



# PLAYBILL

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TWIN LAKES PLAYHOUSE

## Opening Week for "The Brute and Other Farces"



### THE BRUTE

David Lewis as Luka, Karen McKaig as Mrs. Popov, and Nate Morgan as Smirnov



### A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

Deb Smith as Chubukov, Olivia Wolfe as Natalia, and Dylan Gamble as Lomov



### THE CELEBRATION

Dylan Gamble and Robert Manning, Zach Watson as Shipuchin, Aubriana Chambers as Tatiana, Angie Cotter as Natasha, and Karen McKaig as Hirin

Congratulations to our three new directors, Olivia Wolfe, Barbara Dugger, and Paula Hill, and their superb casts! It is not easy to bring a show to life, especially a classic farce, but these directors did a very good job and should be commended for their efforts.

Unfortunately, audience attendance was low the first weekend but is gradually picking up. Who knows why. It could have been the community's unawareness of the plays and the author (Russian plays can be a bit scary), the content of the plays, or just the wrong time of year. Whatever the reason, the casts worked very hard to make their directors proud. And they succeeded.

The New Directors project is an important addition to the growth of the playhouse. We must train new directors and give them the opportunity to work. Our director pool is very low right now. Hopefully, these three ladies will continue bringing good theatre to TLP and the community.

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### Board of Directors:

Michael Johnson	- Chairman
Angie Cotter	- Vice Chairman
Anne Johnson-Loftis	- Treasurer
Shirley Spitzer	- Secretary
Tammy LeBrell	David Adkins
Paula Hill	Amy Stuart

## MEETING TIMES

BOARD MEETING, JULY 8, 2013, 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS' MEETING, JULY 15, 2013, 7:00 P.M.

# ACTING WORKSHOPS



Lara Kate, Mallory, and Sydney



Alexis, Terry, Nathanael, and Piper

We had our biggest attendance yet at the Youth Acting Workshops the first two Saturdays of June. At the Youth Acting I workshop, we had 17 children participating. At the Youth Acting II workshop, we had 16 participating. Considering this is the second year we divided the age groups, that's a very satisfactory showing.

If you've never come to see one of the workshops, I encourage you to do so. You will be pleasantly surprised with the kids, their commitment to the games and exercises they perform, and their willingness to be directed. These children are our future. Their growth and well-being are important to TLP. We've had lots of the children in our workshops audition for shows.

Some have gone on to do other things with the productions besides acting. For instance, in the current production, *The Brute and Other Farces*, David Lewis and Aubriana Chambers are acting in two of the plays. Olivia Wolfe, also acting in one of the plays, took two of our acting workshops and the director's workshop, and just finished directing her first

show with us. Lizzie Rambocek and Rowan Laidler are working backstage. And Rowan is interested in taking the director's workshop next time it is offered. She, John-Carl Laidler, and David also helped with the Youth Acting workshop this summer as team leaders. Olivia will be helping with the Teen Acting workshop. Exciting, huh?

## Setting the Stage *by John Eberhard*



### Planning

I had intended to speak at our last membership meeting, but got confused on exactly what had been tabled so I missed my opportunity to speak up then. Fortunately, this written opportunity still exists.

I am delighted to hear we have a planning committee

up and going. Failing to plan is planning to fail, as they say. We need to have targets to shoot at, instead of just shooting.

I am a bit troubled that after 40 years without a plan we suddenly have some sort of need to rush one through with only a few weeks for membership input. One of the statements made was that the planning committee wanted input from the membership; it would seem that granting plenty of time for that input would take precedence over haste. Apparently not.

As I recall, the Planning

Committee spokesman said that the planning committee already has "lots of great ideas". They want ideas from the membership, too. This is all well and good. Ain't nothing like a bunch of great ideas!

However, there is one important little unmentioned item that always seems to accompany great ideas. It is called a "price tag".

As we consider all these upcoming wonderful ideas as well as hiring people to come clean regularly, I hope the Board and the membership make some

sort of effort to connect all of the financial OUTGO to fund all of these great ideas with our real world IN-COME. I recall in the discussion about hiring cleaners, Anne said "We have plenty of money." She is right...we do. However, that isn't a problem that we need to fix. If we are fiscally irresponsible and our outgo doesn't have a close relationship to our income, we certainly won't continue to have "plenty of money." As Smart Squirrel says, "Save when you have, have when you need."



My fiscal responsibility button is flashing red and the sirens are going off. We just spent around \$4800 for a building to store flats in that it doesn't appear we are now going to store flats in. We may have spent extra so it would be high enough to store flats in. We just spent \$750 on locks, and we have a \$5,000 website replacement on the table. A year or two ago we voted down a \$40,000 lobby renovation. If I'm not making a terrible guess, we're a -fixing to hear a proposal on renovating our bathrooms.....with the low end being maybe \$7500 and the high end being maybe the moon. Didn't we recently buy new stage lights, mikes, and a sound board....another \$4-5,000? Another \$5,000 for butresses? By the way, our 4 HVAC units are getting on in years and when they go it will take \$20,000 or so to replace them.

Are we really making the kind of money that we can spend it like this? I honestly don't know exactly how our income is going, but I do know it wasn't that long ago we had a year that was in the red. The outbuilding, locks, and website will total near \$11,000 of expense for what....the first six months of this year? Are we really making enough profit to cover that plus all of our expenses plus hire a cleaning crew because the people using the theater can't clean up after themselves?

Traditionally, fiscal responsibility has not always been the strongest suit of TLP. There have always been folks who seem to want to spend every dime we have in savings, and to leave those who follow later with the struggle to

make ends meet. I'm not accusing anyone of that right now, but the actions of the Board, the Planning Committee, and the membership in the next few months will tell the tale on whether or not that accusation should have been made.

Based on recent expenses and on what I am seeing and hearing....I am seriously concerned about a headlong plunge into the funding of wants and baubles without any consideration about paying for them other than raping our savings. I hope that concern is without foundation. Please show me that it is. Show me that all of these great ideas will have some connection with financial reality and realistic income expectations that will pay for them; something other than hopes, dreams, optimism, and promissory notes.

Please show me.

### Survey Question

Question 22 of the member survey from the planning committee was "How interested are you in moving to a larger facility, knowing it will create a need for a larger volunteer base, staff positions, and a more professional organization besides the perks of a larger stage and more opportunity for better productions?"

This is such a complex question that I wanted to kind of work my way through it to organize my thoughts.

First of all, who wouldn't be interested in having wing space, fly space, a green room, plenty of parking area so we wouldn't need parkers, new and

shiny everything, a large enough stage to easily do just about any show, lights that were high enough not to bake the actors onstage, and so on? I mean, really....who turns a thumbs down on all this?

The second part is a bit more problematic..... as far as "creating a need for a large volunteer base". Of course, we all WANT a larger volunteer base. However, that doesn't mean we will get and keep one. Traditionally, the volunteer base of TLP has grown and ebbed. Right now it is at an ebb, following about seven years of growth. Just before that seven years of growth, we had an ebb and we lost about a third of our membership. We have an established cyclical growth pattern. Even if we obtain a larger volunteer base, that doesn't at all mean we will RETAIN that larger base. On that point, look where we are right now.

The third item, staff positions, isn't quite as simple as it would appear at first glance. My understanding--and Mr. Govero can clear this up if my understanding is incorrect---is that we have to create paid staff positions such as an executive director FIRST. Then, we attempt to obtain grants to build the facility. Of course, if we fail to get those grants, then we will have paid an executive director for X number of years.....and that money will be gone and cannot be recouped. In other words, if you spend \$50,000 over a few years on paid staff positions and don't get the hoped for grants, you're just out fifty grand. Now, if you could pay those staff positions only a percentage of grants actually obtained, that would be a great deal because we can't lose. If we

get grants, the staffers are paid, and we win. If we don't get grants, we aren't out any money in salaries, so at least we don't lose.

About a "more professional organization", I'm not sure exactly what this means. I have an idea of what I think a more professional organization would be, but I have no idea if that matches what the planning committee deems to be a "more professional organization". I would suggest this, though: I think we already try to be as professional as we can. This makes me really curious not only as to what a "more professional organization" would entail, but how we are expected to achieve it with the same personnel we have. Would this require another re-writing of the by-laws? Hiring even more outside staff, consultants, professionals, and so on?

I guess the reason for this article is to ask, "If I indicate much interest in a new facility, what sort of baggage am I approving along with it?" To put it another way, "If I say I am interested in a new facility, did I just vote for paid staff, paid outside consultants and professionals, re-writing by-laws, more rigid rules, etc.?" If I voted "yes" for a new facility, I'm not at all certain what other things I voted "yes" for by doing so.

Disclaimer: I think planning is crucial. I'm glad we have a planning committee and that they are attempting to gauge membership interest in a variety of things. I am advocating neither for nor against a new facility in this article. I am not saying this question is a bad question. I just want to explore what an "interested" response actually entails.



## Bringing LIVE theatre to the Twin Lakes Area

### TWIN LAKES PLAYHOUSE

600 W. Sixth Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
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Phone: 870-424-0444

Website: [www.twinlakesplayhouse.org](http://www.twinlakesplayhouse.org)

**We're on the Web**  
**[twinlakesplayhouse.org](http://twinlakesplayhouse.org)**

Twin Lakes Playhouse is an ever-evolving community theatre, adding new and innovative ideas to our Season, with musicals, children's theatre, youth, teen and adult acting workshops, director, and improvisation workshops. We are always looking for interested members to participate in all aspects of producing plays. Community theatre is a great outlet for both children and adults, a safe place to create and wrangle your imagination. We also award a scholarship each year to a qualified student who wishes to continue their education in some aspect of the performing arts. And we have an active Benefit Program for local organizations.

### Member Focus— Debby Stanuch



Other TLP productions Debby has been in:

Nunsense, The Spitfire Grill,  
and Wash Your Troubles Away



As Doris in THE CEMETERY CLUB



Debby and Don Stanuch are also  
playhouse Patrons



As Dinah in THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB



A lot of our members don't know how involved Debby Stanuch is with TLP. Not only is she a wonderful actress on stage but she is an advocate for the playhouse. Working at KTLO Radio, Debby continually promotes the theatre. She is the Talk of the Town broadcaster and also signs us up for special work in conjunction with the radio station. She was responsible for putting together an exchange with KTLO, where playhouse actors would do voices for community advertisers in exchange for free radio advertising. She also set us up for a community focus in February 2013, where the playhouse received continued support through PSAs and interviews about the playhouse productions and their education program. And, Debby has been a producer on several of our productions, raising sponsorship money and getting community support for our plays.

Everyone should be recognized for their participation. We all devote valuable time out of our personal schedules to volunteer. This month we proudly recognize Debby and wish her continued participation at TLP! Thanks, Deb, for all that you do!  
Your fans, the Members of TLP