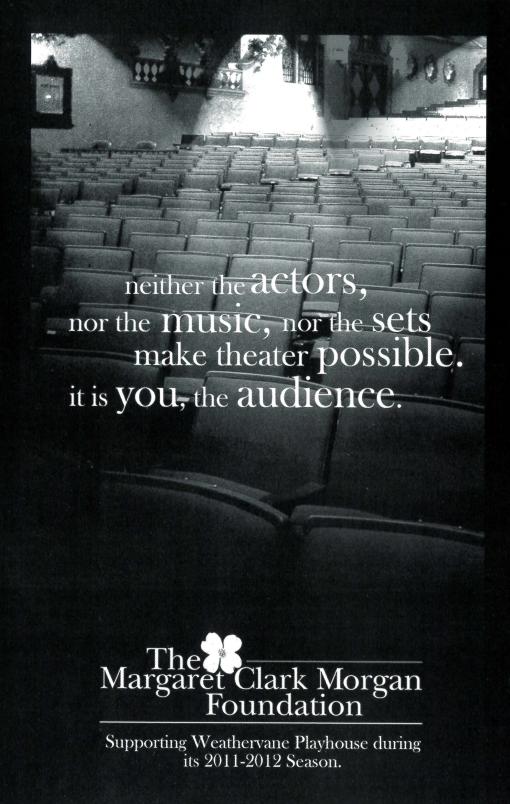


2011-2012 Season

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play 2011-2012 Season Special Holiday Production #5 December 1 – 22, 2011

1301 Weathervane Lane • Akron, OH 44313-5186

www.weathervaneplayhouse.com





December 1 - 22, 2011



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#### A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

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

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

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

## Weathervane's Legacy Society

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

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

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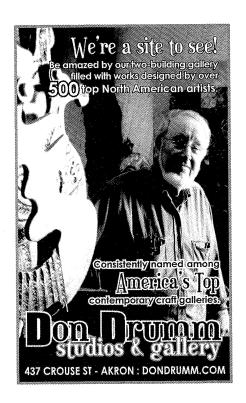
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Suggestions...
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jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com

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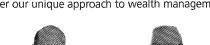
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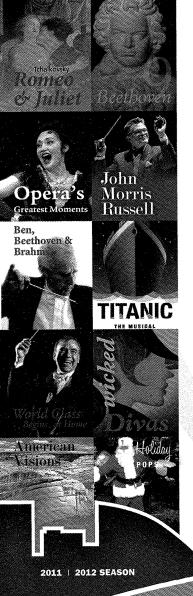
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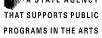
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## Weathervane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

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

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

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

Guide: Thank You \$1

Applause! \$2

Cheer!! \$3

Bravo!!! \$4

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

Sincerely,

John Hedges

Executive Director

#### **Congratulations to Weathervane's own**

#### Jim Horvath

Winner of the Arts Alive! Outstanding Volunteer Award

Jim is currently in his 17th year of unselfish volunteer service to Weathervane Playhouse. When he's not spending countless hours at Weathervane as Treasurer, Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee and overseeing our computer network, he is active in the Boy Scouts of America. Jim and his wife Charlotte have also been foster parents for Summit County Children's Services.

A Tribute Gift was made in Jim's honor by Bosshard Investment Management Company, LLC.

You're Invited to Weathervane's Annual

Holiday Obyok In

Holiday Drop In

December 14, 2010

5:30 - 7 p.m.

Please bring your favorite holiday dish to share.





#### **From Our Executive Director**

The Most Wonderful Time of Year

December is always a wonderful time of year here at Weathervane. The building comes alive with the energy of young people performing our annual holiday production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and, new this year, we're also presenting the timeless story of *It's a Wonderful Life* in a new radio play format. Whether you're humming along with the delightful score of *Joseph* or reliving the familiar journey of George Bailey, we thank you for including Weathervane in your holiday activities and hope they've added to the joy of the season for you.



This is also a time to reflect on the year that is coming to a close and to look ahead to the New Year with excitement and anticipation. In addition to the many wonderful productions we've presented this year, 2011 was highlighted by the success of our inaugural 10-Minute Play Festival, the growing impact of our educational programs in the community, and the completion of a new 5-year Strategic Plan. The latter will prove instrumental as we move into 2012 and beyond with a renewed sense of purpose and a clear-eyed determination to making Weathervane a major contributor to the quality of life in our area.

Whether you're here for the first time or one of our valued friends, we hope you come back regularly in 2012 to experience a range of dramatic works that will both inspire as well as entertain you. In the meantime, may this holiday season truly be one of the most wonderful times of year for you and those you love!

Sincerely,

John Hedges Executive Director

jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com



#### Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE —

77th Season -- 2011 - 2012 Special Holiday Production #5
December 1 - 22, 2011

## Wonderful Life • A LIVE RADIO PLAY •

#### **Adapted by Joe Landry**

from the screenplay by
Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling

#### **Directed by Bob Belfance**

Stage Manager
JILL FORSTER

Properties Co-Designers

JERRY MIRMAN & ALAN SCOTT FERRALL

Costume Designer

JASEN J. SMITH

Sound Designer
JERRY MIRMAN

Scenic/Lighting Designer
ALAN SCOTT FERRALL

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc., 450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 809, New York, N.Y. 10123.

Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186 Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



#### **About the Play and Playwright**

#### About the Play

Inspired by the timeless 1946 American film *It's a Wonderful Life,* this inventive, re-imagined version of the Christmas classic brings the film to life on stage in the form of a live radio broadcast.

The play is set in 1946 and a group of actors has assembled in the studio of radio station WAKY to deliver a live radio broadcast for the "studio audience" (or, in other words, the people watching the play!).

When the "On the Air" sign is illuminated, the actors begin to act out the film's familiar story. Using different voices and quick-change characterizations, all of the WAKY Radio Players perform multiple roles, bringing to life the dozens of characters who populate Bedford Falls.

In this stage version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, a sound-effects artist – known as a Foley artist – sits on stage and creates the play's sound effects in "real time" – just as one would have heard during the golden age of radio.

The central plot from the film remains the same: We meet George Bailey, a despondent man who ponders suicide on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the intervention of an angel named Clarence, George quickly discovers how many lives he has touched, and he soon realizes that he cannot abandon his family or his community.

George, Mary, Clarence, Zuzu and Mr. Potter – and all of the memorable citizens of Bedford Falls – are sure to warm your holiday heart in this inventive re-imagining of Frank Capra's timeless cinematic treasure.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play premiered at The Rich Forum at the Stanford (Connecticut) Center for the Arts on Dec. 1, 1996. Since then, the play has been performed regionally across America by hundreds of amateur and professional theater companies.

#### About the Playwright

For It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, playwright Joe Landry adapted his script from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling. Landry's other plays, which have been produced across the country and internationally, include Reefer Madness, Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play, Eve & Co., Beautiful, Hollywood Babylon and Numb. He attended Playwrights Horizons/New York University, founded Second Guess Theatre Company in Connecticut and is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America. He is currently developing new projects for the stage and screen. His official Web site is at www.joelandry.com.



#### In the Harris Family Gallery

From Crouse Elementary School, we have art work created by third grade students from the classrooms of Mrs. Tara Green, Mrs. Terri Hudson, and Mrs. Julia Spangler with Miss Erica Flemmer, the Art Teacher for all the students. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the special relationship that exists between Crouse Elementary School and Weathervane Community Playhouse during the run of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The students/artists and their teachers are invited guests to a daytime performance of the musical. After the show, they have their picture taken with the cast and they are then treated to a reception in the lobby. Our thanks to the students and teachers for the artwork that has been provided for our holiday season!



Emma Antal
Joseph Antal
Bob Belfance
Carol Belfance
Sophia Belfance Colford
Elizabeth Engle
John Fazio
Jim Fippin
Timothy M. Kelley
Bunny Lazarow-Lacey
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There will be TWO 10-Minute INTERMISSIONS



#### PLEASE...

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

#### For Your Safety...

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



#### About Our Director ~ Bob Belfance (AEA, AFTRA, SAG)



Bob is directing his 193rd production at Weathervane. He started his professional career as a radio actor at the age of nine. By age 20 Bob had played over 200 roles on radio, on stage, in films and on television. He began directing a year later. In New York, Lee Strasberg invited Bob to become an observer at the world famous Actors Studio. A few of his directing credits, prior to joining Weathervane, included (among others) directing Alan and Robert Alda, Howard Da Silva, and working with Alfred Drake developing a musical, *Dr. Willy Nilly*. Ray Wise (*Twin Peaks*) credits Bob with making his career possible. When Bob became Weathervane's first professional managing director, he said his goal

was to build a new state-of-the-art theatre. In 1970 Weathervane opened its doors here in the valley. Bob was responsible for transforming Weathervane into one of Ohio's leading non-professional theaters. Over his long and varied career Bob has produced and directed several world premieres at Weathervane as well as award-winning films. In 2002, Bob's life-long contribution to his art was recognized when he was inducted into the Ohio Community Theater Hall of Fame. Bob (with wife Carol) co-owned a bed and breakfast, co-authored a book and co-hosted a radio show. Bob has directed Carol in a number of memorable productions, but this is the first play in which they have appeared together. Bob is especially pleased to have his granddaughter Sophia (third generation to appear on stage) making her debut in this production with her Grandpa and Grandma.

#### Director's Notes

Vivid in my memory is a treasured moment from my grandparents' Golden Wedding Anniversary in the spring of 1951. Ten of the youngest grandchildren were gathered around my Grandpa's chair. Television was relatively new at that time and many of the stars of radio would soon be making the transition to "the tube." My curly-haired cousin, Joyce, age four, was comfortably perched on our Grandpa's lap. He posed this question to her: "Honey, which do you like best, television or radio?" She quickly replied, "Oh Grandpa, I like radio best." "Why is that?" asked Grandpa. Joyce's corn-flower blue eyes became as large as saucers: "Because the pictures are better."

Radio has been accurately described as "the theater of the mind." The success or failure of any given program was in direct relationship to its ability to evoke the listener's mental images. The listening audience gave little thought to the ages or appearances of those early radio actors. The important concern was how did the audience imagine them?

It was for this reason that balding, middle-aged men could portray young, virile leading men, while women very often played the parts written for young girls and boys. I became a radio actor at the age of nine and played young boys and girls for several years. I was lucky that the station's directors preferred my vocal qualities over those of the actresses available to them.

Unlike the theater, radio didn't need expensive and elaborate costumes. It didn't need makeup and props. It didn't require scenery or exotic locations. Radio had something better... the listener's imagination.

All radio had to do to avail itself of this magical world of fantasy was to create images through the suggestion of sound. Ironically, when it was decided to use sound effects on radio, it was also discovered that there was virtually no one in broadcasting who knew anything about creating sound effects. A new role was created, the Sound Effects Man.

Tonight you will see a recreation of how Actors and the Sound Effects Man worked together to capture the listener's imagination. Enjoy!





#### **Cast Biographies**



EMMA ANTAL (Young Violet, Janie) is a student at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where she was seen in *Guys and Dolls* and will soon be in *Willie the Shake's* 

Greatest Hits. For Weathervane, she was in Seussical: The Musical and Go, Dog. Go! and for ANTIC she was Bofur the Dwarf in The Hobbit.



JOSEPH ANTAL (Young George/Young Harry, Tommy) is a member of the Commedia Dell'Arte Troup at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. He has

performed with his choir two years in our productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Other production participation includes *Alice Through the Looking Glass, Star Journey* and *The Hobbit*.

BOB BELFANCE (Clarence, Ernie, Old Man Collins, Charlie, Martini) See Director Bio



CAROL BELFANCE (AEA, AFTRA, SAG) has appeared in more than 150 professional and community theater productions. She has received Chanticleers for her performances in *The Crucible*,

A Streetcar Named Desire, Watch on the Rhine and Chicago. Carol earned a Masters Degree in speech/theater from The University of Akron, where she taught classes in theater, speech and communications. She has choreographed several Weathervane productions and created the original adult acting program for the theater. Favorite roles include: Claire – A Delicate Balance; Dr. Livingston - Agnes of God; Wife of Bath -Canterbury Tales; Lady Bracknell - The Importance of Being Earnest and Melba (Zip!) - Pal Joey (with Arlene Dahl). She is thrilled to be appearing with such a talented cast and to share the stage with her favorite director, Bob, and granddaughter Sophia as she makes her acting debut.



SOPHIA BELFANCE COLFORD (Zuzu) is a second grader at Old Trail School. She studies dance (tap and jazz), enjoys classes in Tae Kwan Do and is a student of Greek history and language at

the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. She is becoming proficient at playing the violin, enjoys drawing, playing word games and singing excerpts from her favorite movie musicals. Her instructor says, "Sophia is developing a wicked back hand on the tennis

court." Sophia is making her community theater debut in this production.



ELIZABETH ENGLE (Mary) is a student at The University of Akron who performed in our Youth production of *Pride and Prejudice* as Jane Bennet in the spring of 2010. Elsewhere, she

performed in *The Somewhat Tale of Robin Hood, It's a Wonderful Life* and *While Shakespeare Slept.* She was a national qualifier for duo interpretation in Speech and Debate during high school and has been dancing and singing for most of her life.



JOHN FAZIO (Potter, Horace, Nick, Cop, Bridge Keeper) lives in Fairlawn with his wife, Mary, who is retired after a career in public relations. He has five children, she has two. All seven

have left the nest. John is an attorney, having practiced in the Cleveland-Akron area for 46 vears. One of John's avocations is the study of the American Civil War. He is a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and was its President in 2006-2007. He has written extensively on the war and speaks to various groups around the country on this and other subjects. John has been active in community theater for about 40 years. Some of you with long memories may remember him in the 1972 Weathervane production of Death of a Salesman, directed by Larry Moran. Other acting credits include Long Day's Journey into Night, Private Lives, Rashomon, Seascape, That Championship Season, Toys in the Attic and, most recently at Weathervane, The Rainmaker. John has also directed several productions and has written a full-length play, Tightrope, which has had a couple of staged readings.



JIM FIPPIN (George) has appeared on stage at Porthouse Theatre, Weathervane, Coach House, The Players Guild of Canton and Magical Theatre Company, and has performed

with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival and The Largely Literary Theatre Company. His resume includes roles in *Richard III*, Lettice & Lovage, Custer, The Real Thing, Uncle Vanya, The Odd Couple, The Lion in Winter, Hamlet and Twelfth Night. Jim has directed productions of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Proof, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Private Lives, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Betrayal and Chapter Two at Coach House Theatre. At Weathervane, he has staged Italian American Reconciliation, Love! Valour! Compassion! and Someone Who'll Watch Over Me. Jim earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts





degree in Theatre Performance from Otterbein College, where he met his wife, Elaine. Together they live in Wadsworth with their daughter, Emelie.



TIMOTHY M. KELLEY (Billy, Sheriff, Binky) is a graduate of The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre. He was seen in Weathervane productions

including Enchanted April, Wait Until Dark, Much Ado About Nothing, The Dresser and Alice in Wonderland. At Coach House he was in Picasso at the Lapin Agile and Broadway Bound.



BUNNY LAZAROW-LACEY (Violet, Matilda, Ruth, Mrs. Thompson) returns to the stage following a long absence. After graduating from Miami

University with a B.A. degree in Communications & Theater, she appeared in the Weathervane productions of *How Now Dow Jones* and *Anything Goes* at the University Club and, later, *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Vanities* here at Weathervane. Bunny has also done shows at Stow Players & Coach House, and murder mysteries down in Cincinnati, on one of the riverboats. She stage managed *The Gin Game* and, over the years, has run sound, lights and props for many different shows here. She also ushers and works the gift shop through her involvement with the Weathervane Women's Board, for which she currently serves as its president.



JERRY MIRMAN (Sound Man, Male, Voice, Man, Ed, Man) has been involved in community theater, both on and off stage, for the last 35 years. Off stage he has been a Production Stage

Manager for over 120 shows. Jerry has also designed lights, sound and props for Weathervane, Coach House Theatre and the Ohio Shakespeare Festival. On stage at Weathervane, Jerry has appeared in *The Last of Mrs Lincoln*, with Weathervane's own Flo Beard, *Major Barbara*, 1776, *Man of La Mancha* and *The Sound of Music* to name just a few. Jerry thanks Director Bob Belfance for the opportunity to return to Weathervane as an actor and sound designer for *It's a Wonderful Life*. Jerry dedicates his performance to his parents who passed away this year and were

always supportive of his love of theater. Lastly, thanks to Zsazsa for being there for him.



DAVID P. MYERS (Harry, Bert, Peter, Sam, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Welch) won a Best Supporting Actor Chanticleer for his role as Herr Keller in *The Sound of Music*. He was also seen on the

Weathervane stage in A Doll's House, Children of a Lesser God, The Grapes of Wrath and Arsenic and Old Lace. David is a teacher at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy where he performed in Annie, Fiddler on the Roof, The Sound of Music and Flowers for Algernon. He is a graduate of Taylor University.



VINCE RICHARDS (Announcer, Joseph, Shultz) is excited to be returning to the Weathervane stage where he was last seen in *A View from the Bridge*. Vince has been fortunate enough to have

been involved in several productions at Weathervane Playhouse and Coach House Theatre, including *Present Laughter, The Great White Hope* and *The Rainmaker* to name a few. He thanks Bob Belfance for giving him this opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew.



MASON SCOTT (Apprectice/ Sound Effects Man/Young Harry/Pete) is so excited to be part of this production. He is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Miller South School. He lives in West Akron with his

three brothers and his parents, where he grew up listening to radio plays and he loves them. He plays bass, loves to read and likes to play basketball. Mason has participated in many camps at Weathervane and really enjoys theater. He hopes that everyone loves the performance and will tell all their friends.



GRACIE THANASIU (Young Mary, Janie), age 11, is thrilled to be in *It's a Wonderful Life*. This production will be her Weathervane debut and her 10th show overall. She thanks the entire

cast for being "wonderful" all the time. She also sends love to her family and friends. Shoutout to Shannon: You inspire me. XOXO.



#### **Creative Team Biographies**



JILL FORSTER (Stage Manager) is a second generation Weathervaner and a 35-year veteran of stage management. She has three Chanticleers for lighting designs. In her long association

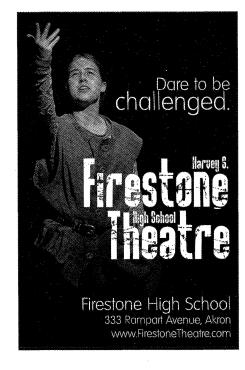
with the Playhouse's Women's Board, she has served as treasurer for youth programs, as First Vice-President and is now the Immediate Past President. Jill holds degrees from The University of Akron in sociology and criminal justice and works as Director of Specialty Courts for the Akron Municipal Court. She thanks her husband Jim for his strong support.

JERRY MIRMAN (Properties Co-Designer/Sound Designer) See cast biographies



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008 as its Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Since then, he has designed

costumes for the Playhouse's productions of Children of Eden, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Bloody Murder, Intimate Apparel and Pride and Prejudice among others. His co-costuming credits include Putting It Together (with Adam Thatcher) and Man of La Mancha (with Hedy Jones), the latter of which earned him and his collaborator the Chanticleer Award for best costume design.



Jasen also won the 2009 Marquee Award for Best Costume Design from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. His other regional costume-design credits include Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and the Ohio Light Opera (*Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, Robin Hood and The Merry Widow*).



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic/Lighting Designer/Properties Co-Deigner)

Designer/Properties Co-Deigner began his association with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of

the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 15<sup>th</sup> season as a Weathervane staff member, serving as the Resident Technical Director and Scenic Designer. Previously, 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. Scott has earned several Chanticleer Awards - one as stage manager for Fences, lighting designs for The Laramie Project and A Lesson Before Dying; co-lighting designs for A Man for All Seasons, The Full Monty and Man of La Mancha and, most recently, for Best Technical Element/Young Actor Series – Lighting Design for Joseph.

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January 12 - 28, 2012





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

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Ruth Richardson

#### COSTUMES

Susanne Abernathy Diantha Seibert Carol Smith Diantha Siebert Christine Scheuneman Cindy Ha

#### **Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers**

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

Karen Burridge Courtney Burton Gail & Leonard Cheslock Wendy Cooley Brenda Costarella Debbie Shama-Davis Harriet DeVeto Ann Edwards Marilyn Heagerty Linda Heath Janet Heilmeier Paula Jameson Evie Kidder Bunny Lacey Sarah Moon Sheila Motter Pat Obenour John O'Neill Ruth Richardson Nancy Schafer Pearl Sentelik Karen Smith Sue Smith Barbie Trotter Helen Vari Special Thanks to the parents of the *Joseph* cast.



#### 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 60 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 degree in theatre from Stafford University. A 2009 graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV), John lives in Medina.





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

#### Important News: Tax Law Expires December 31, 2011

More immediately, if you would like to support Weathervane's mission of providing arts education programs for our community and are at least 70<sup>1/2</sup> years of age and own an IRA, there is legislation currently in place that expires December 31, 2011 that you should know about.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (in effect through the end of 2011) allows eligible individual retirement account (IRA) owners who are at least seventy and a half years of age or older to make a gift to a qualified charity directly from an IRA without the tax penalties usually associated with contributions of this type. If your gift is transferred directly from your IRA to Weathervane before the end of this calendar year, it is excluded from your gross income and thus excluded from both federal and Ohio income tax.

If you would like to have your name added to our Legacy Society or would like to arrange an IRA transfer, please contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626 or jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com.



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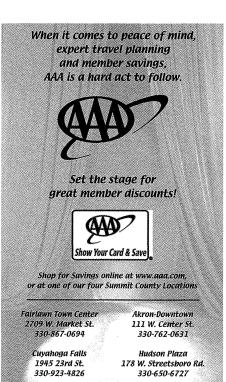
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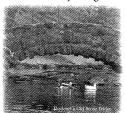






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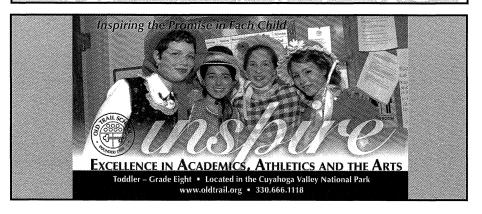


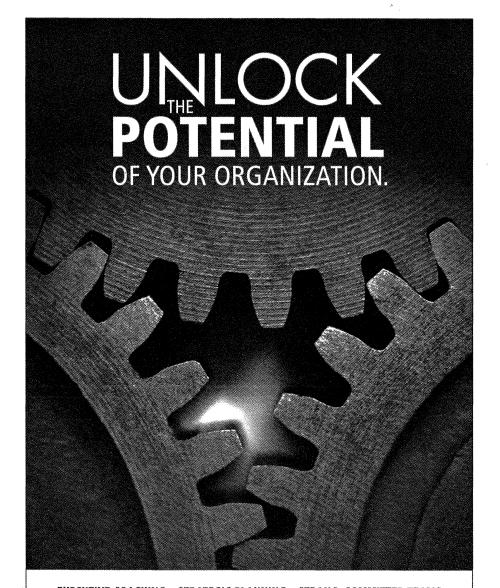
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