

January 2010



ShowTime

Publisher: Bill Harrison
Editor: Helen Esposito

The Newsletter of the
Heritage Hunt Little Theater
www.hhlittletheater.com



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new year begins, I am sure all of us are looking forward to the new productions and their inevitable success as we build on the long tradition of commitment, hard work, and good times and fellowship that are the essence of the Heritage Hunt Little Theater. Much of our success is due to the dedication of the departing members of the Board, so I wanted to begin this message by saying thanks to Joey Wagner, Jane Becker, Art Moscatello, and Arlene Maroney for their great service.

The new board will clearly have a tough "act" (or two) to follow, but I know that your new VP Ina Mayer, Secretary, Goldie Grandy, Treasurer, Treva Whyte, Membership Director, Sil Zinicola, Activities Chairman, Jack Merelman, At-Large Member, Joyce Mancini, and yours truly as President, are ready for the challenge.

The first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday January 28 at 7:00pm in the Craft Room, and we plan to continue our practice of having meetings on the fourth Thursday each month. Among the topics we will discuss this month is the upcoming play schedule. Also, this will be your first opportunity to pay your dues for 2010! Finally, I hope and trust we will have some new members this year, so I would ask each of you to please talk up the benefits of HHLT membership with your neighbors and bring them to a meeting.

Best wishes,
Gene Schmiel, President

Traveling Theater Troupe

Now that the holidays are over and we are embarking on a new year, TTT will be planning our programs for the nursing and assisted living venues. We presently have three terrific programs--"God Bless America", "Just For The Fun Of It", and "Tickling The Funny Bone". New performers are always welcome. If you would be interested in just being a substitute, that would be great. Please contact me at chi35@comcast.net or by phone at 1906. Looking forward to a renewed season.

Ina Mayer, Vice President

Heritage Hunt Little Theater
General Membership Meeting
November 19th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Before any reports, ballots were handed out to vote for the replacement of 4 Board members who are going out of office. Voting then took place.

Minutes - The minutes of October 22nd were read. Motion to accept was made by Goldie Gramdy and seconded by Ina Mayer.

Treasurer's Report - Jane reported that as of November 19th there is \$9,886.12 balance in the treasury.

Membership - Art reported "No change".

Activities - Joyce reminded everyone regarding the Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday November 22nd and the "Site & Bite" on January 17th, 2010.

Play - Ina reported the plays were a total success. The only complaint was the fact that the play took place without the benefit of a raised stage (which they were not allowed to have on the new carpet.. Bill and Ina thanked everyone for the help. Ina sent a letter to Craig thanking Brett, Laura and Leah for their cooperation and help. In regard to this we were reminded that each Christmas time we usually give a donation to them for all their help through the year. It was then voted on and passed that this year we give Brett a check for \$75.00 and also a check for \$50.00 each for Laura and Lea. A thank you was then given to both Bill and Ina for their work in the directing the plays.

NEW BUSINESS

Sandy Mills then announced that the Senior Theatre 2010 Festival Conference will be held this year on June 6 - 9, 2010 in Ashville, North Carolina. It was suggested that we consider submitting our plays for this. If anyone is interested in attending please get in touch with Sandy Mills.

Bill Harrison asked everyone to let him know if you do not get the e-mails he sends out to all the members.

Arlene brought up again the idea of changing the night of our General Meeting inasmuch as our meeting night falls on the same night that, for the last two meetings, another group has been having musical programs on the 4th Thursday of the month. This was going to be looked into.

At this time the results of the voting was announced. The new Board members will be Goldie Grandy, Gene Schmiel, Treva Whyte and Ina Mayer. The ballots were then destroyed. A welcome was given to the new Board members and a thank you was given to the outgoing Board.

At 7:20 PM Bill made a motion to close the meeting and Jane Becker seconded. The next General meeting will be on January 28th, 2010.

It was announced that the transition meeting will be held on December 17th, 7:00PM at Sil's house.

Arlene Maroney, Secretary
11-27-09

Prince William Little Theatre Celebrates 25 Years

Manassas, Va.—For the past 25 years, the Prince William Little Theatre has been providing an outlet for talented actors and actresses, and entertainment for audiences. It has managed to bring more than 100 shows and musicals to Manassas, Prince William County and the surrounding area based largely in part to its dedicated family of volunteers. These include board members, actors, directors, technicians, musicians, stage hands and others.

In the beginning the theatre started out as an idea to bring dedicated theater to a small town back in 1985. "In 1985, we rose like a phoenix out of the Dalewood Musical Theatre (based in Woodbridge-Dale City) which had existed for about 10 years," recalls founding member Susy Moorstein. "It was producing very large shows that ended up being too expensive to continue, so finally we sent out to every mailing list we could to ask if we should try and continue the theater."

About 30 people said yes, keep it going. "So we downsized and became Prince William Little Theatre—because we had no idea where we would be. Then we just started doing small, little shows. We ended up in Manassas because that's where our talent pool and performance spaces were," said Moorstein.

In the past 25 years, the group has blossomed into the little theater that could. Without a home to call its own, its members have managed to perform from three to four shows a year on school stages. Its appeal "At a time when I needed love and support, I found the theater and all its wonderful members. They opened their arms up and took me in," said board member Becky Farris.

Steve Izant, who lives in Annapolis yet makes the weekly commute to Manassas, will make his theater debut in the upcoming production of "The Underpants." "I've had a few parts in movies and voice over work," Izant said, "but I wanted the experience of theater because theater is the basis of all acting." Why the Little Theatre? "I was intrigued and impressed with their history," he said. "Being familiar with "The Underpants," I thought it would make for good combination, so I auditioned. The theater has been supportive and (director Melissa York-Tilley) provides great direction. I'm new to the theater, so I appreciate it."

The theater's motto is "dramatically different" and it prefers to focus on a wide range of show titles, putting on such classics as "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Rumors," and "The Fantastiks," as well as more unfamiliar shows such as "Signs and Situation," "Pump, Boys and Dinettes," and "Sir Slob and the Princess." Big shows with big casts really help to give a cushion and comfort level that allows the theater to do independent shows.

"It would be much safer to stick with name-recognized plays. Audiences might want to come see that, but we as a theater don't want to play it safe necessarily. Yet, ultimately, this is a people-business," said Dave Warner, president. The theater has tried to keep each season fresh and fun, finding the balance between new and classic without falling into one specific niche of theater genre.

Board member Cana Wade started because of her dad, a musician. "He was working on "Nonsense" back in the 1990s and I ended up being the piano page turner. It's been an outlet for him and I to be creative together. Now even my mom helps out. It's been a family atmosphere. So many of the same people I've grown up around. It's good to have something that you can all partake in as a family."

As with any community theater group, there's always the challenge of getting and retaining volunteers. Warner is typical in that he "got involved through a friend's wife who was on the board and involved in a musical. They needed a bass player. I learned the music and did the show. That got me involved in theater in general, I then got full-time involved in 2006 doing backstage help. That led to me being on the board and then presidency."

The theater has made it to a quarter-century because they have loyal people working together and loyal audiences. Members are becoming more involved in community betterment projects. It has also won awards at regional and state levels.

"We are always looking for more volunteers," said Katherine Blondin, a producer at the theater. "Whether you can sew, paint, use a hammer, or are just willing to show up, we can put you to work," Blondin said.

Despite competing against other theater companies and the movies for entertainment dollars, it's ultimately the community that has kept this theatre going.

By Staff Writer, Bennie Scarton Jr. who can be reached at 703-369-6707
Excerpt from www.INSIDENOVA.com

Submitted by Joey Wagner, HHLT Member

Spotlight on...The Wayside Theater

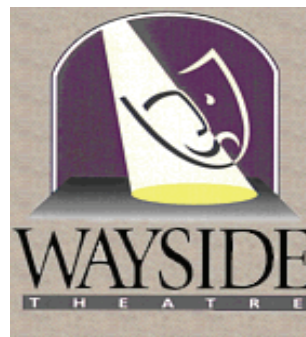
Treat yourself to a wonderful experience at this small, intimate theater in Middletown, VA.
(See directions below)

Last fall, I saw the an original historical drama:

John Brown and Robert E. Lee:

Lighting the Fuse

The play with music brought Lee and Brown together in the battle at Harper's Ferry. I thought it was extremely well done and made me a fan of Wayside.



Wayside Theater is the second oldest professional theater in Virginia. The company was born in 1962 and employs professional actors. The theater is housed in a building that dates back to 1797 and has served as a farm building, a store and a tavern.

The remaining productions of the 2009-2010 Season are:

January 30-March 13, 2010-"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story-the music of Buddy Holly and the Crickets" The musical chronicles the 1950's rise of Buddy Holly and The Crickets from a small radio station in Lubbock, Texas to his death in a plane crash in 1959, at age 21. His decision to go on the road with Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper is one that ultimately kills him ...the day the music died.

March 27-24, 2010 "Harvey" The story of a likeable man (made famous in the movie by Jimmy Stewart) and his imaginary friend "Harvey", a 6-foot, three-and-a-half foot tall rabbit. When Elwood P. Dowd starts to introduce his imaginary friend, Harvey, a pooka in the shape of a rabbit, to guests at a society party, his society obsessed sister, Veta, has seen as much of his eccentric behavior as she can tolerate. She decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare her daughter Myrtle Mae and their family from future embarrassment.

March 5-7, 2010 Midsummer's Night Dream

Wayside Theater

7853 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645

For tickets call box office at (540-869-1776 Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM or order online

Senior pricing: Saturday evening \$30, Friday evening \$28, all matinees, Thurs, Sun. evening \$23

Directions: (approximately a 45 minute drive) I-66 West to I-81 (Exit 1B-North), travel 1 mile to Middletown Exit (Exit 302). Turn left off ramp and go .7 of a mile to the stop sign, turn left onto US 11 south Main Street. Go through the only stoplight, the theater is located on the corner of the second block on the right.

On street parking.

Submitted by Joey Wagner, HHLT Member

Due to a miscommunication with Food and Beverage, the dates of our next production have changed. The new dates are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 16, 17 and 18.

Plan to attend the January meeting, Thursday, January 28, for an update on the play.