

Attic WINDOW

Official newsletter of Attic Theatre, Inc.

WINTER 2010



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P.O. Box 41
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Attic announces 61st summer season

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

June 21-25, 27-30

By Marc Camoletti
Adapted by Robin Hawdon
Directed by Mark Dintenfuss

A smash hit during its more than two year run in Paris and critically acclaimed in London while at the Apollo Theatre, this hilarious farce finds Bernard planning a weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in a romantic French farm house. With a Cordon Bleu chef set to prepare gourmet delights, his best friend, Robert, providing an alibi, and his wife, Jacqueline, off to her mother's, what could possibly go wrong?

Well...what if Robert arrives at the farm house not knowing why he's there? What if he and Jacqueline are secret lovers? What happens if the chef is mistaken for the mistress, and the mistress is unable to cook? The result is an evening of hilarious confusion as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

July 14-16, 19-23

By Mark Twain, author, with
Timothy Mason, featured playwright
Directed by Georgia Peitsch

Mark Twain narrates as the lovable Tom Sawyer and his pals take us back to the sweet summer days when sternwheelers commanded the mighty Mississippi, a time when kids fished, teased schoolmates and stole kisses in the schoolyard. From the opening flourish of the fiddle to a closing joyous leap into the Mississippi, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is a winning combination of adventure, humor and nostalgia. The audience joins in the fun with Tom and Huck as they scheme to win a reward for capturing a villain. This family show is sure to please.

RABBIT HOLE

July 27-30, August 2-6

By David Lindsay-Abaire
Directed by Laurie Fannin

Becca and Howie Corbett have everything a family could want, until a life-shattering accident turns their world upside down and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart. Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, *Rabbit Hole* charts their bittersweet search for comfort in the darkest of places and for a path that will lead them back into the light of day. *Variety* magazine boasts of *Rabbit Hole*, "... an intensely emotional examination of grief, laced with wit, insightfulness, compassion and searing honesty."

THE FULL MONTY

August 10-13, 16-20

Book by Terrence McNally
Music & lyrics by David Yazbek
Directed by Annette Thornton

When impacted by challenging economic conditions, husbands/fathers search to find their self-worth in this musical adaptation of the British film by the same name. After a girls' night out, the husbands find out how much money male exotic dancers make, so the unemployed steelworkers in Buffalo, NY come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. In the process, they find renewed self-esteem, the importance of friendship and the ability to have fun.

While the show is for mature audiences, the final impact of *The Full Monty* is achieved with clever directing and subtle staging. There is great heart to this show, and its universal themes address taking charge of one's life and following one's dreams. Its brilliant musical score and witty lyrics are by the award winning composer of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Tickets go on sale May 1...
Look for individual and season ticket
order form in the Spring newsletter.

AUDITION INFORMATION
INSIDE!

Auditions set for 2011 summer season

Open auditions take place at All Saints Church, 100 N. Drew St., Appleton, on **April 9 and 10** for *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Rabbit Hole* and *The Full Monty*. Auditions for *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* take place the following weekend, **April 16 and 17**, also at All Saints Church.

Cast requirements for *Don't Dress for Dinner* include three men and three women. *Rabbit Hole* requires two women, late 20s to early 40s; one man, same age range; one woman, 60s; one teen boy. To audition for these shows, come prepared to read from the scripts.

The Full Monty needs nine men, ages 20s to 60s, of average build, including one African American and one man of retirement age; one man, aged 25-35 of muscular physique; eight women, ages 20s to 60s, including one of grandmother age; and one boy who is or can appear to be 12.

To audition, come prepared with a monologue and 32 bars of a recent Broadway musical. Also come prepared to do dance movement, which will be taught during auditions.

The family show *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* requires nine boys

(who are or can look ages 12-15); four - eight girls (who are or can look ages 12-15); five - nine women (who are or can appear ages 35-50); and eight - ten men (who are or can appear 30+). Auditions will consist of selected readings from the script.

This show also calls for musicians/singers who will be onstage and costumed. Instruments needed include fiddle, harmonica, bluegrass banjo, and guitar. Come to auditions with one prepared verse of a folk song to play or sing.

Get complete audition details, including where to get copies of scripts, at www.attictheatreinc.com

Letter from the President

Greetings friends,

With the new year comes many exciting developments for Attic Theatre, focusing on improving the experience for our volunteers, patrons and audience members.

Through a grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc., we will be implementing a new database and ticketing system. We believe this new tool will allow us to be more effective in our service to you, and as a result, reduce expenses while increasing participant satisfaction.

We ask your patience as we implement the new systems, and know that we're working diligently to get and maintain the most accurate information to serve you better. One simple thing we ask you to do is review the address label on this newsletter, and if any corrections are needed, please let us know...just email atticaddresses@gmail.com.

Also, please know that we researched numerous ticketing systems to find the most user-friendly and cost-effective solution for our audience members. While there is a per ticket fee associated with this system, we're confident that you will find the ease of seat selection, ticket ordering and payment convenient and inline with other area arts groups.

We're pleased to have been selected by a group of Marian University students as the nonprofit organization for which they will be conducting a research project (*see sidebar*).

In addition to these operational changes, we're delighted to be working on our summer productions. The shows are diverse with something for everyone during the season.

Sincerely,
Carol Jegen
President, Attic Board of Directors

Help us Better Serve You!

Attic Theatre is committed to keeping tickets to our shows at reasonable prices. To do that, grants, sponsorships and other donations subsidize nearly half of our production costs.

Recently, a group of Marian University graduates students identified a need of Attic Theatre's to have more detailed information about its audience members, donors and volunteers to produce stronger grant applications and to serve its constituents better.

Within the next three months you will be receiving a survey via email or US mail from the Marian students. Your prompt response to the survey will help make this project successful for the students and Attic Theatre. All data collected is anonymous and confidential; it will be used for Attic Theatre purposes only.

To help reduce mailing costs of the survey, we would appreciate being able to email it to you. Please forward an active email address to atticaddresses@gmail.com. We thank you in advance for your assistance with this important effort.

Visit our Web site:

www.attictheatreinc.com

Save paper and postage costs; ask to receive this newsletter via email:
attictheatre@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook

New directors elected at annual meeting

At its meeting on January 20, Attic Theatre, Inc. elected new directors to join those already on the board. The newly elected directors are:

Kathy Hannah is currently the Reference Librarian at the Menasha Public Library. Prior to this position, she worked for a short period as the Reference Librarian at UW-Fox Valley. She has worked in the library field for most of her adult life. She graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BA in history and received her MLS from UW-Oshkosh. She is an active volunteer and has worked of FoxJazz Fest, Seafood Fest, Community Fest, Meals-on-Wheels, Book Fairs, LZ Lambeau, Art In or Art Around the Park and

the Fox Cities Marathon. Kathy plays piano, and she sang with Druids Table and church choirs. She has been involved in numerous theatrical productions including *Hello Dolly*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Odd Couple*, *Oliver!*, *Annie Get Your Gun!*, *Vagina Monologues*, *Laramie Project*, *Once on the Island*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *HSM*, *Carousel*, and *The King and I*. Kathy was appointed to the Board of Directors in the Fall of 2010.

Kevin Plekan is originally from Manitowoc, WI and was bitten by the theatrical bug during his sophomore year in high school when he auditioned for *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and was cast as Snoopy. Kevin was in

numerous productions with Masquers Inc and Peter Quince Performing Co in Manitowoc from age 15 - 23. He was a 3 year member of Kids from Wisconsin where he learned a lot about professionalism by performing roughly 80 shows in 60 days for 3 summer tours. Kevin graduated from Lawrence University with a Bachelor of Music in 1988, and he has his Masters in Educational leadership from Marian University. He has directed 7 productions for area churches as well. This past year was his first Attic Theatre show (*Carousel*); he was in this production with his youngest child, Emma. Kevin was appointed to the Board of Directors in the Fall of 2010.

Put your company in the spotlight with Attic Theatre

Your company's advertisement in Attic Theatre's 2011 season playbill will reach thousands of Fox Valley residents who support their communities and their community theatre and who want to do business with the companies like yours that do the same. With a minimum print run of 6,000, playbill distribution includes each patron at the 35 season performances, to the 100+ performers, musicians and

volunteers making the season possible, and to local businesses and organizations. **Take advantage of these cost-effective opportunities:**

Black/white or full color —

Full page...5"w x 8"h
\$525 or \$485 with supplied art

Half page...5"w x 3.875"h
\$275 or \$245 with supplied art

Quarter page...2.374"w x 3.875"h
\$140 or \$125 with supplied art

Eighth page...2.375"w x 1.875"h
\$75 or \$65 with supplied art

Each ad size comes with additional recognition. Get complete details online at www.attictheatreinc.com or email turtlebay0929@yahoo.com.

Community theatre needs a community of help

Volunteers, donors, participants and patrons make Attic Theatre the outstanding community theatre that it has been for sixty-one years and continues to be today. As we begin another summer production season, we look to you, our supporters, to help fill our Hope Chest...

Some tangible items needed include:

- 4 Cordless 3/8" drills
- 2 -3 Jig Saws
- Sawz-All or Sabre saw
- Drill Press

- Air compressor with tank, hoses and fittings
- Air nailers in a variety of sizes for work from framing to finishing
- Assorted screw drivers
- 6 Crescent wrenches
- 6, 16'- 25' tape measures
- 4 Framing squares
- 4 Staple guns both mechanical and electric
- ½" Bolt cutter
- Felco 1/8" aircraft cable cutter
- Warehouse storage

Volunteer time and talents are also greatly needed:

- Set construction & painting
- Electrical, sound and lighting
- Costuming
- Prop gathering & managing
- Ushering & house managing
- Concessions selling
- Selling ads
- Distributing posters

If you are able to donate any of the items listed here or volunteer in any the capacities listed above, please call 920-734-7887 or email attictheatre@gmail.com.

Special thank you to
Floyd Baer for the recent donation of a scroll saw and a compound miter saw.



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Attic Theatre Children's Theatre Workshop **Act Up with Puppets!**

led by puppet artist Kathleen Conroy Mukwashi

In this workshop, inspired by familiar stories, children will create their own puppets, develop a script, learn basic theatre vocabulary, practice improvisational dialogue, and perform short plays for their peers. This special event welcomes children ages 6-13 for creative puppet making and improvisation.

Saturday, March 12, 2011 * 9:00 a.m. - noon

All Saints Episcopal Church * 100 N. Drew Street, Appleton WI

\$15 per child * Registration deadline March 9, 2011

Registration information and additional details are online at www.attictheatreinc.com.

Questions? Email attictheatre@gmail.com or call 920-734-7887

Kathleen Conroy Mukwashi is a theatre artist and puppeteer. She is former Artistic Director of the Puppet Showplace Theatre in Boston and has toured nationally as a puppeteer with Underground Railway Theatre. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut's famed puppetry arts program. For more information about Kathleen visit www.greeneyepuppets.com