

Board of Directors

2008-2009

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- **Lanny Davis** - Vice President, Comptroller, Director's Search, Script Committee
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- **Sherry Randall** - Youth Theatre
- **Scott Usher** - Organizational Image and Culture, Web Page, Co-Historian
- **Kathy Wilmoth** - Costumes

Dear George, Remember – no man is a failure who has friends. Love, Clarence



This inspiring message was delivered to cheering audiences as CTH rolled out its fall production, *It's a Wonderful Life, the Musical*. Based on the classic film, this story is an all-time favorite of millions of people across the globe. This was certainly verified by the huge crowds it drew to our eight stellar performances, with many patrons wiping tears away as they exited.

Featuring an extraordinary cast, an outstanding production team, and the beautiful score played by members of the Livingston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Brian Pearson, *Wonderful Life* turned out to be the perfect story that we all needed to see and hear in these troubling economic times. Art certainly reflected life in this case with a "run on the bank" scene featuring many worried investors, mirroring current headlines.

Everyone knows the story of George Bailey (John Hess) whose dreams of doing something "big and important" with his life are squashed, one by one, until he reaches the edge of despair and decides to do away with himself. To the rescue comes his guardian angel, Clarence (Gil Bazil), to show George what the world would have been like if he had never been born. George is finally made to realize what a wonderful life he has had after all, exactly the life he was meant to have. Message: each one of us is living exactly the life we were meant to live.

Musical highlights of our production were our "twinkle toes" Clarence singing and dancing *Second Class Angel*, George and Mary's (Mary Jo DelVero) beautiful duet, *If You Want the Moon*, several huge production numbers including *You Are Now in Bedford Falls*, *Christmas Eve* and the rousing Charleston contest in *Would You Like to Dance With Me?* We have heard many rave reviews also for our fabulous, colorful period costumes (Cindy Warren and Christine Clinton-Caly), for the creative choreography (Maria Usher) and the stunning vocals (Sally Mikat).

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Committee Chairs

2008-2009

- **Becky Dilworth** - Volunteer Coordinator
- **Shannon Millington** - Corporate Sponsors, Season Advertising
- **Eileen Obradovich** - Past Show Picture Boards, Props
- **Edith Usher** - Co-Historian

Go Dog Go - December 12, 13, 14

Big dog, little dog, red dog, yellow dog. P.D. Eastman's classic children's book comes to life on stage in an exploration of movement, color and space. The dogs delve into life with gusto, creating a visual spectacle for the audience to feast upon. They snorkel. They howl at the moon. They ride a ferris wheel. They sing and dance and climb trees. This is a rollicking free-for-all of chicanine-ery. A big and little musical world of doggy fun. Like a pop-up book that comes to life - and never stops! Be sure to bring the kids and join us for



Dog,



continued on page 2

Wonderful Life, continued from p. 1

One of crowd's favorite scenes was the Martini family singing the operatic *Bless You George Bailey* to the tune of *O Sole Mio*, and featuring the extraordinary voices of eleven-year-old Brooke Bliznik and of Mrs. Martini (Louise Schroeder) along with the rest of the Martini family. This very funny scene even received a standing ovation in the middle of the show!

Another favorite moment for everyone was the final scene when Clarence proudly danced his way down the aisle to the chorus singing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and sporting his brand new wings.

Other featured cast members were James Geer (Uncle Billy), Becky Hess (Cousin Tilly), Marc Harlow (Potter), Kevin Rogers (Harry), Jerry Bliznik (Sam), Karen Hubbell (Mother Bailey), Jim Henne (Pop Bailey), Bethany Perkins (Violet), Rob Boyd (Ernie), Ray Pacek (Bert), David Micoff (Gower), Jeff Fox (Mr Martini), Diana Fox (Ruth), the Bailey children played by Austin Boyd, Tori Rogers, Arielle Bliznik and Todd Nielsen, and Carla Pacek (Josefina).

The production staff included Vera Cunningham – Director, Pam Medelis – Producer, Jeff Fox – Assistant Director, Sarah Kinnison – Stage Manager, Bruce Grotenhuis – Tech Director, Bob Skrobot – Sound, Ken Medelis – set build and lights, Eileen Obradovich – Properties, Dawn Eldred – Set Dress, Lobby Décor – Jeannine Iovan, Photography – Richard Lim, Pianist – Deb Tyler, Hair – Leslie Hickey, Makeup – Erin Hooks.

The talented cast of fifty, including eighteen children, had a truly “wonderful” time telling this beautiful story and provided the perfect way to begin the holiday season.

Go Dog Go, continued from page. 1

Performances on Friday December 12th and Saturday December 13th at 7pm or catch the final show on Sunday December 14th at 2pm. All tickets are only \$7.00 and can be purchased at the door, by calling 517-545-1290 or at our outlets: Bennett Recreation Center in Howell, Euphoria Salon.Spa in Brighton or Maria's School of Dance in Fowlerville.

The show is directed by Sherry Randall and produced by Carla Pacek. The cast of 21 ranges in age from 6-17 and they will delight you with the antics of fun-loving, frolicking, Fidos

Luxurious New Seats - Unique Holiday Gift Idea

MANY audience members are raving about the comfortable extra roomy new seats that were installed over the summer. The auditorium looks brand new and there is still time to have a seat of your own.

What a unique and special holiday gift this would be. The cost of a seat is \$300. This contribution entitles the donor to a seat recognition plaque, which will be good for the life of the seat. The plaque can feature your name, a business name, a graduating student's name, the name of a loved one, or whatever you choose. Requests for specific seats will take place on a first-come, first-served basis; therefore, the earlier you place your order, the better chance you have of getting the seat you would like.

In order to make the purchase of the seat easier, the cost can be paid over the period of twelve months. Take advantage of this historic opportunity to have a seat dedicated to yourself or someone you love. Call 517-376-4134 or see the CTH website to print an order form www.cththeatre.org.



**Don't forget to save your VG's receipts and
turn them in to Barbara Brandt!**



Announcing Auditions



We are pleased to announce the auditions for the spring musical, **Grease!** Danny, leader of the greaser gang, the “Burger Palace Boys”, falls in love with goody two-shoes, Sandy, over summer vacation. Thinking he’d never see her again, she ends up attending the same high school where their differences pose problems for the couple.

Sandy tries to fit in with the greaser gang, the “Pink Ladies”, but doesn’t quite cut it until the females help her with the change in character that will win Danny’s heart. Taking place in 1959, this musical is filled with rock and roll songs and dances performed by students of fictional Rydell High School.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

Monday, January 5, 6:30 - Optional dance workshop. You are encouraged to attend; held at the **BARNARD COMMUNITY CENTER**, 415 Barnard Street in Howell. Doors open at 6:00. Dance will begin promptly at 6:30.

AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE AT THE HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN CAMPUS
1400 West Grand River Avenue, Howell. Please use theatre entrance.

Wednesday, January 7, 6:30

Dance: Audition dance taught on January 5, will be reviewed. Please wear loose clothing and appropriate footwear.

Vocals: Be prepared to sing a song from the stage show (not the movie), for each character for whom you will audition (no more than 2). A pianist will be provided.

Thursday, January 8, 6:30

Readings: Materials available at auditions.

Friday, January 9, 6:30

Callbacks if necessary. LEAVE THIS DATE OPEN.

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. on audition dates, please arrive by 6:30. Bring a photo, resume (if you have one) and **all conflicts for the entire rehearsal and performance timeframe**. An audition form can be downloaded from our website if you wish to complete it prior to arrival.

Script, vocal & reading selections are available after December 8th, to check out for 1 week (\$20 deposit required) by calling either producer. Character descriptions are available on the website, www.cththeatre.org. Artistic questions may be addressed to the director.

Saturday, January 10– Cast list posted by 2:00 pm on back door of theatre and on our website at www.cththeatre.org.

Monday, January 12– Rehearsals begin and usually run 6:30-9:30 with some Saturdays.

Performances: April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 (8 shows total with two on each Saturday).

Actors must be available for rehearsals the week of April 6th-9th. Spring break week.

Director: Joanne Saoud 517-349-8156, jsaoud@comcast.net
Co-Producers: Michele Barnaby 517-404-0195, mbarnaby@tradefirst.com
Karen Somers 517-552-8030, faskes@sbcglobal.net

Group Discounts

Did you know that the Community Theatre of Howell offers discounted ticket prices to groups of 10 or more (20+ for the youth show)? If you belong to a senior citizen group, a sports group, a scout troop, etc., consider getting together and taking a trip to see one of the exciting shows in our 2008-2009 season. Please contact our Box Office at (517) 545-1290, or Barbara Brandt at brandt.clan@sbcglobal.net, if you wish to purchase group tickets. You will not be able to get the group sales discount at our ticket outlets.

| Production | Performance Dates | Group Sales Ticket Price* |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>It's A Wonderful Life, the Musical</i> | November 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2008 | 10-19 \$15 adults \$13 students/seniors 20+ \$14 adults \$12 students/seniors |
| <i>"Go Dog, Go!"</i> ** | December 12, 13, 14, 2008 | 20+ \$6 all tickets |
| <i>Dearly Departed</i> | February 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 2009 | 10-19 \$12 adults \$10 students/seniors 20+ \$11 adults \$9 students/seniors |
| <i>Grease</i> | April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 2009 | 10-19 \$15 adults \$13 students/seniors 20+ \$14 adults \$12 students/seniors |

* To receive the discount, groups must be paid in full at least 48 hours before the **opening** performance.

** Discount applies ONLY to the public performances – not to the school shows.

If you are part of a scout troop working toward a Theater/Showman/Let's Pretend badge, let us know, and when you book your group for a performance, we will send you a packet including activities specific to your troop to help you earn your badge. You may also be able to participate in a backstage tour.

Please contact Carla Pacek at wascross@comcast.net for more information.

New Theatre Opens Nearby - Open Auditions Announced

The New Encore Musical Theatre Company will hold auditions for its production of *Evita* directed by Dan Cooney.

Rehearsals will be in January. Please bring a list of your conflicts to the auditions.

Evita runs February 6 through February 22 with performances Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and Saturday and Sunday matinees with one Thursday matinee on February 12th at 3 pm.

Seeking - Male singers who move well any age and ethnicity. Female dancers any age and ethnicity. Female singers any age and ethnicity. Also seeking six children ages 7 to 10 who sing well.

Auditions will take place December 5th from 6 pm to 10 pm and December 6th from noon to approximately 4 p.m. (but will go longer if need be). Please prepare 16 bars that shows off your range but be prepared to sing a second and third selection if asked. Dance callbacks will be held Sunday December 7th, if necessary.

This production will feature New York actors with Broadway credits. We are seeking hard working local actors who want to work in a professional environment. Equity and non-equity actors are invited to attend. This production will not pay, however, future productions may. The Encore Theatre is in Dexter, Michigan at 3126 Broad St.

Pro-Rated Season Tickets Now on Sale

Huge Savings! Compare savings to single ticket prices.

It is not too late to save money by purchasing a season ticket to the remaining 2 mainstage shows, *Dearly Departed* and *Grease* or the mainstage shows and the youth theatre production of *Go Dog Go*.

Buy purchasing a season ticket, you save 22% off the door price and do not have to make multiple trips to the outlets or multiple phone calls to the box office to purchase tickets. Call us at 517-545-1290 to obtain your pro-rated season ticket price.

Easy Exchanges! Only season ticket holders may exchange their tickets for another performance of the same show at no charge. Just give us a call.

No Waiting in Line.

Your seats are reserved so you do not need to arrive early and stand in line.

Obtain the order form online at www.cththeatre.org and then call 517-545-1290 to obtain the pro-rated price. Mail the form and payment to: Community Theatre of Howell, P.O. Box 533, Howell MI 48844.



November 14,15,16, 2008
November 21, 22, 23, 2008



December 12, 13, 14, 2008



February 6, 7, 8, 2009
February 13, 14, 15, 2009



April 17, 18, 19, 2009
April 24, 25, 26, 2009

Dearly Departed Cast Announced

We recently held auditions for our production of *Dearly Departed*. We were so thrilled to have close to 50 people audition for this small cast and relatively unknown play! Casting was difficult so we expect to see you all at auditions in the future.

In the Baptist backwoods of the Bible Belt, the beleaguered Turpin family proves that living and dying in the South are always hilarious. Despite their earnest efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpin's other problems keep overshadowing the solemn occasion. A comedy you will not want to miss.

Performances are February 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 15, 2009. Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets will be on sale in early January. The show is directed by Becky Dilworth and produced by Linda Peasley.

THE TURPIN CLAN:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Raynelle: | KIM SULLIVAN |
| Marguerite Bledsoe: | KATHY WILMOTH |
| Ray Bud: | KEVIN ROGERS |
| Junior: | NICK STODDARD |
| Lucille: | MALISSA BOSSARDET |
| Suzanne: | MICHELLE SKROBOT |
| Delightful: | KARA WAITE |
| Royce Bledsoe: | RYAN JOHNSON |
| Juanita Vanderloon Turpin: | ERIN HOOKS |
| Buddy: | CHRISTOPHER WOLTMAN |
| TR: | TODD NIELSON |
| Sissy: | KAITLYN ROSE |
| Bud Turpin: | MARK HLAVACH |

THE FRIENDS

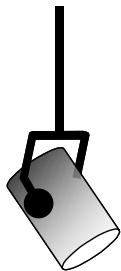
| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Norval: | JACK SHEPARD |
| Veda: | SARAH THOMAS |
| Nadine: | LAURA SOSNOWSKI |
| Clyde: | MARK HLAVACH |
| Reverend BK Hooker: | GIL BAZIL |
| Nadine's Kids: | |
| Cher: | ROBIN UICKER |
| Madonna: | SARAH KENNEY |
| Shania: | MACKENZIE HORTON |
| Paris: | TORI ROGERS |
| Donny: | THOMAS NIELSON, |
| Marie: | CALEIGH BARNABY |
| Tyra: | KATIE MAZULLO |
| Oprah: | RENAE KENNEY |
| Hillary: | RIPLEY UICKER |

JOY OF LIFE SINGERS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| MELINDA TOWNS | SHARI SCHMIDTKE |
| KIM CHAPPEL | HANNAH SCHMIDTKE |
| LAUREL SLOAN | JULIE SKROBOT |
| EMILY MAZZULLO | MARK MAZZULLO |
| RACHEL DZIABUDA | DIRK BRANDT |

Mid Michigan Fine Arts Association
P.O. Box 533
Howell, MI 48844

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.cththeatre.org

C O M M U N I T Y
Theatre
O F H O W E L L

www.cththeatre.org



CTH Upcoming Dates:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| December 9, 10, 11 - | "Go Dog Go!" school performances. |
| December 12, 13, 14 - | "Go Dog Go!" public performances. Friday and Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 2:00pm. |
| December 20 - | CTH Board meeting - 10:00am - CTH Green Room |
| January 5 - | optional dance workshop for <i>Grease</i> , 6:30pm, Barnard Recreation Center, 415 Barnard St, Howell |
| January 7, 8, 9 - | Auditions for <i>Grease</i> - see inside for details |
| February 6, 7, 8 - | <i>Dearly Departed</i> performs, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Sunday 2pm |
| February 13,14,15 - | <i>Dearly Departed</i> performs, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Sunday 2pm |

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR NEW COMFY SEAT YET?

Included with the purchase of a seat is a plaque with a name of your choice and first priority for these seats each season. A great holiday gift. For details, please see page 2.