



STONE ARCH PLAYERS' ON CUE WINTER QUARTERLY 2011



RUMORS plays February 25th, 26th, and March 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th and 13th. Mark your calendars now for an exciting evening of knee-slappers and belly-laughs with nine of the Stone Arch Players' most accomplished actors and one newbie, under the fine guidance of one of our most seasoned directors. *RUMORS* by Neil Simon. Don't miss it!

HILARIOUS REVIVAL RETAKES WINTER STAGE

RUMORS, a farce by Neil Simon, is the winter show at the Theatre In The Park and is re-directed by SAP veep, Phyllis Johnson. Johnson first directed the comedy fifteen years ago for the Stone Arch Players, and is assisted by Eric Kress, Susan Turns, and Chris Whiteford. The host of an anniversary party lies bleeding in the other room and his wife is nowhere in sight. As the first guests try to get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity. Ken and Chris Gorman, the initial couple to arrive at the party, are played by Mike Cramer and Nikki Kahley. Both debuted with our group in May of 1996, in the comedy *DEARLY DEPARTED*. Both next appeared the following year in *6 RMS RIV VU*. Kahley most recently wowed audiences as the ditzy secretary in last year's *THE AMOROUS AMBASSADOR*, and Cramer was last seen as the unwillingly recruited minister in 2010's *DEARLY BELOVED*.

Claire and Lenny Ganz are played by Stone Arch favorites Colette Hartzler and Jim Shannon. Hartzler last played the overheated sister in *DEARLY BELOVED*, but has starred in many other shows, including *THE UNEXPECTED GUEST* and *OSCAR AND FELIX*. Audience favorite Shannon turned in hilarious performances in two shows last season, in both *DEARLY BELOVED* and as the painfully perfect butler, Perkins, in *THE AMOROUS AMBASSADOR*. He also starred in the funny retread *OSCAR AND FELIX* the year before. Jim is one of two cast members who appeared in our 1995 production of *RUMORS*, but that time around he played Ken, rather than Lenny.

Third couple to arrive at the party are Charlie Wilson and Anita Rishel, playing Ernie and Cookie Cusack. Wilson is one of three cast members to be doing the show for the second time, as he first played Ernie in Bellefonte's Centre Playhouse's production of *RUMORS* in 2001. He was recently seen at the Boal Barn in *TWELVE ANGRY MEN* and *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*. Anita Rishel, SAP's own version of Lucille Ball, has been seen in hilarious roles in *THE AMOROUS AMBASSADOR*, *THE KITCHEN WITCHES*, and *DEARLY BELOVED*. But Rishel is not only a comedian, as she is also noted for her touching dramatic performances in shows like *TO FORGIVE, DIVINE*.

Last to arrive at the party are Glenn and Cassie Cooper, played by Bill Daup and Destiny Zeiders. Daup is playing the same smarmy politician he played in our 1995 version of the show. He has been seen in *THE SENATOR WORE PANTYHOSE*, and *LAURA*. Zeiders has appeared in many shows for SAP including *MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM*, and *THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC*. Last season Daup and Zeiders sparkled as the smarmy politician and his sexy mistress in *THE AMOROUS AMBASSADOR*. This season, They're the smarmy politician and his trophy bride in *RUMORS*. Could they be on the way to becoming SAP's version of Burns and Allen?

Rounding out the cast as the two put-upon police officers are Alan Peoples, and Beth Aumiller. In recent years, Peoples has been known more as a director, costumer, and board member, than as an actor. He directed both *DEARLY BELOVED* and *THE KITCHEN WITCHES*. He starred in 2001's *BEDSIDE MANNERS* as the harried and hilarious major domo. *RUMORS* introduces Beth Aumiller to our stage. She is not a stranger to our organization, however, having worked diligently backstage during the past several seasons. Her only prior experience on stage was years ago as Mistress of Ceremonies for her high school talent show, presented by The Kish Masquers. Welcome, Beth!

Our Forty-Fourth Anniversary Season! 1967-2011 at the Theatre In The Park

RUMORS

By Neil Simon

A Farce, Directed by Phyllis Johnson

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

February 25, 26, March 4, 5, 11 and 12

2:00 p.m. Sundays, March 6 and 13

LOSING PATIENTS

By A. Duke and Virginia Cate

A Farce, Directed by Alan Peoples

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21

2:00 p.m. Sundays, May 15 and 22

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Color versions of the newsletter photos

are available on our web site:

www.stonearchplayers.com

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Alan Peoples (Officer Welch) soundly berates the cast of *RUMORS* for forgetting to include him in the first cast picture. Beth Aumiller (Officer Pudney) missed both shots because she was in Florida.



Melissa Brannen starred in a play version of *THE TWILIGHT ZONE* On January 21st and 22nd with the No Refund Theater. The show was performed on the Penn State Campus in the Forum Building, and featured three short stories from the classic television series devised by Rod Serling. Melissa was superb, as always! Congratulations!



Four of our members recently appeared in *HEAVEN CAN WAIT* by Harry Segal on January eighth and ninth at the Lewistown Area High School. Three of our young people performed the leading roles of the play--Ethan Terry (*THE UNEXPECTED GUEST*) played the lead of Joe Pembleton, a boxer, opposite Molly Mank (*CHARLIE'S AUNT*) as Julia Farnsworth, and Brandon Hain (*IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING*) appeared as Mr. Jordan.

Costumes for the production were built by the talented Meredith Snook, who also did "fill-in" duty as a MALE train conductor during one short scene!

Congratulations to all four of our talented members who helped to make *HEAVEN CAN WAIT* a smashing success!



ANITA RISHEL DIRECTS

Anita Rishel is known as a fine comedian and dramatic actress with the Stone Arch Players. She is also active as boardmember and "Jill-of-all-trades" behind the scenes. But in recent years, Anita has also been directing productions for her two churches.

On Christmas Eve, she directed the youths' production of a non-verbal presentation using dowel rods to portray the birth of Jesus through his death on the cross. This moving performance had many of the congregation--both women and men--in tears.

For each Sunday in Advent Week when the Advent candle was lit, Rishel directed a biblical skit/monologue in which characters explain through their lives with Jesus the meaning of each candle. On Christmas eve, new actors portraying the same Bible characters reprised the trimmed down monologues on love, hope, joy, and peace before lighting the King candle.

For Epiphany Sunday on January 16th, Rishel worked with both churches in her charge, Saint Paul's Lutheran in Nook and Port Royal Lutheran Church to present the drama of the three magi traveling through time and ending up back in each of the churches again in order to revisit the child Jesus. She directed a different set of Magi for each church.

And not only has Anita directed these performances, she also made the costumes for the advent biblical characters and the youths' performance as well as the gifts, robes of the magi, and their hats and headgear.

Rishel's presentations have become so popular that Pastor Charlie and numerous people have said they can't wait until next year for the Christmas season to see another production. The performances have also been drawing members from other churches on Christmas Eve.

Anita says: "All of these performances have been very meaningful to me and give me a great sense of pleasure, accomplishment, and a better understanding of Jesus' life and all he has given to us. Doing costumes, props, production, directing, and having to work with so many different people and coordinating all the practice schedules is definitely challenging with a capital C! But seeing the performers realize their impact on the congregations is a reward like no other!"

What's next for Anita, the director? She is planning to have the youth do another performance for Easter as well as possibly having a drama centered on one of the centurions who speared Jesus at his crucifixion and/or the thief who was crucified with him.

Congratulations and future success to an outstanding director!



2nd Generation Stone Archer Ian Blake



(Third from left, back) is pictured with Zach's Show Stoppers, the acting troupe he works with in Austin. Ian recently appeared in *BROTHERS, BOYFRIENDS, AND OTHER CRIMINALS* as an autistic savant who constantly played the drums.



Long time Stone Arch patron, Terry Bubb, appeared in Charles Dickens' *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* on December nineteenth in Harrisburg. Bubb is a Scottish Rite Mason and the show was presented by the Harrisburg Lodge of Perfection in the Scottish Rite Auditorium. After his stellar performance as a caroler/townsperson, he was congratulated by his wife, Sue, and Bill Daup. Bubb has also appeared in other Masonic productions.



RHIANNON McCLINTOCK UPDATE

Rhiannon McClintock, the most popular woman in community theater, will next appear in the juicy role of Blanche DuBois in *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*. *STREETCAR* will be performed February seventeenth

to twentieth with the Altoona Community Theatre at the historic Mishler Theatre.

She was last scene with the Next Stage in November in Edward Albee's *A DELICATE BALANCE* at the State Theater in State College (pictured).

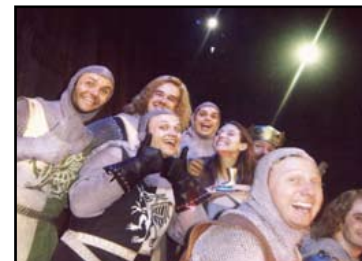
Congratulations, Rhiannon, and continued success!

YOU CAN'T KEEP HER OFF STAGE

On September 28th, at a performance of *SPAMALOT* in Eisenhower Auditorium, Rhiannon McClintock was pulled from the audience for a special portion of the show.

She explains: "I was the second row aisle seat and Patsy, King Arthur's servant, made his way down and made eye contact with me. He decided that I was the one who had the Holy Grail the entire time, and 'pulled' the cup from my seat. They brought me up on stage, handed me the 'Award for Best Peasant,' sang a song in my honor, and snapped my photo with a Polaroid."

An exciting night at the theater, indeed!



ALL ON A CHRISTMAS DAY

Two Stone Archers recently participated in a local holiday production. *ALL ON A CHRISTMAS DAY* was directed by Chris Ruble and performed at the Indian Valley Middle School on December nineteenth at two and six o'clock. Devin Varner and Andy McCartle both appeared in this heart warming Christmas presentation.

Congrats Devin and Andy!



Alan Peoples decorated the lobby of our theater beautifully for the annual Christmas Lights Walk in Derry Township Community Park. Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, and Wonderful Winter Solstice to all our patrons!



Three Stone Archers, Jill Boulanger, Susan Turns, and Colette Hartzler acted as judges for the annual Lewistown Kiwanis Christmas parade in December. The gals had a fine, but chilly, time.