

# Curtain Call

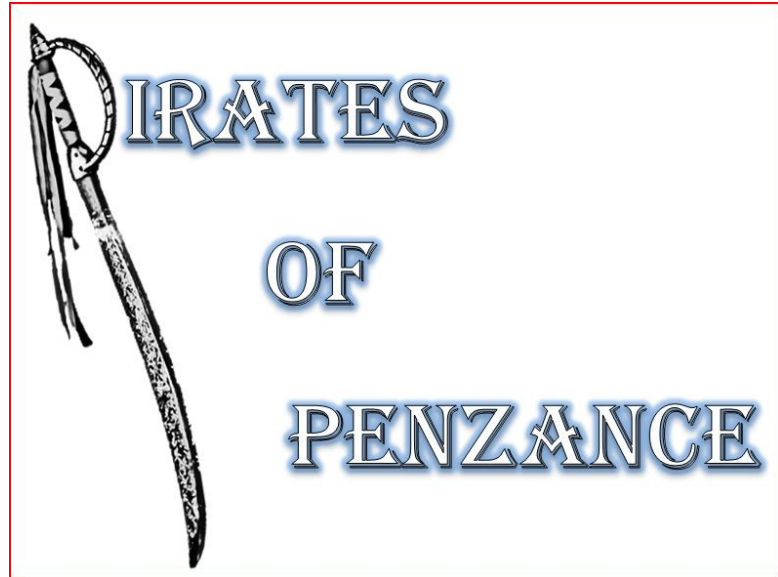
Quarterly Newsletter of Theatre in the Woods, Ltd.

June 2011

## Summer Youth Production July 8-10

Any and all are invited to partake in a night of swashbuckling pirates and peculiar paradoxes. This year, the Quam's youth theater cast will treat audiences to a feast of singing and dancing as they present the hilarious operetta, *Pirates of Penzance*. Anyone who loves a jolly good time and a great show is encouraged to attend.

Youth are currently in rehearsal for



this one hour adaptation of the original Gilbert and Sullivan classic, under the talented direction and capable hands of Alex Peck, Emma Frey, and Emily Hagen. They look forward to entertaining audiences in just a few short weeks, with performance dates set

for July 8th, 9th, and 10th at 7pm, with additional 2pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Reservations are strongly encouraged. Call the box office at 715-468-4387, or reserve online at [titw.org](http://titw.org).

## Trip Report: The Winter's Tale, Guthrie Theater

Submitted by Audi Griffith

On March 12th about 30 TitWers (including 13 Quamikazes) left early in the morning to see "The Winter's Tale" by Shakespeare at the Guthrie Theater. It was a fun trip where we all enjoyed bonding time and rest stops.

When we arrived we looked out on the overview and enjoyed the sights, and then we settled down in our seats and waited for the show to begin. The first act was about the jealous king who thought his wife liked his best friend, the neighboring king. That one idea consumed him and he denied the child she bore and ordered them to be banished. The general who saw the child and mother's inno-

cence took the child and brought her to the neighboring country. During his travels the queen died. When the general had gotten to the other country he had just set the baby princess down when a ferocious grizzly bear came. He distracted the bear away from the baby princess and saved her life. Sadly his was taken. A few minutes later a couple of hill-billy/country folk came and found the baby. The

scene skipped ahead about 18 or so years and we saw a girl run up to a boy and kiss. That ended the first act. During intermission we...(cont'd on pg 2)



(Trip Report, from pg 1 cont'd)

had all talked about the cool effects and how well done the play was. We stretched and got back into our seats, eager for the second act to begin.

The second act began with a song and it showed how the princess had lived and how she had secretly fallen in love with the prince. Nobody knew that she was a princess, even though she acted more proper than the rest. The prince's father had shown up with his right hand man in disguise to see where the prince had gone. Later he revealed himself to them and shamed the girl for ever believing that they could be together. The prince and princess decided to run away to another country and get married there. Little did they know however that the country they went to was the princess' original home.

The jealous king had become depressed and he built a monument for his wife out of remorse for what he had done to her and their daughter. When the prince (the son of his old best friend) came to visit him with his fiance, he welcomed him with open arms. They got married there, and when they went to see the monument of the queen, it came to life. The princess got her mother's blessing and her father received forgiveness from the brought-to-life queen. The two kings also became friends again. The curtain fell on this happy tune of joy.

After the play there was a question and answer session with the actors. Many questions were asked such as, "What was the funnest part of putting on the production for you all?" then also, "What were some of the difficulties of this production?" The actors were all very interesting with their different answers and eagerness to answer questions. Some of the answers we got were, "The funnest part is seeing it all come together. The cast becomes your family since you're here most of the time working on lines and how to improve yourself. Everyone helps out with everything and there is never a dull moment here" and also "The hardest part was learning to speak the language. It is so different than how we speak today, but it is a beautiful thing to learn once you do." Afterward we stopped and took a picture in front of

the sign. We also ran into a few actors from the play and got a picture with one of them. Then it was time to head back,

and we did so happily. It was an amazing play to see.



# 'Little Women'

*After playing to sold-out crowds, cast and crew take a bow*

The first weekend in April, over 300 people enjoyed the sold-out performances of "Little Women." A cast of 16 fine performers gave the audiences a glimpse into the lives of the four young March girls as they grew from teenagers to young women. The show was sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, and sometimes sad as the girls learned about friendship, responsibility, and love. The director, Laurie Bakkum, was very ably assisted by Emily Hagen and Chris Olson as assistant director and rehearsal assistant. DJ Shipman was found managing a very challenging lighting program. Our reliable regulars, Megan, Shirley, Carolyn, and Carol provided costuming, set construction and painting, and house management. The actors hailed from

five different towns, Stone Lake, Siren, Webb Lake, Spooner, and Shell Lake; they overcame a myriad of scheduling conflicts; and they battled the weather to bring this classic tale to the Quam stage. Hopefully, Josie, Cambria, Lane, Jessica, Rose, Robert, Emilee, Nick, Alex, Ian, Janet, Donnie, Audi, Barry, Kristen, and Spencer will return soon to Theatre in the Woods.



# How was the Pizza?

by Carolyn Burnett

Directors are often asked why they chose a particular play or how a play is chosen. When Carolyn Burnett and Karen Kaufman decided to co-direct another production, their focus was on ancient Greece. Carolyn, a frequent director for TitW, feels strongly about the importance of the Greek roots of modern theater. She is drawn to the ancient Greek plays and wants to stage one for TitW audiences. Karen got excited about the role of the Greek chorus in productions and was ready for another theatrical challenge.

Together the duo read several of the ancient plays in a variety of translations. Most were just too obscure for modern audiences to follow. Eventually they settled on Lysistrata by

Aristophanes as the most understandable in 2011. They found a translation they thought would work well.

There was a major challenge with the play. The ancient Greeks were quite a bit more explicit in their theatrical references to matters both sexual and scatological than theatergoers of today find acceptable. Carolyn and Karen knew that they needed to have more input from the TitW community before committing to this play.

On March 18, twelve people gathered to read Lysistrata in the continuing TitW tradition of pizza and a play. The reading itself was great fun, though there were a few gasps here and there due to the explicit nature of the action and the language. All present agreed the play was enjoyable and theatrically well written with several scenes eliciting much laughter (cont'd on pg 4)

## ...More Little Women



### Curtain Call

is the quarterly newsletter of:

Theatre in the Woods, Limited

P.O. Box 156

Shell Lake, WI 54871

Phone (715)468-4387

Laurie Bakkum, President

Patti Fox, Vice President

Carol Seehafer, Secretary

Chris Olson, Treasurer

Jessica de la Cruz, *Curtain Call* Editor

(715) 790-4094

### Submission Guidelines:

*Curtain Call* is published in March, June, September and December. Copy deadline is on the 15th of the previous month. Submit text as a simple, unformatted e-mail or attached Word document. Photos or other artwork should be sent as an attached file, preferably JPEG file format. Send to:

[publicity@titw.org](mailto:publicity@titw.org)

We are located in the  
*Erika Quam Memorial Theater*

605 First St

Shell Lake WI

Check out our website:

[titw.org](http://titw.org)

Jessica de la Cruz, Webmaster.

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(Pizza from pg. 3) around the table. But in addition, there was a pretty solid consensus that for several reasons “Lysistrata is not a play for TitW to do. Casting the play would be difficult due both to the number of actors needed as well as the vital importance of those actors being completely comfortable on stage with the graphic humor of the play. Some at the reading felt with actors and directors at ease with what was put on stage, and the production promoted in such a way that the audience would not be shocked with what they saw, Lysistrata would be a suitable choice for a TitW season. Ultimately, the decision was made by the directors to return to the search for their next project. The pizza and play reading and discussion of Lysistrata was a superb ex-

ample of the greater community helping guide and decide what shows up on the TITW stage.

The (potential) directors came away with feelings of gratitude for the input, (see sidebar note for participant feedback), appreciation for the talents and perspectives of the readers, and a date to get together and look for another play.

This notice just in: Karen and Carolyn are taking a look at the serious side of Greek drama. They will be reading *Antigone* by Sophocles for consideration. We’ll keep you posted.

# Summer Picnic July 18th



A most reliable source tells Curtain Call that TitW’s summer picnic will be held at the Quam on Monday evening July 18th at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass, food to grill, and a lawn chair or blanket. Grill and beverages provided. Short business meeting and summer surprise to follow. All are welcome, hope to see you there!

## Help Wanted:



TitW will be holding a fundraiser at the Louie’s Brat Shack July 21st and Aug. 4th. Morning or afternoon shifts available. No skills necessary, but a desire to have fun preferred. Experience with meat a plus. Contact Jessica de la Cruz or Laurie Bakkum if you’d like to help.

### Upcoming TitW Events

- 7/8-7/10 *Pirates of Penzance 7pm (and 2pm Sat. and Sun.)*
- 7/18 *Summer Picnic (and board meeting) 6pm*
- 7/21 *Louie’s Brat Stand fundraiser 9-5, Cumberland*
- 8/4 *Louie’s Brat Stand fundraiser 9-5, Cumberland*
- December
- 2,3,4,9,10,11 *An O. Henry Christmas, directed by Roger Sweeney*

**Reservations? Call 715-468-4387 or visit [www.titw.org](http://www.titw.org)**

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