

Curtain Call

Quarterly Newsletter of Theatre in the Woods, Ltd.

September 2011

They came, they ate...and we survived

It was a new and interesting idea, us peddling sausages and saurkraut along a busy Cumberland roadside. Nevertheless, there is much good to be said about our first ever Brat Shack fundraiser at Louie's Finer Meats. In shifts of 3 we took turns, cooking, preparing, sweating, waving signs, dancing, and asking "with or without saurkraut?" or "would you like something to drink with that?" In a weak moment, we may have forgotten a bun or two. But for a few very memorable Thursdays this summer Theatre in the Woods served up food and fun, thanks to the help of a lot of hungry passers by, and our dedicated volunteer staff:

Jean Speaker, Tom Gabrys, Laurie Bakkum, Jody Peck, Kaylee Peck, Spencer Peck, Cory Peck, Jessica de la Cruz, Zachary de la Cruz, Ally de la Cruz, Patti Fox, Carol Seehafer and Bill Sumner.

In total, this new fundraiser netted nearly \$500 in proceeds for TitW! Given the chance we plan to jump at the next available brat-shack opening, for which there is a drawing held every year.

Many thanks to Louie's Finer Meats in Cumberland for their kind hospitality and generosity.



To help kick off Shell Lake's annual Town and Country Days celebration, TitW will be hosting nationally recognized folk humorist Mary Mack, a comedian with local roots and flavor, for a one-night showing Thursday, September 1st at 7:30pm. You'll want to reserve your seats early for this one.

Mary Mack spends half her time convincing her Minnesotan mother it's okay for her daughter to be

Comedian Mary Mack to perform Thursday, Sept. 1st

a comedian and the other half touring the country in her sweet, 400 dollar Dodge Neon--affectionately referred to as "Street Heat." Mack and her mandolin sing-alongs, have been featured on the nationally syndicated Bob and Tom Radio Show, XM's National Lampoon's Comedy Network, and Minnesota's Polka Spotlight. After winning the 2005 California's Funniest Female Contest, she went on to appear in the Vancouver Comedy Fest (2007), HBO's Andy Kaufman Awards (2007), and Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival (2009). Mack had her national TV debut on Comedy Central's Live at Gotham and NBC's Last Comic Standing. (Mack, cont'd on pg 2)

We Have a Winner!

From Roger Sweeney

Judge Stanchfield Pearson decided in favor of Ebenezer Scrooge's claim against Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future for breaking and entering, kidnapping, slander, pain and suffering, attempted

murder and the intentional infliction of emotional distress. This was the ruling revealed on April 22 by the participants during "Pizza and a Play" at the Quam. It was an entertaining evening marked by hilarity, fun, comradery and along with some excellent eats. Everyone agreed that "The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge" should be on the docket for production during the Hoilday Season 2012. Staging and costuming possibilities are already being considered.

(Mack, cont'd from page 1)

A true Northerner, Mack, however, started her career in Nashville, and now splits her time between Los Angeles and Minneapolis, where she recorded her 2nd album "Either You Wake Up or you Don't" at her home club Acme Comedy Company. This album was followed with "Pinch Finger Girl: A Tragedy" recorded in Madison, WI (2009). Mack's endearing stage presence and off-kilter, musical sur-



prises, stemming from her background as former music teacher and polka bandleader make her popular with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Tickets for this performance are just \$10, but seating is limited. Reserve online at www.titw.org or call the box office at 715-468-4387. As usual, beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Cash or check accepted.



Mark your calendars for 'An O. Henry Christmas'

From Roger Sweeney

An O. Henry Christmas by Howard Burman. Based on stories by O. Henry. This holiday production is directed by Roger Sweeney and will be presented at the Erika Quam Memorial Theater on Dec 2, 3, 4, & 9, 10, 11. After escaping wrongful imprisonment, a mysterious storyteller enters an abandoned railroad spur on the outskirts of New York City, Christmas Eve, 1893. In exchange for some hobo stew, "O.P." entertains a rag-tag mix of seemingly lost souls by spinning a few tales, and in the process rekindles the spirit of giving. He magically transforms the crew




into players to stage O. Henry's "The Last Leaf" and "The Gift of the Magi," and others. Word-play, trickery, sentimental holiday fare, this is a heartwarming alternative to all of those Christmas carols. "Poignant and comically ironic stories make for a stirring family offering." - Los Angeles Times. Reserve your seats for this upcoming stage performance by calling the TitW box office at 715-468-4387, or online at www.titw.org.

Guthrie Trips Planned for October

From Carolyn Burnett

Theatre in the Woods has, in the past, facilitated several field trips to see a Shakespeare production at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. These have always fallen sometime in winter or spring. For reasons known to the Guthrie power in charge of scheduling, this season their Shakespeare production will play in the fall. SO, now's the time for those wishing to venture over to the cities to see *Much Ado about Nothing* to check their calendars. As in the past, tickets are available at one half the full price, making them \$27.50 per person, best seats available. When? Saturday, October 1, the 1:00 matinee. To be assured of seating the TitW crowd together, I need to make the reservations ASAP. Everyone intending to take advantage of this superb opportunity must let me know by September 7, either by phone 715 354 3803 or email shiitake@chibardun.net. (Note, too many messages sent to our email land in spam. I check regularly, but if you send an email and do not get a response, please call.) Checks can be sent payable to Carolyn Burnett and need to be in the mail by September 15 or given to me at the TitW meeting Monday, September 19. Not that I have more information at this time, you may call 715 354 3803 for clarification. WAIT, THERE'S MORE!! Rumor has it (Trip, cont'd on page 4)

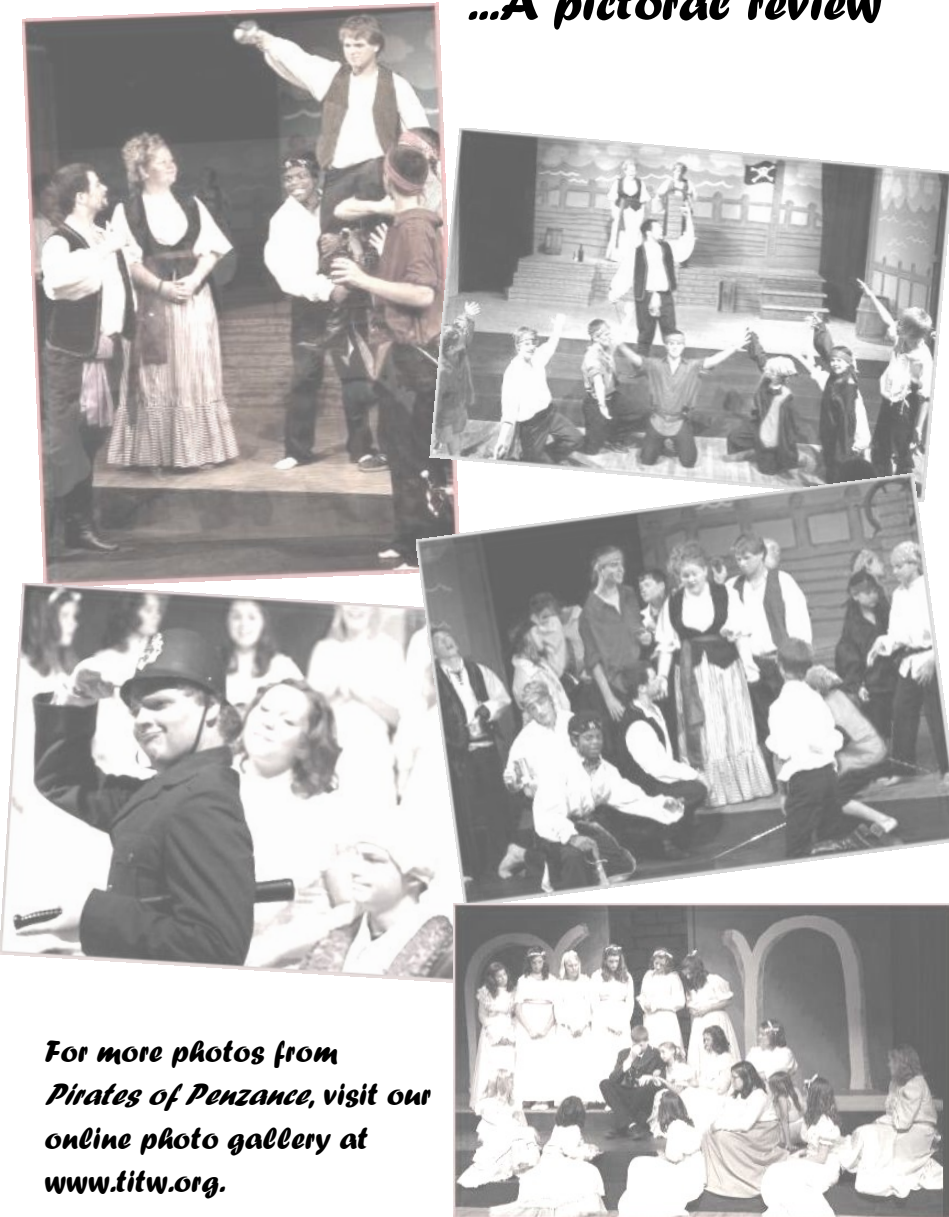


**PIRATES
OF
PENZANCE**

No one could deny the talent and enthusiasm of our TitW youth, as witnessed by audiences who were lucky enough to take in this summer's sold out youth production. This July, over 40 area youth pulled together a musical event that neither they or our community will soon forget. Kudos to our TitW youth, the always adventurous, rebellious and

beloved scallywags we call our "Quamikazees," who successfully staged the very model of a modern youth theatre production

...A pictorial review



For more photos from *Pirates of Penzance*, visit our online photo gallery at www.titw.org.



Curtain Call

is the quarterly newsletter of:
Theatre in the Woods, Limited

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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:

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(Trip, from page 2) Karen Kaufman and Carolyn Burnett are planning to co-direct a production of Sophocles drama, Antigone. We do not as yet have a date set for said production, but community outreach starts in October. As with the Shakespeare offering above, TitW will facilitate a field trip to the Guthrie Theater for the 1:00 matinee, Saturday, October 29 of Burial at Thebes. This is the Seamus Heaney adaptation of Antigone, and one of the favorite versions which Burnett and Kaufman read while seeking an accessible translation for their production.

Judging by the reputation of the director for this production as well as cryptic description of the use of music, we feel this will be a good introduction to Greek drama and a thoroughly captivating production. Those interested in knowing more or signing up for the field trip should let Carolyn know by phone 715 354 3803 or email shiiitake@chibardun.net (see cautionary note above) by September 19. Price for tickets is the same as the Shakespeare production, \$27.50.

Talent to Spare?

Our annual Pretty Good Party is coming up October 8th at 7pm, and we're in need of entertainment. If you'd like to recite a poem, sing a song, play an instrument, or share some other talent, please contact Kathy Mitchell at meekmitchell@yahoo.com. Don't be shy! It's also not too early to RSVP, go online or call the box office, 715-468-4387 by 9/30/11.



Upcoming TitW Events

9/1	Mary Mack, Comedian	7:30pm
9/19	Monthly Board Meeting	7pm
10/8	Pretty Good Party	7pm
10/17	Monthly Board Meeting	7pm
11/21	Monthly Board Meeting	7pm
12/2-12/11	An O. Henry Christmas	7:30pm (Sundays @2)

Call for Reservations at 715-468-4387 or visit titw.org



There will be a book launching at Northwind Book and Fiber in Spooner, Saturday, August 27, at 11:00 am, for the *Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage Guidebook*. This book, which also makes mention of TitW, is about hand-crafted, homemade, arts/crafts, and agriculture in this 16 County region. For more information see www.heritagepassage.com or call 715-635-9309.



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