Classes

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



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

* Become a Weathervane Member

Your annual support makes you a voting member of Weathervane Community Playhouse. You'll receive discounts on educational programs and other benefits, based on the membership level you choose. Members are invited to Weathervane's annual meeting and to other special events. Memberships are renewable annually, beginning at \$75 (Contributing), and continuing at Sustaining, Patron, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond Levels. Membership is actively solicited in the fall but is accepted at any time. Members are recognized in the Playbill.

*** Give a Special Gift To Say You Care** Special donations may be made at any time to memorialize a friend or relative whose interest in Weathervane was significant to his or her life. You may also recognize and celebrate important dates or current achievements of relatives, friends or associates.

* Remember Weathervane in Your Will

What better way to carry on your tradition of support to Weathervane than by a planned gift. By taking advantage of the tax laws which encourage charitable giving, the U.S. Government will share in the cost of your gift to Weathervane. Your gift can fulfill a specific purpose or project while providing your estate with tax savings. To help ensure that Weathervane will continue, please contact our Executive Director for more information.

*** Check For Matching Gifts** Many national and local corporations will

match your donations to Weathervane, increasing your generosity to the Playhouse. Please check whether or not your company participates in such a program.

* Designate Gifts To Local Foundations

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

* Sponsor or Underwrite a Production

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

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



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History From the Barn to the Valley



Four society women urged Weathervane Playhouse into existence in 1935 - Grace Hower Crawford, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch and Muriel Maclachlan. They started with amateur theatricals at Coach House Theater, then as now part of Akron Woman's City Club. Back then Coach House was a club theater with closed membership and profits going back to the club. This left nothing for theatrical expansion or experimentation, so the ladies set up shop in a barn owned by U.S. Senator Charles Dick on Marshall Avenue. They had no money so they planned a carnival. After expenses, they cleared \$65 and declared themselves good to go.

Friends assisted in cleaning the barn that had been a garage for the Senator's cars. They scrounged for seats, curtains and a coffee pot. Seven fully costumed and staged plays were presented during the first three weeks of the summer of 1935. The audience applauded while bringing cushions from home to sit on -- the benches were hard. There was no running water or heat in the barn, but the operation had a name -- Weathervane, named for the chanticleer on the cupola of the barn. The ladies agreed that they would produce everything -- comedy, tragedy, Shakespeare, new works -- even opera. They also decreed that anyone who fit a part could be on their stage.

"The barn" was home until 1951 when it was sold, leaving the troupe homeless. The Board renovated a cement block building on Copley Road. This served until the late 1960's when the troupe moved to the Valley. In the early years,

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

A Women's Board was formed in 1938 to offer volunteer and financial assistance. The Youth Theater Workshop grew out of classes offered by the original founders. Muriel Maclachlan was particularly energetic in teaching children, bringing in experts in dance and voice to assist her in teaching the youngsters. Muriel's classes grew until they became today's Education Department. Project STAGE®, a program with reduced-price, school day matinees for students, was added in the early 1990s.

A fund-raising drive in the late 1960s built the present facility on Weathervane Lane. The Playhouse opened in 1970 with Phillip Arnoult's production of *Dark of the Moon*. Grace Crawford, who died in 1971, left a legacy to pay off the mortgage. Construction made possible by the most recent Capital Campaign added classrooms, rehearsal space, scene shop, additional prop storage, elevator, library, fly gallery, stage mechanics, a sound-proof production booth and a costume shop, and also upgraded the roof and HVAC system.

Weathervane celebrated its 500th Mainstage production with the award-winning *The Laramie Project* in February, 2003. The John L. Dietz Classroom Theater for students and black box productions had its inaugural production as part of our 70th Season, opening with *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* in January 2005.



Ticket Information

✳ **Tickets** Purchase in person or charge by phone with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at 330-836-2626, Mondays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on performance Saturdays from noon to 5:00 p.m. or online at weathervaneplayhouse.com. *Reservations are also required when using coupons from your Weathervane Super Coupon Book, complimentary tickets or coupons offered from any other cooperating arts organization.* Please arrive 20 minutes before curtain time to pick up your tickets.

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

✳ **Season Subscriber Exchanges** must be phoned in at least 24 hours prior to your originally scheduled performance. We can't always guarantee the same seats but we'll give you the closest available re-

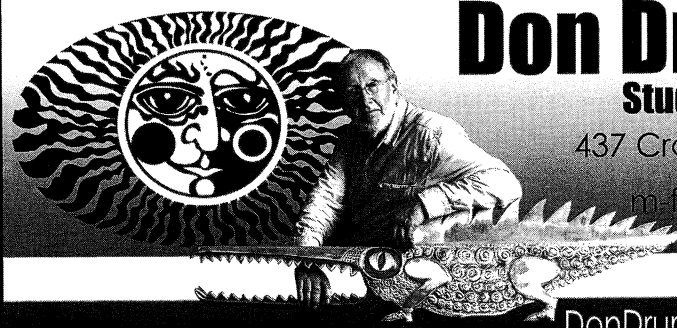
placements. An upgrade fee applies when changing from a Preview Night. *If you cannot use your subscription seats, please call us at least 24 hours in advance to release them. We will recognize this as a donation.*

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

✳ **Discounted Group Reservations** are available for groups of 15 or more. Call Weathervane at 330-836-2626 to learn how you can entertain friends, associates or clients with a night at the Playhouse or to plan a fund-raising event for larger groups.

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

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



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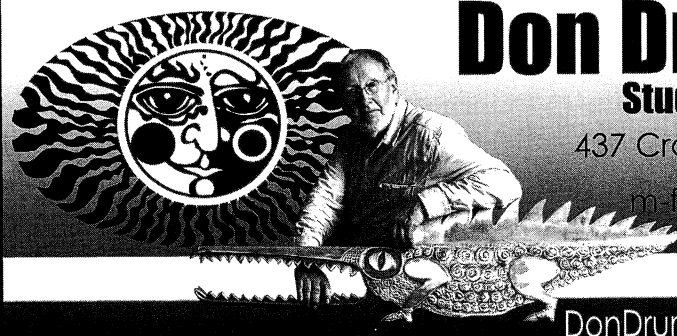
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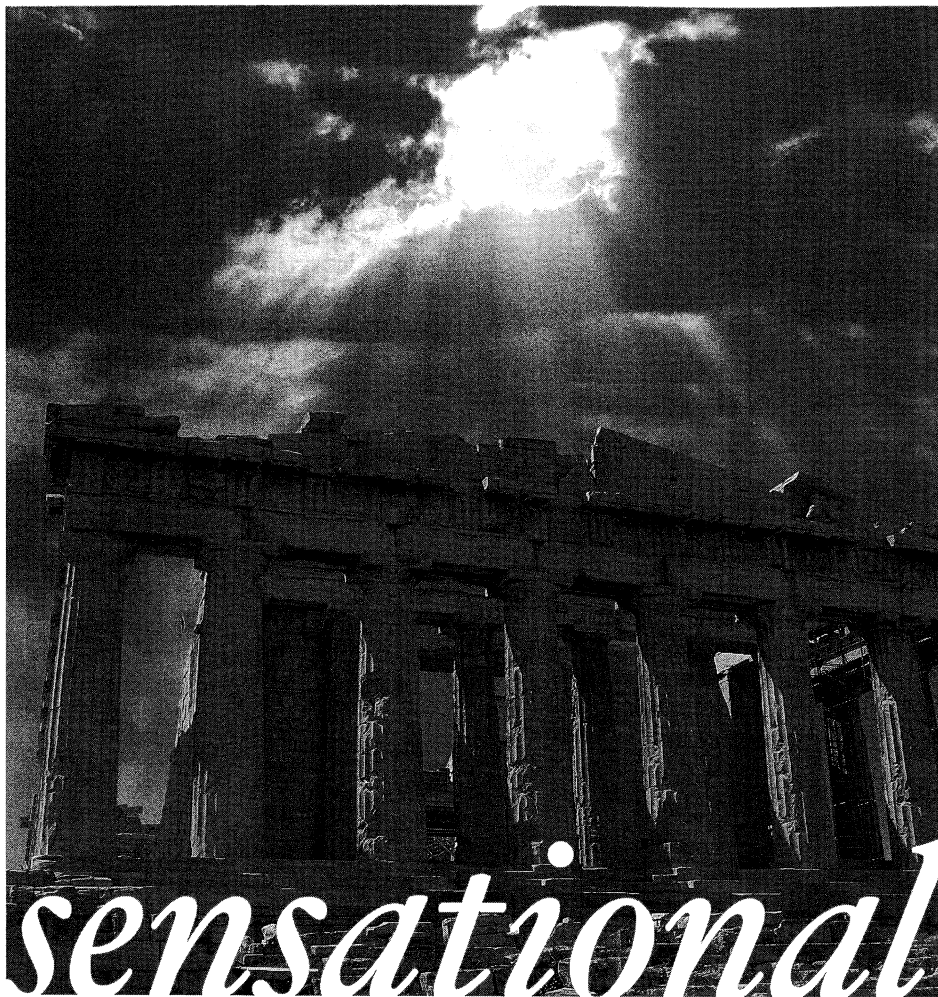
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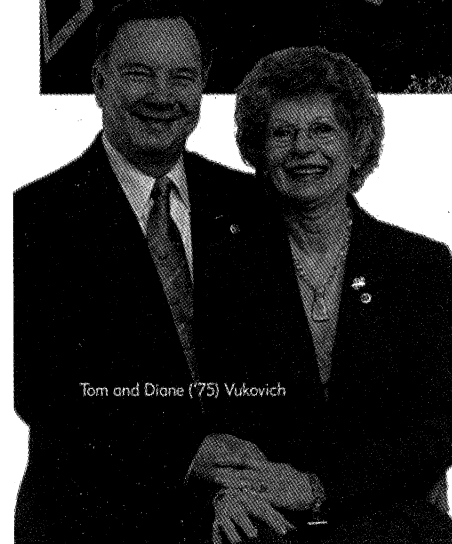
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Women's Board

The Women's Board was formed in 1938 to "offer voluntary service and financial assistance to the Playhouse." Women's Board has energized youth education programs, sponsored productions, spearheaded fund raisers and paid for many of the amenities we appreciate in the Green Room/kitchen. Members of this active group are invaluable as hostesses, office helpers and backstage workers. The Women's Board operates the Gift Boutique and Bank One Art Gallery.

New members are welcome.

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Boutique Treasures

Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of our Women's Board. Shop from one hour before curtain time or during intermission for great gift items. Prices are extremely reasonable and the items on sale include a delightful variety from clowns and animal figures to jewelry and some special items for the men in your life. Our Boutique volunteers will also assist you with information on gallery art works.



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

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

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Our Generous Donors

Did you know that the average cost, per seat, to produce a Weathervane show is \$32.85? Thanks to the generosity of the following individuals, corporations and foundations, the cost of your seat is \$23 or less! We gratefully acknowledge their support.

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



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



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



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) began at Weathervane under the tutelage of John R. Thomas. Before Weathervane, he worked at Cuyahoga Falls High School

where he was awarded a Design Excellence citation from USITT and a place in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He has designed for many local high schools, The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. Scott has earned five Chanticleer Awards -- one as stage manager for *Fences*, the others as lighting co-designer for *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Full Monty* and lighting designer for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. He enjoys writing the end-of-the-season revue for The Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players who appear at our annual Chanticleer Awards Dinner.



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



KEITH D. CAMPBELL (Director of Audience Development) holds a B.A. degree in English from The University of Akron, where he served as editor of *The Buchtelite* and sang with the Akron Symphony Chorus. During the summers of 1995 and 1996, he interned in the box office at Porthouse Theatre Company. Keith joined the Weathervane staff in November 1996 and was honored with the 2005 Trustees Award.



BARBARA TROTTER (Volunteer Coordinator) holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications from the New York Institute of Technology. She teaches speech and communication courses at Stark State College of Technology in North Canton. Barbe began volunteering with Weathervane Community Playhouse in 2000, working backstage on props crews. She designed costumes for the productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Proof*, both in 2003 and was costume coordinator for *Angels in America: Part II, Perestroika* in May 2006. In 2007, she designed lights for our Dietz production of *String of Pearls*. Earlier this season, Barbe was seen onstage in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* as a shepherdess.

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

KATHRYN A. KOHL (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in Elementary Education from BGSU and a Master of Business Management degree from Aurora College in Aurora, IL. She began her theater career as a volunteer on

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

DREAJEAN WASHINGTON-BROWN (Data Services Manager) holds a M.S. degree in Technical Education and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from The University of Akron. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Akron Alumnae Chapter. Drea says her major priority is spoiling her grandchildren. Balancing her time with work and family, she still finds time to crochet baby blankets for the Neo Natal Unit at Children's Hospital in Akron, and lap afghans for the Life Care Facility in Pittsburgh, PA and Carestone at Mt. Zion in Jonesboro, GA.

BENJAMIN REXROAD (Public Relations and Outreach Assistant) is a senior at The University of Akron. He is finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre. He has worked at arts venues across northeast Ohio including Cleveland Public Theatre, E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, Carousel Dinner Theatre and Weathervane Playhouse. Ben has been involved in every aspect of the "theatrical experience" - from onstage to backstage to front-of-house. However, his true passions lie in Stage Managing and Directing. Though, truth be told, he also has quite a knack for teaching others. He is the drama advisor at Coventry High School.



In the Bank One Visual Arts Gallery

We are pleased and excited to be the first gallery to exhibit the paintings of
Frank Bell White.

Frank Bell White, 75, has been quietly painting for the past 50-plus years. His cousin, La Jauna Thurman, a legal secretary at a law firm in Cleveland, has taken on the role of his champion and art dealer. Ms. Thurman contacted Dorothy Shinn, the **Akron Beacon Journal** art critic, in the hopes that she would be interested in seeing White's work. After meeting with White and Thurman and examining "a basement full of paintings," Ms. Shinn devoted a full page to Frank White and his work in February 2007. When I read the article, which featured photographs of his paintings, I knew that I wanted to have Frank White exhibit his work at Weathervane.

White moved to Akron from Shreveport, Louisiana, in childhood. He was with Akron General Medical Center most of his adult life, where he was assistant manager of housekeeping for 23 years. He's always been interested in art, and started drawing while a student at South High School, although he has never taken any formal art classes. White did most of his sketching while convalescing from a leg wound he got while serving in the Korean War. He didn't start painting until later.

White is interested in history, from the 1920s to the present. He's interested in sharecroppers, cowboys, his religion and his guitar, which he plays at Sunday services at his church, St. Ashworth's Temple on Vernon Odom Boulevard. These interests are reflected in his paintings, which may begin as copies or memory pictures of illustrations he finds in books, comic books, movie posters and so on. His works also come from his own experience and what he calls "country pictures" of houses and locations he has seen in drives through area farmlands and other rural locations. He prefers to work in acrylic, which, he says, "is easier to use than oil paints."

We are fortunate that Frank Bell White has done some special paintings specifically for this production of *Ragtime*. He was present during the publicity photo shoot for the show and has painted several pieces based on the photographs taken at that time. This is the first time Weathervane has had any paintings done specifically for a show. The freshness and immediacy of his style are quite appealing.

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Director

Many Thanks to Our Season Sponsors

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



Chanticleer Information

Have You Been Keeping Track of Your Favorites?

It's time to cast your votes for our annual Chanticleer Awards.

Ballots will be mailed to all season subscribers.

If you are not a season subscriber, but have seen all six mainstage shows, pick up a ballot at the box office and cast your vote in the categories below!

Sound Design

Lighting Design

Properties Design

Costume Design

Lead Actor - play & musical

Supporting Actor -- play & musical

Lead Actress - play & musical

Supporting Actress -- play & musical

Best Production

Chanticleer Dinner and Awards

Saturday, August 23, 2008

at Weathervane Playhouse

Annual Meeting of the Membership at 6

Dinner at 7

Chanticleer Awards at 8

Gifts to Weathervane's Endowment Fund were made
in Memory of **Bertie Sass** by

Margaret J. Dietz
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Weathervane
PLAYHOUSE
John Hedges, Executive Director

2008-2009 Season

Mainstage

The Rainmaker
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!
Walt Disney's The Aristocats Kids!
July 25 - August 10, 2008

**Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat**
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



Coming Next

Cats & Dogs!

Two wonderful children's
musicals in one!

July 25 - Aug. 10

Tickets \$10



Duchess, A pedigreed mother cat, and her three kittens, Toulouse, Berlioz and Marie, are catnapped by a greedy butler named Edgar who hopes to get the inheritance left to the family of cats by their owner, Madame Bonfamille. Things look hopeless for the cats until they are befriended by Thomas O'Malley, an easygoing alley cat who helps them.

and



A big and little musical world of doggy fun. This show is like a pop-up book that comes to life! You're gonna howl!



From Our Executive Director

Questions & Answers



John Hedges recently participated in a Virtual Roundtable discussion on the Arts for *Akron Life & Leisure Magazine*. Below are excerpts from the answers he gave to his interview questions...

What is the biggest challenge facing Weathervane Playhouse?

The limitations of our own thinking. With challenging times there comes great opportunity. If we can find powerful and creative ways of thinking and speaking about our organization, first to ourselves (self-talk is a powerful thing!) and then to others, we have the ability to capitalize on what makes us vital. We have the power to frame the discourse and influence the perception of Weathervane, and the arts in general, in a way that will compel people to joyously participate in our programs and appreciate and support the artistic expression of others.

What is the greatest obstacle facing the arts in Akron?

Toward the top of the list has to be economics. Balancing the financial equation of our enterprises, both as it relates to the increased competition for contributed revenue and the challenge of maximizing earnings, is at the heart of our survival. In addition, the amenability of media outlets to assist in raising the public awareness of our activities and celebrating the arts is a major issue facing us.

What advice do you have for upcoming artists?

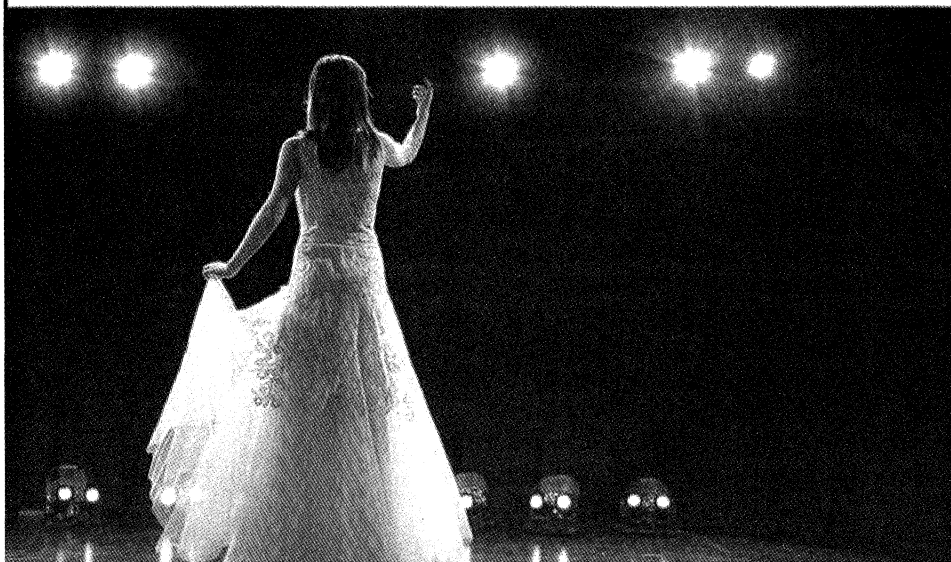
Art is about revealing truth. Artists need to be ruthlessly truthful with themselves and serve as examples of discipline, integrity and excellence in our society. They need to be among our best and brightest. Stage actors need to recognize the physical demands of the work and take the necessary steps to have their bodies and voices in top condition and available for dynamic expression. I had an acting teacher tell me once there's nothing worse than a lazy actor. Develop your discipline and practice it every day. To be an artist is a responsibility. Don't abuse it.

What does the future hold for the arts?

When asked why he was such a great hockey player, Wayne Gretzky said, "I skate to where the puck will be." As we navigate the course for our organizations, reading and responding to societal trends and skating, as it were, to where the puck will be is going to be critical to our viability. I don't have a crystal ball to tell me what the future holds, but I do think the arts have to rely on the undeniably powerful core of what they bring to our society. In communicating that importance we must embrace a proactive posture rather than a reactive one. It's imperative we step up and do our job and not apologize for it - to become a beacon for all that is positive and life affirming in our world and serve as a conduit for accessing that which is eternal. We build that and they will come!

John Hedges
Executive Director

The Arts are Medicine for the Soul.



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Weathervane

Community Playhouse

73rd Season – 2007-2008 – Production # 533

June 4 - 29, 2008



Book by Terrence McNally
Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow
Music by **Stephen Flaherty**
Lyrics by **Lynn Ahrens**

Sponsored by



Directed by **Terry Burgler** (SSDC)
Musical Director -- **John Ebner**
Vocal Director -- **Steve Liebman**

Stage Manager
Jerry Mirman, Jr.

Costume Design by
Marti Coles

Properties Design by
Pamela Parks Costa

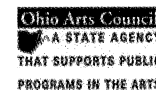
Lighting Design by
Buddy Taylor

Sound Design by
Dan Jankura

Scenic Design/Technical Director
Alan Scott Ferrall

Ragtime is produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International,
421 W. 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by



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



About the Musical

E.L. Doctorow told **The New York Times** in 1999 that his house inspired him to write *Ragtime*. Stuck with writer's block in the early 1970s, Doctorow retreated to his third-floor home office in his large 1908 house in New Rochelle, New York. Here, perched atop his six-bedroom, four-bathroom residence, he began to write about the walls in front of him. As he wrote, his thoughts turned to the past, and he began to ponder what his surroundings looked like back in 1908.

"I was imagining what things were like in that time, with awnings on the windows and trolley cars going down the hill to the Sound and people in straw boaters and women with parasols," he told the **Times**. "One image led to another, and I was off the wall and into the book."

Doctorow's resulting novel, *Ragtime*, was published in 1975 and won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. In 2005, **Time** magazine placed the book on its list of the 100 Best English Language Novels from 1923 to 2005. *Ragtime* features the blending of fictional characters with historical figures and presents the author's penchant for social criticism. He is the recipient of the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Edith Wharton Citation for Fiction, the William Dean Howells Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the presidentially conferred National Humanities Medal.

New Rochelle, just 16 miles north of Grand Central Terminal in New York City, is where the musical opens. We are introduced to the three central families -- each specific yet also archetypal -- whose lives and fates will soon intertwine: the upper-middle class, white Anglo-Saxon Protestants; the socialist immigrant Jews washed ashore from Eastern Europe; and the black residents of Harlem. In this "powder-keg" moment of American history, between the birth of a new American century and the first World War, *Ragtime* depicts an explosive era of change and transformation in America. A story of dreams, a story of justice and injustice, a story of family, *Ragtime* not only shows how things were but offers a jubilant promise of how things could be.

Ragtime was the inaugural production at New York City's Ford Center for the Performing Arts (now the re-named Hilton Theatre and present home to *Young Frankenstein*) when it opened in January 1998. Under the direction of Frank Galati, the lavish and large-scale production had a 59-member cast and a reported production budget of \$10 million. In New York, *Ragtime* played for 834 performances, closing in January of 2000.

Ragtime's New York production had the unfortunate timing of opening during the same season as the still-running Walt Disney blockbuster *The Lion King*. Although *Ragtime* was nominated for 12 Tony Awards, it won just four.

Composer **Stephen Flaherty** and lyricist **Lynn Ahrens** have collaborated on a number of musical-theater works. In addition to *Ragtime*, the songwriting duo's Broadway and off-Broadway shows include *Once on this Island*, *My Favorite Year*, *Suessical*, *A Man of No Importance* and *The Glorious Ones*. The duo also worked on the vocal music for the 1997 animated feature film, *Anastasia*.

American playwright and *Ragtime* book-writer Terrence McNally is a multiple Tony Award winner. His best-known plays include *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *The Ritz*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Corpus Christi* and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. He wrote the books for the musicals *The Rink*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *The Full Monty*. Last season, he was represented on Broadway with *Deuce* (starring Angela Lansbury and Marian Seldes).



Ragtime - Cast, In order of appearance

The Little Boy	Brandon Kline
Father	Russ Harris
Mother	Stephanie Newport
Mother's Younger Brother	Jason Leupold
Grandfather/J.P. Morgan/Fireman/Ensemble	Henry C. Bishop
Coalhouse Walker, Jr.	Tom C. Barnes
Sarah	Natasha R. Williams
Booker T. Washington	Ansley Valentine
Tateh/Baron	Greg Emanuelson
The Little Girl	Shea Lee
Harry Houdini/Fireman	Mark D. Stoffer
Harry Houdini's mother/Ensemble	Jean Blair
Henry Ford	Alfred Anderson
Emma Goldman/Ensemble	Marie Smith
Evelyn Nesbit/Ensemble	Rachel Fichter
Stanford White/Willie Conklin	Mark Judy
Harry K. Thaw/Doctor/Charles S. Whitman	Timothy Mark Adkins
Admiral Peary/Policeman/President/Fireman/Reporter	Steve Ryan
Matthew Henson/Attorney/Ensemble	Marc Jackson
Kathleen/Clerk/Ensemble	Christine Stewart
Bureaucrat/Ensemble	Beth A. Judy
Sarah's Friend	Nichole M. Strong
Fireman/Attorney/Baron's Assistant/Ensemble	Shawn Kinser
Porter/Ensemble	Quincy J. Scott
Brigit/Reporter/Ensemble	Karen L. Wood
Gang Members/Ensemble	Marc Jackson, Brian Armour Quincy J. Scott, Ricardo Young
Little Coalhouse	Ben-Zion Sneed III

Ensemble

Lisa M. Belopotosky, Amanda K. Davis, Adrienne Jones,
Jennifer Ledyard, Danielle Parker, Veronica O. Parkman, Annie Kate Raglow,
Tina Thompkins and Courtney Kay Vatis

There will be ONE 15-minute intermission between the acts.

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

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

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

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

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



Ragtime

Acts, Scenes & Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

Prologue

RAGTIME	Company
	Dock in New York Harbor/At sea
GOODBYE, MY LOVE	Mother
JOURNEY ON	Father, Tateh, Mother
	A vaudeville theater, New York City
THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY	Evelyn Nesbit
	Mother's Younger Brother, Ensemble
	Mother's garden, New Rochelle
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN	Mother
	Ellis Island/Lower East Side
A SHTETL IZ AMEREKE	Tateh, The Little Girl, Immigrants
SUCCESS	Tateh, J.P. Morgan, Harry Houdini, Ensemble
	The Tempo Club/Harlem/Ford's assembly line
GETTIN' READY RAG	Coalhouse Walker Jr., Ensemble
HENRY FORD	Henry Ford, Coalhouse, Ensemble
	Railroad station, New Rochelle
NOTHING LIKE THE CITY	Tateh, Mother, The Little Boy, The Little Girl
	Emerald Isle Firehouse
	Mother's house, New Rochelle
YOUR DADDY'S SON	Sarah
NEW MUSIC	Father, Mother, Younger Brother, Coalhouse, Sarah, Ensemble
	A hillside above New Rochelle
WHEELS OF A DREAM	Coalhouse, Sarah
	A union hall in New York City/Lawrence, Massachusetts, A train
THE NIGHT THAT GOLDMAN SPOKE AT UNION SQUARE	Younger Brother, Emma Goldman, Ensemble
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS	Ensemble
GLIDING	Tateh
	New Rochelle and New York City
JUSTICE	Coalhouse, Ensemble
PRESIDENT	Sarah
TILL WE REACH THAT DAY	Sarah's Friend, Coalhouse, Emma Goldman, Younger Brother, Mother, Tateh, Ensemble

ACT TWO

The streets of New Rochelle/Mother's house

COALHOUSE'S SOLILOQUY	Coalhouse
COALHOUSE DEMANDS	Company
	The Polo Grounds
WHAT A GAME	Father, The Little Boy, Ensemble
	Mother's house
ATLANTIC CITY	Evelyn Nesbit, Harry Houdini
NEW MUSIC (Reprise)	Father
	Atlantic City/Million Dollar Pier/Boardwalk
ATLANTIC CITY, PART II	Ensemble
THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY/HARRY HOUDINI, MASTER ESCAPIST(Reprise)	Evelyn Nesbit, Harry Houdini

Acts, Scenes & Musical Numbers continued

BUFFALO NICKEL, PHOTOPLAY, INC.	Baron Ashkenazy
OUR CHILDREN	Mother, Baron Ashkenazy
	Harlem/Coalhouse's hideout
SARAH BROWN EYES	Coalhouse, Sarah
HE WANTED TO SAY	Emma Goldman, Younger Brother, Coalhouse, Coalhouse's Men
	The beach, Atlantic City
BACK TO BEFORE	Mother
	The Morgan Library, New York City
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE	Booker T. Washington, Coalhouse, Coalhouse's Men
MAKE THEM HEAR YOU	Coalhouse
	Epilogue
RAGTIME/WHEELS OF A DREAM (Reprise)	Company



About Our Directing Team

TERRY BURGLER (Director) is a professional director, actor, writer and educator with a notable record of achievement over the past 30 years. Among his 130 directing credits are two other "epic" style musicals, *Titanic* and *Les Miserables*. He has performed on the Globe Theatre stage in London and acted and directed at numerous regional theatres across the country, including McCarter Theatre, the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Stage/West and Theatre Virginia, where he served for 13 seasons and ranks as the most successful Artistic Director in that theatre's 50-year history. For four years, he was Artistic Director at Porthouse Theatre here in northeast Ohio, presiding over record-breaking seasons that garnered significant critical praise as well. He resigned his position there to be able to pursue his passion for Shakespeare as one of the two founding Artistic Directors of the Ohio Shakespeare Festival. Mr. Burgler holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from Princeton University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). He invites *Ragtime* audiences to visit the Ohio Shakespeare Festival this summer at Stan Hywet to see *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Hamlet* and *I Hate Hamlet*.

JOHN EBNER (Music Director, Conductor, Keyboards) is glad to be back at Weathervane Playhouse. He has also worked extensively as a keyboardist, rehearsal pianist and musical director for the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Carousel Dinner Theatre, The Players Guild of Canton and Kent State University. John has been a music teacher for 30 years, teaching in the Plain Local Schools for the last 20 years. He has performed with Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Academy Award-winning Paul Williams. John has bachelor's and master's degrees in music from The University of Akron, with further study at Ashland University and Kent State University.

STEVE LIEBMAN (Vocal Direction) currently has three shows touring in the U.S. for which he composed the music: two productions of a new *Beauty and the Beast* and *Ellis Island*. Steve has contributed music and/or lyrics to *Bridge to Terabithia* (Kennedy Center), *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (The New Victory on 42nd Street N.Y.), *The Wonder Years* and *Hell's Belles* (Off Broadway), *Gina and the Prince of Mintz* (NYSTI) and *Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* (Stage One). He has often taught music for the Ohio Shakespeare Festival.



Cast Callboard

BRANDON KLINE (The Little Boy) appeared here previously in *Gypsy*, *Madeline's Rescue* and *The Frog Prince*. He has also performed at Carousel Dinner Theatre in *The Music Man*, *Carousel*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The King and I*. A sixth grader at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, he appeared there in *Seussical*, *Pinocchio* and flew as John in *Peter Pan*. He is also a part of the Miller South show choir and has sung at St. Mark Basilica in Venice, Italy, for Cleveland Indians and Akron Aeros games and performed in London and Paris this past spring. Brandon is an award-winning dancer and has been a featured dancer at National Dance Championships. "Thanks to Terry, Wendy, Kelli, my family and friends for your encouragement!"

RUSS HARRIS (Father) appears in his first show at Weathervane, and he says it has been a wonderful experience with such great people and with the wit and passion of our director. He has previously performed in *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma* and *Annie* throughout Cuyahoga County. He is General Counsel for the Ganley auto dealerships (including Ganley Ford!).

STEPHANIE NEWPORT (Mother) is delighted both to be making her debut here at Weathervane and to be representing Mother on her journey in *Ragtime*. Stephanie has been seen on stages throughout northeast Ohio in a variety of roles. Some of her favorites have been Vivian Bearing in *Wit*, Luisa in *The Fantasticks*, Maria in *The Sound of Music* and Mary Jane in *Big River*. Also seen backstage, she has been a musical director for a number of productions, including *Honk!* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!* Her most challenging and rewarding productions by far, however, have been her five children, who continue to make her proud.

JASON LEUPOLD (Mother's Younger Brother) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major at Kent State University. This is his second show at Weathervane Playhouse, last having been seen as Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. He has performed in shows in a variety of theatres in northeast Ohio. Most recently, he was in productions of *Blood Brothers* (Mr. Lyons), *Wonderful Town* (Ensemble), *Les Miserables* (Grant-aire, Joly, ensemble, male understudy) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (Huck). He is incredibly excited to be a part of *Ragtime* and looks forward to being in many great shows like it in the future.

HENRY C. BISHOP (Grandfather/J.P. Morgan/ Ensemble) Henry has played at Weathervane Playhouse previously. He lives in Wayne County with his wife, Karen L. Wood.

TOM C. BARNES (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.) was recently seen in The Morrison Playmakers production of *Forever Plaid*. He also appeared in The Bang and the Clatter Theatre Company's *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *The Late Henry Moss*. Weathervane audiences have enjoyed his performances in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, *The African Company Presents Richard III* and *The Piano Lesson*. A fervent sound designer as well, he designed the sound for our production of *String of Pearls* among many other shows. 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 is employed by State Farm Insurance as a structural estimator.

NATASHA R. WILLIAMS (Sarah) last appeared on the Weathervane Mainstage as a member of the ensemble in *The Wiz*. At Firestone High School, she appeared in the



Cast Callboard - Continued

ensemble of *Evita* and played the Witch in *Into the Woods*. She will be moving to finish her studies at the University of Northern Colorado, where she is pursuing a bachelor's of science in psychology.

ANSLEY VALENTINE (Booker T. Washington) attended Wabash College and completed a Master of Fine Arts at Indiana University. He is an accomplished actor, director, designer, arts administrator and teacher, working in many venues across the country, including Indianapolis Civic Theatre, the Cleveland Play House, Buffalo United Artists, Cleveland Public Theatre and Karamu House. Currently, he serves as Co-Vice Chair of Region III for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. His directing and acting credits include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Once on this Island*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The King and I*, *Crazy for You*, *Me and My Girl*, *Big River* and *Six Degrees of Separation*.

GREG EMANUELSON (Tateh/Baron) Greg is excited to be back at Weathervane, having last been seen dropping his pants as Freddie/Philip in the hilarious 2004 Chanticleer Award-winning production of *Noises Off*. Greg has performed in several Canton-area productions including *Assassins*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Art* and, most recently, *Glengarry Glenn Ross*. "Thank you to the Crisis Recovery Center staff and my family and friends for all of their support during the past six weeks. And a special thanks to Dr. Mark Grubb for fixing my back so I can stand up proudly on the stage again!"

SHEA LEE (The Little Girl) is a seventh-grader at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where she is an honors student and was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She performed in *The Kingdom that Forgot How to Read*, *Seussical the Musical*, *The*

Prince and the Pauper and *Give and Take*. Her stage credits include *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Frog Prince*, all at WCP. She also co-hosted *smARTS*, a Time-Warner Cable TV show. Shea looks forward to participating in Fairmount Performing Arts Camp this summer, where she will be performing as Judah in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. "Hellooo out there to Mom and Dad (aka chauffeurs) and the Trappies!"

MARK D. STOFFER (Harry Houdini/Fireman) is pleased to return to the Weathervane stage, where he has previously appeared in *Dracula*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. In addition to performing in various local community theatres, he is the Administrative and Technical Director of the Heavenly Light Players of Stow Presbyterian Church. By day, he is the Supervisor of Database Administration for InfoCision Management Corporation in Fairlawn. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls with his wife, Sherri.

JEAN BLAIR (Houdini's mother/ Ensemble) is an Adjunct Professor of Voice at The University of Akron where she has performed in recitals, operas, oratorios and musical-theater productions. Her most recent appearances at the university were as the Narrator/Soloist in *Side by Side by Sondheim* and as a member of the ensemble in *Sweeney Todd*, both directed by Alfred Anderson. Weathervane audiences saw her last December as the Mother in Gian Carlo Menotti's Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. In 2006, she played the Mother Abbess in Weathervane's production of *The Sound of Music*, one of her favorite roles, and was awarded a Chanticleer for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. She lives in Akron and is soprano soloist for the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour.



Cast Callboard - Continued

ALFRED ANDERSON (Henry Ford) has performed a variety of roles locally with Porthouse Theatre, the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Akron Symphony Orchestra and The University of Akron Opera/Musical Theater.

MARIE SMITH (Emma Goldman) is pleased to be appearing back at Weathervane. An avid performer in north-east Ohio, she was most recently seen in Playhouse Square's production of *We Gotta Bingo* (Birgit/Swing). Some of her favorite credits include *Seussical the Musical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Nunsense II: The Second Coming* (Sr. Mary Leo), *Annie* (Grace Farrell), *Rumors* (Cassie Cooper), *Red, Hot and Cole* (Bricktop) and *The Full Monty* (Susan Hershey). Other credits include *Bad Girls on Broadway*, *Grease*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, *Our Town*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Blame it on the Movies*. She also choreographed *Honk!*, *Nunsense II: The Second Coming* and *Blame It on the Movies*. Marie studied voice and theater at The Ohio State University. "Many thanks to the cast and my family for their love and support!"

RACHEL FICHTER (Evelyn Nesbit) was last seen at Weathervane as Eileen in *Moon Over Buffalo*. Most recently, she played The Kid in *The Emperor's Groovy New Clothes* at the Cleveland Play House and one of the Silly Girls in *Beauty and the Beast* at the Beck Center for the Arts. Last summer she worked with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, where she appeared in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Othello*. Rachel recently received her B.A. in Theatre and English from the College of Wooster. Favorite undergraduate roles include Cordelia in *King Lear*, Asaka in *Once On This Island* and Constance in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*.

MARK JUDY (Stanford White/Willie Conklin) shares the stage with his wife, Beth Judy, in this production. This Kent State University graduate currently serves as the president of Hudson Players, where his onstage appearances include roles in *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Forever Plaid*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Grease*, *My Favorite Year* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He's appeared with Stow Players in *Guys and Dolls* and *The Fantasticks*. He resides in Stow and works for Sterling Jewelers, Inc.

TIMOTHY MARK ADKINS (Harry K. Thaw/Doctor/Charles S. Whitman) is making his first appearance at Weathervane and is thrilled to be in this wonderful production of *Ragtime*. An Ohio native and no stranger to the stage, his credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Bad Girls on Broadway*, *Mame*, *Dreamgirls*, *Oklahoma!*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Li'l Abner* and various other stage and musical productions throughout Ohio and Florida. He is excited to be working with a wonderfully talented cast and director and looks forward to making new friends along the way. Mark dedicates his performance to his beautiful daughter (Brittany Nichole), his handsome grandson (Blake) and his beautiful late mother, Fanny, who has always been his inspiration.

STEVE RYAN (Admiral Peary/Police-man) is a familiar face at many local theaters, most recently as an over-the-hill actor in *Laughing Stock* at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, Stephen Hopkins in *1776* at Tri-C West, and Senator Hedges in *Born Yesterday* at Actors' Summit. Some of his favorite roles include a cavalry soldier in *Custer*, Willie Clark in *The Sunshine Boys*, Abbott Costello in *Monky Business*, Rabbit in *Winnie The Pooh's Christmas Tale*,



Cast Callboard - Continued

Poole in *Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical*, the Barber in *Man of La Mancha* and the Innkeeper in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Steve also plays a variety of good and bad guys in audience-participation murder mysteries. Steve enjoys traveling, playing the banjo and clarinet, and shares his life with his wonderful wife, Linda, with whom he delights in spoiling their grandchildren.

MARC JACKSON (Henson/Gang Member/Ensemble) makes his Weathervane debut in this production of *Ragtime* but is no stranger to the glow of the footlights. He holds a bachelor's degree in theater from The University of Akron, where he acted in such productions as *A Dream Play*, *Cabaret*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Noises Off*, *Macbeth* and *The Trojan Women*. He was the recipient of the university's Paul A. Daum scholarship and received a University Park Alliance Award for his theatrical direction of students at Akron's Leggett Elementary School. At present, he works the run crew for the Cleveland Play House. His future goals include acting professionally and pursuing the study of massage therapy. He lives in Bedford Heights.

CHRISTINE STEWART (Kathleen/Clerk/Ensemble) is happy to be making her stage debut at Weathervane. Currently, she is a vocal-music director at Cuyahoga Falls High School and serves as Director of Music at First Christian Church in Cuyahoga Falls. She is also a member of the professional chamber choir, Singers Company. Christine graduated from The University of Akron with a Bachelor and Masters of Music, where she performed in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Tosca*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Carmen* and *The King and I*. She was also cast as Clara's Aunt in the Children's Ballet Theatre production of *The Nutcracker*. Christine thanks her mom and dad for the piano and ballet lessons that

started it all.

BETH A. JUDY (Bureaucrat/Ensemble) shares the stage with her husband, Mark Judy, in this production. Her acting resume includes roles at Hudson Players (*Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Noises Off* and *I Hate Hamlet*), at Stow Players (*Guys and Dolls*) and at Aurora Community Theatre (*Bye, Bye Birdie* and *Anything Goes*). This Hiram College graduate works in management for Progressive Insurance and lives in Stow.

NICHOLE M. STRONG (Sarah's Friend) is a Toledo native and this is her first performance on Weathervane's mainstage. Classically trained in vocal performance, she has also studied dance with Sheila Gibson of Toledo, Kelli Berrick (Firestone High School) and Halifu Osumare (Bowling Green State University). Some of Nichole's theatrical credits include *Guys and Dolls* (1997), *The King and I* (2000) and *Crowns* (2006).

SHAWN KINSER (Fireman/Baron's Assistant/Attorney/Ensemble) is excited to return to Weathervane Playhouse and to be part of this amazing show. He was last seen on our stage as Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2003. He is a graduate of Kent State University with a B.A. degree in music having studied both voice and bassoon. Some favorite roles include the Baker (*Into the Woods*), Cat (*Honk!*) and Harold Bride (*Titanic*). He thanks all of his family, friends and co-workers for their continued support. "Enjoy the show!"

QUINCY J. SCOTT (Porter/Gang member) is a graduate student at The University of Akron who arrived in northeast Ohio by way of Hawkins, Texas, where he graduated from Jarvis Christian College with a bachelor's in music and voice. He lives in Medina.

KAREN L. WOOD (Brigit/Reporter)



Cast Callboard - Continued

retired on June 1 after 37 years as an intervention specialist in the North Central Local Schools. Now that she does not have work to interfere, Karen hopes to spend more time onstage. Karen has appeared on many stages including Music Fair, the College of Wooster, Weathervane, Coach House Theatre, the late Goodyear Community Theatre, the Ohio Shakespeare Festival and Cleveland Public Theatre. Karen also enjoys appearing in "Mysteries by Moushey." Favorite roles include Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*), Amalia (*She Loves Me*), Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*) and Mazeppa (*Gypsy*). Karen is married to the dashing Henry C. Bishop, with whom she shares a rustic home and a vast quantity of cats in Wayne County.

BEN-ZION SNEED III (Little Coalhouse) is four years old and is a pre-schooler at All About Children. The son of Chaniel and Ben-Zion Sneed II, he is a very outgoing and inquisitive young man. Ben is a member of the Tiny Tots basketball league and also enjoys reading, learning Spanish, going to parks, kite flying, coloring, collecting model cars and spending time with friends and family. When Ben grows up, he aspires to become a police officer like his grandpa. Ben's first theater experience came through his grandmother, Lucille Humphrey, when she took him to one of our annual puppet shows.

BRIAN ARMOUR (Ensemble/Gang Member) is 22 years old and was recently seen in our production of *Children of a Lesser God*. He has been a musician for 13 years and is thrilled to be in this show. Brian thanks God for blessing him with the chance to do what he loves. He also sends thanks to his mother (Diane Armour) and his brothers (Michael Armour and David Jones). He thanks his best friend (Natasha Williams) for pushing him to do this show,

John Hedges for continuing to support his endeavors in acting and Terry Burgler for giving him the opportunity and for being so encouraging.

LISA M. BELOPOTOSKY (Ensemble) is a frequent northeast Ohio performer who makes her Weathervane debut in *Ragtime*. Some of her recent stage credits include roles in *Bad Girls on Broadway*, *Mame*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical*, all at The Players Guild of Canton. She holds a bachelor's degree in strategic communications from Miami University, where she appeared onstage in *Company*, *West Side Story* and *Into the Woods*. Off the stage, she is the director of communications for St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church in Canton, volunteers for the Special Olympics and teaches students in acting and vocal instruction. The next "production" on her slate is her September wedding to Sean Knight.

AMANDA K. DAVIS (Ensemble) will be familiar to Weathervane audiences who saw her on our stage earlier this 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*. Last spring, 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.

ADRIENNE JONES (Ensemble) will be a senior at Crestwood High School this coming fall. She has appeared in many shows throughout northeast Ohio, playing Biondello in the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival's *Taming of the Shrew*, Elma in *Bus Stop* with the Hudson Players and Amy in



Cast Callboard - Continued

Little Women at Chagrin Valley Little Theater. Other memorable roles include Lefou in *Beauty and the Beast* and The Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* She sends many thanks to Terry and love to those who have always supported her!

JENNIFER LEDYARD (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing in her first show at Weathervane. She has also performed at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens and at The Players Guild of Canton. She is currently pursuing a degree from The University of Akron. When not there, you can usually find her working at Wal-Mart. (The irony of being in this show and working there does not escape her, she says). Jennifer thanks her family (all of whom have been so supportive!) and her friends (because they rock!). "And," she adds, "to all the kids down at the Albatross Club: I am lucky to have all of you in my life."

DANIELLE PARKER (Ensemble) is currently a junior at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy where she performed in shows such as *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *While Shakespeare Slept* and *The Music Man* for which she was inducted into the Royal Thespian Society. In addition, she recently completed the spring show, *Oliver!*, where she held featured dance and vocal roles. For Weathervane, she played the role of the Butler in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She is a member of her school's concert, gospel and show choirs and sings on her church's worship team and in the youth choir.

VERONICA PARKMAN (Ensemble) A native of Texas she performed in several plays with Wiley College and Jarvis Christian College including roles in *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Colored Museum* and *For Colored Girls*. She has also starred in *Dracula* as Dr. Quincy and *The Piano Lesson* with the Misonla Children's Theater

in Montana where she also appeared as the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* and an evil step-sister in *Cinderella*. Her favorite role was that of Calpurnia in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Veronica is married and lives with her husband LeCedric Parkman and a baby boy named Josiah.

ANNIE KATE RAGLOW (Ensemble) is very happy to be in this play! "It has been so much fun!" she says. Annie was one of the schoolgirls in Weathervane's *Made-line's Rescue* and appeared as Strawberry Shortcake in *The Tale of the Three Little Pigs* (at the Playhouse's recent TheaterFest fundraiser). She also played Gretl in *The Sound of Music* at Walsh Jesuit High School. She sings in ETC show choir and her church's choir. Annie has two brothers and one sister, with whom she sings all the time. Besides singing, acting, dancing and performing, Annie enjoys tumbling as well as playing with her friends. She is 10 years old, in the fourth grade in St. Hilary School and is a straight-A student.

TINA THOMPkins (Ensemble) was last seen in the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival's *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Richard III*. Her other credits include ECT's production of *Secret at Sugarcourt*, The Bang and The Clatter Theatre Company's *The Late Henry Moss* and Karamu's production of *Johnny Taylor's Gone*. At the Scotland Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, she was in *Intensive Care*. She was also in Weathervane's production of *A Lesson Before Dying* and Strongsville Playhouse's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A few of her other favorite shows were *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Watch for the new films, *Big Foot*, shot two summers ago, and *Expect a Miracle*, which was shot last summer. Her dream is to visit Floyd's Knob to eat turtle soup. "Thank you for your support!"



Cast Callboard - Continued

COURTNEY KAY VATIS (Ensemble) is proud to be a senior theater and English major at Baldwin-Wallace College. In the past year, she has played Lady Macduff in *Macbeth* at Baldwin-Wallace and, at The University of Akron, she played Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense* and Sarah Siddons in *The Actor's Nightmare*. She will be graduating in May 2009.

RICARDO YOUNG (Ensemble/Gang Member) is making his first appearance at Weathervane and is proud to be in this production of *Ragtime*. An Ohio native, Ricardo's credits include *A Christmas*

Carol, *Bad Girls on Broadway* and *Mame*. He is excited to be working again with Lisa Belopotosky and Timothy Mark Adkins, two of his closest friends and former co-stars. Ricardo is elated to be working with a wonderfully talented cast and director. He plans on attending acting school in Los Angeles this coming fall and dedicates his performance to his beautiful mother, Dephanie, and his late Aunt Diane, who has always been his true inspiration. Ricardo is also proud to be the new uncle of baby Serenity Young, whom he absolutely loves and adores.

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Keyboards
John Ebner
Jordan Cooper

Bass
Mike Forfia



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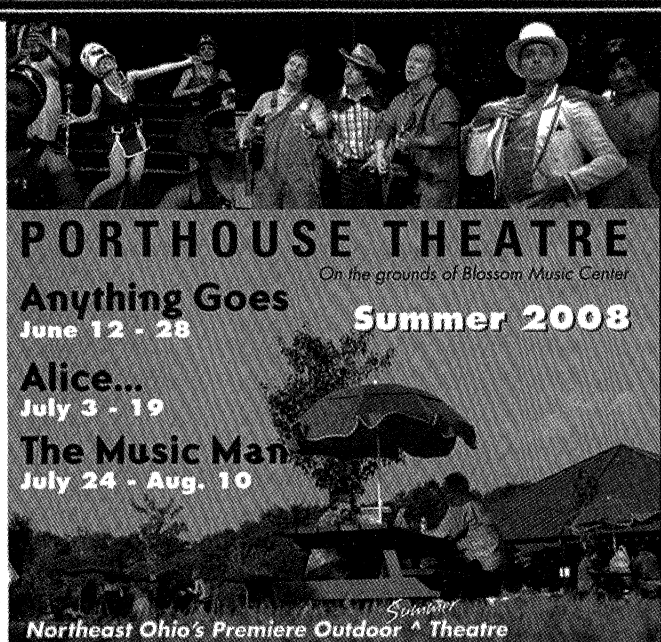
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Creative Team Callboard

JERRY MIRMAN (Stage Manager) has served Weathervane for the past 20 years in a variety of roles, including but not limited to acting, stage managing and as a designer of lighting and stage properties. His recent contributions include stage managing *Moon Over Buffalo*, *I Do! I Do!*, *The Sound of Music* and *Over the Tavern* as well as lighting design for *Fences*. He has appeared on stage, too, in *The Adding Machine*, *Major Barbara*, *A Cry of Players*, *Man of La Mancha* and *1776*. Jerry has also worked for several summers as a stage manager for the Ohio Shakespeare Festival. For the current season, he serves as properties chair for Weathervane's Production Board. During those rare times that he is not living at Weathervane, Jerry is a police, fire and 911 dispatcher for Copley Township.

MARTI COLES (Costume Designer) is a graduate of Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance with a concentration in costume design. For the past five years, she has been the Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor for KSU. Although this is her first design assignment with Weathervane, Marti has designed for several other theaters in the area including Porthouse Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Karamu House, Magical Theatre Company and Stagecrafters. Favorite productions include *Foxfire*, *Jitney*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and, most recently, *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document by a Young Lady from Rwanda*. Marti thanks Weathervane's volunteer costume staff and, in particular, Sandra Harding and Donna Larabee, who have been invaluable in this process. She also offers special thanks to Kent State University and The Players Guild of Canton.

BUDDY TAYLOR (Lighting Designer) is about to start his sixth season with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival as Production Manager and Lighting Designer. Earlier this season, he designed lights for *Moon Over Buffalo* at Weathervane and *Oh, Coward!* at Coach House Theatre. Most recently, he was a recording engineer for *Agamemnon* at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and played guitar in *Cotton Patch Gospel* in Chicago.

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

PAMELA PARKS COSTA (Properties Designer) was properties designer for our production of *The Frog Prince* at the beginning of this season. Along with her husband, Al, she assisted in the creation of programs for the Stow-Munroe Falls High School musicals for about seven years. Mother of two, she has been a youth leader for church, Campfire leader for Bluebirds and membership chair for several church and school organizations. Now, she spends most of her time as a grandmother of three. She is excited to be working with Weathervane again!

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Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

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Kevin Ford Roger Dieringer
Tom Marshall Sandy Horvath
Jay Fishman Leah Magnus
Erin Katz Ford Justyn Jaymes
Judy Willemsen

LIGHTS

John Estep Evelyn Sperry
Erin Katz Ford Robyn Cooper
Leah Magnus Leslie Johnson
Jen Maxson Michael Pistrui
Kristofer Sperry

PROPERTIES

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Jasmine McAdams Benjamin Fortin
Alison Cooper G.G. Glenn
Russ Rafferty Pete Gutwein
Melanie Pepe Martha Kaltenbach
Al Costa Sharon Kilby
Erik Knuth Kathy Kohl
Katie McConnell Tom Marshall
Jeff Bigler Susan Michael
Caitlin Bolden Becca Morris
Ian Bolden Donna Philips
Karen BurrIDGE Michael Pistrui
Patrick BurrIDGE Michelle Williams
Sylvia Collier

COSTUMES

Sandra Harding Ethel Soudry Karen BurrIDGE Connie Velotta
Debbie Snell Judy Adamson Jasen Smith Donna Laribee
Helen Vari Nancy Bosshard John Carlos

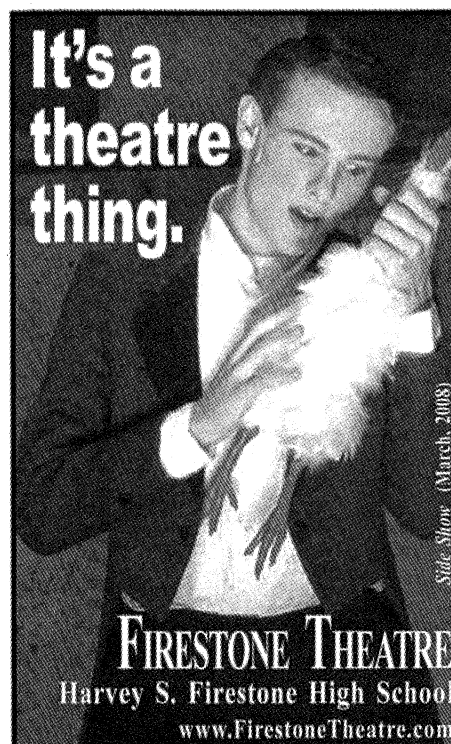
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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- ☞ a strobe-like effect is used
- ☞ a fog machine is used
- ☞ a cigarette will be lit
- ☞ a gun will be fired



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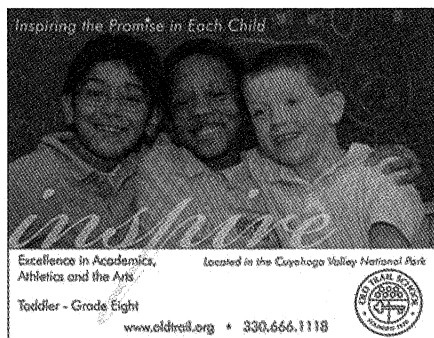


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Director of Audience Development
Melanie Y.C. Pepe
Director of Education
Alan Scott Ferrall
Scenic Designer / Technical Director
Barbara Trotter
Coordinator of Volunteers
Lisa Mansfield
Patron Services Manager
Dreajean L. Brown
Data Services Manager
Kathryn A. Kohl
Assistant Technical Director
Benjamin Rexroad
Public Relations & Outreach Assistant
Nancy Humes
Education Assistant

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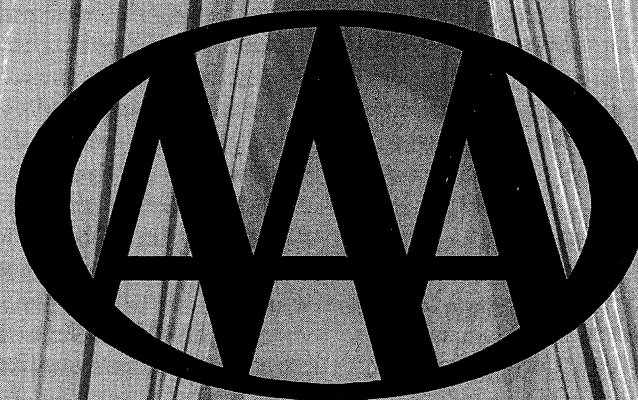
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Volunteering at WeatherVane

WeatherVane began as a volunteer organization and continues its growth thanks to the time and talent that members of our community invest in it. Our on-stage performers have worked long and hard to earn your applause. But their work is supported by many other unseen men and women who've helped build and paint sets, run the lights and sound, make sure that properties and set dressing items are in their proper places and do other backstage labor from stage managing to costuming and make-up. Supporting those who are actively involved in putting on each show are still more volunteers who usher, house manage, sell tickets, keep our office running and serve on our Board of Trustees, Board committees, Production Board, Advisory Board and Women's Board.

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

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

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

Share the Annual Chanticleer Celebration

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

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

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

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

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

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



Volunteer Responsibilities

Here's a quick introduction to the responsibilities volunteers undertake to make our shows work. If you'd like to try your hand at any of these jobs, please call us. We'll help you learn! In addition, you receive complimentary tickets to see the shows plus the pride in knowing you are joining nearly 1 million volunteers nationwide to support community theater! Volunteers with 100 hours or more of service are eligible for a special WeatherVane membership!

✳ **Stage Management** Duties include assisting the director throughout the rehearsal period, calling cues, keeping backstage safe and orderly, and coordinating the technical needs of the show with the actors. A great opportunity for those who enjoy planning, communicating and taking charge. Once the director's work is done, it's the Stage Manager who runs each performance.

✳ **Set Construction** Use your building skills, carpentry or painting techniques to help make illusion come to life. Help is needed days and evenings.

✳ **Costumes** Designers and workers are vital. We invite skilled and unskilled seamstresses to make or alter costumes, create patterns, care for costumes during a show and keep our wardrobe department organized.

✳ **Lighting** Experience is a plus, but you can learn by assisting others who know computers and electrical requirements. We'll train eager volunteers to help hang, focus and add color to lighting instruments. We'll also teach you how to run the light board and follow spots. *Nobody can see the show without you.*

✳ **Sound** Create the music and sound effects tapes that enrich the aural envi-

ronment for each show or add "live" backstage sound. Run the sound system for technical rehearsals and productions.

✳ **Properties** All the items that help "dress" a set and all those used by actors in rehearsal and performance (from tea sandwiches to "deadly" weapons and "shattering" windowpanes) must be borrowed, built or cooked. Many volunteers are needed to work on each performance.

✳ **Office Volunteer** If you enjoy dealing with the public, we can use your help during office hours and on show nights to assist in selling tickets and answering the phone to take reservations. You may also help with mailings, work with staff and greet customers and visitors.

✳ **Ushering** Welcome audience members with your smile, show them to their seats, pass out programs, and serve refreshments at intermission. Your help is always welcome.

✳ **House Manager** This representative greets the audience, tears tickets and guides theater-goers to ushers for seating. You'll work with the stage manager to coordinate the timing of intermissions and remain in the lobby throughout the show to handle any emergency.



Who Gets On Stage?

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

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

Local newspapers carry audition dates and times or call Weathervane at 330-836-2626 to be added to the audition mailing list. Some directors prefer to set appointments for audition times and may ask that you come prepared with a brief

monologue, improvisational subject or musical number. Copies of plays scheduled or audition scenes are often available for a nominal deposit.

When you arrive at the Playhouse on audition nights, you'll learn about the rehearsal and performance schedule. You may also register as a production volunteer if you're interested in learning about the technical opportunities in the show.

You may be asked to return for callbacks and will be notified of the director's cast selection as soon as possible. Please note that if you don't win the role you've wanted so badly, it may not necessarily reflect on your talent. The director's choice of cast members must take many factors into account. So, don't be discouraged and please audition again.

Beware of the Dreaded No-Show

Have you ever seen empty seats at a sold out sporting event or concert? Weathervane has the same problem. Subscribers who may have exchanged from another performance wonder why they weren't given those prime empty seats for the evening.

When you buy a subscription, you are promising to come to the theater for that ticketed performance and we hold your seat(s). This makes it impossible to tell if a performance is ever really sold out and annoys other ticket buyers who see that they could have been seated in a better spot.

Subscribers: Please call the Ticket Office at 836-2626 if you will not make your ticketed performance. Thank you.

Weathervane Traditions

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

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

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

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

Proud To Support Weathervane Community Playhouse

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Vision Statement

The Akron-Summit County Public Library is recognized locally as an essential community asset and nationally as one of the finest public libraries in the United States due to its excellent customer service, collaborative community involvement, and high level of customer and employee satisfaction.

Mission Statement

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

Core Values

Excellence

Striving for excellence in all we do.

Service

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

Learning

Fostering life-long learning and individual enrichment.

Integrity

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

Innovative Thinking

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

Inclusion

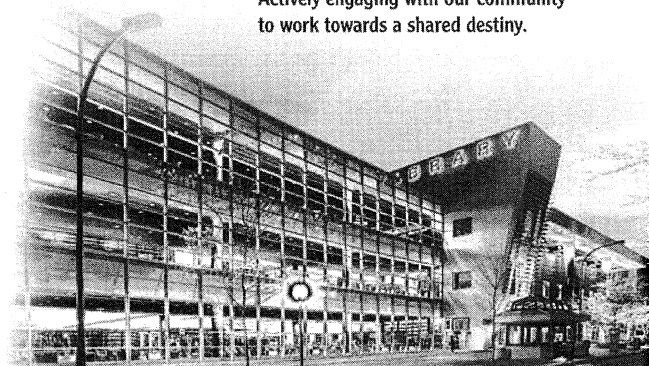
Working together and listening to customers and staff.

Diversity

Embracing and respecting diversity in our community, collection, services, and staff.

Community

Actively engaging with our community to work towards a shared destiny.



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