

DIDDLESEX JUNCTION

A newsletter published infrequently (not orphan) by *Thespis Etc. of UUCDC*

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"ON A STREET IN DECEMBER..."

(SOUND FAMILIAR?)

On December 5,6,7, we will be presenting, for the ninth consecutive year, *A Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas Carol*. This delightful adaptation by Gayden Wren of the traditional Dickens story told to the music of a number of Gilbert and Sullivan operas is a chance for performers of all ages to have some fun, to raise a little money for our UUCDC sponsor, and to start the holiday season. This is to remind our Thespis, Etc. members, UUCDC members, and friends that **auditions** are scheduled for **Monday, June 9**. They're by appointment only, with 6:00 - 7:30PM reserved for youths; from 7:30PM for adults. All auditions will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County (UUCDC) at 145 W. Rose Tree Road in Media. Please contact Sally Saepaga at 215-662-4488, or sallyforth123@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Our stage director this year will be Bruce Wyman (yes, Bruce Wyman!) so this means that someone else will have to step into his shoes as the beloved Uncle Tim. So, sign up to audition.

Bruce's initial comments:

It is with such anticipation and some trepidation that I look forward to directing *A Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas Carol*, but we'll try to make it fun for all. Some ideas that I have, but none in stone:

1. Narrator will be raised on a platform, stage right, reading to two children (or dolls!)
2. Scrooge's bedroom will be raised on stage left with ample room for all action with the three Christmas ghosts. Scrooge will not come down at all to the rest of the stage until his "redemption."

3. If we can work it, Scrooge's office will be in the recessed main steps entrance to the hall and will be screened off after that scene, while still leaving room for the Christmas ghosts to sneak into Scrooge's bedroom.
4. Some minor changes in the music - including giving the Ghost of Christmas Future a solo - and rearranging the order slightly towards the end so that the Matter, Matter, Matter song is sung in sequence (If we can make that work!)

I have a couple of other ideas to make the show different, exciting and fresh. But, you will have to wait and see about these. We need everyone to sign up for auditions, but if you want to take part and can't get there, please call me at 610-565-1699 or email btwyman11@comcast.net and let me know.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to another season of Thespis, Etc.! This month we will begin another production season with auditions for the perennial holiday audience and cast favorite, *A Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas Carol*. Some of the details are shown above. And, in September there will be auditions for February's *The Mikado*.

Our "newcomer" director, Bruce Wyman, has shared some of his ideas with you and it sounds like it's going to be fun for all involved! If you haven't yet signed up for an audition, what are you waiting for?

If you happen to be the type who doesn't like to be ON stage, well, there's plenty that needs to be done OFF stage in order to make this production a success. There are sets to be built, costumes to be fitted, program ads to be sold, tickets to be sold, refreshments to be provided, the list goes on and on. If you have any doubt, take a look at the program from one of our past shows to see the listing of production staff and the dozens of tasks that support the actors on stage.

Community Theater is all about having fun. Well, yes, it's about rehearsals and costumes and learning lines and songs and blocking, too. But in its truest sense, it's about "community" - making lasting friendships and working and having fun together in a common goal - doing something that we all enjoy. There's a lot of hard work that goes into putting on a great production that our audiences will enjoy, but there's nothing that says it can't be fun, too! So, sign up for an audition for *A Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas Carol*, or if you're not ready to be on stage, send me an email at dalibby@yahoo.com and volunteer to take on one

of the many production and business jobs that support the show. I'll pass it along to the producer or business manager to get you signed up.

Dan Libby
President, Thespis, Etc.

NEWS RELEASE

This year Thespis, Etc. donated \$6,000 to UUCDC. This is the largest amount that we've ever given, and it brings the grand total over the years to more than \$62,000. Beyond unrestricted monetary gifts, Thespis has contributed to UUCDC's Building Endowment Fund; donated labor and truck to help clean up the basement; paid for additional chairs for the sanctuary; donated tools and equipment for community volunteer work. On many occasions, Thespians have contributed their skills and expertise to doing various UUCDC maintenance jobs, including painting the Fellowship Hall. We regularly "lend" our lighting system and technicians for other in-house performances and events.

Oh, Joy, Oh, Rapture!

Regina and Scott Florian welcomed Brett Thomas Florian to the world on April 29. He weighed in at 8 lbs, 10 oz, and must be a bass/lineman! Our heartiest congratulations to parents and big sister.

OUR OBJECT ALL SUBLIME

In February 2009, we will be presenting *The Mikado* (by guess who) at UUCDC. Dan Libby will be our stage director, and Joseph Erdeljac will be music director. In our last Mikado production, Joseph did a great job as Ko-Ko. September audition dates TBA.

CHECK IT OUT:

Cathy Mostek, Phoebe in our recent production of *Yeomen*, is appearing in Neil Simon's *Rose's Dilemma* at the Footlighters Theater in Berwyn. Direction is by our own Bruce Warren. It's double-casted and Cathy may be seen in the performances on June 6, 8, and 14. June 12 is sold out! Go to <http://footlighterstheater.com> for more information and advance ticket purchase.

The Buxton, England Festival performers from the Philadelphia area will perform *Pirates of Penzance* in August. Some familiar folks making the journey

are Kim Dahms, Bob Binkley, Willy Dahms, and Jeff Grant. Julie May is the stage director.

The King of Prussia Players will be presenting *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* July 12 through 26 at Shannondell. For information, go to www.kofpplayers.org.

As to the most recent trivia question, which was in keeping with leap year and Savoy Opera: if Frederic turned 21 in 1940, in what year was he born? After diligent research, it was determined that Frederic's natal day was in 1852, because some person in authority, very likely the Astronomer Royal, decided that 1900 was not a leap year. The first correct answer was received from David Leavitt, so the editor owes him an inexpensive prize in questionable taste. Here's a new one, connected, or more or less, to *G&S Christmas Carol*: Would Dickens or Victoria and Albert have had a Christmas tree and why or why not? Send your answers to the editor at rbeavins@comcast.net. All technicalities and ties will be resolved by the Committee (I am the Committee.)