

Beyond the Stage Door

NUNSENSE II, the second coming... by Deb Smith

As the director of this wonderfully funny and entertaining production, I just want to let you, our members, know how hard this cast of intelligent and talented women have worked.

Without music, just a recording of the performance CD, our first few weeks were a bit rough. This is, after all, a musical comedy so no musical accompaniment really threw a wrench into our rehearsals. But these women persevered.

One cast member missed the first week of rehearsals so no blocking was done, just readings of the play and lyrics, over and over again. But these women persevered.

Two of the cast members came down with that awful flu, not at the same time but one week after another. Still no musical accompaniment. But these women persevered.

One of the cast members had to drop out but our understudy quickly took her place. And these women still persevered.

Fourth week and still no accompaniment. Learning songs and choreography with the CD, which is at a different tempo, we had to stop and start, but still these women persevered.

Pam Cook heard about our dilemma and thankfully stepped in to help us for a week on the piano. We were starting to think we might not be able to pull it off.

But the thought was only there briefly because, miracle of miracles, we got a pianist this last week and Saturday, the first day we rehearsed with her, was incredible. It was like she pulled us up and filled in the missing piece of the puzzle. Thank you, Lerene Salisbury!

All the rehearsals that lead up to this one joyous day were not in vain. The women, because of their perseverance, were able to step right in, sing their songs and do their choreography in the right tempo and key. Our faith was renewed and now we know we will have a great show for our audiences that should make the playhouse a good profit! The pre-sale of tickets is going well, too.

Special thank-yous, so far (there will be more), to the following people for working so hard:

- The cast: Sue Howe, Debby Stanuch, Cindy Young, Karen McKaig, and Olivia Wolfe, who is also choreographer.
- Lee Anne Jackson, our musical director.
- Dylan Gamble, AD Extra-donnaire
- Pam Cook, piano
- Rebecca Smith and Anne Loftis, props
- Angie Cotter for cleaning the theatre
- Mike Johnson, props and fixing the stage stairs for our safety

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2015 is here!

With "Great Expectations"!!!

Mike here in the Chairman's seat ... Paula submitted her resignation from the board a couple weeks ago. Changes in her personal / work schedule influenced her decision. As Vice-Chairman I was tasked with the transition. I will have some difficulty filling her dainty shoes. She managed a huge list of important accomplishments during her tenure and is a credit to TLP. She assures me that we will be seeing her around the playhouse often. Thank you Paula!!

What a great year is approaching! 2014 was a year of laying new foundations and repairing some old ones. Now we can move forward with great confidence to build on it. The building is sound, the membership is active, the board is motivated and talented! What a great team to work with.

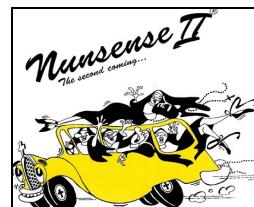
The great line from Lyon King ... "put your behind in your past" is the watch phrase for this year at TLP. Those old things that used to frustrate are gone. The areas from the board room to the work shop are spick and span and organ-

New support structure going on in the basement! Find something that is positive to put your effort behind this year!

My personal work motto is ... "*There is no limit to what a man (woman) can achieve as long as he (she) doesn't care who gets the credit*" Bob Woodruff, Coca Cola CEO 1926 -1954. If our ultimate goal is "What is best for our playhouse?" then there is an even greater TLP in our future!

Love you all!!

★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ March 13-29, 2015 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★



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NEXT ISSUE:

- OPENING NUNSENSE II**
HOSTING THE MH CHAMBER
AUDITIONS FOR NEW SHOW

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COMMUNITY SERVICE by Debby Stanuch



Twin Lakes Playhouse will host the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours on Thursday, March 19. This event is an opportunity to give members of the business community insight into TLP, our mission, operation and contributions to the community.

As members of the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce,

our participation in Business after Hours is an opportunity to make the business community more aware of who we are and what we have to offer them and all Twin Lakes Area residents. These business leaders are potential sponsors for the playhouse, attendees of our productions and playhouse members.

Members of the Chamber will have an opportunity to tour the playhouse and see a scene from our current production, NUNSENSE TWO. TLP Chairman Mike Johnson will welcome chamber members and give an

introduction to the playhouse followed by Education Outreach Director Deb Smith speaking about our education programs, scholarships and touring production.

We hope all members of TLP will be able to participate in this important event and welcome members of the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce to our playhouse.

**"BUSINESS
LEADERS ARE
POTENTIAL
SPONSORS FOR
THE PLAYHOUSE"**

MEETING A PLAYWRIGHT by Deb Smith



**"EDITH'S PLAYS
WILL LIVE ON FOR
A LONG TIME TO
COME."**

After directing two very successful children's plays by the same author, *Cinderella*, *Cinderella* and *Hyronomous A. Frog*, and scheduling two more plays for this summer, *How To Hide Your Zombies* (to be directed by Rowan Laidler) and *Biggity Bad* (our summer touring show), I decided to check into the background of the playwright, **Edith Weiss**.

Edith is the author of several

published children's plays besides what I have listed: *The Seven Nasty Princesses*, *Snow White and the Three Slobs*, *The King's New Clothes* and *The Three Prince Charmings*, as well as many more.

Her short adult play *Checkmate* was featured in SlamBoston 2005, *Hoping To See God* was the critic's choice at the Lafayette Frankenstein Experiment in January 2006, and *God's Religion* was produced by the Kansas City Women Playwrights Festival in March 2006. In 2007, her play, *A Little Princess* was a contest winner in the East Valley Children's Theater Playwriting Contest. A lot of Edith's writing time goes into

her stand-up comedy routine, which has taken her all over the country and on three overseas military tours.

Besides writing for the theatre, she also acts and directs in both children's and adult theatre.

Edith was educated with a B.A. in Political Science from Millersville University, and a M.A. in Theater from New York University, with one semester at Bretton Hall College in England.

Her shows are funny and extremely entertaining. Our audiences have loved them. I'm sure Edith's plays will live on for a long time to come.



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR NUNSENSE II

Yes, I know I sound like a broken record, and I apologize for that, but the fact remains, we need volunteers for our next production— parkers, concessionaires, and ushers. This play will need a full staff of volunteers if the tickets sold thus far are an indication of what to

expect for the production's run. So, if you would like to help in any of those capacities, please contact **Yvonne Gehrke** at:

425-7753

ylg3@suddenlink.net

If you would like to help with gathering or making props, backstage, or in the tech booth, please contact **Deb Smith** at:

421-4026

ozarktootsie10@yahoo.com

Thank you!

INTROVERTS IN THEATRE *excerpts from an article by Wade Bradford*

What is an introvert, anyway? That label can mean a lot of different things, but if we are defining an introvert as a person who feels inhibited, stand-offish, displaying reluctance to be outgoing and outspoken, then most of us have been introverted during much of our daily life. At meetings, do you listen way more than you talk? At holiday parties, do you feel comfortable mingling? Would you rather sit in the corner and pet the family dog? Does small talk unnerve you? However...

Sometimes we are in an environment in which we are boisterous and highly communicative. Sometimes we find ourselves in places in which we feel

quiet and reserved. If there are people who are typically shy or even uncomfortable during social and business surroundings, a director should try to find out more about them. Discover when they are introverts and when they are extroverts. You might find out that some of them excel in athletics, or that they love standing up during band practice and wailing on the trombone. When you learn about their most comfortable environments you might also learn how to connect their lives to theater. For example, if you know that an introverted person is a sports fanatic, conduct an improv game in which that person plays the role of a coach or to act out a scene in which they are preparing to play in the state championship. Familiar

characters and situations can open the doors of inspiration.

Being in a play or musical is a portal into a new perspective. If a person is in a show (or even a five minute drama exercise in a workshop) they have the opportunity to become someone else. And they have the chance to channel emotions that they might otherwise have held within, perhaps indefinitely. For some people, theater workshops can become a sixty minute break away from themselves. It's a place where they can try on a new personality and see if it fits. Give these introverted people plenty of chances to try on new characters. Maybe by being someone else, they'll find out who they

**"YOU MIGHT
LEARN HOW TO
CONNECT THEIR
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THEATER."**

BUDGET *by Don Stanuch*



Greetings from Don Stanuch, your newly-minted treasurer. After 10 years of progressively smaller parts in several major Playhouse productions, I have decided to cut my losses and volunteer for a role that better suits my financial and technical skills. Since last September, as your Treasurer, I have performed a variety of vital tasks, such as picking up the mail at the post office, sorting it and placing it in recipients' mailboxes, and depositing checks, currency and coins in the bank. I have also figured out how to process proceeds from Pay Pal and various other sources. More importantly, I have figured out how our Quickbooks system works, how accounts were set up and how to produce a variety of performance reports.

Objectives accomplished in the short term were to:

- Expedite the timely payment of supplier invoices and internal reimbursements by utilizing Integrity Bank's Auto Bill Pay system. That system allows for timely automated payments without the need to issue manual checks, saving postage, paper, and envelopes and the time required to mail the checks.
- Establish a simplified system for reporting profits and losses in a format that is concise and easily understood. Make these results available to the Board and to the membership on a timely basis.
- Develop an Operating Budget for the 2015 calendar year. This required considerable input from Board members and from the Directors of forthcoming plays. At our next members meeting, I will provide our actual performance YTD vs. the Operating Budget.
- Obtain a Credit Card processing device that will allow customers to pay for tickets with the credit card of their choice. We plan to begin using this device for our next production, Nunsense II. Currently we collect far too much currency which is stored in our safe until it can be counted and taken to the bank. This presents potential security risks to those involved in processing ticket receipts.

Filed our 2014 Tax Return as required by the IRS.

In the remaining months of 2015, I plan to formalize the procedures for many of my routine tasks, so that the next person to perform the Treasurer's responsibilities can be productive with minimal disruption.

I would appreciate your suggestions and comments for improving our service to our customers and our membership.



WOW!

**"I HAVE FIGURED
OUT HOW... TO
PRODUCE A
VARIETY OF
PERFORMANCE
REPORTS."**

**Mission
and Vision**

Our mission: to entertain, enrich, and educate through community involvement in live theatre.

Our vision: to be recognized as a premier provider of quality entertainment and culture through live performing art.

**TWIN LAKES PLAYHOUSE**

600 W. Sixth Street
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Opening the doors in 1971 with the production of "The Bad Seed," Twin Lakes Playhouse began their 43 year journey into the fantastical world of community theatre.

Of course, there were trials along the way. But their little membership was not discouraged. They had vision and an amazing desire to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of the community. What better way than to bring the performing arts to Mountain Home?

Working out of their garages to make sets and props, transporting costumes, sets, and props to whatever venue they secured to perform, they were relentless in their pursuance of creation. Years passed, and the membership was able to find the money to buy their own theatre in Midway, then in 2000, expand into a larger theatre in Mountain Home.

Now the members have been enjoying their space, adding more and more events to their theatre curriculum: directing, acting, youth/teen acting, and technical workshops, children's theatre, more classic plays, and a wider variety of shows. Over the years, members have come and gone, but still "the little playhouse that could" is standing and going stronger than ever.

Twin Lakes Playhouse is always looking for new blood. Come play with us!

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
twinlakesplayhouse.org****Board of Directors 2015**

CHAIRMAN Mike Johnson	Angie Cotter Dave Adkins
VICE CHAIRMAN Melony Floyd	Debby Stanuch Rebecca Smith
SECRETARY Melony Floyd	
TREASURER Don Stanuch	

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ACTING WORKSHOPS



**YOUTH Acting I, II ages 8-12, June 6-7, 2015
TEEN Acting I, II ages 13-18, June 13-14, 2015**

CELEBRATING OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS

(Please submit any pictures you have to the newsletter editor)



12 Angry Jurors 2013



"Cemetery Club" 2010



"The Brute" 2013



Little Women 2013

Improvisation: What It Is, What It Is Not, And Why It Is Necessary by Stephanie Muller

So, just what is improvisation? In terms of modern acting theory, it is the brainchild of Viola Spolin, the renowned founder of the famous Second City Theatre in Chicago. According to her, improvisation is the gift of not thinking, the art of being in the moment while onstage, of letting your thoughts and actions come naturally to you without taking a moment to think of them beforehand. It's the acting technique of keeping a scene's energy high and keeping its content feeling real. It is a means by which actors can learn how to break free from the pitfalls of "acting" and "becoming a character," and instead bring only honesty and truth to the stage. That's a lot to take in, I know. But can't you see how your actor's abilities will improve as they learn this?

Where some people become confused is not in what improv *is*, but in what improv *is not*. Improv is not a separate entity from acting in a play — as a matter of fact, improv should always be utilized in a scripted piece. I was even taught that all good acting is actually 99% improv! Now here's the kicker. Above all else, it is essential to emphasize that improvisation is NOT about comedy. That's right. Improvisation is NOT about making the funniest quip at the most opportune time, not about trying to get an audience to laugh and not about picking scenes from a hat. In fact, if you encourage these isolated skills of your actors, you'll find that you are teaching them how NOT to do drama!