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2012|2013

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Shooting Star

2012-2013 Season

Dietz Production #17

Oct. 25 - Nov. 10, 2012

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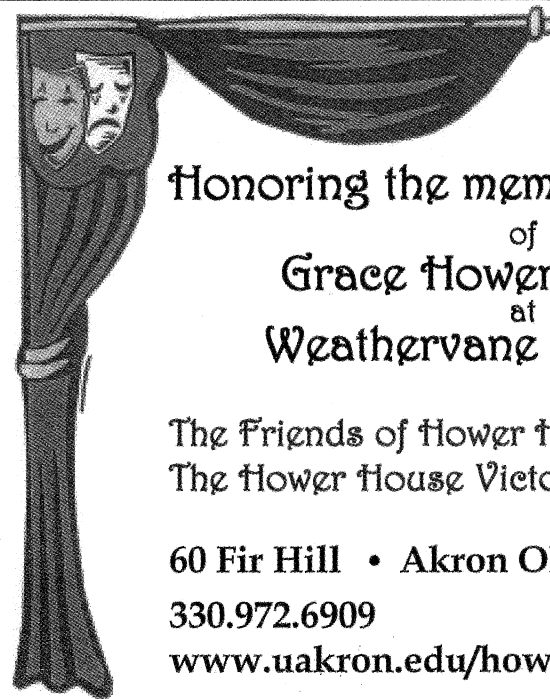


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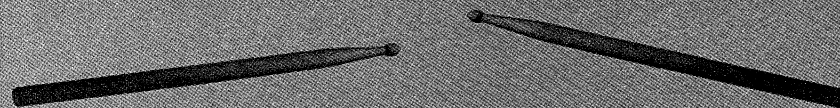


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A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

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

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

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

Weathervane's Legacy Society

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

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

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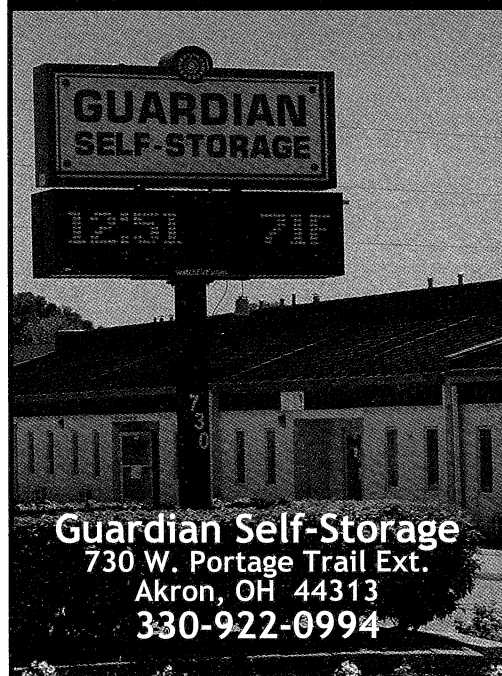
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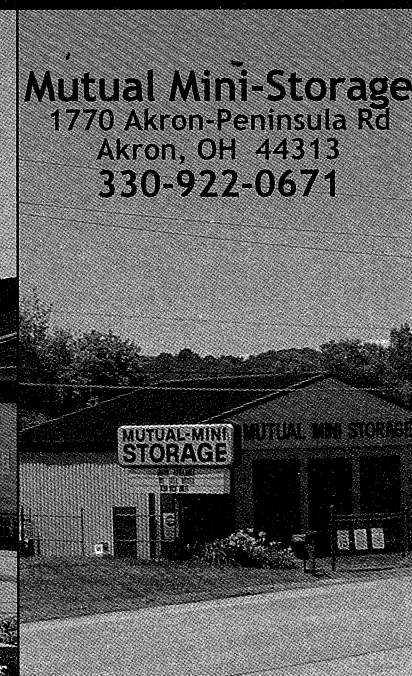
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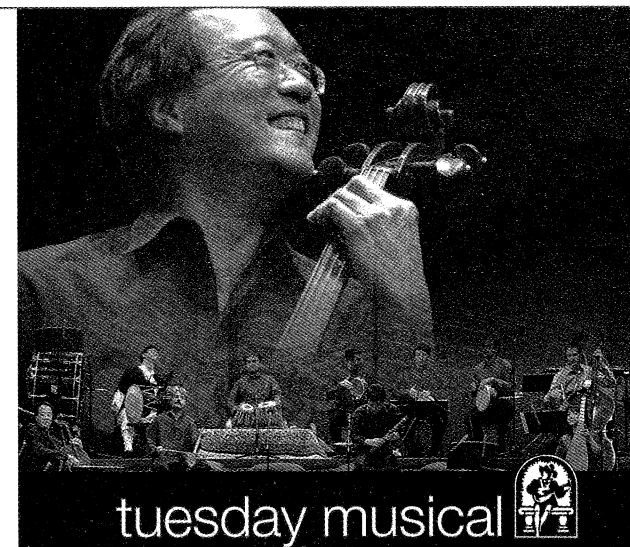
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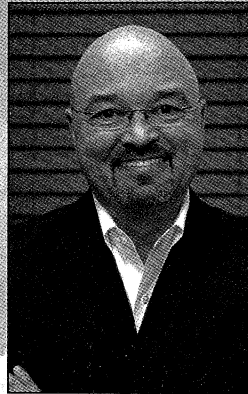
From Our Executive Director

How Our Shows Are Selected

I thought I would take this opportunity to give you, our patrons, an overview of how shows are selected at Weatherovane Playhouse.

I can tell you that there is a certain amount of objectivity to this process, however admittedly most of these decisions lie in the realm of the subjective. Ultimately, I am the one who chooses the plays produced here - but, a number of other people are actively engaged in the process.

Each year I ask a small group of knowledgeable people to help me read plays and formally serve as artistic advisors to me. The group begins reading and discussing plays in the fall of each year, we narrow down our choices over a series of meetings, and then, after some lively discussions, I make final recommendations to the Board of Trustees for their approval in January.



What guides the decision-making process?

First, I start with a clear understanding of the purpose of Weatherovane Playhouse. We are not a commercial enterprise. We're organized as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of art and education in our society, not the generation of profit. Money is a means to an end at Weatherovane, not the primary end objective. That, in and of itself, has a profound impact on show selection.

I am guided by the vision of our theater as one that is dedicated to the creation of high quality, diverse theater productions and by our commitment to presenting plays recognized for their artistic merit.

My definition of "high quality": plays that are deemed of a certain standard by objective, professional assessment and productions that compare favorably alongside best practices in the field.

My definition of "diverse": works that encompass the breadth of theatrical writing and reflect the scope of human experience.

My definition of "artistic merit": works that illuminate and ennoble the human spirit and express an aesthetic point of view.

I said before that I view money as a means to an end at Weatherovane. I would go even further and say that I view the creation of theater as a means to an end as well. The end goal for us can be described in similar terms as the Red Cross defines its mission as "to serve the most vulnerable" (when they could say: "to gather bandages and administer food to disaster victims"), or the Salvation Army which describes its mission as "making citizens of the rejected" (as opposed to "distributing clothing to those without any"). The end objective for Weatherovane beyond the sheer entertainment value of our business - and for live theater as an art form in general - is to be a catalyst for a more tolerant, empathetic, creative, and enlightened society.

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director



Weatherovane

— PLAYHOUSE —

78th Season -- 2012-2013 -- Dietz Production #17
October 25 - November 10, 2012

SHOOTING STAR

By Steven Dietz

Directed by Rohn Thomas

Assistant Director ~ Jerimie Newcomb

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About the Play and Its Production History

Reed McAllister and Elena Carson were once college sweethearts but they haven't seen each other in 25 years. Since then, Reed has grown into a buttoned-down suit-and-tie-wearing corporate type, complete with his ever-present BlackBerry in his palm. The free-spirited Elena, on the other hand, has remained true to her idealistic "hippie chick" soul.

When these two former lovebirds are stranded at the same snowed-in airport during the "blizzard of the century," the conversation crackles and the sparks begin to fly. When morning comes and all flights are cleared for departure – what's the final destination for these two?

Can young love make a return engagement? *Shooting Star* is a sweet, touching comedy filled with humor, heartache, secrets – and snow!

Shooting Star was originally commissioned and developed by the Denver Theatre Center Theatre Company, where it was presented as a staged reading at the 2008 Colorado New Play Summit. Its world-premiere production was at the ZACH Theatre in Austin, Texas, in February 2009. Subsequently, the show was produced by Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island, in October 2009.

About the Playwright

STEVEN DIETZ is one of America's most widely-produced and published contemporary playwrights. Since 1983, his 30-plus plays have been seen at over 100 regional theatres in the United States, as well as Off-Broadway. International productions have been seen in England, Japan, Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Austria, Russia, Italy, Slovenia, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Greece, Singapore, Thailand and South Africa. His work has been translated into 10 languages.

Mr. Dietz is a two-time winner of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award, for Fiction (produced by Roundabout Theatre Company, Off-Broadway), and *Still Life with Iris*. He was also a two-time finalist for the Steinberg New Play Award for *Last of the Boys* (produced by Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago) and *Becky's New Car*. He received the PEN USA West Award in Drama for *Lonely Planet*; the 2007 Edgar Award for Drama for his widely-produced *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*; and the Yomuri Shimibun Award (the Japanese "Tony") for his adaptation of Shusaku Endo's novel *Silence*. His conspiracy thriller, *Yankee Tavern*, was a National New Play Network featured play. He was the 2011-2012 Ingram New Works Fellow at Tennessee Repertory Theatre, following previous recipients David Auburn and John Patrick Shanley. He has received new play commissions from the Guthrie Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, McCarter Theatre (Princeton), ACT Theatre (Seattle), Arizona Theatre Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and the Denver Center Theatre Company, among others.

In addition to *Shooting Star*, his other widely produced plays include *Inventing Van Gogh*, *God's Country*, *Private Eyes*, *The Nina Variations*, *Trust*, *Rocket Man*, *Halcyon Days*, *Ten November*, *Foolin' Around with Infinity* and *More Fun Than Bowling*. Other award-winning stage adaptations include *Force of Nature* (from Goethe), *Over the Moon* (from P.G. Wodehouse), *The Rememberer* (from Joyce Simmons Cheeka), *Paragon Springs* (from Ibsen), *Dracula* (from Bram Stoker), *Go, Dog. Go!* (with Allison Gregory, from P.D. Eastman), and two of Dan Gutman's baseball card adventures – *Jackie and Me* and *Honus and Me*.

Recent work includes *A Year Without Summer*, commissioned and developed by the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis); *Rancho Mirage*, developed at Trinity Rep (Providence), City Theatre (Pittsburgh) and Tennessee Repertory Theatre; and *Mad Beat Hip & Gone* (commissioned by UT's College of Fine Arts) — which will premiere in ZACH Theatre's new Topfer Theatre in April 2013.

When not writing or directing, he teaches playwriting and directing at the University of Texas at Austin.

Source of this biographical sketch: <http://www.utexas.edu/finearts/tad/people/dietz-steven>



Cast

Elena CarsonLaura Stitt
Reed McAllisterMichael Gaffney

Time: 2006
A large Midwestern airport.

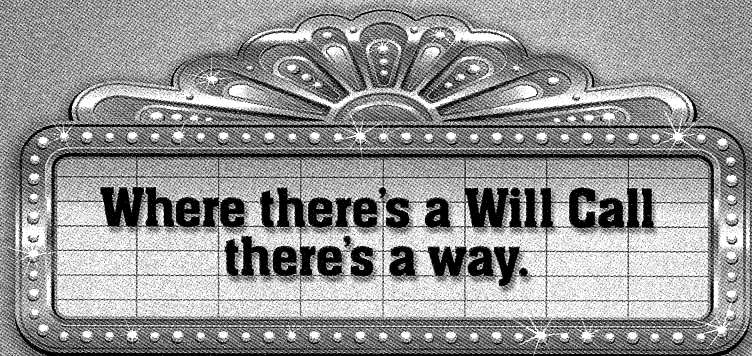
"Shooting Star" is performed without an intermission.

PLEASE...

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

For Your Safety...

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



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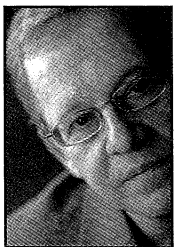


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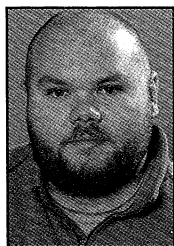
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About Our Creative Team



ROHN THOMAS (Director) is delighted to be back at Weathervane, where he directed *The Nerd*, *Perfect Wedding* and *The Lion in Winter*. He has directed numerous other shows at Weathervane over the past 20 years. Representative directing credits include *The Odd Couple*, *The Foreigner* and *The Sunshine Boys*. He directed *City of Angels* and *The Value of Names* at The Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland and *How I Got That Story* and *Painting Churches* at the Beck Center. This past summer, he played Coach Benny Van Buren in *Damn Yankees* at Porthouse Theatre. Other Porthouse acting credits include Mooney in *Anything Goes*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Smea in Matthew Earnest's *Peter Pan*. He has been a regular at the Cleveland Play House, most recently in *Inherit the Wind*. He also frequently works at Great Lakes Theatre Festival, most recently in *The Taming of the Shrew* last fall. Some of his favorite roles are Doc Gibbs, Reverend Chasuble, Nathan Detroit, Mr. MacAfee and Surdyvant in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. He also created the role of Father Mark in *Tony-N-Tina's Wedding* at the Hanna and, for several years, played Topper in *A Christmas Carol* at Great Lakes. Rohn has worked extensively in film appearing in more than 30 films. He is presently filming *The Umbrella Man* in Pittsburgh. Some of his other credits include roles in *The Ides of March*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Welcome to Collinwood*, *The Mothman Prophecies*, *West Wing*, *Sudden Death* and *Telling Lies in America*. Rohn produces and directs short films for Kent State University, where he teaches Acting For Camera. He thanks his beautiful wife, Terri, and his children, Hunter, Morgan, Samuel and Kaishawn for their generous support.



JERIMIE NEWCOMB (Assistant Director) is a recent graduate from Kent State University with a B.A. degree in Theatre Studies (Directing). He most recently completed his second season at Porthouse Theatre serving as the Assistant Director for *Damn Yankees* and *The Sound of Music*, as well as one of the season's Assistant Company Managers. He has worked at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as a Directing Fellow for their MFA Playwriting Workshop. Mr. Newcomb has also served as Student Festival Coordinator for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival: Region 3 for the past two years. Directing credits include *Tons of Money*, *Twenty*, *Coax* and *Helter Skelter*. Assistant Directing credits include: *Tons of Money*, *Crazy for You* and *A Chorus Line*. Stage Management credits include *Crimes of the Heart*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Mikado*, *Dance '10: TranscendANCE* and *All Night Strut*. Jerimie also served as Consulting Stage Manager for Kent State University at Stark Theatre's productions of *Dating is Tough to Do...* and *Songs for a New World*.

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Cast Biographies



LAURA STITT (Elena Carson) is thrilled to return to Weathervane after her performance this fall in *August: Osage County*. Laura's theater experience includes performing in Chicago, Vermont and touring the country. She has also been seen on the stages of Actors' Summit, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cleveland Play House, Dobama, Cleveland Shakespeare Company and Ensemble Theatre. Some of Laura's favorite roles include Lady Macbeth, Blanche DuBois, Harper in *Angels in America*, Varya in *The Cherry Orchard* and Rose in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Laura holds a BFA degree in theater from Otterbein College and an MFA degree in acting from Case Western Reserve University. Laura thanks her Goobie for his love and understanding.



MICHAEL GAFFNEY (Reed McAllister) has appeared in a handful of Weathervane productions, including *Working*, *The Great White Hope* and the 2010 staging of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Work hours are spent as Vice President of Marketing at United Way of Summit County, and he volunteers on the Weathervane Board of Trustees. "Thanks to my bride of 25 years, Corina, for her love and support."



Creative Team Biographies



MARYANNE ARCURI COTTER (Stage Manager) has been working in theater since 1982. Since then she has helped build many sets and either helped with props, lights or sound. But her real passion is stage managing, where she has won four Chanticleer Awards for Best Production. She has also stage managed professionally at the Halle Theater in Mayfield Heights. Her most recent show here was *A View from the Bridge*. In her spare time, she likes to paint and enjoys creating on canvas. She lives in Strongsville with husband John and near their three grown children and four grandchildren.



DAN "D.J." JANKURA (Sound Designer) is proud to be part of the creative team of *Shooting Star*. He has been involved with Weathervane's sound department for the past 10 seasons and, in that time, has designed such main stage shows as *Ragtime: The Musical*, *Children of Eden*, *The Great White Hope*, *The Wedding Singer*, and most recently *Pippin*. As a professional theatrical sound designer, Dan's work has been heard at Karamu House Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, Baldwin-Wallace University, and PlayhouseSquare. Dan graduated from Kent State University's Department of Theatre and Dance in 2009 with a B.A. degree in Theater and a

concentration in live sound reinforcement for musicals. He thanks his friends, family, and especially the Weathervane community for supporting the performing arts in the Akron area.



RYAN DURFEE (Lighting Designer) is a graduate of Kent State University with a degree in Theater. He works for Rock the House Entertainment, where he serves as Production Manager for many different styles of events. Some of his lighting designs at Weathervane include *Yellowman*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Our Town* and *A Doll's House*, as well as co-designer for *As Bees in Honey Drown*.



JANIS HARCAR (Costume Coordinator) is Weathervane's Director of Advancement and has worked on staff for 19 years, during which time she served as musical director for Weathervane productions of *Annie* and *Company*. She is a graduate of Kent State University with a B.S. degree in Music Education and of The University of Akron with a M.A. degree in Arts Administration. Jan has enjoyed working with Jasen on her first costume endeavor and thanks him for his guidance. She lives in Kent with husband Ray and together they enjoy spending time with their two grown children and four grandchildren.

continued...



Creative Team Biographies ~ continued



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic/Properties Designer) began at Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 16th season as a Weathervane staff member. Other design work includes Cuyahoga Falls High School, The Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). At Weathervane, Scott has earned seven Chanticleer Awards -- one as the stage manager for *Fences*; one each for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project*,

A Lesson Before Dying and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; and one each for his co-lighting designs for *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Full Monty* and *Man of La Mancha*. In his spare time, Scott has written three one-act children's plays that tour local schools: *Two Swords*, *a Bag of Marbles* and *a PB & J*, *The Mystery of the Missing Robot* and *How the Bee Learned to Spell: A Fable*. He also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at Weathervane's annual Chanticleer Awards banquet. He was the recipient of the 2012 Trustees Award.



Production Team

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

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
John Tynan
Kevin Ford
Roger Dieringer
Joe Hunter

SOUND

Dan "D.J." Jankura
Michelle Conner
Lois Bennett
Robyn Cooper
Ian Haberman

COSTUMES

Janis Harcar
Jasen J. Smith

LIGHTS

Ryan Durfee
Kristi Durfee
Zach Durfee

PROPERTIES

Alan Scott Ferrall
John Cotter

Acknowledgements

Gary Robinson
Akron-Canton Airport

John Keller
John O'Neill

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

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

Patrice Bechtol
Phyllis Bernel
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Gail & Leonard Cheslock
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Wendy Cooley
Steve Davis
Jill Forster

William Fortunato
John Grafton
Irene Groff
Marilyn Heagerty
Pam Lightner
Ann & Fred Lyman
Joanna Mack
Sheila Motter
Pat Nichols

John O'Neill
Marci Paolucci
Lucy Randles
Ruth Richardson
Christinea Sanyo
Nancy Schafer
Carol Seiberling
Pearl Sentelik
Dorothy Shaffer

Debbie Shama-Davis
Debra Sharp
Sue Smith
Jeanne Steele
Barbie Trotter
Verna VanderKooi
Helen Vari

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

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

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

What better way to carry on your tradition of support to Weathervane than by a planned gift. By taking advantage of the tax laws which encourage charitable giving, the U.S. Government will share in the cost of your gift to Weathervane. Your gift can fulfill a specific purpose or project while providing your estate with tax savings.

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



In the Harris Family Gallery - Historical Panels

Our history panels, in honor of Weathervane's 75th year of continuous operation, were created during the 2009-2010 season by Scott Ferrall, Weathervane's Scenic Designer/Technical Director. We acknowledge the following individuals for their help on this project:

Warren Skidmore
Margaret J. Dietz
Drew Ferrall
Marci Paolucci
Linda K. Bussey
Craig Holbert
Mark Bloom

Sue Hagloch Beard
Alex Brown
Scott Brown
Jane Fraleigh
Robert Belfance
Keith Campbell
Helen Fleming

Leslie Lund
Lisa Mansfield
Ruth Richardson
Andrew Laird Maclachlan
Amorah Maclachlan
Mrs. Steven Troesch
Barbara Kaufman

Chanticleer Awards, August 2013

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

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

Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

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

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

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

Guide:

Thank You \$1
Applause! \$2
Cheer!! \$3
Bravo!!! \$4 AND MORE!

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


John Hedges, Executive Director

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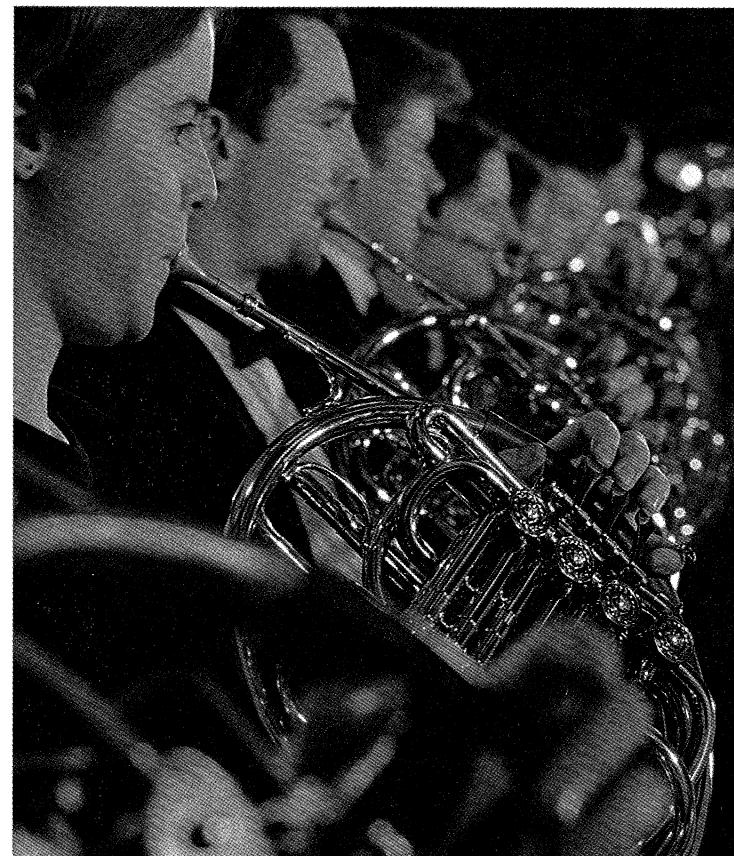


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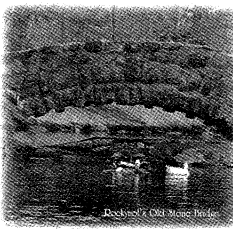
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