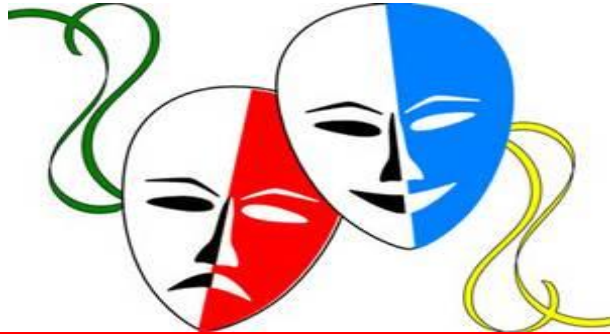


# HHLT PLAY TIME



## November 2015

Newsletter of the Heritage Hunt Little Theater

[www.hhlittletheater.org](http://www.hhlittletheater.org)

### *General Meeting*

Thursday, November 19

7:15 pm in Craft Room

*Note CHANGE in time!*

Learn about the new year!

Elections and surprises!

Hope to see you there!

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*Prez Sez*

October was busy with our fall production, "Social Security," which was very well received. We then moved on to our annual HHLT picnic where thirty-eight members gathered to play outdoor games and chat while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Because it was cool, we moved inside to enjoy a delicious barbeque. And then it all went downhill with a game of Jeopardy presided over by Joan Patton, our resident 'Alexis'. Everybody, yes, everybody wanted to join in with the answers but Joan was able to maintain a modicum of order. What a blast.

At the November 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, we'll present the new slate for the 2016 Board of Directors as well as talk about some exciting plans for our General meetings starting in January.

Hope to see you all there. Denny



## *The Timelessness of Julius Caesar*

Having seen almost no Shakespeare in the last twenty years, I have now had the pleasure of attending two plays by the Bard in the past few months, most recently *Julius Caesar* presented by Prince William Little Theater. Both plays were enjoyable and not difficult to follow. Both used the very common practice of placing the drama in a more modern setting, reinforcing the universality of Shakespeare. I found the setting of *Julius Caesar* especially intriguing. Placed at the time of the demise of the Soviet Union, the characters were portrayed as hard line Communists, more liberal-minded reformers, and assorted power seekers. "Russia" and "Russians" were substituted for Rome and Romans. Although it would be a stretch to draw exact parallels, similarities in the factions and groups conspiring to seize power are not difficult to imagine.

Shakespeare's lines take on a profound immediacy when spoken in the context of current events. "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome/Russia more," was spoken by Brutus to justify his bloody act. Substitute the name of current

powerful leaders and their countries and one can see that the world has changed little since Shakespeare wrote. Caesar describes Cassius as having “a lean and hungry look. He thinks too much; such men are dangerous.” Television footage of current war scenes confirms that look in the faces of rebel soldiers. “As he was valiant, I honour him; but as he was ambitious, I slew him.” Just as common today as then, victory leads to power and power creates greater ambition, an overwhelming hunger for more power, until a new leader rises up to challenge the authority.

Overall the Prince William Little Theater’s production was very enjoyable. Simple sets, quick set changes, and short scenes moved the action along rapidly. Costumes reinforced the Russian setting of the play. Rarely, but occasionally it was difficult to understand some of the lines. In conclusion, however, the production provided a stimulating and thought-provoking evening of theater.

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### 2016 Program Planning Committee

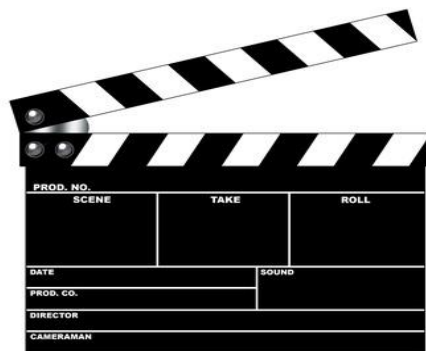
Change is in the air! All you need to do is watch TV and listen to the news channels. You can’t miss the fact that 2016 is going to bring about major changes, and HHLT wants to be part of the action! The 2016 Program Planning Committee has met twice already and is full of exciting ideas and plans to make 2016 a stimulating and exciting year for members and potential

members alike.

The goal of the committee is to plan and implement monthly activities related to theater that are sociable, entertaining, educational, and fun. We hope to strengthen and build our membership through a wide variety of events and programs. Monthly meetings will include speakers, dramatic and/or humorous presentations, videos with discussions, and fun and games nights.

The committee members include Georgiana Ide, Denny Cumber, Joan Patton, Val Bowman, Nancy Mahevich, Mary Anne Bosco, and Kathryn Schmiel. Hear more about these exciting ideas (and contribute ideas of your own) at Thursday's General Meeting.

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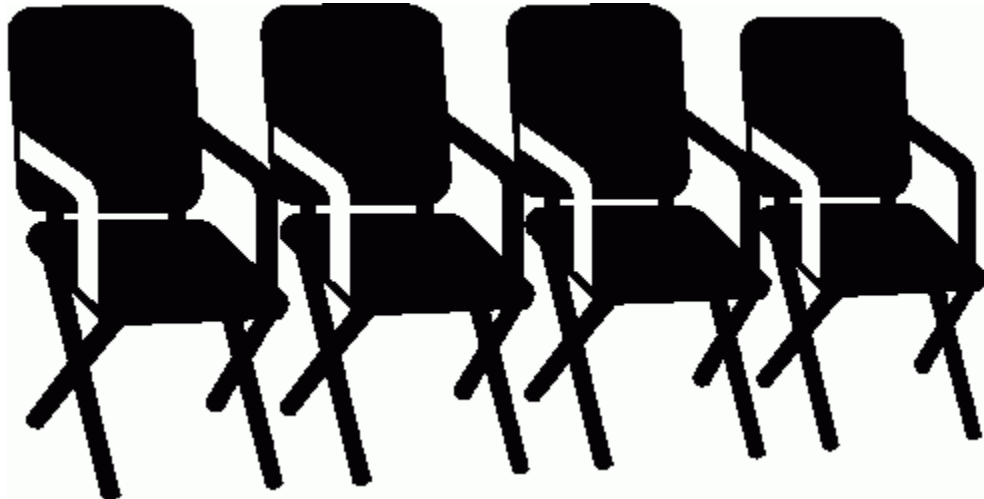
### Brain Teaser

Last month's Brain Teaser (in which you were asked to identify the original stars of Broadway musicals) was won by Walt Meyer. The answers were as follows: 1. e; 2. f; 3. b; 4. g; 5. c; 6. a; 7. h; 8. D. This month's challenge requires you to identify the movie which contained the following quote:

**"I'm mad as hell and I'm not gonna take it anymore!"**

Send your answer to Kathryn ([geneofva@gmail.com](mailto:geneofva@gmail.com)) to win the monthly Starbucks card.

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*Fauquier Community Theater Renovation/HHLT's Contribution*

Last year HHLT contributed \$400 to Fauquier Community Theater's drive to replace and re-cover four seats. As noted below, the theater announced recently that that project and a complete renovation of the facility has been completed. HHLT members attend many plays there, and two have acted in their productions, so we can be proud to have contributed to improving and enhancing this wonderful local theater. Here is the text of the formal announcement:

**“In an unique cooperative partnership between Fauquier County Department of Parks and Recreation and The Fauquier Community Theatre, the inside of the building is being renovated and will be ready for the patrons of FCT's Christmas production of Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. The seat cushions and covers have been replaced, the inside of the building has been painted and new flooring and carpeting was installed. These renovations are being funded through the county budget and funds obtained through generous donations from FCT theatre patrons and various fundraisers. At 12:00 pm on Friday, December 4th there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.”**

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### **HHLT Memorial Bench**

**The Little Theater bench is located at the corner of Heritage Hunt Drive and Charismatic Way. Its plaque dedicates the bench to all past Little Theater members who gave so much to our club. Stop by and have a seat!**



## **Heritage Hunt Little Theater**

### **General Meeting October 15, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by President Denny Cumber at 7:00 PM. Sixteen members were present. Absent were Board Member Kathy Carrico and Director of Communications Kathryn Schmiel.

Secretary's Report: Jim Burwell read aloud the Minutes of the September General Meeting, which were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Helen Esposito reported that as of October 4th there were total Expenses of \$892.46 (including the Memorial Bench, Charitable Donations, Library expense, and a Play Production item). The Balance was \$8,928.02. Her Report (attached) was accepted.

Vice-President's Report: Sandy Thompson reported that the Nominating Committee has a slate of three members for the Annual Election next month. They are Ina Mayer, Joan Turner, and Bob Bowman. Nominations from the floor were requested, but none were forthcoming.

President's Report: Denny asked for a motion that Honorary Members (those with twelve years of continuous membership) be exempt from annual dues, and that they be granted all of the benefits and responsibilities of regular members, including the right to hold office. This was so moved, seconded, and the motion carried.

Activities Report: Georgiana Ide reported that there are now forty-two members who plan to attend the Annual Picnic. In the future she is considering additional activities, in that there are unused budgeted funds. Plans are underway to establish a new venue for next year's General Meetings.

Membership Report: Ginny McCardle reported that a "Flyer" regarding HHLT has been prepared for new residents of Heritage Hunt. (A sample copy was displayed.) Included will be a "coupon" for free tickets to HHLT plays. She plans to survey how present members came to join HHLT. Georgiana offered to distribute the Survey via email.

At-Large Report: No Report

Communications Report: The October Newsletter has been published and includes the revised Bylaws.

Old Business: Denny noted that "clarification" was the principal achievement in revising the Bylaws. She requested that the revised version be approved. This was so moved,



seconded, and the motion carried. As yet no one has applied to direct a Spring Play. There was a brief discussion regarding options other than a full length play. (e.g., One Act Plays, Dramatic Readings)

Open Issues: Ina Mayer reported that the Traveling Theater Troupe has new volunteers. She will start to organize the group's activities soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Burwell, Secretary