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2002-2003

Sixty-Eighth Season

The WIZ

Book by William F. Brown

Music & Lyrics by Charlie Small

Based on the story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum

production no. 498

M A I N S T A G E

October 16 - November 3, 2002

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2001-2002 MAINSTAGE SEASON PRODUCTIONS

#497 - #502

September 18 - October 6, 2002

The Chosen

Drama by Aaron Posner & Chaim Potok
Based on the novel by Chaim Potok

October 16 - November 3, 2002

The Wiz

Musical based on L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
Music & Lyrics by Charlie Small

January 15 - February 9, 2003

Arsenic and Old Lace

Comedy by Joseph Kesselring

February 26 - March 16, 2003

The Laramie Project

Drama by Moises Kaufman
& The Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

April 2 - 19, 2003

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

Comedy by Jess Borgeson, Adam Long
& Daniel Singer

June 18 - July 20, 2003

Gypsy

Book by Arthur Laurents
Music by Jule Styne
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Program subject to change

YOUTH/FAMILY PRODUCTIONS

July 27 - August 11, 2002

The Emperor's New Clothes

by Charlotte Chorprenning
Story by Hans Christian Anderson

November 23 - December 22, 2002

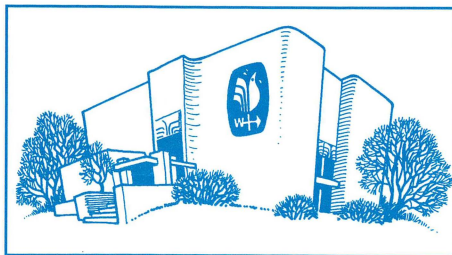
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber

March 15 - 30, 2003

Hamlet

by William Shakespeare



WEATHERVANE WOMEN'S BOARD

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The Brementown Musicians

Performed by the Piper Puppets
April 26, 2003



Patron Information

★ **Emergency Exits** are located at the left front of the auditorium and the left side of the lobby. Front door and main lobby side exits will also be used in case of emergency.

★ **Restrooms** are found just off the entrance lobby ramp at the rear of the auditorium. Both men's and women's restrooms are wheelchair accessible.

★ **Handicapped Services** include seating for a limited number of wheelchairs. Please notify in advance if needed. Exterior and interior ramps make access easy for wheelchairs.

★ **Assistive Listening Devices** are available at the Box Office for the hearing impaired. This service is available thanks to the generosity of Virginia and J. Robert Wilson. In addition, some performances at Weathervane may feature American Sign Language or audio-description translations.

★ **Patrons** who are expecting calls should 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, Tape Recorders, TV cameras** is prohibited during performances.

★ **Curtain time** - Every effort is made to begin shows promptly at 8 p.m. for evening performances and at 2:30 p.m. for Sunday

matinees. We appreciate audience courtesy in arriving on time.

★ **Latecomers** will be quietly 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** - For safety and as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers, please remain seated until the auditorium lights are on at intermission or after the show. Auditorium doors will not be opened until the house lights are on. Parking lot illumination assures that getting to your car will be easy and secure.

★ **Smoking** - Weathervane Playhouse is a smoke-free facility. Smoking is permitted outside the building.

★ **Lost and Found** items will be held at the Ticket Office until claimed. Please inquire about them during business hours.

★ **Comments** from audience members are always welcomed with interest. Please feel free to write to Weathervane or call us to express your views and opinions about our productions, play selection or other matters. We appreciate hearing from you and will respond. Please send your comments to: *Executive Director, Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186.*

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From the Barn to the Valley A Brief Weathervane History



From 1935 until 1951, Weathervane was housed in a modest carriage house barn on Marshall Avenue in Akron. The Barn, as it was known, has long since been destroyed but there are still a few people who recall its cramped quarters and especially the energy and devotion of the four ladies, Grace Hower Crawford, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch and Muriel MacLachlan, who believed that Akron deserved the best in theater and that volunteers could make it all happen. The plaque in our lobby lists the names of the other founders who shared their commitment and who joined their ambitious mission, producing everything from light comedy to Shakespeare and opera.

Though the Barn is now only a memory, its rooftop weathervane gave the theater its name and logotype character, the Chanticleer.

Except in 1948 when located at the Pythian Temple, the Barn was home to Weathervane until 1951. Then the organization renovated a building on Copley Road and became a more accommodating 100-seat facility. In 1960, Weathervane hired its first professional director, Bob Belfance, who served until 1992. Along with long-time custodian/ticket office manager, Nora Scott, the two-person staff relied on volunteer support. Paid guest directors and children's theater instructors served in part-time positions and Weathervane existed on a lean budget. Ticket office receipts, along with donations and community support, helped Weathervane meet expenses and created a modest endowment fund. Volunteers still nourish all of Weathervane's activities.

In the mid-1960s, a fund-raising drive resulted in construction of the present 263-seat facility which opened in 1970, one of the first enterprises at the head of the corridor into the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. Thanks to Grace Crawford's legacy, the mortgage has since been paid off. Growing audience demand for live entertainment and theater education continues to underscore Weathervane's needs for increased community support.

In its nearly seven decades, Weathervane has constructed, torn down, recycled, painted and refitted stage settings for more than 500 productions (when Stage Two and Youth Theater productions are included). We've stitched up hundreds of costumes, created lighting magic by the multi-watt, crafted reality out of scores of stage properties and, most of all, shared the talents of well over a thousand amateur performers, who take their performance curtain calls to the applause of more than a hundred thousand theater goers. This effort is the result of volunteer dedication based on the founders' original philosophy that "all who can contribute are welcome."

Our volunteer archivist, Cue Fleming, has compiled the impressive list of productions back to 1935, a record of the dedication of those who have given their time to present each show to please the audiences who seek entertainment excellence each time the lights go up. Share the link to Weathervane's past by joining in the applause for today's performance.

NOTE: Weathervane always appreciates donations of past programs, photographs or other theater memorabilia which can be added to our archives kept at the University of Akron. Thank you.



Ticket Information

★ **Tickets** may be purchased by telephone when you call 330-836-2626 Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You may also purchase tickets in person during these hours. On performance Saturdays only, the Ticket Office is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Ticket Office is also open one hour prior to all performances and remains open through the first intermission.

★ **Telephone reservations** must be charged to a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card. 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 at the Ticket Office at least 20 minutes before curtain time to pick up your tickets. Any unclaimed tickets will be released for sale to waiting ticket buyers five minutes prior to curtain at the discretion of the Ticket Office Manager and volunteers.

★ **Special seating** - Please inform us if you have seating preferences, or require special attention due to visual, auditory or other physical needs. We'll do our best to accommodate you, but please remember orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with season subscribers and advanced group sales taking first priority.

★ **Super Coupon holders** are reminded that coupons do *not* ensure seats for a specific performance. Please call the box office early to reserve seats with these pre-paid coupons.

★ **Season Subscriber Exchange** - Please call the Ticket Office at 330-836-2626 if you wish to exchange your subscription seat for another performance of the same show. 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 replacements. An upgrade fee will be charged when changing subscription seats from a Preview Night to any other performance. *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 to Weathervane.*

★ **Student Rush Tickets** go on sale 30 minutes before curtain time allowing students with valid ID to purchase remaining tickets for half price on the night of performance, pending ticket availability. These tickets cannot be reserved in advance.

★ **Complimentary Tickets** for cast members and production volunteers require reservations and may be used only on designated performances. Complimentary tickets distributed to special donors also require reservations but may not be restricted to specific performances. Please let us know you wish to use a complimentary ticket when you telephone for a reservation.

★ **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 theater or to plan a fund-raising event for larger groups.

★ **Gift Certificates** are available through the Ticket Office at any time in any amount you choose.

★ **Recycle your playbills** - Anyone who doesn't wish to keep the playbill as a souvenir may drop it in our recycling box near the main entrance. We request that you do not bend, fold or deface the playbills as we will use them again for subsequent performances. Thank you.



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THE CREATIVE BUILDERS



Women's Board

The Women's Board was formed in 1938 to "offer voluntary service and financial assistance to the Playhouse" and has been a vital part of Weathervane functions ever since. Women's Board has energized the youth education program, sponsored productions, spearheaded fund raisers and paid for many of the amenities audiences and production volunteers continue to appreciate in the Green Room and kitchen. Members of this active group are invaluable as hostesses, office helpers and hard workers on backstage projects. The Women's Board sponsors an annual puppet presentation for children and also operates the Gift Boutique and art gallery as on-going fund sources.

Weathervane Women's Board welcomes new members who serve an apprenticeship allowing them to explore the full spectrum of Weathervane activities in which they may wish to participate. Membership is open to all. If you are interested in becoming part of this vibrant organization, please let us know. Leave your name at the Ticket Office or write: Weathervane Women's Board, c/o Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186.

2002-2003 Women's Board Officers

Pat Obenour	President
Jean Questel	First Vice President
Susan Speers	Second Vice President
Alberta Carlin	Corresponding Secretary
Nancy Zeigler	Treasurer
Evelyn Stiggers	Assistant Treasurer

2002-2003 Women's Board Committee Chairs

Marci Paolucci	Art Gallery
Mary Wolfman & Barb Kistler	Boutique
Barbara O'Connor	Boutique Treasurer
Henrietta Cook & Dorothy Kies	Costumes
Lois Murray & Mina Agrawal.....	Hostesses
Alberta Carlin & Pat Weill	Newsletter
Marta Williger & Barbara Stevic	Cast Suppers
Marilyn Heagerty	Office Volunteer Scheduler
Lois Simmons & Linda Shearl.....	Hospitality
Liz Raines & Thelma Coss	Puppet Show
Betty Williams & B.J. Zeigler	Membership

The Women's Board welcomes new members.



Patron Generosity

Weathervane appreciates the continuing strong support of individuals, corporations, foundations and other donors who help finance the theater'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 such as the Chanticleer Awards Banquet. Memberships are renewable annually, beginning at \$50 (Contributing), and continuing at Sustaining, Patron, Silver, Gold and Platinum 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 Heart and 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 theater. 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 theater'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 your executive officers.

★ **Capital Project.** The new construction segment of the Capital Project included a scene shop with basement storage, a 2nd-floor classroom, a 2nd-floor rehearsal hall, soundproof corral with construction of a production booth and office, elevator and fly gallery pocket above the stage. Donations for Stage Two of the project continue to purchase classroom furnishings, update the lighting system, purchase and install the rigging system for the fly gallery, renovate the lobby and replenish the Capital Fund for maintenance and repairs through 2010.



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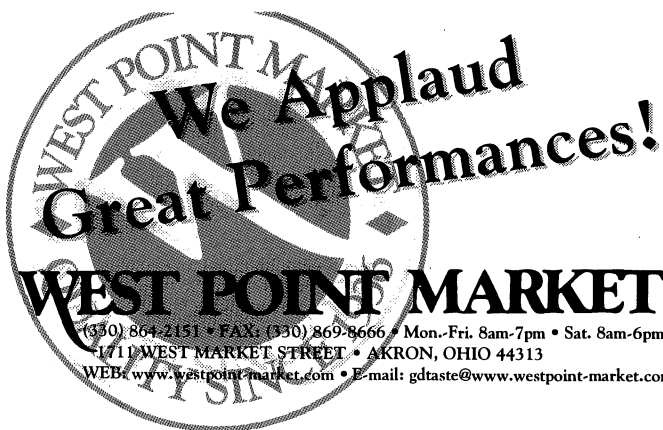
Dress Up With Weathervane

Churches, schools, individuals and other theater groups may find rentable costumes or theater properties and stage dressing for their own productions in the Weathervane wardrobe and set storage areas. Please call 330-836-2626 to arrange for a consultation on your special production needs.



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Theater Education at Weathervane



Youth Education

Weathervane's mission to provide children's theatrical education began with Junior Weathervane classes in 1937. The education program has continued to grow since then with workshops and classes, plus production opportunities for children. In the 2001-2002 season, we offer professionally taught classes in acting, stagecraft, musical theatre and improvisation for children up to age 18. Fall and spring classes are held on Saturdays at Weathervane. In addition, two-week workshops for children are planned throughout the summer months. The cost is minimal with a limited number of scholarships available for motivated students and discounted fees for Weathervane members.

Children from throughout the community may also audition for roles in Youth/Family productions. Casting is not dependent upon class enrollment. Participation is an extension of valuable training in every facet of production from the audition process to technical and performance experience. Family members may also have learning opportunities by participating in such productions.

Weathervane works with area schools by providing outreach information and study guides in our **Project STAGE** program, which brings public and private school students to see as many as three productions each season. This season, *The*

Chosen, The Wiz, The Laramie Project and *Hamlet* will be featured in the **Project STAGE** events. Tickets are only \$8.

For information about classes or audition schedules for Youth Theater productions, please call our Education Coordinator at 330-836-2323.

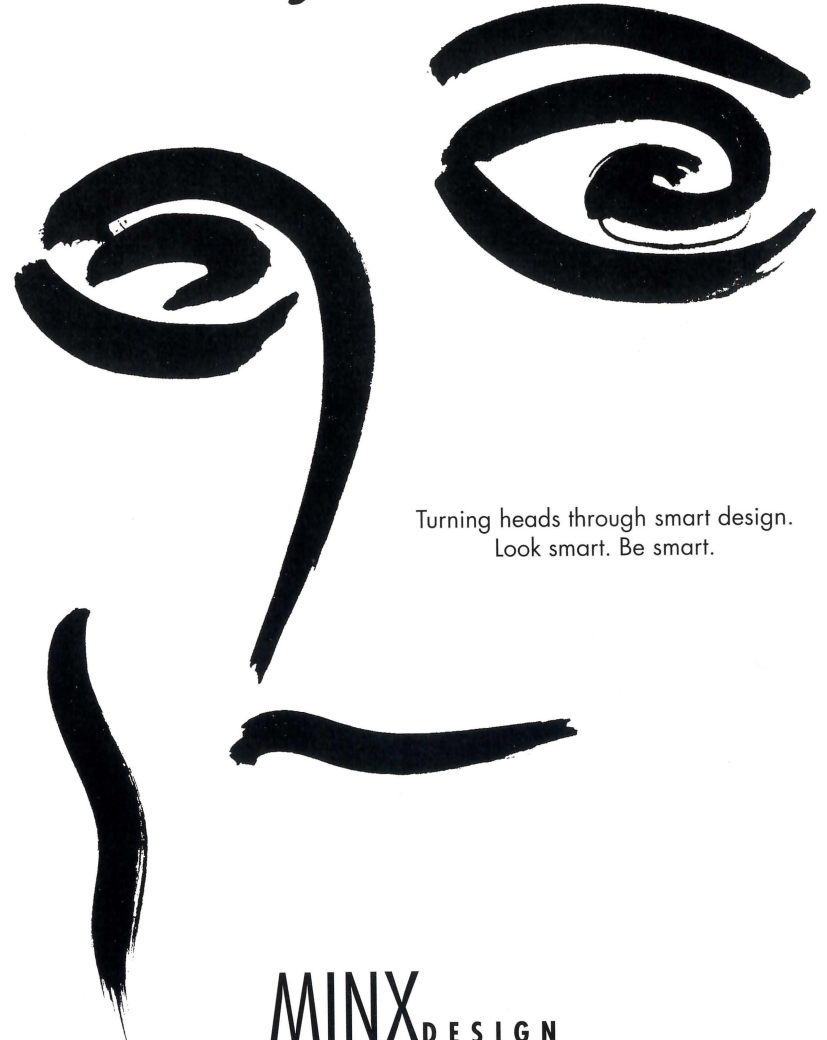
Adult Classes and Theater Training

Professionally taught fall and spring Adult Theatre Education classes include Scenic Design, Stage Lighting, Directing, Improvisation and Classical Drama. These classes help both new and experienced actors to expand their own performance and public speaking skills. Classes are held at the theater and costs are affordable. Call 330-836-2323 ext. 17 for details.

Learning On the Job

Every volunteer participant in a production actually becomes part of Weathervane's continuing education process. You'll learn from more experienced actors and technical helpers who share the creation of production and performance. If you don't have time for structured classes, sign on to become a crew member or performer. We'll help you expand your knowledge of backstage and onstage responsibilities along with your own talents and imagination. Please call us at 330-836-2626 and let us show you how to give new wings to your talent and new meaning to your time.

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Miss Saigon, 8 shows! October 1-6, EJ
The John S. Knight Lecture presents James A. Baker III, October 21, EJ
Swing!, October 24, EJ
The Georgian State Dance Company, October 25, EJ
Barrage, November 5, CT
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, November 7, CT
Time Warner Cable & AMC presents *Roman Holiday*, November 8, free, CT
Tim Conway Show, November 9, CT
Organ Concert with Lyn Larsen, November 10, CT
Dr. Drew Pinsky, *lecture*, November 14, EJ
Mandy Patinkin In Concert, November 16, EJ
Warren Miller's *Storm*, (ski/snow board movie), November 16, CT
Lord of the Dance, November 24, EJ
Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, 5 shows! November 29-December 1, EJ
Colors of Christmas starring Peabo Bryson, Jon Secada, Jody Watley, and Oleta Adams, December 12, EJ
TubaChristmas, December 21, free, CT
Apollo Theater Amateur Night - Auditions, January 10, CT
Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones, January 12, CT
Sesame Street Live "Let's Be Friends" January 16-19, CT
Andrae Crouch, January 18, EJ
STOMP, January 21-22, CT
Coretta Scott King, *lecture*, January 27, EJ
Apollo Theater Amateur Night - Live on Tour!, February 14, CT
The Mark of Zorro! (silent movie) with Organ, February 15, CT
The Little Angels, *Children's Folk Ballet of Korea*, February 23, CT
Madame Butterfly by The London City Opera, February 28, EJ
University of Akron Dance Company, March 6 & 7, EJ
David Brooks, *lecture*, March 10, EJ
AEROS, March 14, EJ
Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, March 14, CT
P.D.Q. Bach & Peter Schickele: The Jekyll and Hyde Tour, March 15, EJ
Arturo Sandoval, March 16, EJ
BLAST!, 8 shows! March 25-30, EJ
Apollo's Fire, *The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra*, March 28, CT
Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me, April 3, CT
Lani Guinier, *lecture*, April 7, EJ
Keith Lockhart Lecture & UA Symphony Orchestra, April 10, EJ
The University of Akron Steel Drum Band, April 11, EJ
Elton John & Tim Rice's AIDA, 8 shows! April 15-20, EJ
Carrot Top, April 24, EJ
President Gerald R. Ford, *lecture*, April 28, EJ
Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett, May 3, CT
Vagina Monologues, 8 shows! May 6-11, CT
Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?, May 17, CT

Show Location: EJ = E. J. Thomas Hall CT = Civic Theatre

Performances, dates and times subject to change.

To receive a complete 2002-03 season brochure, call Thomas Hall at 330/972-7595.

Be watching our web sites ejthomashall.com and akroncivic.com for updated season information.



Weathervane Professional Staff

ELYNMARIE KAZLE (Executive Director) begins her sixth season for WCP. She has spent 25 years in theater first as a stage manager then in producing, fundraising and as a public relations rep for theaters across the US. She's had the pleasure of working with a wide range of artists from Mikhail Baryshnikov to Michael Korie, Ed Asner to Chita Rivera in theaters such as San Diego's Old Globe, Sacramento Theater Company, LA Classical Ballet, Opera Columbus, Great Lakes (Shakespeare) and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Akron was important to Elynmarie early in her career when she served as lighting apprentice to Tom Skelton and Ohio Ballet in the early 1980s. Her diverse experience in Marketing/PR includes a stint with the Wall Street Journal. She is currently VP of Membership and Development of USITT, VP of the Akron Area Arts Alliance and the founder of the nationally-known Stage Management Mentoring Project. She lives in Akron with her husband Mark and son Banno.

JANIS L. HARCAR (Director of Marketing & Development) holds an M.A. in Arts Administration from The University of Akron and a B.S. in Music Education from Kent State University and has been a Weathervane staff member since 1993. She serves as the Artistic Director of the Ravenna Community Choir and Director of St. Paul Lutheran Church Choir also in Ravenna. Jan occasionally serves as Musical Director for local productions.

ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) began at Weathervane under the tutelage of John R. Thomas. Learning the skills necessary to work full-time in the theater, Scott was hired at Cuyahoga Falls High School as auditorium manager, where he spent the next six years. During that time, he was awarded a

Design Excellence citation from USITT for Carousel, and a place in Who's Who Among America's Teachers. He has also designed for many local high schools as well as for The Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage and Channels 45/49. Scott has earned two Chanticleer Awards, one as stage manager for Fences, the other as lighting co-designer for A Man for All Seasons. Scott also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players who appear at our annual Chanticleer Awards Dinner.

SEAN MCCONAHA (Director of Education and Producer of Youth/Family Productions) holds a dual major in Theater Performance and Pre-Law from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an M.A. in Theater from The University of Akron. He is co-founder of the Prodigal Theatre Company and is a free-lance actor and director throughout Northeastern Ohio. Sean directed the OCTA award-winning production of Romeo and Juliet as well as the 1999-2000 season's Chanticleer winner for Best Production, The King of the Kosher Grocers. He and wife, Beth, and daughters, Leda and Delaney, live in Canton.

KEITH D. CAMPBELL (Supervisor Front-of-House & Patron Services) holds a B.A. 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 has done post-baccalaureate studies in Arts Administration at The University of Akron. This is his seventh season at WCP.

JOHN COTTER (Business and Public Relations Assistant) has the duties that come with helping Jan and Keith in the Marketing and Box Office areas. He also serves on Weathervane's Production Board as Co-



Professional Staff continued

Chair of Auditions. John is a retiree of 36 years with Ohio Edison and has been a long-time volunteer of the Playhouse serving on the Production Board as its President and Co-Chair of Properties. He has also worked backstage for many productions and has won Chanticleers for Properties Design for four productions, his most recent being co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*. He is, however, most proud of his two grandchildren, Dana and Nicholas.

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 volunteer career on the lighting crew of *Oliver!* and, since, has been on many lighting and set construction crews. She served as Properties Designer for *Dracula* and won a Chanticleer for properties co-design of *The Philadelphia Story*. Kathy also volunteers as Resident Master

Carpenter and Master Painter for the Theatre Department at Firestone High School where she recently was awarded the Helping Hands Award, and with the Show Choir program at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. Kathy lives in West Akron with husband Doug and their three children, Stephanie, Zachary, and Katie.

DREAJEAN L. BROWN (Data Services Manager) rejoined the staff in August. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Technical Education and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from The University of Akron. She retired from the field of education six years ago and now is the Office Manager for the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Akron Alumnae Chapter. Drea spends her spare time with family and friends and enjoys reading, crocheting and traveling.

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Accessibility

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

Assisted-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.

Firestone Theatre 2002-2003 Season

The Man Who Came to Dinner

*by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart
directed by Mark A. Zimmerman*

December 5, 6, and 7, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

Firestone High School

333 Rampart Avenue, Akron

(330) 873-3408

Grease

*book, music, and lyrics by
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
directed by Mark A. Zimmerman*

original choreography by Michele Valdez

**February 27, 28, & March 1, 2003
at 7:30 p.m.**



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Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees are open.

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GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

WEATHERVANE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

Capital Campaign



Weathervane Community Playhouse Capital Project Scope

Stage One

Work complete

- Scenery workshop
- Three classrooms
- Rehearsal hall
- Basement storage
- "Fly" gallery
- Elevator
- Soundproof production booth
- Costume shop
- Lighting system



Stage Two

Work and funding in-progress

- Library
- Reception/meeting area
- Lobby renovation
- "Fly" system
- Classroom furnishings/equipment
- Offices
- Building exterior repair and seal
- Capital fund - for maintenance & renovations through 2010

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to: Capital Campaign, Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, Ohio 44313. Or ask for a pledge card at the Box Office!

A new campaign

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What you see on stage tonight is not a typical community theatre production, nor is it youth or high school theater. This production, *The Wiz*, was conceived and executed as a total and complete collaboration between two play-making entities that share a common vision for our community. Weathervane and Firestone chose to collaborate on *The Wiz* because both of our organizations wanted to present this terrific musical. However, neither could do it alone. Therefore, a partnership was formed.

It started as a simple idea but quickly became a formal agreement. Responsibilities were divided and financial resources were pooled. We then set out to select the artists who would lead the process. Eric van Baars and

Bernadette Salley are both seasoned professionals who were equally excited by the possibilities of this collaboration. Designers from each organization signed on and quickly agreed to work in tandem with community, parent and student volunteers to execute their designs. Scott Ferrall conceived settings that would work in both theatre spaces and set volunteers from both organizations to work. Chris Schueneman, Head of WCP's Costume Department, worked with Donna Curfman, Firestone's costume designer and many Weathervane volunteers, to create the numerous costumes needed for the show.

The Wiz was cast in open auditions without regard to affiliation. Auditions were held at both facilities and Firestone students auditioned alongside adults and students from other area schools. Jackie Schler, a student at Walsh Jesuit High School, appears in the play and her presence, perhaps, best exemplifies the community-wide collaboration.

Cooperation between Weathervane and Firestone has grown strong in the past few years. Many students from the high school work in backstage positions at WCP and have appeared in both youth and mainstage productions. We have also collaborated with Very Special Arts and on joint fundraisers. *The Wiz* strengthens a relationship that benefits both organizations. It has been a blessing for the younger members of the cast as well, to work with professionals like Bernadette Salley, Alan Scott Ferrall, and Eric van Baars. The young people bring talent and enthusiasm that enriches our strong theatre tradition.

Rehearsals for *The Wiz* started here in July and moved to Firestone just prior to opening. The performances at Firestone were marked by many challenges. Life simply intervened as often it does. It is a testament to the entire company that their resilience carried them through every performance, knowing that they honor life by making a commitment to it. It is in that spirit that we dedicate our production to Julian Long, a Firestone student, a friend of many in the company and someone whose love for life is represented in the joyful faces on our stage.

Thank you for coming,

Bernadette Salley

Executive Director



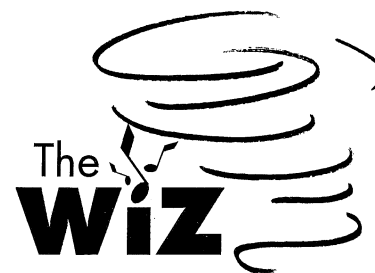
Weathervane Community Playhouse

in collaboration with Firestone Theatre

68th Season – 2002-2003 – Production #498

October 16 - November 3, 2002

(Oct. 3, 4 & 5 at Firestone Theatre)



Based on the story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by **L. Frank Baum**

Book by
William F. Brown

Music & Lyrics by
Charlie Smalls

The Wiz is sponsored in part by the
John A. McAlonan Foundation of
the Akron Community Foundation

Directed and Choreographed by

Eric van Baars

Vocal Music Director - **Bernadette Adrienne Blount Salley**

Music Conductor - **Dr. David Spondike**

Lighting Designer/PSM

Mark A. Zimmerman

Costume Designers

Donna Curfman

Christine Schueneman

Makeup Designer

Melanie Y.C. Pepe

Properties Designer

Michele Valdez

Stage Manager

Tanyon Wilson

Scenic Designer

Alan Scott Ferrall

Assistant Stage Manager

Rachel Harold

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Charles Korecki

The Wiz is produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc., 45 West 25th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by

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www.weathervaneplayhouse.com



Director's Notes

"The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum was first published in 1900 and is a truly American fairy tale. With a plucky young Midwestern heroine, and honest hard working folks like the Scarecrow and Tin wood chopper, it still provides children of all ages with the common themes of the importance of friendship, family and "there is no place like home." The novel inspired 14 sequels and several stage and film versions. Yet the 1939 MGM treatment, *The Wizard of Oz*, eclipsed the book in popularity. Who doesn't remember being frightened for the first time by Margaret Hamilton and her winged monkeys? The tale remains as beloved now, more than a century later.

The Wiz stays faithful to Baum's original story: it takes Dorothy from Kansas to Oz and back again, and she meets the same familiar characters along the way; but when it opened on Broadway in 1975, the musical was as fresh as tomorrow's headlines. With a score that jumps from funk to gospel, the show became an instant hit, won the Tony for Best Musical and made a star out of its petite leading lady, Stephanie Mills.

Charlie Smalls, the composer and lyricist, was a true New Yorker, who gave his first public piano concert at age five. He attended the Henry Street Settlement, Julliard and the High School of the Performing Arts. He served in the U.S. Air Force and in 1970 teamed with producer Ken Harper to develop *Oz* into a contemporary black musical. Dorothy's adventures in the Land of Oz are memorable but, set to Smalls' music, the show provides a dazzling mixture of rock, gospel and soul.

For the many young people in this production, 1975 feels as remote from their lives as 1900. Dorothy lives in a world without a cell phone, email, or high-speed online connections. Her Aunt and Uncle's farm doesn't even have cable. Why is she so dedicated to getting back home and what lessons does she learn along the way? Her adventures are full of discovery and acceptance that the journey is ultimately just as important as the destination.

Today's Dorothy has many more distractions, both cultural and technical. In our extremely busy lives it takes special effort to "look inside our hearts to find a world full of love." The simple yet powerful themes of *The Wiz* -- to rely on friendships, stay on the path, and appreciate the love of home and family are just as relevant to the young people of 2002 as they were over one hundred years ago.

What you are about to see and hear is a collaboration of love from two organizations and over 75 people. Many thanks to the staff and designers from both Firestone High School and Weathervane Community Playhouse who worked tirelessly on this project. My appreciation to the talented cast who auditioned in May, started rehearsals in July, and brought such energy to the play. It has been a long yellow brick road; now "ease on down."

For me, the journey was the destination and I could not have made the trip without the help of incredible friends. If I were to cast myself as Dorothy (and be very grateful that I did not!) I befriended along the way the Talented Rehearsal Pianist, Jordan Cooper; the Not-So-Timid Stage Manager, Tanyon Wilson; and the Never Cowardly Music Director, Bernadette Salley. Without the dedication and talents of these three individuals, there would be no home.

So "click your heels" and enjoy!

Eric van Baars



The Wiz – Cast (In order of appearance)

Aunt Em	Karlise Brown
Toto	Dodger Schler
Dorothy	*Kristina Miller
Uncle Henry/Wiz	Elec Simon
The Tornado	Anastasia Baxter
	NaTasha Jeffries, Lauren Payden, Hayley Young
Munchkins	*Dionne D. Atchison, *Amy L. Ayers
	*Amanda Davis, Erica Porter, Natasha Williams
Addaperle	Stephanie Childers
Yellow Brick Road	Merissa Coleman, *Eric Jaeger
	Jackie Schler, *James Smith III
Scarecrow	*David Barnes
Crows	*Amy L. Ayers, *Stephanie Ferreira, Sahara Prade
Tinman	Tim Bennett
Lion	*Darryl Truitt
Kalidahs	*Amy L. Ayers, Anastasia Baxter
	*Amanda Davis, NaTasha Jeffries
Poppies	*Stephanie Ferreira, Lauren Payden,
	Erica Porter, Natasha Williams, Hayley Young
Mice Squad	*James Smith III, Jackie Schler, Sahara Prade
Gate Keeper	*Dionne D. Atchison
	Emerald City Citizens
	*Amy L. Ayers, Anastasia Baxter, Merissa Coleman, *Amanda Davis,
	*Stephanie Ferreira, *Eric Jaeger, NaTasha Jeffries, Lauren Payden,
	Erica Porter, Sahara Prade, Jackie Schler, *James Smith III,
	Natasha Williams, Hayley Young
Evillene	*Jocelyn Grant
Winkies	*Dionne Atchison, Merissa Coleman, *Amanda Davis
	*Stephanie Ferreira, Lauren Payden, Erica Porter
	Natasha Williams, Hayley Young
Soldier Messenger	*Eric Jaeger
Winged Monkeys	*James Smith III, *Amy L. Ayers, Anastasia Baxter
	NaTasha Jeffries, Jackie Schler
Glinda	Patricia L.H. Jackson

* indicates a member of the Int'l. Thespian Society Troupe #5570.

***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.**



Our Directing Team

Eric van Baars (Director/Choreographer) holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Kent State University School of Theater and Dance where he currently teaches. He first worked with Weathervane as choreographer for last season's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Other local credits include choreographing *Once on This Island*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Big River* for Porthouse Theatre; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Children of Eden* for Cleveland's Halle Theatre; *The Sound of Music* for Cain Park; and *Twelfth Night* for Case Western Reserve University School of Theatre. Van Baars has also worked as choreographer for the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, and the American Stage Festival.

Bernadette Adrienne Blount Salley (Music Director) was instrumental in preparing for Akron's Gospel Meets Symphony Project, working for seven years with the late Maestro Alan Balter, Maestro Eric Benjamin and the Akron Symphony Orchestra as well as with the Akron Symphony Gospel Chorus. She has also been a music educator for grades K-12 in the Akron Public Schools. She has been, since 1979, part of the music ministry team at the Arlington Church of God, serving as accompanist and workshop clinician. Some of her compositions have been published in the African American Heritage Hymnal published by GIA Press, Chicago. A native of Smithfield, Virginia, she is an alumnus of Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. She will go to Capetown, South Africa, this fall with the Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop staff.

Dr. David Spondike (Pit Conductor) teaches music theory and music history at Firestone High School. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Ohio State University, a Master's degree in Music Education from The University of Akron, and a Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition from Kent State University. Spondike is active locally as a bassist and a composer.

Firestone High School/Firestone Theatre

This production is presented in collaboration with Firestone High School's theater program under the direction of Mark A. Zimmerman. *The Wiz* was performed three times at Firestone High School the weekend of October 3, 4, & 5. Firestone houses the high school component of the Akron Public Schools' Visual and Performing Arts Program. It was recently recognized by the Network of Visual and Performing Arts Schools as a "star" school. The display in our gallery includes work from student artists who represent both Firestone High School's Art Department as well as the Magnet Arts Program.

Firestone Theatre Mission Statement

The mission of Firestone Theatre is to provide all students with practical access to the craft of playmaking, to provide educational, cultural, and positive opportunities as an extra-curricular activity, and to enrich and enhance the cultural and artistic life of Firestone High School and the greater Akron community.

Weathervane's Project STAGE

The Wiz is also a Weathervane Project STAGE presentation. Teacher and student study guides are available along with special ticket prices for weekday, daytime performances.



Acts, Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act I

Prologue: Kansas

The Feeling We Once Had Aunt Em
Tornado Ballet Company

Scene 1: Munchkin Land

He's the Wiz Addaperle, Munchkins

Scene 2: Oz Countryside

Soon as I Get Home Dorothy
I Was Born on the Day Before Yesterday Scarecrow, Crow
Ease on Down the Road Friends, Yellow Brick Road

Scene 3: Woods

Slide Some Oil to Me Tinman
Ease on Down the Road (reprise) Friends, Yellow Brick Road

Scene 4: Jungle

Mean Ole Lion Lion
Ease on Down the Road (reprise) Friends, Yellow Brick Road

Scene 5: Kalidah Country

Kalidah Battle Friends, Kalidahs

Scene 6: Poppy Field

Be a Lion Dorothy, Lion
Lion's Dream Lion, Poppies

Scene 7: Emerald City

Emerald City Ballet (Pssst) Friends, Company
 Music by Timothy Graphenreed and George Faison

Scene 8: Throne Room

So You Wanted to Meet the Wizard The Wiz
If I Could Feel Tinman, Friends

A fifteen-minute intermission

Act II

Scene 1: West Witch Castle

No Bad News Eveline, Winkies

Scene 2: Forest

Funky Monkeys Friends, Winged Monkeys

Scene 3: Courtyard

Everybody Rejoice Company
 Music and Lyrics by Luther Vandross

Scene 4: Emerald City Gate

Scene 5: Throne Room

Who Do You Think You Are Friends

Scene 6: Fairgrounds

Y'all Got It? Wiz, Company

Scene 7: Outskirts

Scene 8: Quadling Country

A Rested Body is a Rested Mind Glinda
Believe in Yourself Glinda
Home Dorothy



Callboard – Cast Biographies (Alphabetical)

DIONNE D. ATCHISON (Gatekeeper/Ensemble) is a junior where she has appeared in FHS's *On Strivers Row*, *Yelling Fire in a Burning Theater*, and *The Pajama Game*. A native of Detroit, Michigan, she is a member of color guard, French Club, Women's Choir, and Girls' Tennis Team. She is listed in Who's Who of American High School Students. She hopes to go to Syracuse University to become a lawyer or a teacher.

AMY L. AYERS (Ensemble), was stage manager for the Weathervane productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2000 & 2001. She was seen in *The Pajama Game* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Firestone High School and appeared in Weathervane's *Romeo and Juliet*. She won the Youth Recognition Award, 2000 at the Chanticleer Banquet and was honored at the 2001 Chanticleer Banquet for volunteering over 300 hours to the Playhouse. She hopes to go to a college in New York to major in acting and musical theater.

DAVID O. BARNES (Scarecrow), a junior, has worked on four productions as a member of the Firestone sound crew. He is also a member of the Symphonic Choir, Madrigals, Men's Chorus, Gospel Choir, Spanish Club and Peer Mediators. He is interested in journalism, broadcasting, meteorology and the arts and hopes to study them all in college. A native of Muncie, Indiana, he thanks his family and friends for being so supportive, his vocal mentors Sally Schneider and Sue Wallin, and the cast and crew of *The Wiz*.

ANASTASIA BAXTER (Tornado), currently directs *The Fences Between* for the Rainbow Repertory Company and recently played various characters in *Umoja* by the Ohio Dance Theater. She enjoys

singing, writing, and reading. She hopes to spread the blessings of God to others as she furthers her theatrical career.

TIM BENNETT (Tinman) studied musical theater and dance at Point Park College Conservatory of the Performing Arts. His credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *The Lion in Winter* (Geoffrey), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), and *King Arthur* (King Arthur). He has danced in *Candide*, *Aladdin*, *Gypsy*, *Barnum* and numerous other plays.

KARLISE R. BROWN (Aunt Em) is a sophomore at The University of Akron where she is studying fine arts. When not on stage, she is a cosmetologist, winning a second place medal for make-up artistry at the Akron Beauty School. She has a husband and two children and is a disc jockey for station WZIP. She enjoys singing, writing and traveling. She previously studied theatre at The Ohio State University.

STEPHANIE RENEE CHILDERS (Addaperle) is a FHS junior where she had a four point grade average last year and won the Outstanding Music Award from the Gospel Choir. In 1999 she was a member of the chorus for the Palace Theater (Cleveland) production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She loves to play keyboard for her church and her goal is to be accepted at Julliard School of Music.

MERISSA COLEMAN (Yellow Brick Road), a junior, was also a member of the chorus for the Palace Theater (Cleveland) production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She was a member of the Miller South School for the Performing Arts production of *Megabite Warrior* and of Firestone's *The Pajama Game*. She was a two-year winner of the



Callboard Continued

OMEA award for outstanding vocal soloist and is currently a member of the Firestone Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Gospel and Symphonic choirs and Madrigals.

AMANDA K. DAVIS (Ensemble) is vice president of the FHS Thespian Troupe where she is also in the colorguard for the band. She has appeared on stage at Firestone in *The Pajama Game* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.* At Weathervane she ran props for *The Emperor's New Clothes* and was on stage in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Stuart Little*.

STEPHANIE FERREIRA (Ensemble) is a junior. She played in Weathervane's *Our Town* and *Anne of Green Gables*. She has performed for Stow Players, Magical Theatre, and at St. Vincent/St. Mary's High School. She also dances at Martell School of Dance. She would like to thank everyone, especially her family and friends.

JOCELYN E. GRANT (Evillene), a senior, is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, received superior ratings from OMEA, is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. sorority and was an Akron Debutante. She has been on stage in productions at Miller South and at Firestone, most recently in *The Pajama Game*. In 1999 she played Chiffon and a street urchin in Weathervane's *Little Shop of Horrors*.

PATRICIA L. H. JACKSON (Glinda) received a Best Supporting Actor award for her performance in Weathervane's 1998 production of *The Colored Museum*. She was also soloist in 1990 in *Sty of the Blind Pig* at Kent State University. The proud mother of five daughters, she has traveled across the map, sharing her vocal gift in the company of various gospel

groups and choirs. As an instrumentalist, she has toured seven European countries in a concert band, highlighted by a performance at the Eiffel Tower. "Tricia" is a former 16-Plus model and, in keeping with her love of music, plans to release a CD soon. She spends her days as a driver/operator for Metro Regional Transit Authority and plans to continue sharing her gift that she may bless others as she has been blessed.

ERIC JAEGER (Yellow Brick Road/Messenger) is a junior who made his first appearance at Weathervane in this summer's *Fiddler on the Roof*. At Firestone he performed in *Babes in Arms* and *The Pajama Game*. He studies at the West Side Vocal Academy. He thanks the production staff for all of their work and support.

NATASHA JEFFRIES (Ensemble), a junior, attended Miller South School for the Performing Arts where she was dancer and ensemble member for numerous plays. She played a fairy in Firestone's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and has performed in dance concerts at the school. She is a cashier at Marc's and hopes to become a lawyer or a cosmetologist.

KRISTINA N. MILLER (Dorothy), a Firestone junior, is thrilled to be appearing in her fourth production at Weathervane. She has appeared in both productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as well as *Little Shop of Horrors*. She is a member of Firestone's Symphonic Choir and has for two years studied at the West Side Vocal Academy. She would like to thank her mom, Mary H. Miller-Sobah, her sister Gena Miller-Brown, and her niece Geonah Miller-Brown for supporting her in everything she does.



Callboard Continued

LAUREN PAYDEN (Ensemble) is a sophomore. She is in Firestone's performing arts program for dance, has been dancing for nine years, and "loves every minute of it." Her other talents consist of gymnastics, singing and having fun--which she expects to do in *The Wiz*.

ERICA DAWN PORTER (Ensemble) is a senior. *The Wiz* marks her first stage appearance. She is a member of the Firestone High School Gospel Choir, praise dancers, marching band and women's chorus. She plans to attend Bowling Green State University next year and major in musical performance.

SAHARA PRADE (Lord High Underling) is a FHS freshman who made her first appearance on the Weathervane stage as an orphan in the 1995 production of *Annie*. She was in the cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stan Hywet Hall and played Dazzle Barbie in the 2002 Miller South production of *Barbie Get Real*. Sahara has studied dance at Brad French Studios and gymnastics at Gymnastics of Ohio.

JACKIE SCHLER (Yellow Brick Road) is a sophomore at Walsh Jesuit High School and was seen in Weathervane's 2000 production of *Joseph....* She recently appeared in her school production of *Oklahoma!* and as Pocahontas in ANTIC's production of *The Legend of Pocahontas*. While at St. Hillary's, she appeared in *Guys and Dolls* as Sarah Brown. She studies dance at Martell School of Dance, voice and acting at West Side Vocal Academy and has just started belly dancing lessons. She is a member of the show choir and chamber ensemble at Walsh.

ELEC SIMON (The Wiz) was filmed as an extra in the upcoming movie, *The Antwone Fisher Story*, directed by Denzel Washington. He has also appeared in the

Gospel play, *Wolves in Sheeps' Clothing*, written by Marcus Bentley and *Faded* by Charles Ray III. He was the percussionist in the musical *Black Nativity* at Karamu House in Cleveland. One of the biggest influences in Elec's life is Savion Glover whom he had the privilege of meeting at a book signing in Cleveland. Elec's goal is to tap dance on Broadway with Glover.

JAMES SMITH III (Ensemble) is a junior who appeared in three productions in 2002: *Canker Sores and Other Distractions* at FHS, *Asylum* for N.E. Ohio Thespians, and *Our Town* at Weathervane. James is interested in photography, writing, illustrating, sculpting and acting.

DARRYL D. TRUITT (Lion) is a junior who attended Miller South School for the Performing Arts where he appeared in *The Birds* and *Dr. Doolittle*. He has also appeared in FHS productions of *The Amen Corner*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *On Strivers Row*. He is a student ambassador.

NATASHA RENEE WILLIAMS (Ensemble) a sophomore who was the first-place winner of the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King oratorical contest of 2001 and met the Governor of Ohio, Robert Taft. She attended Miller South School for the Performing Arts, appearing in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Les Trois Petit Cochon*. She is involved in the Women's Chorus and Symphonic Choir, is active in her church, has been a member of the Firestone swim team and runs track as well as playing basketball and volleyball.

HAYLEY YOUNG (Ensemble), a sophomore, is a dancer in FHS's Visual and Performing Arts Program and wants to become a dance teacher. She is taking all honors classes and hopes to gain great experience working with Weathervane.



Backstage Biographies

JORDAN COOPER (Piano/Rehearsal Assistant) is a junior who appeared at Weathervane as the Mad Hatter in *Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party*. He accompanied for *Cinderella* and *Schoolhouse Rock Jr.* and also enjoys being on stage. Recent appearances at Firestone include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Pajama Game* and *Dear Gabby*. He wants to make a career in music and is very happy to be involved in *The Wiz*.

TANYON WILSON (Stage Manager) is an FHS senior who has worked on the light crew for Weathervane's productions of *Gross Indecency...* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. This is her first time to stage manage at Weathervane, though she has stage managed at Firestone for *On Strivers Row*. She plans to pursue theater as a career.

RACHEL HAROLD (Assistant Stage Manager) is a FHS sophomore who has been on stage or back stage for the last six years. She is a member of the performing arts program and has worked with Magical Theater, ANTIC, Inc., and Miller South School of the Performing Arts. She is a majorette for the Chapparells Baton and Drum Corps.

CHRISTINE SCHUENEMAN (Costume Co-Design) was Weathervane's 2000-2001 Volunteer of the Year. She chairs our costume committee and won a Chanticleer for her costumes for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

DONNA CURFMAN (Costume Co-Designer) was seen in Weathervane's *The Philadelphia Story*. She received a B.S. in Education degree in Speech and French from The Ohio State University and certification in Japanese from John Carroll University. She teaches Japanese and French at Firestone High School and Litchfield Middle School.

MICHELE VALDEZ (Props Designer) is

best known for her choreography which she teaches at Firestone High School. Valdez owned and operated a performing arts studio and choreographed for many community theaters in California. She holds a B.S. degree in Dance Management from Oklahoma City University and an Alternative Licensure in Dance Education from The University of Akron. She has served as the Resident Props Mistress at Firestone Theatre for the past five years.

MELANIE Y.C. PEPE (Makeup Designer) graduated from Kent State University in 1997 with a BFA in Theatre Arts. Although she enjoys many aspects of performance and design, she has most recently designed makeup at Weathervane Playhouse, Stow High School, Kent State University and at FHS. Pepe has directed frequently at Firestone including productions of *Dear Gabby*.

CHARLES J. KORECKI (Sound Coordinator) was in charge of lighting for Weathervane's *The King of the Kosher Grocers* and *As Bees in Honey Drown*. He was on stage in the role of Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. A graduate of Albion College, he is Production Board Sound Chairman for Weathervane and is auditorium manager at Cuyahoga Falls HS.

MARK A. ZIMMERMAN (Lighting Designer) serves on Weathervane's Production Board as FirstEnergy Lighting Chair and is theater director at Firestone High School. As a working theater director, he has over forty plays to his credit including Weathervane productions of *Oliver!*, *The Philadelphia Story*, 2004: *a Telling of Tomorrow*, and *All in the Timing*. Mark has also directed productions at Stan Hywet and Cleveland Public Theater. He has created lighting for many Weathervane productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Joseph....*



Production Team Members & Crews

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Kevin Ford	Claire Cottell	Megan Michelson
Kathy Kohl	Molly Cunningham	Jess Morton
Lee Lechner	Sarah Fankhauser	Trina Olefin
Ruth Richardson	Mary Forfia	Lindsay Rowland
Tom Marshall	Megan Fuller	Leandra Schindler
Kaley Aronson	Julia Haidet	Chrissy Spangler
David Burdge	Rachel King	Sarah Swirsky
Rebecca Carter	Charles Korecki	Christina Tait
Emily Clark	Eric Lavin	Jen Wyckoff
Thomas Clark	Kim Lavin	Rachel Zelin

LIGHTS

Rebecca Carter -- Assistant Designer	
Bret T. Holden	Simon Siegel
Jessica Kent	James Smith III
Leandra Schindler	David L. Hawkins
Amy Ayers	Steve Lawson
Rebecca Carter	Liz Markovich
Jordan Cooper	Mia Osherow
Amanda Davis	Danielle Rusen
Stephanie Ferreira	Whitney Turner
Rachel Lones	Annie Walfish

COSTUMES

Denise Atchison	Danielle Jullian	Liz Raines
Henrietta Cook	Dorothy Kies	Cheryl Saferstein
Ralph Cooley	Mary Lones	Max Schueneman
Dorothy Davis	Rachel Lones	Janet Shephard
Jasmine Foster	Beth Lute	Michelle Sinsky
Rebecca Grantham	Margaret Lute	Mary Sobah
Erin Green	Norma Lute	Evelyn Stiggers
Sandy Harold	Joli Magnus	Connie Velotta
Marlie Hlivko	Greg Nyburg	Kellie Wallerstein
Kim Jameyson	Yvette Perkins	Mariam Young

PROPERTIES

John Riazzi	Daniel Levan
Linda Riazzi	Lauren McFarren
Glenn Auvil	Sidney Mills
Clyde Shaw	Jermaine Tucker
Maria Pizzino	Sarah Fankhauser
Grace Harrington	Derric Fraley
Lauri Agins	Rachel Lones
Pauline Shane	Cory Reckner
Lashea Brown	Michelle Sinsky
Gari Anne Freeman	Kristen Wigle
Jeff Marras	Jessay Wilson

SOUND

Mike Wheeler	Ryan Durfee
Nathan Cohen	Tom Barnes
Mike Wigle	

MAKEUP

Darshell Smith	James Smith III
Yvette Perkins	Jermaine Tucker

PIT ORCHESTRA

Jordan Cooperpiano	Dr. David Spondikebass
Charlie Trentaguitar	Jullian Goldthwaitedrums
Steve Millerkeyboard	Scott Sextondrums

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Next On Our Production Schedule

JOSEPH
Amazing Technicolor
Dreamcoat

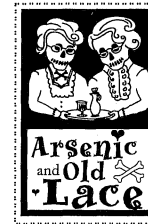


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Youth/Family Production - Gen. Aud.



Comedy by
Joseph Kesselring

Jan. 15 -Feb. 9

Mainstage

Production/Gen. Aud.

Future Events

October 21 & 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Falsettos by William Finn & James Lapine

Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

Joseph... Amazing Technicolor

Dreamcoat

Musical by Tim Rice

& Andrew Lloyd Webber

Youth/Family--General Audiences

Auditions...

Arsenic and Old Lace--Nov. 11 & 12

***Salon Readings...**

Oct. 20 *God's Trombones*

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January 15 - February 9, 2003.

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Performing Arts Faculty,	Margo Snider	Anatol Kwartler for his gener-
Staff & Parent Volunteers	Judy Haver	ous contribution of a Jewish
David and Deb Cooper	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Spondike	newspaper for use in <i>The</i>
Tony and Cheryl Carter	Mr. Fun's	<i>Chosen</i> .

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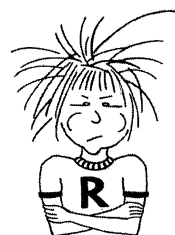
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Tues., Feb. 18, 2003 - 8 p.m.
Joshua Bell, violin

Sun., Mar. 9, 2003 - 3 p.m.
The Cleveland Orchestra

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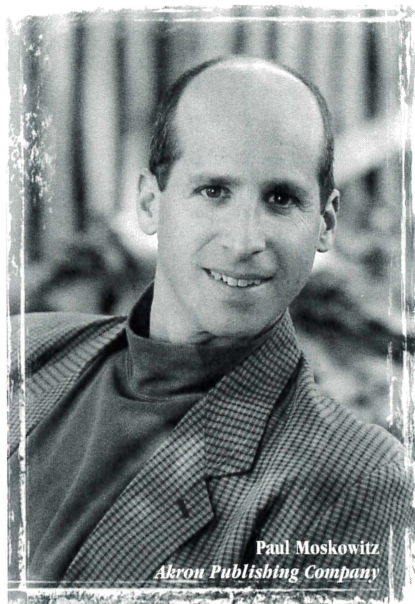


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Weathervane Business Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. To place ticket orders call the **Ticket Office** at **330-836-2626**. The ticket office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. During performances, the Ticket Office opens one hour before each performance and remains open through the first intermission only. On performance Saturdays only, the Ticket Office is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ticket hours on performance Sundays begin at 1:30 p.m. Reservations may be made in person or by telephone with a credit card number.

Of course, rehearsals, set construction, classes and performance times often mean that staff and volunteers are likely to be available at other times than the hours noted during the week. For information, please call 330-836-2626. You may leave a voice mail message for a staff member, but we do not accept recorded ticket reservations. For any Ticket Office-related business, please call during Ticket Office hours.

Akron Area Arts Alliance

Weathervane Community Playhouse is a member of the **Akron Area Arts Alliance**. Its mission statement is "to utilize its collective resources to

- 1) foster communication and coordination among area cultural groups
- 2) generate greater awareness and participation in the arts and humanities in all segments of the community
- 3) promote the value of the arts and humanities to local governments and advocate its financial investment in the community's cultural activities."

Season Coupons

Seats⁴ for Weathervane's most popular shows, especially those late in the season, often sell out fast. Saturday night seating is frequently difficult to obtain, so it's smart to call for reservations early. *Please remember that coupons don't guarantee your seats. You must call for reservations.* Check the production schedule in your Super Coupon book and plan to use as many coupons as you wish for the shows you plan to see. We hope you'll use your convenient coupons frequently and won't find yourself missing out on sold-out shows or ending the season with unused coupons. Performances and schedules are subject to change so, for the most up-to-date information, call our ticket office at 330-836-2626.

Remember, you can always buy a new Super Coupon book at the Ticket Office any time you want to treat yourself and several friends to a Weathervane show. Books of eight coupons provide a modest savings over regular admission prices.

Mission Statement Weathervane Community Playhouse

The mission of the Weathervane Community Playhouse is to entertain, inform and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the Greater Akron area. Weathervane shall provide area residents the opportunities both to attend and to participate in quality presentations of a cross-section of the finest theatrical works available. Weathervane shall provide education in the theater arts to adults and children. In meeting these goals, Weathervane shall be mindful of the standards of its audiences and shall maintain fiscally sound management.



Before You Throw It Out, Ask Us

Weathervane can often make good use of used furniture and household items so please think of us when you're redecorating, cleaning or moving. Small rugs, carpet remnants, draperies or curtains are also appreciated.

Our wardrobe department also appreciates donations of clothing, shoes, women's purses, hats and jewelry, as well as usable patterns and lengths of fabric.

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If we can't make use of your much-appreciated gifts, they may be passed on to another charity. We also, every so often, hold a rummage sale to clear our storage areas of items that we find we haven't been able to use. Your donations are appreciated and you may even see a favorite piece on stage some day.

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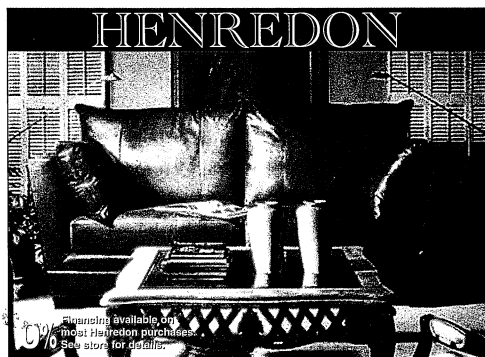
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We're Proud Of Weathervane Volunteers

Weathervane began as a volunteer organization and continues its growth thanks to the time and talent members of our community continue to 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 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 unique challenges with every performance.

Share the Annual Chanticleer Celebration

Shortly after the final production of each season, Weathervane volunteers and friends share an exciting party to acknowledge outstanding performances by performers and technical volunteers. The top performers are awarded rooster statuettes—Chanticleers—in recognition of their work, as voted by Chanticleer "judges" who have seen all productions during the season. It's a great night to get together, share hopes, fun and festivities and is open to all.

If you'd like to take an additional part in Chanticleer night and serve as a juror to vote for the award winners, all that is required is your affidavit that you have seen all seven shows during the season, and your choices for outstanding lead

performances by a male or female in a drama or comedy, outstanding support performances, and outstanding lead and support in a musical as well as choices in technical achievement. Chanticleers are also awarded for Properties, Lights, Costumes and Sound Design, plus Best Production of the season. In addition to performance and production awards, the event also recognizes outstanding volunteers of the year.

Chanticleer ballots are available during the run of the season's final show in July or August each year. We welcome regular theater-goers who'd like to take part in the jurying and join us for the biggest nail-biting party of the year. For information, please call our office.



Put On Your Own Show

Let our space be your space for company sales meetings or seminars. Club or organization meetings, even weddings, can often be conveniently staged at Weathervane! Tell us what you may require and we'll help you with arrangements at reasonable rental rates when productions or construction are not going on at the theater. Our kitchen facilities and technical equipment may help you set up a very important gathering. For information, call (330)836-2323.

Organization Benefit Opportunities

A benefit night or matinee at Weathervane can add funds to your club or organization treasury and could be an exciting annual event. Check the schedule of this season's productions. Perhaps one of the shows will dovetail with the aims and purpose of your group.

Discounted tickets for groups of 15 or more may be sold at a profit or passed along to your members. To create a dramatic fund-raiser or special celebration, you may also plan for catered refreshments. Your fund-raising chairman can get further details on a benefit night at Weathervane by calling Front-of-House Coordinator, Keith Campbell.

Boutique Treasures

Our lobby Gift Boutique is a fund-raising project of Weathervane Women's Board. Shop from one hour before curtain time or during intermission to find exciting jewelry, watches, bibelots, music boxes, and other unique items and objects for yourself or for gifts. Every purchase helps make good

things happen at Weathervane. Prices are extremely reasonable and the items on sale include a delightful variety from clowns and animal figures to pens, pins and earrings. Our Boutique volunteers will also assist you with information on gallery art works which are for sale.

Gift Certificates — Always Available

Whatever the occasion, a Weathervane Gift Certificate will fit! Please friends or family members with a night (or nights) of live theater. Weathervane Gift Certificates may be issued in any amount you choose. All the recipient needs to do is to call for reservations to the preferred perform-

ance. We'll do the rest with a memorable production during our season. Just ask for a Gift Certificate at the Ticket Office. You may pay with check or charge card to give a Weathervane gift you know your friends or family will applaud.

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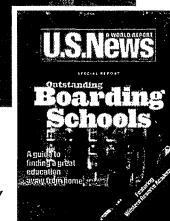
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Weatherwane Traditions

Meet the cast. It's a Weatherwane tradition that, after most shows, many of the cast members may spend a few minutes in the lobby area to meet and greet friends from the audience. It's your chance to thank them for their performance.

Intermission Tea is served with our compliments by our volunteer hosts and hostesses. Please enjoy a cup with us. Soft drinks are available at a nominal cost.

Opening Night Receptions welcome our audiences on the first Friday night of each production. We'll provide light snacks and refreshments after the show so you can share that "first-nighter" feeling.

For your sweet tooth, snacks are available for purchase before the show and during intermission. Refreshments are not permitted in the auditorium.

Beware of the Dreaded No-Show

Have you ever seen empty seats at a *sold out* sporting event or concert? Weatherwane has the same problem. Single-ticket buyers and 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). These subscription seats are held until intermission. This, additionally, makes it impossible to tell if a performance is ever really *sold out* and annoys 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. Thanks.

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coupon books are available all season. Booklets contain eight coupons and serve as pre-paid admissions for mainstage series productions. Use them one-at-a-time or all at once!



Where Theater Comes Alive!

Membership Helps Us Grow

Individuals and businesses who believe strongly in the value of community theater to enrich the area are always welcomed as new or renewing members of Weatherwane Community Playhouse. For those whose names are listed in the program, there are many benefits, not the least of which is the pride you can share in supporting the mission of live theater's education and entertainment values.

Your support and commitment are welcome and appreciated any time and is needed now more than ever. For those who are already members, we suggest that an increase in your membership may be an idea whose time has come in the face of dwindling government resources.

If you truly enjoy live theater, you'll be playing a vital part every time the lights go up for each show on the Weatherwane stage and we can honestly say that the show couldn't go on without you.



Who Gets On Stage at Weatherwane?

The performers you see on the Weatherwane stage come from throughout the greater Akron and surrounding areas. They're volunteers, just like the many men and women who supply backstage talent to make sure the show goes on performance after performance. They've committed themselves to four to six weeks of rehearsals plus performances, and their greatest reward is your applause.

Many performers come to our shows with substantial theatrical experience. Others may be new to the stage. Frequently we find that talented newcomers to our area find that Weatherwane is a great way to make new friends especially if they've been involved with community productions in their former home town.

Auditions are open to all and our non-traditional casting policy opens the way for performance opportunities for ethnic minority actors and others who may be physically or mentally challenged. Except in cases where race, gender, age or disability is essential to the play, all roles are cast on the basis of talent and sincerity of purpose.

To find out how you can get on stage, check the newspaper for audition dates and times or call Weatherwane at 330-836-2626 if you are interested in auditioning for a role in one of our upcoming productions or in a Youth

Theater production. We'll tell you about requirements.

Weatherwane shows are never "pre-cast." When you've been in a show or auditioned, your name will be included in our file so we can send you future audition notices. Some guest 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 theater on audition nights, you'll learn about the rehearsal and performance schedule ahead. 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 to develop the proper "relationships," style and reality of the ensemble. Don't be discouraged. Come try again. The next show may suit you even better!



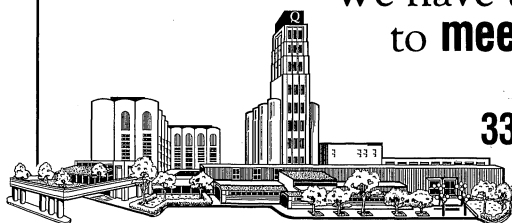
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I Want to Know More About Opportunities for Involvement at Weathervane

Complete and detach this form and return it to the Ticket Office or mail to:
Volunteer Opportunities, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

I am interested in the following areas: (Check as many as you wish)

☐ Acting ☐ Costuming ☐ Box Office
☐ Set Building ☐ Orchestra ☐ House Managing
☐ Painting ☐ Sound ☐ Play Reading/Selection
☐ Usher ☐ Lighting ☐ Board Membership
☐ Backstage Crew ☐ Classes
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☐ Other _____

_____ Best time to reach me at the above phone number _____

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We appreciate, and often respond to, opinions offered about our work. Be sure to fill in your name and address above if you wish a response or would like to be contacted.



What Can You Do as a Weathervane Volunteer

Here's a quick introduction to the responsibilities volunteers undertake to make our shows work night after night. If you'd like to try your hand at any of these jobs, please call our Production and Volunteer Coordinator, Maryanne Cotter, at 330-836-2323. 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 fulfilling responsibility 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. We appreciate all the help we can find to design and build sets, move them and tear them down after a show to make new ones.

★ **Costumes** - Designers and workers are vital. We need skilled and even unskilled seamstresses to make or alter costumes, create patterns, care for costumes during a show and keep our wardrobe department organized. Add your design ideas or learn from other hard-working volunteers.

★ **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. You'll take pride in knowing that nobody can see the show without you.

★ **Sound** - Create the music and sound effects tapes that enrich the aural environment for each show or add "live" backstage sound. Run the sound system

for technical rehearsals and productions. We'll help you learn.

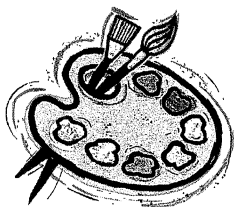
★ **Properties** - All the items that help "dress" a set and all those used by actors in rehearsal and performance (from tea sandwiches to "deadly" weapons and "shattering" windowpanes) must be borrowed, built or cooked. We need many volunteers to work on each performance. If you are clever at building things or have friends with "neat stuff" they'll loan, volunteer here.

★ **Box Office** - If you enjoy dealing with the public, we can use your help during office hours and on show nights to assist in taking money and answering the phone to take reservations.

★ **Ushering** - Welcome audience members with your smile, showing them to their seats, passing out programs, and serving refreshments at intermission. Your help is always welcome.

★ **House Manager** - The theater's unofficial 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.

★ **Office Volunteer** - Put a few morning or afternoon hours to good use answering phones, taking reservations, helping with mailings, working with staff, and greeting customers and visitors. Many friendly people are needed to help.



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