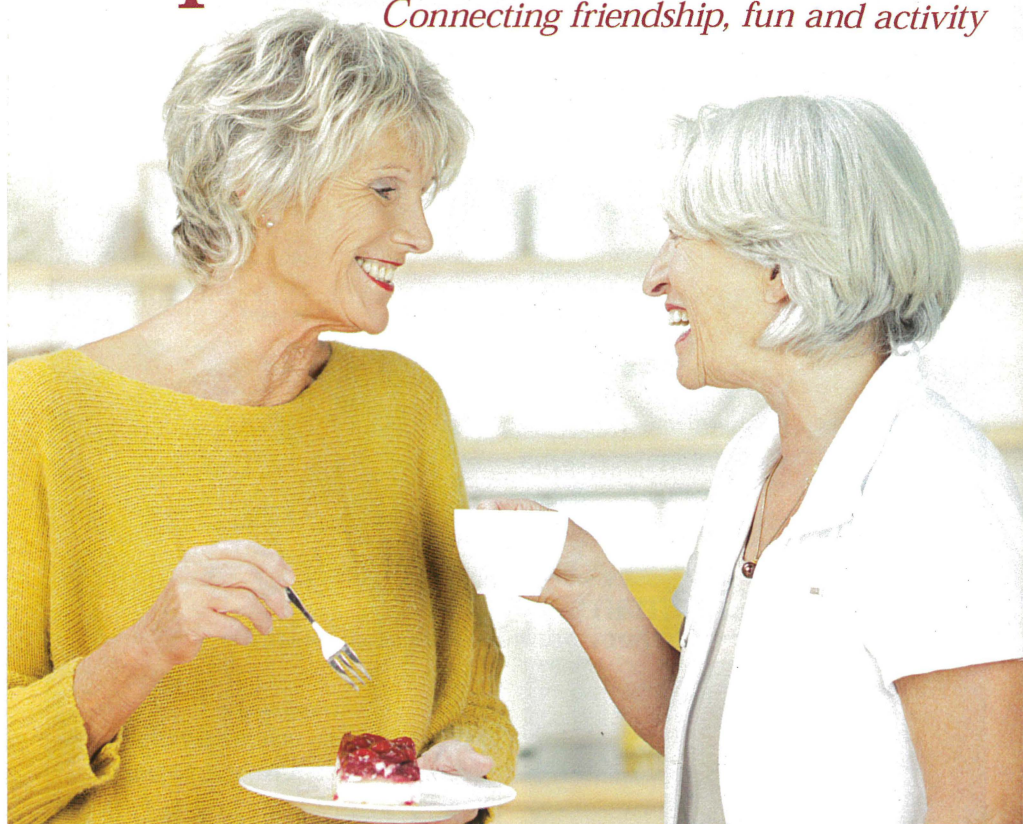


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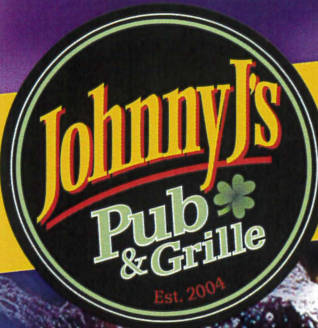
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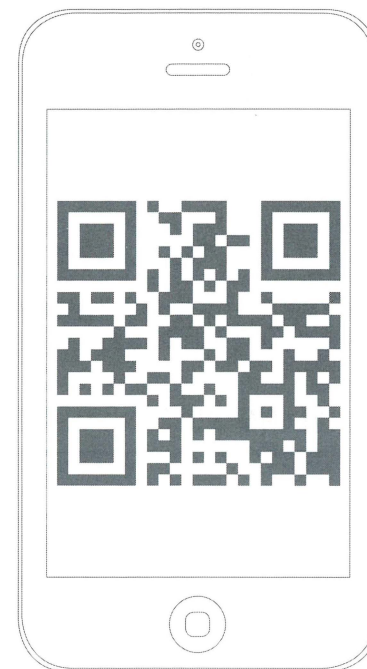
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# WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE and STAGEVIEW



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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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

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

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

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 82<sup>nd</sup> Season.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRODUCTION UNDERWRITERS



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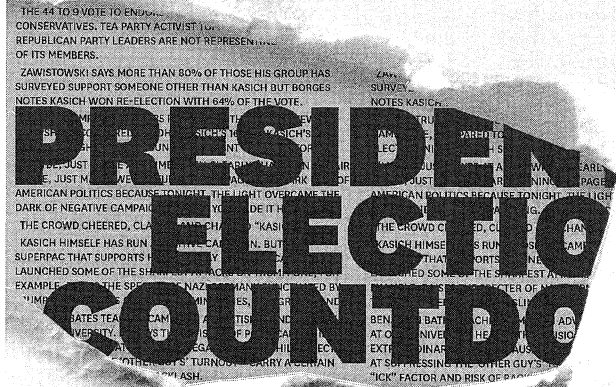
## Continuing on exhibit... Fearsome and Friendly Aliens

Since "Audrey II," the man-eating plant in our production of *Little Shop of Horrors* turns out to be an alien, I thought it would be fun to feature an exhibit of aliens as created by artists who were featured in two of last season's exhibits.

First, Robert A. Kraus, who was our gallery artist for *Dracula* last season. Robert is the owner/creator of the independent company, RAK Graphics. He graduated in 1977 from Central Hower High School, where he participated in the vocational commercial arts program. Robert attended The University of Akron briefly before creating his self-published graphic novel character "Chakran, The Forever Man." This character was later made into a Sega Genesis Video Game in the mid 90's. He was one of the first independent Comic Book and Game Publishers and the sole designer and fantasy artist of the board game "Dragon War" and the hundreds of expansions to go with it. This is a game that is never played the same way twice. Robert is the creator of RAK Attack Monsters, a toy line of game pieces, display and collectible 3D artworks. He has a large offering of "Superfreeks," a super-hero spoof series. Robert is involved in several Comic Cons throughout the year, including San Diego Comic Con (The Mother of all Comic Cons) and several Wizard World Cons. He enjoys meeting and talking to his fans and will even host a "Dragon War" Game night at his home a few times a year. When his fans ask him if he likes what he does, his famous saying is, "Of course....how many people do you know that get to scribble for a living?" Visit [www.rakgraphics.com](http://www.rakgraphics.com) to see all his work.

Second, Scott Alan Evans, who was one of our gallery artists for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in the spring. He works in several mediums including paint, photography and digital art. His themes often focus on a collective mix of nature, mythology, supernatural, science fiction and fantasy elements. Scott is a resident artist at Studio 2091 Mothersbaugh Studios in Cuyahoga Falls. His work has been shown in galleries in over 50 exhibitions throughout Northeast Ohio. Scott contributed the "Dragon Horse" for the St. Clair Superior "Year of the Horse" public art project in Cleveland. "Elementals," an exhibition of mythological works was displayed at Studio 2091. In 2015, he created several works for Dr. Sketchy's "Grimm's Fairy Tale Show" held at Studio 2091 and later at Nine Muses Gallery in Cleveland. Scott also curated the Studio 2091 Tarot Deck and Art Show, gathering together 78 artists from throughout the United States as well as Ireland and France, completing an entire Tarot deck. In early 2016, he brought his "Mythography" show to the Merging Hearts Holistic Center in Canton.

Marci Paolucci  
Gallery Curator

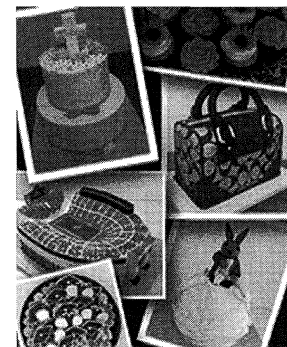


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By John Logan

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RED premiered at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London on December 3, 2009,  
Michael Grandage, Artistic Director.

Original Broadway Production by Arielle Tepper Madover, Stephanie P. McClelland,  
Matthew Byam Shaw, Neal Street Productions, Fox Theatricals, Ruth Hendel/Barbara Whitman,  
Philip Hagemann/Murray Rosenthal and The Donmar Warehouse.

Likenesses of the Rothko Seagram Mural Panels used with permission.

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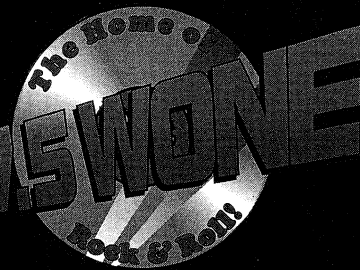
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## ABOUT THE SHOW

Based on the real-life story of the American abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko, *Red* reveals the dynamic tension between an artist and his works. The play begins in 1958, just as Rothko has been hired to create a series of enormous murals that will hang in the most exclusive room at the The Four Seasons, an elaborately posh restaurant set to open inside the Seagram Building in Midtown Manhattan. As Rothko prepares his large canvases, he barks orders at his young assistant Ken, and inbetween brushstrokes lectures his young protégé on his uncompromising philosophies of both art and life. But when Ken attains the confidence to challenge his teacher, Rothko must confront the agonizing possibility that his greatest achievement could prove to be his ultimate downfall.

*Red* was first produced by the Donmar Warehouse in London, where it premiered in December 2009 starring Alfred Molina as Mark Rothko and Eddie Redmayne as Ken. These two actors reprised their roles when the play opened on Broadway in April 2010 for a limited three-month run at the John Golden Theatre. *Red* on Broadway won six Tony Awards, including best play, as well as three Drama Desk Awards.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**JOHN LOGAN** is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. He was born in 1961 and grew up in California and New Jersey before moving to Chicago to attend Northwestern University. After graduating from the university, he worked for nearly a decade in Chicago as a playwright before turning to screenwriting. In addition to *Red*, his plays include *Never the Sinner* (which deals with the infamous Leopold and Loeb murder case of 1924) and *Hauptmann* (which concerns the 1936 execution of

Bruno Hauptmann, the German immigrant convicted of murdering aviator Charles Lindbergh's son). His prolific work as a screenwriter includes *Any Given Sunday*, *RKO 281*, *The Last Samurai*, *Gladiator*, *The Aviator*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (winner of the 2008 Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture-Musical or Comedy) and two James Bond films, *Skyfall* and *Spectre*. Among his many accolades, he won the 1999 Writers Guild of America Award for Best TV Adapted Writing for *RKO 281*. He is also a three-time nominee for the Academy Award for best screenplay (for *Gladiator*, *The Aviator* and *Hugo*). In 2013, he premiered two new plays: *Peter and Alice*, a two-character drama, and *I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers*, a one-woman play about the first female Hollywood "super agent." Logan created the British-American television horror drama *Penny Dreadful*, which aired from 2014 to 2016, and he also served as writer and executive producer for the show. Most recently, he served as one of three writers for the science-fiction movie *Alien: Covenant*, which opens in theatres in August 2017.

## ABOUT MARK ROTHKO

Mark Rothko was born Marcus Rothkowitz on September 25, 1903, in Dvinsk, Russia. In 1913 his family left Russia and settled in Portland, Oregon. Rothko attended Yale University, New Haven, on a scholarship from 1921 to 1923 (though he left Yale prematurely and moved to New York). In 1925 he studied under Max Weber at the Art Students League. He participated in his first group exhibition at the Opportunity Galleries, New York, in 1928. During the early 1930s Rothko became a close friend of the artists Milton Avery and Adolph Gottlieb. Rothko's first solo show took place at the Portland Art Museum, Oregon, in 1933.

Rothko's first solo exhibition in New York was held at the Contemporary Arts Gallery in 1933. In 1935, together with William Bazotes, Gottlieb, and others, Rothko founded the Ten, a group of artists sympathetic to abstraction and expressionism that exhibited until 1940. He executed easel paintings for the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project from 1936 to 1937. By 1936 Rothko knew Barnett Newman, a major figure in abstract expressionism. In the early 1940s he worked closely with Gottlieb, developing a painting style with mythological content, simple flat shapes, and imagery inspired by so-called primitive art. By mid-decade his work incorporated Surrealist techniques and images. Peggy Guggenheim gave Rothko a solo show at Art of This Century, New York, in 1945.

In 1947 and 1949 Rothko taught at the California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, where Clyfford Still was a fellow instructor. With Bazotes, David Hare, and Robert Motherwell, Rothko founded the short-lived school Subjects of the Artist, New York, in 1948. The late 1940s and early 1950s saw the emergence of Rothko's mature style, in which frontal, luminous rectangles seem to hover on the canvas surface.

He received his first large commission in 1958, when he was hired to create a series of large murals for the soon-to-open Four Seasons restaurant in New York. Though Rothko completed the murals, he grew disillusioned with the project. He returned the money he had been paid and refused to give his paintings to the restaurant. Ultimately, his final series of paintings was dispersed and today the works hang in three locations: London's Tate Gallery, Japan's Kawamura Memorial Museum and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

In 1961, the Museum of Modern Art in New York gave Rothko an important solo exhibition. In 1962, he completed murals for Harvard University and in 1964 accepted a mural commission for an interdenominational chapel in Houston. Rothko committed suicide on February 25, 1970, in his New York studio. A year later, the Rothko Chapel in Houston was dedicated, and in 1978, the Guggenheim Museum organized a major retrospective.

(From the website of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum)




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## CAST

Russell Kunz .....Mark Rothko  
 Joshua Larkin .....Ken

## SETTING

The time: 1958.

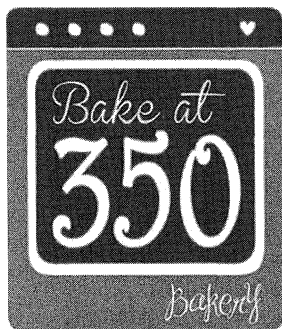
The place: An artist's New York City studio on the Bowery.

*Red* is performed with no intermission.

## THANKS TO OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who have recently contributed time and talents.

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**MELANIE YC PEPE** (Director) holds a B.F.A. in Theatrical Performance and Management from Kent State University, where she is now serving on the School of Theatre and Dance Advisory Board. At Weathervane, she has produced over 35 theatrical productions and recent directing credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. And as always, she sends special thanks to her husband and children for their incredible love and support.



**AL COSTA** (Stage Manager) served as the assistant stage manager for *Peter and the Starcatcher* and was last seen on our stage as President Roosevelt in *Annie*. He also served as properties co-designer on our production of *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*. Outside of his theatrical pursuits, he enjoys baseball and its storied history. Retired after 40-plus years of service with FirstEnergy, he and his wife, Pamela Parks Costa, live in Akron. They are proud parents to two children and grandparents to three.



**ROBERT PECK** (Scenic Designer) has worked as a technical director, production manager, stage manager, sound, lighting and scenic designer as well as a properties master. He has worked for The Cleveland Play House, Ensemble Theatre Company, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre and Opera Cleveland as well as serving as the Technical Director and Resident Designer for Hathaway Brown School and also had the pleasure of serving as an artist in residence at The Cleveland School of the Arts.



**SUE STOUT-DAVIS** (Lighting Designer) began as a volunteer at Weathervane in the fall of 1983. She won a Chanticleer Award for Lighting Design for *Dracula* in 2015 and *Camping with Henry and Tom* in 1999. Sue volunteers for many shows on the light crew. Her most recent lighting designs were for *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and *Uncle Vanya*. She also can be found volunteering in our gift shop. Sue works at UPS, where she serves as the Wellness Champion on the company's Safety Committee. She makes her home in Cuyahoga Falls with her husband, Gary, and their sons, Nick and William.



**PAMELA PARKS COSTA** (Properties Designer) most recently designed props for last season's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Other properties design credits include *Hamlet*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Flyin' West*, *Annie*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*, *Quilters* and *Seussical the Musical*.



**CHRISTOPHER PEPE** (Sound Designer) has been working with live sound for more than 25 years. In May of 2008, he started an event production company, Clear Gold Audio & Lighting, which has expanded to live sound, lighting and video production for numerous Northeast Ohio events. Recent projects include audio for a private event with Sandra Joseph (from the Broadway production of *Phantom*), a national holiday tour as Production Manager and Audio Engineer for Jim Brickman, as well as a full concert production for Steve Augieri (former lead singer of Journey). Christopher has designed for numerous Weathervane productions including *Annie*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Dracula*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*.



**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions.

As a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



**KATHY KOHL** (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in business management from

Aurora University. She began her theater career at Weathervane as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction and props crews, joining the professional staff in 2002. She also served for seven years as master painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was scenic co-designer for our productions of *You Can't Take It With You*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Trustee Award and holds three Chanticleer awards for her properties designs for *Enchanted April*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. She lives with her husband, Doug, in West Akron where they raised their three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett and Maisie.



**RUSSELL KUNZ** (Mark Rothko) is very pleased to return to Weathervane. His last production here was *Chicago* in 1987, where he met Deb Lemire of Queen Bee Productions. Fun fact, that cast brought together at least two other couples that later married. First cast here in 1973's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Russell is best known as a loving husband and father. "Hey, Rocky, watch me pull a rabbit outta my hat!"



**JOSHUA LARKIN** (Ken) is pleased to be returning to Weathervane and appearing in his first Dietz Theater production. He has previously appeared on the Weathervane stage in *You Can't Take It With You* (Ed Carmichael), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Sir Galahad, et al), and *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfee). A native of Dover, Joshua has appeared in a number of productions in East Central Ohio, including *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Additionally, he has received OCTA (Ohio Community Theatre Association) acting recognition at the state level for his portrayal of Harold "Mitch" Mitchell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. "I am eternally grateful for the love and support I receive from friends, family, and God, which makes all things possible."



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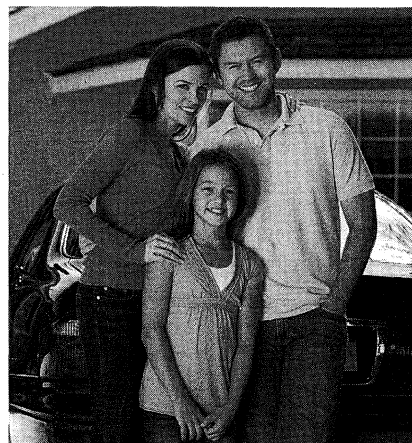
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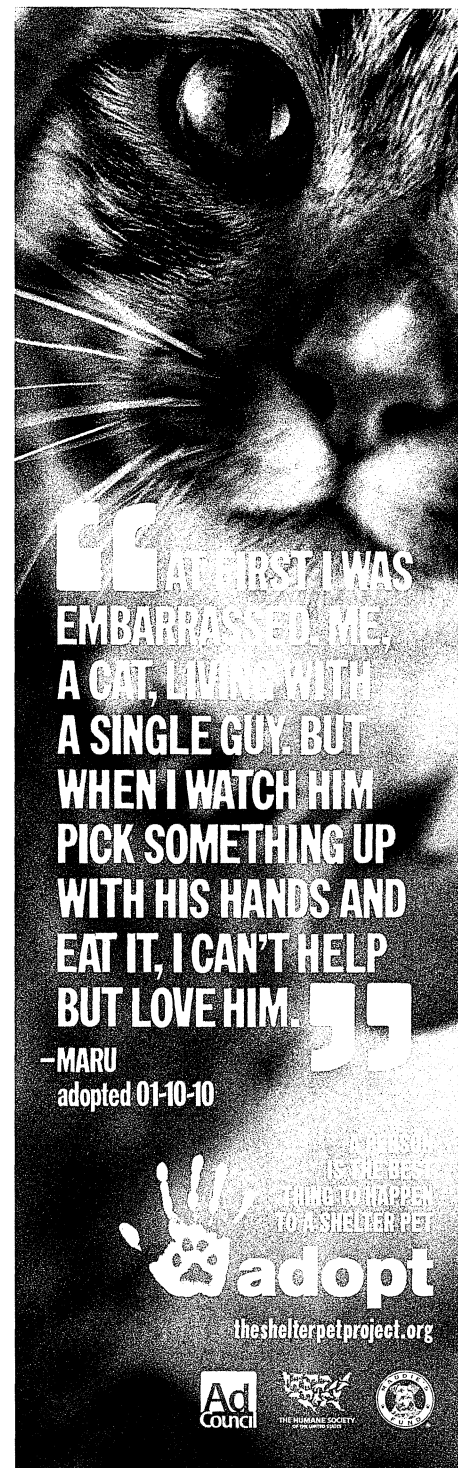
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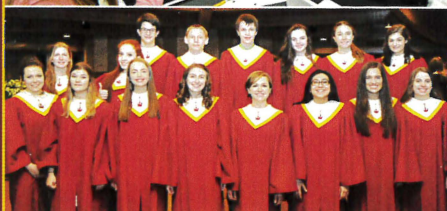
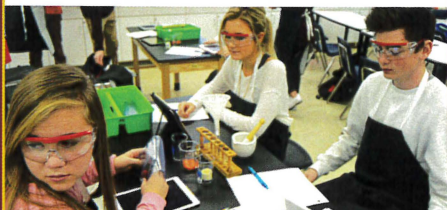
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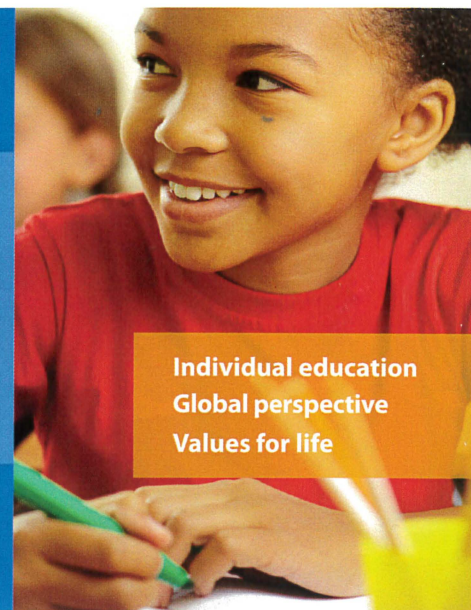
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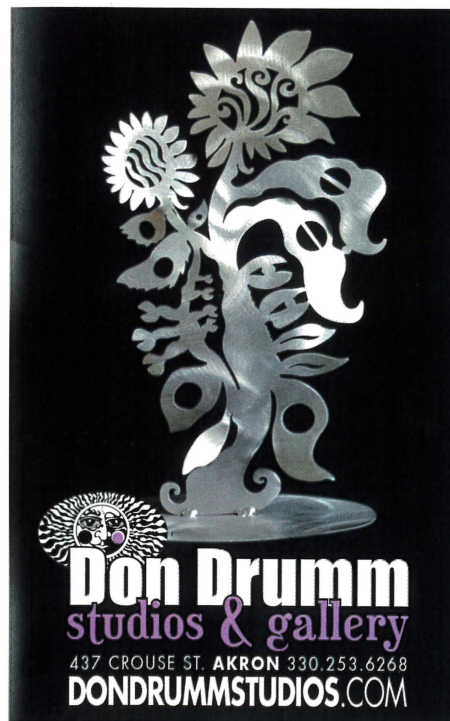
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