



SPOTLIGHT



DECEMBER 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jim Hanushek

Have you ever watched the Olympics? It seems that every four years, new records are set for speed, endurance, or strength. Records are set that seemingly can never be beaten, but yet, the next generation of athletes does beat those records with new scores or times that also seem to be unbeatable. And so it goes as athletes reach new heights of conditioning and training. Why am I talking about the Olympics in a theatre newsletter? Here's why:

Each time we wrap up one of our productions, I tell the cast and crew that they have just presented the best play that Lemon Bay Playhouse has ever done. And I mean it! Then along comes our next production, and our "athletes" set brand new records! It all starts with the play selection committee trying to find better plays each season. It's the quality of the directors who choose the cast and guide them to perfection. It's the professional quality of the actors. It's the effort of the set crew and set designers who transform our stage. It's the dedication of the backstage crew and tech people who make sure everything happens at the right time. It's all of that and more. I just know that the play I just saw was the best we have ever done, and I'll probably say that again after our next production!

As I write this, our next General Membership meeting will be held on Monday, November 26, at 7:00 PM, at the Playhouse. We will look at our revised committee structure. We will also be prioritizing future and current goals for Lemon Bay Playhouse. At the General Membership meeting on January 28, you will have an opportunity to meet the candidates for the Board of Trustees. For non-members who would like to be members, call or visit our box office for details. Also, our website, www.lemonbayplayhouse.com, is now equipped to handle online membership registrations and renewals.

See you at the theatre,
Jim Hanushek

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW

Season's Greetings: Stories to Put a Little Holiday in Your Heart, will be presented at Lemon Bay Playhouse on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 pm.



The shows will be performed by members of the Readers Theater of Lemon Bay Playhouse and include selections from *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, by Dylan Thomas; a humorous look at the difference between Hanukkah and Christmas; and excerpts from Truman Capote's heartwarming *A Christmas Memory* among other selections.

Tickets are \$5 and the playhouse is requesting that audience members also bring a non-perishable food item for the Englewood Helping Hand food bank. For tickets, call 475-6756 or visit the box office.

FOOD DONATIONS SOUGHT



Nonperishable foods are being collected for Englewood Helping Hand through Dec. 16 in the lobby. Please drop off donations during regular box office hours, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM weekdays, or to the holiday shows on Dec. 15 and 16.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, December 17, 2007
6:00 p.m.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
Monday, January 28, 2008
7:00 p.m.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!**

SPOTLIGHTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Meet the man “behind the scenes” – Jim Suchomel! You’ve seen his handiwork, though you may not have met him.

Jim moved from his native Illinois to Englewood in 1992. He remembers enjoying LBP productions in the old building, with its slightly raised stage and small seating capacity.

In 1995, when the Playhouse bought the present building, a call went out for volunteers, who could build, paint, run electrical wiring, and perform other handyman tasks. As a former maintenance foreman for the General Services Administration and later for the federal prison system, Jim was uniquely qualified to lend a hand.



Jim Suchomel

Once the hard-working volunteers had built the stage, constructed raised platforms for seating, screwed down theater seats, and installed lighting and sound systems, Jim became a regular member of the set construction crew. A couple of years later, he was made chairman of the crew and has been perfecting his skills since then.

Months before a play begins, Jim reads the script and tries to envision the actors’ movements on the stage. He then sketches a layout of what would suit the play and our stage requirements. He meets with the director and they discuss any needed modifications to the set design. If the set requires objects that we might not have, Jim starts small projects at home in his garage. He’s built desks, bars, shelving, fireplaces, trap doors, sinks, refrigerators, stoves, and any number of special windows. But his most unique project was making a piano. His final product has appeared on the LBP stage numerous times disguised in a number of different wood finishes. Volunteers, who see it in the prop room, can’t resist running their fingers over its realistic, but fake, keyboard.

Once a play’s run ends, Jim and his crew appear at 8 a.m. the next morning to dismantle the old set and start on the new one. Beforehand, Jim has laid out walls in lengths of flats he has on hand. The crew of 6 to 8 volunteers bustles about, putting up walls and adding doors and windows. Noise and camaraderie abound as the set takes shape. Electric saws whine in the parking lot, and sawdust flies through the air. By 2 o’clock Monday afternoon, the basic set is in place. (That evening, the actors have their first rehearsal.) On Tuesday morning, available volunteers arrive to finish the set construction. Over the next few days, Jim fine tunes things as the director decides on changes. After that, our talented set décor volunteers take over to paint and dress the set to suit the play.

We at Lemon Bay Playhouse are extremely proud to have Jim Suchomel (and his crew) on our team and grateful for all the wonderful work he has done to help each play come alive.

THE LONG WEEKEND UP NEXT

Hilarity runs rampant in Norm Foster’s *The Long Weekend*, directed by Bob La Salle. Regular LBP patrons will remember *Drinking Alone* and *Office Hours*, two other Norm Foster comedies performed on our stage. This very funny play is about two couples, Roger and Abby (Nick Nichols and Michelle Neitzel), who come to visit their very “dear”, but pretentious friends Max and Wynn (Jim Walsh and Dianne Bunker), who want to show off their new summer place. Roger, a math teacher turned writer, stymied by a three-month writer’s block, and Max, a very successful lawyer, think very little of each other personally. Outwardly, they maintain a barely courteous attitude for the sake of their wives, who are best friends from college days.

In true Norm Foster style, the crisp dialogue has the characters delivering a series of humorous one liners. Certain themes and statements recur throughout the play, reminiscent of *Office Hours*. What ensues between the couples is truly hilarious, and the ending may surprise you.

The Long Weekend opens on January 9, 2008, and will run for three weeks, including Tuesday nights, until January 27. Be sure to get your tickets now. They are going fast!



Bob La Salle, standing, will be directing LBP veteran actors, Michelle Neitzel, Nick Nichols, Dianne Bunker and Jim Walsh in our next production, The Long Weekend.

LBP WILL OFFER NEW PLAY

Our own Mary Lou Ardrey has written a play, which will be offered here at LBP on Saturday, February 2nd at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 3rd at 2 p.m. This will be a reserved seat event, and tickets will be available in the box office.

Aunt Martha Is a Winner is a delightful comedy about lottery winners. It takes place in a small town, where Aunt Martha, a spinster lady, makes teddy bears from scraps and ships them off to gift shops. She and her dowdy neighbor, Florence, find a lottery ticket and win millions, which they split. Aunt Martha’s spending priorities are somewhat unorthodox, and the I.R.S. is just one of the disasters they encounter. It’s funny, enjoyable, and sure to leave you feeling good.

LBP DOES MUSIC!



Allan and Holly Masri

As part of its expanded offerings, Lemon Bay Playhouse will present a new musical revue by Holly and Allan Masri on Saturday, December 29 at 7:30 PM.

“With A Song in My Heart”, the duo’s brand-new revue, showcases a few of their favorite songs from Broadway shows. The pair fit the songs into context by

telling about the shows that gave them birth. Some favorites include:

“What Is This Thing Called Love?” by Cole Porter.

“See You In CUBA” (duet) by Irving Berlin

“Memory” from *Cats* by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

“I Enjoy Being a Girl” from *Flower Drum Song* by Rogers and Hammerstein.

“Cockeyed Optimist” from *South Pacific* by Rogers and Hammerstein.

“Make Believe” from *Showboat* (duet) by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein.

Allan will also be playing piano solos.

Holly and Allan Masri share a great love of music-- particularly show tunes, and "jazz standards". Their repertoire is wide-ranging.

Holly has been acting and singing since high school. She has performed in musicals and repertory theatre. After moving to Englewood in 1997, she appeared in *Fantasticks* at Lemon Bay Playhouse. She then became the lead singer for a local folk group "Shady Grove". She also wrote and began performing in an educational pirate program at public libraries across South Florida..

Allan is an accomplished pianist who has performed at the San Francisco Ballet, The Berkeley Opera Company, the Geary Cellar in San Francisco, the Jamestown Hotel, and Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonora, CA.

Together, this talented duo will enthrall you with magical musical memories

Ticket information for the revue is available at the LBP box office. Stop by or call 475-6756.

VAUDEVILLE RETURNS

That's right! Vaudeville is coming to Lemon Bay Playhouse in February. We have just scheduled *We Three Productions* in mid February for two performances. Allen and Barbara Young-hanse will bring music, merriment, and tap dancing - that's correct, I said *tap dancing* - right here to our stage. They will do a variety of sketches, songs and all of the shenanigans of Vaudeville and burlesque. Stay tuned for more information.

"It is the Mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich the Greater Englewood community through theatrical productions, other cultural activities, challenging volunteer opportunities, and education and training in the performing arts."

ACTING CLASSES BEGIN SOON

Have you ever secretly dreamed of being on stage? Do you know anyone else who has this dream? Lemon Bay Playhouse will be offering 3 different 10-week series of acting classes.

The **Children’s Acting Class** is aimed at students grades 6 - 9. This is a beginning acting class, covering basic acting fundamentals, group cooperative acting exercises, script and scene work, theater vocabulary, presenting monologues and two-person scenes, movement, and speech exercises.

The **Adult Beginning Acting Class** is an introduction to the methods and theories of acting, including script reading, character building, line study, scene study, acting styles, monologues, team scene study, and theater etiquette.

The **Adult Intermediate Acting Class** is currently in the planning stage.

All classes begin the week of January 21. Registration is \$15 and the class fee is \$110.

Download the applications from our website at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com, or call the box office at 475-6756.

READERS THEATER OFFERING OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO COMMUNITY

The new Readers Theater of Lemon Bay Playhouse is now offering programs to organizations in the Englewood area.

LBP's original Readers Theater was founded in 1996 and was chaired by Rita Corn for many years. The group entertained at nursing homes, churches, libraries, country clubs, mobile home parks, condominium associations, and for various service and fraternal clubs and societies in the Englewood area.

“We’re ready to continue that outreach program,” according to Linda MacCluggage, one of the current co-chairs. “We are rehearsing some very funny contemporary plays and a classic one act play to kick off our outreach repertoire.” Performances will run from 20 minutes to an hour, depending on the needs of the organization.

MacCluggage is joined by co-chairs Richard Blanchard, Larry McGee, and Reid MacCluggage, who share in the coordination of the highly popular Readers Theater gatherings held on the first Monday of each month. For more information or to book a performance, groups should contact Kay Scott at 35plus@comcast.net or call the box office at 941-475-6756.



Richard Blanchard, Larry McGee, Ann Hanushek, and Bob La Salle participate in an earlier Readers Theater program.



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223



Celebrating our 21st Season!
2007-2008 SEASON



CLIFFHANGER by James Yaffe
CROSSING DELANCEY by Susan Sandler
THE LONG WEEKEND by Norm Foster
NIGHT WATCH by Lucille Fletcher
ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller
TAKING LEAVE by Nagle Jackson

September 5-23, 2007
October 31 - November 18, 2007
January 9-27, 2008
March 5-23, 2008
April 30 - May 18, 2008
June 25-July 13, 2008

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