



96 W. Dearborn Street
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MAY 2006

REMAINDER OF 2005/2006 SEASON



THIS DAY AND AGE
VISITING MR. GREEN

MAY 3-21
JUNE 28-JULY 16

Visit our website at: www.lemonbayplayhouse.com

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President's Message



Jim Hanushek

Well, I certainly have some big shoes to fill. The efforts of Paul Hyatt have played an enormous role in the development of the Lemon Bay Playhouse. He has set a very high standard of leadership, and I hope I can measure up to it.

Like so many of you, I started off by attending a play at our theatre. I was duly impressed and my wife and I became season ticket subscribers. I considered support of the theatre to be worthwhile, so I also sent in my membership dues.

Eventually, I attended one of the bi-monthly general meetings. Someone at that meeting mentioned that they could use some help with their computer. That was my first adventure in volunteering for the playhouse. My full-time job now is working in the best interest of Lemon Bay Playhouse.

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New Leadership

Three new members, Jim Hanushek, Murray Fitzhugh, and Janet A. Landis, were elected and Mary Lou Ardrey was re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting held March 27 at the Lemon Bay Playhouse. The newly constituted Board then elected Hanushek president, Bob LaSalle vice president, Paul Phillips treasurer, and Rosie Tremo secretary.

Hanushek previously served for several months as president but found it necessary to resign due to the pressure of full-time employment. He is now retired and is devoting all his talent and efforts to benefit LBP.

Fitzhugh is a well established attorney, a former Professor at Embry-Riddle University, and has been an actor/member at LBP since 2002.

Landis is co-owner of Lemon Tree Gallery in Englewood, a former advertising executive, Realtor, and small business owner. She has served on the Board of Directors of a number of civic organizations and has organized many fund-raising events.

Secretary Tremo presented outgoing President Paul Hyatt with a plaque honoring him " for his enduring enthusiasm and devotion to the growth and success of the Playhouse and his service as President, Vice President and Treasurer over the past 18 years." (see photo)

The meeting was well attended and reports were delivered by all committee chairmen.

NOTE: Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the next General Meeting will be held at 7 P.M. on May 22 at the LBP.



Standing l-r: Murray Fitzhugh, Bob La Salle, Rosie Tremo, Paul Phillips. Seated l-r: Mary Lou Ardrey, Jim Hanushek, Janet Landis.

Future Development Plans

The Board of Trustees took several steps during April to advance plans for construction of a new theatre to satisfy a growing audience demand for larger and improved production facilities.

The Board submitted a Letter of Intent to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners to formally express LBP's interest in acquiring county-owned land now vacant on West Dearborn Street as the site for its new theatre. The Board also retained a local architect and Chicago-based theatre design expert to assist LBP in developing specific plans for the new theatre and launched a series of visits to a number of Florida theatres to gain further insight into the special requirements of new theatre construction.

The theatre consultants, Suncoast Architect, Inc. of Englewood, headed by Elaine Miller Sanchez, and Ron Jerit, of Jerit/Boys Inc., of Chicago, immediately launched a series of exploratory meetings with LBP members to discuss all areas of interest in regard to construction of a new theatre.

Sanchez noted that her firm will be responsible for advising LBP on all site specifications, building code requirements, and space allocations associated with the building program. Jerit, who has 35 years of professional experience designing theatres for many different venues, is responsible for developing a highly detailed profile of the proposed new theatre based on all the information provided to him by LBP and others and his expertise in translating such information into concrete plans.

Rescue Mission

V.P. Bob La Salle made his debut as a director when *This Day and Age* opened May 3 at the Lemon Bay Playhouse. It wasn't planned that way but barely two weeks into rehearsals Bob, who was working on the show as Production Manager, had to replace Director Frank Drake when Drake became ill and underwent emergency surgery. He was hospitalized for several days and is now reported to be recovering at home.

Rita Corn, who is playing a major role as Marjorie, also stepped up to the plate in this emergency by volunteering to assist Bob in carrying out his new responsibilities. She has directed shows at LBP in the past was able to work smoothly with Bob to complete the rehearsal schedule.

True to tradition, the show goes on thanks to the extra efforts of two outstanding volunteers.



LBP Board members headed by president Jim Hanushek toured the Venice Little Theatre with Artistic Director Murray Chase and also toured the Manatee Players Waterfront Theatre in April. They are planning additional visits to other Florida theatres in the coming months to review their operations and discuss the do's and don't's of new theatre construction.

The LBP building mission, as outlined for the County Commissioners, is to create a new performing arts center that will provide the community of Englewood

with:

- Expanded opportunities for theatrical productions and related programs of LBP.
- A venue for theatrical, musical and dance classes and recitals for all age groups
- A meeting place for public and private organizations.
- The opportunity to interact with other cultural organizations in the community.
- A venue for local actors, musicians and other performers.
- An on-going schedule of events occurring both day and night.
- Expanded cultural horizons of South Sarasota County.

Sponsorship Contract Program

Sue Pavlat and Russ Kyper are seeking replacements on the Playbill/Sponsorship Committee. Sue is here for only six months, or for only three plays, and needs to step down. Russ would like to give up the position as he is quite involved with the expansion program. Both Sue and Russ agree it would be in the best interest of Lemon Bay Playhouse and the advertisers if there were only one person, a full-time Florida resident holding this position.

This position consists of contacting existing advertisers/sponsors, and seeking new sponsors should a current sponsor decide not to renew its contract. Additional responsibilities include getting the sponsor's camera artwork to the printer on schedule, collecting the balance due for the contract fee, and presenting the complimentary opening night tickets to the sponsor. Sue and Russ will present guidelines in calendar form to make this position an easy transition.

Please contact Russ Kyper 474-7632 or Sue Pavlat 474-9797 for more information.

Volunteer Appreciation

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party was held in April, and as usual, was very well attended. From the initial greeting, where name tags automatically became part of the attire, to the fun "search for somebody who..." game, to a great buffet, and some well deserved awards.

Mary Lou Ardrey, Doreen Barnett, Dotty and Bill Hansen, Joan Harms and Marlene Chumbook formed the committee that made the event such a success.

Our little theatre could not survive without our volunteers, and they deserve all the recognition we can give them, as well as our heartfelt thanks.



Doreen Barnett (l) and Mary Lou Ardrey congratulate Mel Stott for being the "most senior" LBP volunteer.

Recruiting Volunteers

More than a dozen potential new volunteers attended a special Open House program at the Playhouse on March 11. They were welcomed by outgoing President Paul Hyatt and given insight into the particular needs of a community theatre by Board Members Bob La Salle, Rosie Tremo and others.

The program featured talks on set design and construction, costuming, props, house managers and other theatre activities as well as tours of the back stage area. "It was a small but very enthusiastic turnout," said La Salle, "and I feel sure we will gain several volunteers to work on future productions."



Bob La Salle, left, gives a back stage tour to prospective volunteers at the LBP Open House on March 11.

Welcoming Ann Hanushek



For the past two months Ann Hanushek, our newly hired, part-time business manager, has been busy overseeing box office operations and updating information in LBP's database as well as setting up her office in what used to be the ironing room next to the kitchen. She's also busy depositing season ticket money as it comes in and is sending out thank you letters for donations and memberships that arrive in the mail each day.

Ann is a native of Pittsburgh, PA, and has a Master's Degree in Education. She was an elementary school teacher for 32 years in the U.S. and overseas before coming here in 1998. She's a volunteer with the Suncoast Humane Society and Coastal Wildlife Club and enjoys reading, taking care of the family's three dogs, and being an American Brittany Rescue foster parent. She also active as a backstage volunteer at LBP.

Auditions for Visiting Mr. Green

Auditions will be held on May 7-8 at 7 p.m. for *Visiting Mr. Green*, a poignant two character comedy/drama by Jeff Baron about an elderly man and the young executive who is forced to enter his life. There are roles available for two men: one who can play 70-80's and one 20-30's. The play will run June 28-July 16 and Richard Blanchard is directing. A perusal copy of the script is available at the theatre box office.

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In order for my term in office to be successful, I will need your help with these exciting enterprises:

In August, we will be hosting the world premiere of a brand new comedy by Michael and Susan Parker entitled, *Sin, Sex and the C.I.A.* That's quite an honor for LBP, for each script published in the future will display the name of Lemon Bay Playhouse as the premiere site and list the names of all of our cast members. People around the world will hear of Lemon Bay Playhouse in Englewood, Florida!

The Board of Trustees has begun a serious effort to develop a performing arts center in Englewood. We will be seeking your input from time to time as we make progress. One of those times will be at the bi-monthly membership meeting to be held on May 22.

If you're a volunteer as well as a member, thank you! If you haven't volunteered yet, please consider it. There are dozens of ways you can do that, and we need all the help we can get.

All the best,

Jim Hanushek