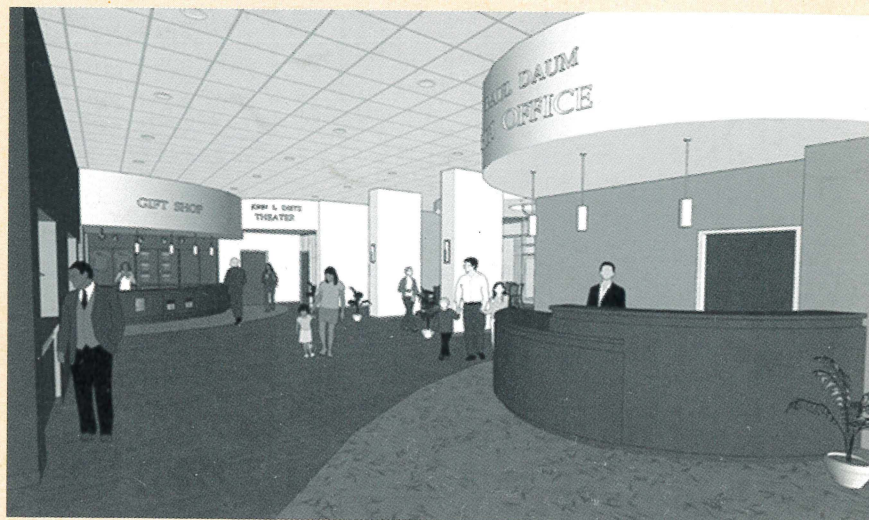
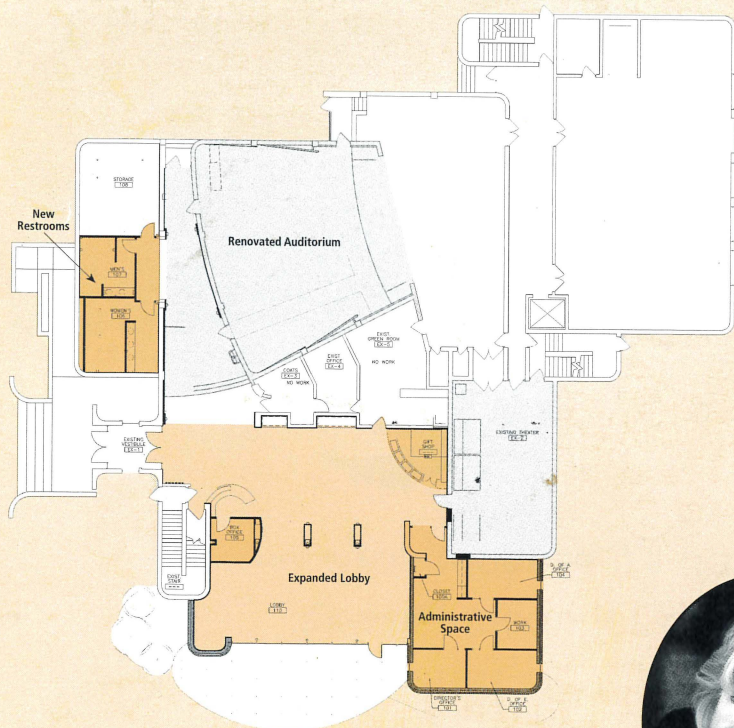


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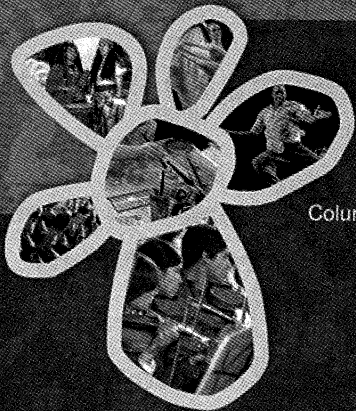
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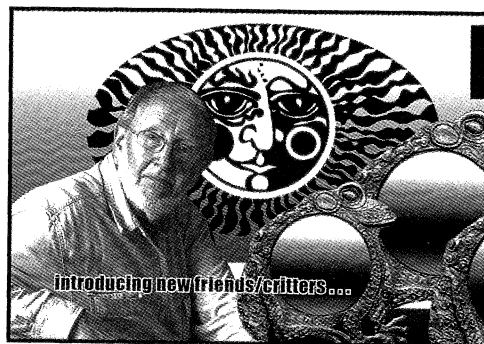




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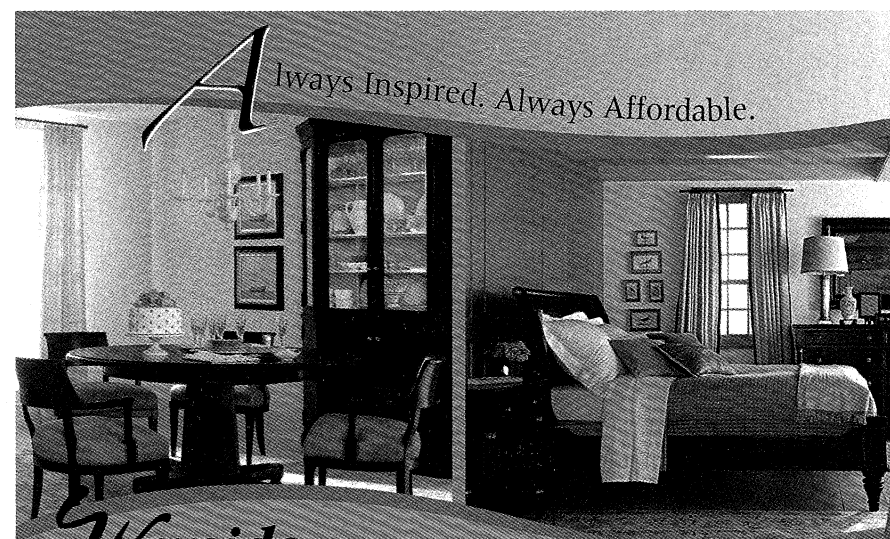


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A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

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

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

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

Weathervane Playhouse now looks forward to a third expansion and a 75th anniversary.

Want to get involved?
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Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

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

If you like what you've seen at this performance, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see a contribution box near the lobby's exit doors.)

As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 60% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane patron gave just \$1 extra this season, we would be able to meet our goal for Individual Contributions! Won't you show your appreciation of this performance with a "Thank You Dollar" after the show?

Guide: Thank You **\$1**

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Applause! **\$2**

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Bravo!!! **\$4**

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

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director



From Our Executive Director

Renewal

What a wonderful word. Webster points out that renewal "implies so extensive a remaking that what had become faded now seems like new."

How appropriate then that we use it in speaking of Weather vane Playhouse as we begin springtime here in Ohio (and the renewal of our natural environment) with a glorious renewal of our facility with a beautifully redesigned and expanded lobby, box office, gift shop and restrooms. I hope you enjoy our renewed public spaces at Weather vane. They are the result of years of work on the part of many people and extraordinary vision and generosity from the Akron community. When everything is finished this September for the opening of our 75th Anniversary Season, Akron will be home to one of the preeminent performing and educational facilities of its kind in Northeast Ohio and one of the foremost community-based theaters in the country. Yet another reason why Akron is a great place to live, work and raise a family!

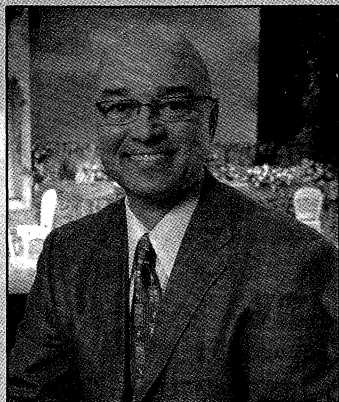
At the same time that we are unveiling our dramatic outward renewal, we will be redoubling our efforts to renew ourselves from within as well. With the world in a race to reinvent itself at a pace never before seen - with the stakes being nothing short of survival - we seek to reexamine what makes Weather vane (and the arts) vital and integral to our community. We will be asking ourselves basic questions like - *What do we want? What business are we in? What is our potential?* and perhaps the ultimate question - *Do we matter?* I think what will emerge is an organization with a stronger and more focused sense of purpose for why the arts are more important now than ever that will, in turn, serve to make Weather vane an indispensable economic and cultural resource to our community.

Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention what is arguably the most important form of renewal (particularly at a nonprofit theater) - Subscription Renewal! The insert in your playbill outlines the extraordinary season we have planned for next year. We very much hope you either renew your subscription or subscribe for the first time, as that will be the best way to ensure dynamic, exciting theater (in a dynamic, exciting theater!) all year long at the best prices around.

Looking forward to having you with us!

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director
email John at jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com



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— PLAYHOUSE —

74th Season -- 2008-2009 -- Production #538
April 30 - May 17, 2009

Perfect WEDDING

by ROBIN HAWDON

Directed by **Rohn Thomas**

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Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Play

Perfect Wedding depicts a wedding day gone astray. Groom-to-be Bill wakes up on the morning of his nuptials and finds an extremely attractive woman nestled next to him. Trouble is, she's not his bride-to-be! Stung with a fierce hangover thanks to the preceding night's stag-party mischief, Bill can't recall how he met this woman named Judy or how she got into his bed – but he knows it doesn't look good!

The sudden arrival of his wisecracking best man, Tom, and Rachel, his determined bride, forces Bill to think quickly on his feet. He convinces Tom to pretend that Judy is his new girlfriend. Added into this merry mix are a clueless chambermaid and an emotional mother of the bride, who each throw a wacky wrench into the whole proceedings.

Well before any vows can be exchanged, many doors will slam, several identities will be mistaken, and a host of comical deceptions will create comedic havoc in playwright Robin Hawdon's perfectly hilarious play.

Even though the play has never received a major New York production either on Broadway or off, British import *Perfect Wedding* has become a popular staple of amateur theater groups as well as professional regional theaters across the United States and Canada.



About the Playwright

Englishman **Robin Hawdon** was born in 1939 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Before emerging as a playwright, he began his career as an actor in a number of British movies and television programs. At the same time, he took several stage roles in his native country, appearing in London's West End theatre district as well as with several provincial theatre companies. His first major commercial success as a playwright came with *The Mating Game*, a comedy that enjoyed a two-year run in London in the early 1970s. Hawdon's best-known plays – such as *Birthday Suite*, *Don't Rock the Boat*, *Shady Business* and *Don't Dress for Dinner* – often combine fast-paced comedy with a healthy dose of sentimental romance. One departure from this template was his 2000 play *God and Stephen Hawking*, which was inspired by the metaphysical theories of famed mathematician Hawking's best-selling book, *A Brief History of Time*. In the early 1980s, Hawdon served as director of the Theatre Royal Bath, a pre-eminent UK touring troupe. With his wife, Sheila (a writer and psychotherapist), he maintains homes in the English city of Bath, the South of France and Australia. The Hawdon coupling produced two daughters and four grandchildren.



Perfect Wedding -- Cast

Bill	Brett Fodor
Tom	Dr�w Biada
Julie	Meggie Wittman
Judy	Erin Diroll
Rachel	Sara Hymes
Daphne	Sara Hubacher

Setting: The honeymoon suite of a gracious period country-house hotel somewhere in the country outside London.

Time: The present.

The play is performed with one 15-minute intermission.



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.
- ♦ Until our new seats are installed, refreshments may be taken into the auditorium. Please remove wrappers before the performance begins.
- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



About Our Director

Rohn Thomas is delighted to be back at Weathervane Playhouse. Rohn's previous directing efforts here include last season's *The Lion in Winter* as well as such past productions as *The Cocktail Hour*, *Translations*, *Master Harold...and the boys* and *Medea*. Elsewhere, his directing credits include *City of Angels* and *The Value of Names* at the Cleveland Jewish Community Center's Halle Theatre and *The Odd Couple*, *How I Got that Story* and *Painting Churches* at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood. Rohn also directed Cleveland's first All-City Musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. As an actor, some of his more recent stage roles include Mooney in *Anything Goes*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Smee in Matthew Earnest's *Peter Pan* (all at Porthouse Theatre), and Boss in *Of Mice and Men* at the Cleveland Play House as well as at Buffalo's Studio Arena Theatre. Some of his favorite roles are Doc Gibbs, Reverend Chasuble, Nathan Detroit, Mr. MacAfee and Sturdyvant. He also created the role of Father Mark in *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* at PlayhouseSquare's Hanna Theater and played Topper in *A Christmas Carol* at Great Lakes Theater Festival. Rohn has also worked extensively in film. His screen credits include roles in *Welcome to Collinwood*, *The Mothman Prophecies*, *The West Wing*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Sudden Death*, *Telling Lies in America* and many others. Rohn produces and directs short films for Kent State University, where he teaches a course named Acting for the Camera. He thanks his beautiful wife, Terri Kent, and his children – Hunter, Morgan, Samuel and Kaishawn – for their generous support.

Katherine Burke (Dialect Coach) teaches acting and voice at Kent State University. As an actor she has appeared at such theatres as Chicago's Candlelight/Forum, North Carolina's Waterside Theatre, and Indiana Repertory Theatre. Her directing credits include *Blue Window*, *Urinetown*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Carousel* and *The Music Man*. Burke also consults and trains schools, universities, nonprofits, and businesses in using theatre skills to address such challenging issues as diversity, substance use and bullying.

Bringing Us Together 75th Anniversary Season

Mainstage Series

Putting It Together
The Last Night of Ballyhoo
Rabbit Hole

The Great White Hope
Italian American Reconciliation
The Wedding Singer

Special Holiday Show

Mrs. Bob Cratchet's Wild Christmas Binge

Dietz Series

The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?
The Sum of Us

Young Actor Series

Madeline and the Gypsies
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat
Pride and Prejudice

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We invite you to share Weathervane photos and memorabilia for our 75th Anniversary celebration.

Please bring items to the box office between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Mondays or between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Be sure to tag your item with your name and address so it can make a safe return back to you.

How are we doing?

Log onto our website (www.weathervaneplayhouse.com) and follow the links to post your comments about...

- ☆ our shows
- ☆ our service
- ☆ our remodeled facility
- ☆ general comments

Or, send your message to John Hedges, Executive Director, at jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com



Cast Biographies

BRETT FODOR (Bill) is a freshman at Kent State University, where he is pursuing a degree in musical theatre. His recent KSU stage credits include roles in *The Lesson* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Born in Alliance, he is a graduate of Howland High School in Warren, where he played Curly in *Oklahoma!*

DREW BIADA (Tom) is a Cleveland native who makes his Weathervane debut in this production. He is a junior at Kent State University majoring in sports broadcasting. He enjoys his acting classes with Rohn Thomas.

MEGGIE WITTMAN (Julie) most recently appeared in *Jane Eyre: The Musical* and *The Lesson* at Kent State University, where she is a sophomore in the musical-theatre program. Prior to her arrival at KSU, she studied musical theatre at Jacksonville University in Florida, where she played Kate in *Oklahoma!* Elsewhere, her stage credits include Sally Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and Cinderella in *Into the Woods*. A native of Sudbury, Massachusetts, she is a member of Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

ERIN DIROLL (Judy) recently played Helen in *Jane Eyre: The Musical* at Kent State University, where she is a freshman in the musical-theatre program. Last fall, she played the Landlady in *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, which was presented by KSU's Black Theatre Association. Erin was born in Modesto, California, but graduated in 2008 from the Jackson School for the Arts at Stark County's Jackson High

School, where her stage credits included roles in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Into the Woods*, *Hello, Dolly!* and *Kiss Me, Kate*.

SARA HYMES (Rachel), an Akron native, is in her senior year of study at Kent State University. At KSU, she has played roles in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Three Sisters*, *Wonderful Town* and *Urinetown*. Elsewhere, she appeared in *Honk!* at Parma Little Theatre, *Sweet Charity* at Porthouse Theatre and *Angels in America* at KSU's Stark branch campus. Sarah is extremely excited to be attending Wayne State University this fall to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting.

SARA HUBACHER (Daphne) is honored to be making her debut at Weathervane. Some of her other roles elsewhere include Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn (*The Music Man*), Vera Charles (*Mame*), Mrs. Harcourt (*Anything Goes*), Parthy (*Show Boat*), Dottie (*Noises Off*) Domina (*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), Mrs. Medlock (*The Secret Garden*), Mrs. Sowerberry (*Oliver!*) and Fairy Godmother (*Rose & Slipper*). Other credits include Porthouse Theatre, Blossom Music Festival, Carousel Dinner Theatre, Cain Park, Renaissance Theatre, as well as Mercury Summer Stock, Cassidy Theatre and Huntington Playhouse. She has performed in the United States and abroad as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and also with choral conductor Robert Page. Sara has also done print work for American Greetings. She is represented by the Talent Group. Sara gives praise to God, thanks to Rohn and love to Jon.

Creative Team Biographies

NIKKI RAFFERTY (Stage Manager) has been a volunteer with Weathervane for over 10 years. Besides stage managing, she has been active in props design, sound design, has mentored first-time youth theatre stage managers and has

served on the Playhouse's Production Board. She has earned Chanticleer Awards for several Weathervane productions. She lives in Akron but loves traveling to the Southwest and is employed at Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority.



Creative Team Biographies - continued

RANDIE O. SASS (Costume Designer) has been a Weathervane volunteer since 1989 and a member of the Weathervane Women's Board since 1990. She has designed costumes for a number of award-winning Weathervane shows including *Fences*, *Master Harold...and the boys* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Last season, she co-designed (with Karen Burridge) the costumes for *Enchanted April*, which re-united her with the same director, Bob Belfance, with whom she worked on *The Little Foxes*. Randie thanks the following people in her life: her husband, Brian, for enduring her many hours at Weathervane, and her children (Leah and Ben), who have learned through example all about *tikkun olam* (the Hebrew phrase for "repairing the world").

DAVID RUGGLES (Lighting Designer) has been a backstage volunteer at the Playhouse for six years. Most recently, he helped design some of the theatrical trickery behind the large mailbox chute that dominated the set of the Playhouse's production of *A Doll's House*. He designed the lighting for Weathervane's 2006 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and sound for *Madeline's Rescue* in the same year. He has also designed lighting for several recent Cuyahoga Falls High School productions such as *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *The Outsiders* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He is a freshman at Kent State University.

MICHELLE CONNER (Sound Designer) most recently worked on the sound crew for the Playhouse's production of *A Doll's House*. Previously, she designed sound for Weathervane's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and worked on the sound crew for *Blithe Spirit*. Prior to her Weathervane affiliation, she worked as a stage manager for productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Lil' Abner* at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron. By day this University of Akron graduate is employed

by the Alcon Tool Company in Akron. **PAMELA PARKS COSTA** (Properties Designer) served as property designer for Weathervane's *The Frog Prince*, *Ragtime* and *Go, Dog. Go!* and Co-designer along with J.J. McAdams for our recent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 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 at church, Campfire leader and membership chair at her church and various school groups.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer) began his association with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 12th season as a Weathervane staff member. Before Weathervane, he worked at Cuyahoga Falls High School. He has designed sets for many local high schools as well as for the Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (aka PBS-TV Channels 45/49). At Weathervane, Scott has earned five Chanticleer Awards -- one as stage manager for *Fences*, and the others for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson before Dying* and co-lighting design for *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Full Monty*.

KATHY KOHL (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's in business management from Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. She began her theater career as a volunteer on many lighting, set-construction and props crews. At Weathervane, she won a Chanticleer for her properties co-design for *The Philadelphia Story* (2001) and for her properties design of *Enchanted April*. Most recently, she designed props for the Playhouse's production of *A Doll's House*. She lives in Akron with her husband, Doug. They have three children.



Production Team

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

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
Kevin Ford
Erin Katz Ford
Todd Dieringer
Tom Marshall
Justyn Jaymes
Len Cheslock
Dan Levan
David Ruggles

SOUND

Cheryl Stadler
Lois Bennett

COSTUMES

Karen Burrige
Janet Heilmeier
Susanne Abernathy
John S. Catlos
Jasen J. Smith

PROPERTIES

Trish Forkel
Sylvia Collier
Pat Stuhldreher
J.J. McAdams
Al Costa
Denise Lundell
Becky Theodore
Karen Burrige

LIGHTS

Hillary Messenger
Margaret Peebles
Justin Miller
Susan Stout-Davis
Judy Willemssen
Dan "DJ" Jankura
Ryan Durfee
Jason Day

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

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Diane Thomas
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Michelle Williams
Marta Williger
Gen Woods

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

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



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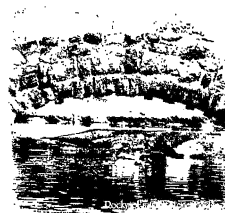
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