

StD Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



NEXT TO NORMAL ROCKS

Rehearsal for *next to normal* is in full swing. This contemporary rock musical explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Life behind the white picket fence is far from normal as this emotional powerhouse addresses grief, suicide, drug abuse, ethics in modern psychiatry, and shows just how far two parents will go to keep their family intact.

The story focuses around a loving wife and mother, Diana Goodman (Laurie Dooley), as she fights an uphill battle of grief by arming herself with a regimen of prescription pills. Her husband Dan (Ron Williams Jr.) does his best to maintain a sense of normalcy in their lives, as he desperately strives for a "perfect loving family." Their daughter, Natalie (Miriam Goldstein) is constantly being compared to her perfect brother Gabe (Jake Zinke),

while she faces growing pains and fears that she's becoming more and more like her mother. With the addition of Natalie's "stoner" boyfriend, Henry (Kevin Kaminski) and Diana's two therapists (both--Gannon Styles), the story becomes increasingly more complicated and includes some surprising twists.

Jeff Davison, Director; musical director, Matt Horn; assistant directors, Kathy Brooks and Stephanie Peltier. Billy McLean is the show's apprentice director and Mairo Towle is the producer. Obie Burch is the lighting and set designer, Linda Watson is designing costumes and Paul Dorset and Debbie Dworkin are handling props.

Mark your calendars NOW—opening night is Jan. 16—AND make your reservations. It is sure to be THE show to see, and we don't want you to miss it because you waited too long to reserve!

DECEMBER 2014



It's STAT season...

The Candy Mansion Caper total attendance was 840— but 863 tickets were sold. (some purchased on Showclix weren't used).

Average attendance 93, for 9 shows compared to last year, we had 824, with an average attendance of 137, for 6 shows.

The best attended show was the 3 pm Sunday closing show with 141.

A group of kindergarten children from Cranbrook's Brookside School came to a Sunday performance with their families, some 50 people in all, and they loved it.

The Candy Mansion replica in the lobby, perfect for photos, was a huge hit (for kids, adults, and dolls), and the children loved talking with the cast afterward and getting autographs.

Many of our adult audience members had never been to the theater before, though some said they've seen the building for years. The children's theatre production is wonderful for bringing in new people.



Mike Kezelian as Humpty Dumpty in *The Candy Mansion Caper* signs autographs for adoring young fans—maybe future St. D's actors!

At the right, Paul Dorset poses with Lily, inside the Candy Mansion, as she seems to enjoy her first children's show! Below is Lily's first chat with Santa!



YEAR END: DO TAXES, PLAN YOUR WORK WITH THE COMMITTEE OF YOUR CHOICE FOR 2015 AT ST. DUNSTAN'S, AND MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE YEAR-END DONATION TO ST. D'S!

READ ON FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE AN ARTISAN'S DONATION.

Duffy, Leon and Lulu

From 6-8 p.m. on Dec.11, at the former Ambassador Roller Rink in Clawson on Dec. 11 (96 W. 14 Mile Rd.) there will be a crazy night of shopping, cool raffle prizes, cheap food and drink and holiday shopping. 10% of all sales and raffle proceedings will benefit Imerman Angels, an organization that provides personalized connections that enable one-on-one support among cancer fighters, survivors and caregivers. Duffy Wineman, a

long-loved member of St. D's, is actively involved in the project. She promises fabulous camaraderie, fun, gifts in all price ranges and all for a great cause. Feel free to bring friends. Questions? jwineman@imermanangels.org



We are sad...

Marvin Shwedel, longtime St. D's member, died Tuesday, Nov. 11 after a short illness. Marvin is survived by his beloved wife, Dorie (also a 41-year member of St. D's), son Ari and daughter Merritt, both of New York City.

Need a Holiday Gift?

Why not consider an Artisan Donation to St. Dunstan's?

It's a great way to honor someone you love and help the theatre grow at the same time.

St. Dunstan's offers five different level of Artisans and welcomes donations in any amounts.

As a non-profit organization, St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook welcomes financial support from corporations, foundations and our patrons to supplement revenue generated through ticket sales. The donations received will help expand all of our artistic capabilities and benefit our ongoing outreach programs,

including the Cranbrook scholarship and our Children's Theatre program.

Producer

For a donation of \$1000 or more, you will receive four St. Dunstan's Season tickets, plus one performance of your choice for you and ten friends with reserved seating, a welcome reception and a thank you in our season program.

Director

For a donation of \$500 to \$999, you will receive four St. Dunstan's Season tickets and a thank you in our season program.

Leading Role

For a donation \$250 to \$499, you will receive two St. Dunstan's Season tickets and a thank you in our season program.

Supporting Role

For a donation of \$100 to \$249, you will receive two tickets to a show of your choice and a thank you in our season program.

Ensemble

For a donation of any amount up to \$99, we will thank you in our Season Program.

Mail to: St. Dunstan's Fund Raising
c/o Kathy Brooks

On other stages

Brighton Beach Memoirs at Village Players, a story of a Jewish family in New York, will feature Janie Minchella as Kate, the mother of this 1937 play's narrator. Directed by Michael Gravame and assisted by Sue Chekaway (formally Mancusco).

Tickets for "next to normal" can be purchased at Antonino Salon & Spa during their regular business hours.

Only cash and checks can be accepted. Prices: \$20 general admission; \$18 for seniors 62 and over; \$18 for students 18 and under.

**Antonino's
191 Townsend
Birmingham
248-258-5990**

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Jeff Foust

I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. I know I have a lot to be thankful for this, and every year. I am grateful for my family: my wonderful husband, Jake, who is as much involved with St. Dunstan's as I am; our son, Daniel, who brings so much joy to our lives; our extended families and our theatre family, who help us to feel welcomed and loved.

The *Detroit Free Press* recently interviewed me about the people involved with community theatre. Throughout my conversation with the reporter, one main theme seemed to emerge. Though our theatre is filled with people from all walks of

life with very diverse backgrounds, we all share a love for both the theatre and for our fellow members. That love has made us a strong organization with deep roots and history. We want to preserve and honor that history while continuing to grow and evolve into the future.

The Board has been meeting and talking about the past, present and future of the organization. One of our first tasks was to create a vision and mission statement. This defines who we are and why we do what we do. Through regular board meetings and off site retreats, the board examined the question, "How can we make each production, and therefore the entire organization, the most successful?" Throughout this examination, we discussed what success looks like and how to measure it to come up with the following mission statement: Our mission is to provide the highest quality theater experience for our members, participants, patrons, and community delivered by a dedicated and diverse group of volunteers that love theater and truly enjoy their involvement in putting on a show. The board is continuing to develop values, vision and goals, which I will share as they are developed.

I love this theatre and everyone involved and I want this organization to grow into the Best Little Theatre in the Community.

Useful Info for You

The Board for 2014-2015:

Jeff Foust, Jeff Davison, Dianne Blasciuc, Nat Towle, Jon Huegli, Tom Edson, Peggy Lee, Janie Minchella and Deb Dworkin.

Play Reading and Casting members: Chris Steinmayer, Jake Zinke, Nancy Wegienek, Paul Dorset, Stephanie Peltier, Sandy Prokopp, Pam Richards.

CONCESSIONS GETS NEEDED HELP

Ruth Bennett was looking for help purchasing concessions and delivering them to the theatre. Victoria Constantini came to the rescue. There may be room for a few more volunteers, too! If you like to shop, contact Ruth to talk it over: rbenmsc@gmail.com, or call her at 586-212-9379



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?

St. Dunstan's has been participating in the Kroger Family of Stores Community Rewards Program for a few years now. Kroger provides information about the rewards St. Dunstan's receives from them each quarter:

Your supporters (6 households) who shopped at Kroger between 08/01/2014 and 10/31/2014 (Cycle 14, Qtr 2) have contributed to your \$29.69 total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this

amount within 30 days from 10/31/2014.

Kroger suggests: *Don't forget to use your newsletter, website, and events to encourage your supporters to link to your organization. The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!*

FOR KROGERING:

- Go to kroger.com and click on the login button.
- Click on the Community Rewards Edit button.
- Enter our organization #: **90023** and click SEARCH.
- Select the radial button for St. D's under the "**Select Your Organization**" section.
- Click SAVE.
- Go to Kroger and spend lots of money using your Kroger Card!



Amazon has a program in which a percentage of your Amazon purchases are contributed to your charity. This can be done in a few easy steps:

- Go to amazonsmile.com & log in.
- Enter St. D's as your charity by searching with: **St Dunstans Guild Of Cranbrook Inc** *(Note the odd spelling, this is how we are registered as a non-profit so we're stuck with it for now.)*
- Every time you are planning on making a purchase on Amazon simply **log into amazonsmile.com** instead of the regular

Amazon website.

- Tell your friends and family about this great way to donate to your favorite non-profit with no charge to you!



Contributors: Ruth Bennett, Kathy Brooks, Jeff Davison, Paul Dorset, Billy Maclean, Janie Minchella, Mairo Towle,

DOES ANYONE HAVE A LEAD?

ST. DUNSTAN'S NEEDS TO FIND A VAN AND A DRIVER THAT WE COULD HIRE FOR NEXT TO NORMAL PATRON TRANSPORT.

WE ANTICIPATE SELL-OUT CROWDS AND WANT TO BE CERTAIN TO PROVIDE SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM OUR REMOTE PARKING—JUST IN CASE IT SNOWS OR IS COLD.

CALL MAIRO TOWLE

586-504-9879