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ShowTime

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The Newsletter of the
Heritage Hunt Little Theater
[Www.hhlittletheater.com](http://www.hhlittletheater.com)

ACTING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

There will be an acting workshop on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 9:30 AM in the HHLT craft room, featuring Lisa Nanni-Messegee . Ms Messegee , an adjunct theater professor at GMU and NOVA, has visited us several times before and each time we have benefited from her enlightened workshops. This Master Class will include lecture and discussion, as well as volunteer participation in various acting exercises. A few of the topics include how to perform comfortably when having to look out at the audience, how to manage overlapping dialogue (i.e. Scene 3 in current production), and how to make dialogue feel more spontaneous.

The idea for this workshop came from the reading of the "Reunion at Mt. Sanguine" script. Scene 3 has some fascinating challenges and Ms Nanni-Messegee promises exercises to help conquer these challenges. This workshop therefore will benefit actors currently in the spring production and there will also be plenty of learning experiences for those of us who are playing the sidelines.

Coffee and breakfast pastries will be available at 9:30, the workshop will begin at 10AM. Although the workshop is free, please call Sandy Mills at 5175 to indicate your attendance so that enough refreshments and seating will be available.

General Meeting on Thursday, March 26,
7:00pm in the Craft Room.

Our by-laws require each member to **pay annual dues** of \$10 which we start collecting at the beginning of each calendar year. Our treasurer, Jane Becker, advises many dues are outstanding. Please make payment to Jane Becker at your earliest convenience. Thanks for your cooperation."



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS—
By Art Moscatello

*We're proud to welcome four new members - Kathryn, wife of member Gene Schmiel; Janet, wife of member Tom Taggart; and Carl and Elizabeth Talarico. We look forward to enjoy their friendship as fellow members of our little theater group.

**Our bio for the month is dedicated to member Ted Day who has contributed many hours of work in the design and construction of scenery and sets for our last few plays. Ted was born in Pennsylvania. He worked as a civil engineer in the New York Department of Transportation, and retired 9 years ago after 41 years of service. He and his wife of 48 years, Marge, have 3 sons and one grandson, Connor. They relocated to Heritage Hunt from North Carolina 3 years ago to be close to two of their sons and their wives and grandson. Their other son and his wife live in San Francisco. Ted's favorite past time is carpentry. When he was a teenager he worked in his father's lumber mill, and later built his own house. After he retired he designed and constructed sets for a little theater in VA Beach which performed four or five plays each year. He also built sets for a theater group in North Carolina which performed all musicals; and he also played the violin in its small orchestra. His most memorable set was for "Fiddler on the Roof", in which he also played the "Fiddler". (Hard to imagine Ted's strong wood working hands are delicate enough to play the violin...I'm impressed.) Ted says his dream would be to build an elegant mansion for the play "Uncle Vanya" (by Anton Chekhov). (Is this a challenge?) Ted also enjoys golf, skiing and travel. Ted ...thanks for helping our little theater "be all it can be".

In mid February I attended an excellent five day Elderhostel in Sarasota, Florida. Of course, the weather was better than Virginia, but that was a bonus. The program which was connected to the Asolo Repertory Theater was outstanding. The primary teacher was an actress, musician, director, and writer. Her knowledge was imparted in a relaxing interactive style. She discussed the roles of every person involved with putting on a professional show. There was detailed discussion on the "craft of acting" including voice placement, volume, rhythm, inflection, movement, and use of microphones. We were given a preview of each of the plays we saw and a talk-back after viewing them. Lively discussions ensued. In addition to this, there were sessions by a former clown, a costume designer, and an actor in the Masters program associated with Florida State University. We were also given a tour of backstage. The three plays we saw were "Reinventing Van Gogh", "The Imaginary Invalid", and "A Winter's Tale". The setting of the latter was changed to take place in the 1950's and sixteen years later in the 1960's. It was a delightful romp! On the last evening there was a Reader's Theater style performance in which two people read the third act of Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers".

We also spent a day at the Ringling Complex which houses an Art Gallery, Ringling's home, and a marvelous exhibit of miniatures portraying every aspect of the circus. Each individual piece was constructed by one man who has been working on this project for 55 years and is still working on it.

Next year, there will be a follow-up to this program which will delve in more detail on the art of acting. the participants will also see three plays. I plan to attend and maybe some of HHLT members will join me.

Ina Mayer

“Reunion” News



All elements of the May production, “Reunion at Mt. Sanguine”, are on target as the cast moves into April. The pace of the rehearsals is picking up and the very important lighting and sound components are being phased in. Also the set production team is working round the clock to have the scenery ready to install on the ballroom stage. Stage managers are searching for the necessary props to make the action flow from scene to scene Programs are being designed and the costume and make-up crew are prepared to do their thing before the dress rehearsals are held. Of course the cast is engaged in learning their lines now that that each of them has personally fleshed out the ten characters. So all in all, things are on track.

Now the challenge for all the HHLT members is to join in and publicize the play by encouraging their neighbors and friends to get their ticket requests submitted early in April. Everyone who attends will enjoy a delicious full course meal prior to sitting back to watch the charming story of 10 classmates coming together 50 years after their high school graduation. They relive some of their high school memories as well as catching up on all that happened since. As the story unfolds, each member of the audience will experience some of the emotions that they felt during their own high school or college reunion.

So please talk the production up wherever you go and invite everyone to join the “Reunion at Mt. Sanguine”. If each of our 70 sum members can fill a table of 8 at one of the three nights, we will have over 560 people watching the show. And with a strong word of mouth campaign, there is no reason why we can’t sell out every night. For more ticket information please contact Elena Portoles(1820) or Sandy Mills(5175)

See you all at the Reunion **May 6, 7, and 8.**

John Gatt, Director

“Reunion” Performance Reservations

Reservations for the spring production, "Reunion at Mt. Sanguine" will be offered to HH residents beginning on April 1. There will be a YELLOW form available at the clubhouse and at Marsh Mansion for making a reservation. The dinner and performance will cost \$26. . The menu consists of salad, rolls, chicken marsala, wild rice, vegetable, dessert and coffee. A cash bar will be available starting at 6PM, with dinner served starting at 6:30PM.

Advance reservations for cast and crew will be taken on Thursday, March 26, at the monthly HHLT meeting. I will bring the reservation forms; you bring your check. A limit of 2 advance reservations can be made. Other reservations are on a first come, first served basis , beginning April 1. Drop off completed forms and checks at clubhouse front desk. Questions? Call Sandy at 5175. Complaints? Call Elena at 1820!

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Treasurer - Jane Becker reported a balance, as of February 26th of \$10,708.00

Activities - Joyce Mancini would like to start up Site and Bite again. It was agreed to by the membership. Joyce will look into "Annie Get Your Gun".

TTT - Ina Mayer reported that 2 performances are scheduled in March. She would like to continue to schedule 2 per month.

Play - John Gatt reported that rehearsals were going great. Janice has been giving him a lot of help in developing strong characters. He feels that there is great dynamics from the actors and some are "off book" in 3 scenes.

Play Selections - Joey Wagner stated that a director is needed for the fall performance. She asked for a volunteer and also asked that anyone who might know about any new plays to please let her know. Thoughts of having short 30 minute 1 act plays are being considered.

New Business - Sandy Mills announced that there will be a Workshop on April 4th at 9:30 AM, presented by Lisa Nanni-Messegee. Phone ahead to Sandy if you plan to attend.. It was suggested that the Theater Group at Dunbarton be invited.

Sandy also made a motion that HHLT get involved with the "Donate a Tree" Program. Denny Cumber seconded. This will be developed.

Someone brought up that there was a rumor going around about the stage walls being painted black. Bill Whyte of the LSTV Committee got up and said this would be a terrible idea and that it would create dead spots. He also suggested that we should go as light as we can on the color of the paint so lighting will not be a problem. All agreed. It was suggested that we should attend the Facilities meeting so that our wishes be made known. The Facilities Committee are the ones to make this decision.

It was also brought up that our meetings and dates should be shown on Channel 18. Joey Wagner volunteered to take care of this from now on.