

JULY 2013

The
Newsletter
of the
Heritage Hunt
Little Theater



Play Time

Come play with us!



—Calendar—

August General Meeting
Thursday, August 15 at 7pm
Craft Room

September General Meeting
Thursday, Sept 19—7pm
Craft Room

Fall Play
Oct 15, 16 & 17
Great Oak Ballroom



Inside

Another LT Folds	Pg 2
Actor's Voice	Pg 2
Prez Sez	Pg 3
2013 Board	Pg 3
July Minutes	Pg 4
HHLT Elections	Pg 4



To move to a specific article,
click on the above articles.

To move back to the first page,
click on the blue triangles.

Click on the email addresses
to respond.

From the Director

by
Gene Schmiel

Preparations for our fall production, *Ancestral Voices: A Family Story*, are moving ahead rapidly, including an active rehearsal schedule by our cast: Rick Sullivan as Eddie; Dot Schuetze as Grandmother; Ed Prendergast as Grandfather; Ginny McCardle as Jane; Walt Meyer as Harvey; Sil Zinicola as Roger; and Betty Hitchcock as Fanny.

Over the next few weeks you will begin to see our publicity for the play, including Bets Knepley's wonderful posters, the flashy reservations forms, and ads and articles (by Bets and Joyce) in the Heritage Horn and on the "roller." Each HHLT member is a key part of our publicity as you get the word out in your neighborhoods and at any and all clubs to which you belong to buy tickets for this wonderful play. We hope to have the reservation forms available in early September.

Behind the scenes, we will be working with Bill Whyte and his crew and Sandy Iasiello to make sure the lighting, sound and "mixed media" (you'll see what I mean when you come to the play) are just right for the performances on October 15, 16, and 17 at 7:30 PM. As always, these folks and others on the crew would welcome assistance, so please contact me, Mary, or them to offer your services.





Another Little Theater Folds!!

by Bets Knepley

Apparently, the show won't go on. Wayside Theatre's final curtain has fallen. The community theater suddenly closed

on August 7, 2013, ending its 52-year run.

Byron Brill, president of the Wayside Theatre Board, announced the closing at the August 8 rehearsal of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*—stranding many actors and crew who live outside the area. The local theater community has tried to help them.

Wayside, the second oldest theater in Virginia, has, in recent years, been plagued by financial problems. In January, the board warned that the theater would have to consider closing its doors if it could not raise \$90,000 in 90 days and be assured of making enough to keep the theater going throughout the 2013-14 season. The \$90,000 goal was reached through fundraisers and donations by the end of March. Wayside also made many cuts over the past two years, trying to keep going. It went from \$900,000 budget in 2006 to \$700,000 this year and cut its staff from 19 to 12. Apparently this wasn't enough to counteract their mounting expenses.

Real estate tycoon and philanthropist Leo Bernstein established the theater in 1962. The Wayside Foundation for the Arts took over in 1966.

Many famous actors honed their craft at Wayside. This group included Susan Sarandon, Peter Boyle, Stacy Keach, Kathy Bates, Donna McKechnie and Dana Delaney.

On Friday, August 9, at the Irish Isle restaurant, supporters came to say Bon Voyage and to help those stranded by providing some travel money to see them on their way.

I had seen the final two plays of their 52nd season. I will miss Wayside very much. Most of their plays, under Crocker were very good, if not excellent. And their friendly openness made me feel as if I were part of the Wayside family. ▲

The Actor's Voice

by Bets Knepley

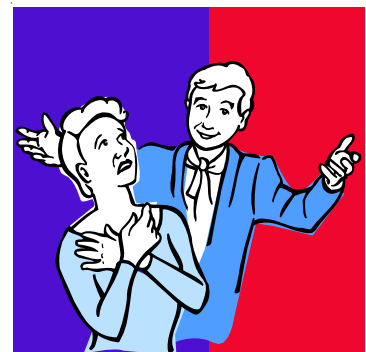
Charles Chaplin (1964) stated, "Occasionally I mused over the possibility of making a sound film, but the thought sickened me, for I realized I could never achieve the excellence of my silent pictures. It would mean giving up my tramp character entirely. Some people suggested that the tramp might talk. This was unthinkable, for the first word he ever uttered would transform him."

The actor's voice is one of his most powerful tools. Striking, memorable acting is often bound up with effects created by modifications in the actor's voice. Can the actor be heard? Does the voice match the character's personality? Does the voice convey emotion?

Stanislavski stated: "... 'Voice, voice, and more voice!'" He is not alone in selecting voice as a crucial tool of the actor's trade. As a result of intense voice exercises, John Barrymore stopped being cast as a lightweight comedian and became a great Shakespearean actor.

Many voice coaches' approach to vocal training focuses on the relationship between vocal training and physical actions. Many also claim that "...voice training does more than solve vocal problems: Voice training allows actors to extend their range, develop power, and create that mysterious quality known as presence....helps put actors in touch with their deepest emotional states and allows them to connect to their roles in a profound way."

What does your actor's voice say? ▲



The Prez Sez...

Pot Lucky

Activities Chair Art Moscatello produced a fabulous picnic on July 18. The planned brief meeting was not all that brief, as we had a lot of valuable input on several topics. The "pot luck" main course provided for all tastes. Many thanks to the members who brought appetizers. They were equally fabulous. After the food, some people had the energy to brave the humidity to chip golf balls, pitch horseshoes, and play bocce outdoors, while others had the good sense to remain inside and use the newly upgraded game room. Many thanks to those people who stayed around to assist with the cleanup.

Can You Imagine Someone in the Club Playing an Eight Year Old?

The cast of *Ancestral Voices* has started rehearsals. Rick Sullivan, who has been away from HHLT productions for a long time, is back and playing the lead, Eddie. Rick starts out as an eight year old and ends up as a 30-something. Now that's acting! The seven cast members are having a lot of fun with the script and, as this is reader's theater, learning how not to laugh at some of the lines.

We're Almost There on the Budget

As you learned at the meeting, the treasury is very healthy. The board continued it's work on producing a budget that will keep us solvent, while spending down some of our funds for the benefit of the club and the community. We expect to be able to present a draft budget to the membership at the September meeting. Of course, the final product will have to be formally adopted by the new board.

Final Call for Spring 2014 Aspiring Directors

The board has received one proposal for the Spring 2014 play. As I mentioned last month, I have heard that there might be two other sets of aspiring directors who may also be interested in battling the slings and arrows of outrageous actors. The board encourages you to submit proposals by September 9. Please send your proposals to Kathryn Schmiel, geneofva@gmail.com. For information on the process, go to <http://hhlittletheater.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/hhlt-play-selection-process1.pdf>.

Elections are Just Around the Corner

Thanks to Dot Schuetze and Ina Mayer for volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee. (Good way to avoid being nominated.) The candidates will be announced at the October general meeting (which will be rescheduled because it conflicts with closing night of *Ancestral Voices*). They will be given time to speak at the November general meeting and the election will take place after the speeches.

Open House

To get us out of the winter doldrums, Membership Chairperson Joan Patton is planning an open house for prospective members to take place at the general meeting in January 2014. Joyce Mancini has volunteered to be on the committee. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Joan, joanpcpatton@gmail.com ▲

Walt

2013 HHLT BOD

President

Walt Meyer (2011-13)

Vice President

Kathryn Schmiel (2011-13)

Secretary

Bill Harrison (2013-15)

Treasurer

Mary Glascock (2011-13)

Activities

Art Moscatello (2011-13)

Membership

Joan Patton (2013-15)

Member-at-Large

Tom Taggart (2013-15)



**Newsletter is edited
& published
by Bets Knepley**

**Contact Bets at
bjknepley@comcast.net
703-743-1360**

**Visit our website at
<http://www.hhlittletheater.wordpress.com/>**

General Meeting Minutes—JULY 2013

--Meeting called to order by President Walt Meyer at 5:34 PM at the Marsh Mansion. There were 35 in attendance.

--The club treasury balance was \$11,075.90.

--Volunteers for the Nominating Committee are being sought.

--Walt reported that the hospital benefit raised in excess of \$13,000. He presented M. J. Brickach a Certificate of Appreciation for her role in the benefit.

--Membership Chair Joan Patton had no new members to report. She did appraise the membership of her idea to create a recruiting event in the near future. Joyce Mancini volunteered to be on the committee.

--Roger Del Rosario suggested we might consider an annual fundraiser similar to the hospital event. Most folks felt this benefit was a very intense project and might be too challenging with everything else happening. Tom Taggart suggested that HHLT could donate the proceeds of one night of a production to charity. The Board will take this up at the next meeting.

--The complete July general meeting minutes can be read on the HHLT website at <http://www.hhlittletheater.wordpress.com/> ▲



HHLT Elections Coming Soon

by

Kathryn Schmiel,

Vice President

Annual elections for the HHLT Board will be held in November. This year there are four vacancies to be filled on the seven member board. Members serve two years. Offices (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership, activities, and at-large) are mutually determined yearly by the board members at the December board meeting. Usual monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

The nominating committee will be seeking HHLT members to run for the board starting in September. The slate of nominees will be presented to the general membership at the October meeting. Please consider seriously accepting the call to serve on the board or even volunteering yourself by calling Kathryn Schmiel (1305), Ina Mayer (1906) or Dot Schuetze (1722). The board handles such responsibilities as play approval, financial decisions and social events, and is vital to the continued success of the HHLT. ▲