

# St. Dunstan's Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



DECEMBER 2015

## Man of La Mancha:

### Love and Windmills

Lilting, disturbing, bigger than life...adjectival phrases in total synch with our nascent production of *The Man of La Mancha*. Director Rachel Biber has manifested a contagion--- for unique stage presence, and a style of her own. It certainly looks as if her directing skills will match her acting chops. Musical Director, Rebecca Biber, already has the cast sounding as if they have been together for months of rehearsal. The set is near completion, and we are looking forward to more sold-out audiences and ever-increasing interest in St. D's because we are a wonderful family to join!

It is the late 16th century, failed author-soldier-actor and tax collector Miguel de Cervantes has been thrown into a dungeon by the Spanish Inquisition, along with his manservant. They are attacked by their fellow prisoners, who set up a mock trial. If Cervantes is found guilty, he will have to hand over all his possessions. Cervantes asks to be allowed to offer a defense, and the defense will be a play, acted out by him and all the prisoners. Cervantes transforms himself into Alonso Quijana, an old gentleman, who has lost his mind and now believes that he should go forth as a knight-errant. Quijana renames himself *Don Quixote de La Mancha*,

and sets out to find adventures with his "squire," Sancho Panza. Windmills become giants, roadside inns become castles and the inn's serving wench and part-time prostitute, Aldonza becomes Dulcinea, to whom Don Quixote has sworn eternal loyalty. Filled with emotion, heartfelt empathy, *The Man of La Mancha* is about dreaming, following those dreams, believing in them, and never, ever giving up.

### Cast list of MANCHIES:

Don Quixote: Doug Clark  
Aldonza: Christine Kapusky  
Sancho Panza: Michael Gravame  
Barber: Jake Zinke  
Housekeeper: Peggy Lee  
Innkeeper: Barry Cutler  
Dr. Carrasco: Sean Kecskes  
Padre: Chris Steinmayer  
Antonia : Andrea Kane  
Pedro: Patrick Wehner  
Ensemble: Alan Binkow  
Susie Jolink, John Tonkovich,  
Camy Sylvestre, Jude Purcell,  
Alan Semonian

Christine Kapusky is still completing her role as Mrs. Banks in Stagecrafters' *Mary Poppins*, while she is in rehearsal for *Man of La Mancha*!



### THE WEDDING SINGER: YES!

The wedding's over---so is the play, but *The Wedding Singer* was over the top, playing to sold-out audiences! When Director Kathleen Lietz was asked how big a wedding cake she wanted for the show, her question was, "How big can I have it?" And that characterized the whole show. BIG it was. Terrific energy and terrific talent it was, also. Every square inch of space was used backstage. The orchestra/band was a masterpiece in itself and the frosting with the cherry on it was Alan Canning on drums. He and wife/musical director Deb met playing "Tony and Tina's Wedding"---a beautiful pairing that has been a part of exceptional musicals on the St. D's stage over the past decade. Now that the production has closed, our two REALLY engaged couples (Bridget Leary/Gannon Styles and Angela Tomasczycki/Craig Van Kempen) can get around to the details of their own upcoming nuptials! With all their craziness and clothes changing, the cast, just like the directorial staff, paid minute attention to 1980s detail. The thank yous the cast gave out to the crew included: pet rocks, Rubics cubes, pixy stix, pop rocks, \$100,000 bars, Nerds and Necco wafers. The whole production was sheer delight to the audience and all those

involved. Only 68 St. Dunstan members came to see the show. That is SO unfortunate for most of you—and for those with whom you could have shared your ticket and didn't. Please plan to change this pattern for our remaining shows this year!



### **Auditions Set for Tenor**

A rollicking comedy set in 1934 at the Cleveland Opera House. When world-famous tenor Tito Merelli falls ill and can't perform, the General Manager disguises his long-suffering assistant as the tenor. The results are hilarious!

Auditions will be Mon. and Tues. Jan. 18 and 19, 2016.

Registration at 6:30pm; Auditions at 7 pm;

Call-backs at 8 pm on Jan. 19  
Performances are: March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26.

### **ROLES**

**Max:** Male – Mid – 30's

Max is assistant to Mr. Saunders and is in charge of baby-sitting Tito Merelli, world renowned opera singer, who is engaged to perform Othello this evening. Max must make sure Tito gets to the concert. A bit of a nerd, an opera lover and a trained opera singer, Max wishes he had more courage and confidence. He is in love with Maggie. Max should be able to sing (or fake it well) as a talented tenor.

**Maggie:** Female – Late 20's

Max's girlfriend and daughter of Saunders. Pretty and quirky. Besotted with Tito and dreaming of an adventurous fling before she settles down, she is, for now, refusing to marry Max.

**Saunders:** Male – Mid- 50's

Maggie's father and General Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Authoritarian, excitable. Worried that things will go wrong –and doesn't handle it too well when everything does. He is an uptight man with a short fuse and mostly takes it out on Max.

**Tito Merelli:** Male – Mid-40's

World class Italian opera singer (think Pavarotti) with an appetite for wine, women and women. Oh, yes and song. Tito speaks with a thick Italian accent and must believably sing as a world class operatic tenor.

**Maria** (Tito's Wife): Female – 39-ish  
Maria is a beautiful but moody and hot-blooded Italian woman who is married to Tito. Think Sophia Loren type. Maria is extremely jealous of Tito's philandering and she is ready to call it quits. Maria speaks with a thick Italian accent.

**Julia:** Female – Mid-50's

Society matron, over the hill ex-diva; chairwoman of the Opera Guild. Desperate to hob nob with Tito.

**Diana:** Female – Mid- 30's

Very sexy soprano who wants to use Tito to further her career aspirations. She's willing to do anything (Yes, anything) for the favor. (Does not sing.)

**Bellhop:** Male – Late 20's

Italian-speaking, opera-singing, hardworking, all-knowing bellhop who is desperate to get a picture with Tito. Must be able to sing (or fake it well) as a wannabe opera star.

***Suggested ages are for the characters, not necessarily the actors. We are flexible and understand that makeup and lighting can add or subtract years, so do not let this deter you from auditioning.***

Auditions will use cold cuts (non-edible variety, but hams can apply!) provided during the auditions. For the singing roles (Max, Tito & Bellhop) there will be separate auditions with the music coach; however, acting ability is more important than singing ability. To prepare for the singing auditions, it is suggested referring to on-line duets of Verdi's Don Carlo Act II, Scene 1: "Dio, che nell'alma infondere, etc." For the bellhop, the aria from The Barber of Seville: "Largo al factotum, della citta, largo."

If cast, the actors will get additional coaching on their singing.

There are no requirements for dance during the auditions; the roles lend themselves to actors with good comedic timing and improvisation abilities. There is considerable kissing in ***Lead Me a Tenor***--everyone except Saunders and Julia. Also some scantily clad scenes for Maggie and Diana.

Director – Nat Towle

Assistant Director – Laura Raisch

Apprentice Director – Kevin Kaminski

Music Coach – Dianne Cragg

Producer – Mairo Towle

### **Two Thumbs Up: Reserved Seating + Hooray for Ruth**

St. D's first attempt at reserved seating was generally well-received. In our survey on ShowClix, 71% of the patrons who bought tickets said they preferred reserved seating, while 9% said they didn't. The rest weren't sure or didn't respond.

For the next show, the reservation form on the website now shows a seating chart and

gives a place to type in where you want to sit. You can also reserve by phone at 248-737-3587, option #3. Then pick up your tickets at the counter when you come to the show.

On the ShowClix site for purchases, the seating chart and selection process have been improved since last time and are much easier to use.

Members, **Man of La Mancha** promises to be a terrific production! Make your reservations early! Remember, if you can't attend the show, you can let another person come in your place.

Ruth Bennett spearheaded the reserved seating project and it was implemented with ease and aplomb. She heads tickets for every show, and is the wonderful, pleasant, smiling face of St. D's to the public as they come through our doors, many for the first time. She has even recruited new members from patrons who enjoyed chatting with her and volunteered. Ruth is priceless, and we just want her to know how much she is appreciated.

### **FREE MONEY WE MISSED**

The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. We do this through a variety of activities, including charitable giving, sponsorships and the unique Community Rewards Program of Michigan. As your neighborhood food retailer, we deeply value our ability to support local organizations like yours.

Your supporters (9 households) who shopped at Michigan between 2015-08-01 and 2015-

10-31 (Cycle 15, Qtr 2) have contributed to your \$32.88 total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days. **The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!**

**Your members do need to re-enroll—and here is how:**

- To re-enroll on-line they just simply go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
- click "sign in"
- enter their email and password
- click "enroll now"
- put in the NPO number or part of the organizations name
- check the correct group
- click "enroll"

### **Billy's going to Disney World**

Our beloved Billy McLean is giving up St. D's for a mouse. While dividing his time between his university studies at Oakland and apprentice directing nearly every production of **Next to Normal** within driving distance of his home, Billy actually found time to WORK at The Disney Store in Somerset---and just like St. D's, they fell in love with him. Billy will be hanging up his 50/50 raffle basket and donning the mouse ears in January, as he moves to Orlando, FL., so the REST of the world can get to know how wonderful and talented he is. We are proud of you, Billy. "...when you wish upon a star, your dreams come true..."



### **Keys, Glorious Keys**

We're anxious to have them! If you are not currently involved with **Man of La Mancha** or on the Board, and you have a key to the Playhouse, it would be much appreciated if you would return it in an envelope addressed to Bob Yazejian and leave it on the ticket counter.

### **SCARCE RESOURCES DWINDLE**

Each show takes lots of people power to pull it off. Our people power is in dwindling supply! If you haven't volunteered in a while, now is the time to come forward! It is always fun to get involved with a show, and the help of the many is welcomed by the few who have been shouldering most of the responsibilities for getting our productions to fruition. For example: If each member could bring in ONE ad for the program (for a single show, that is only about \$47), we would have funds to hire some things done and stop burdening the same folks every show. Basic economics: supply and demand. Our supply is DOWN, so that makes YOU in demand, and you are worth your weight in gold to St. D's. Offer your services—learn to do something new and you will be even more loved and more valued than you already are!

### **Duffy and the Refrigerator**

If anyone can fundraise, Duffy can. She put out a request for donations for a refrigerator that doesn't wet our floor daily. Anyone who has been involved in a show, knows the nasties of a soaked sandwich, or water-

logged veggies—and beer cartons that fall apart after an overnight in the fridge...

“As a team, we can get this done,” Duffy wrote. And get it done, we did! If you wanted to be a part of the refrigerator purchase, and didn’t send in your donation, there is STILL another refrigerator in the back hall that has seen the best days of its life---it keeps going out of love of theatre, but we could use a replacement there, too. Save up and we’ll put out the back hall call when it is time...

Thanks, Duffy and Kathy!



#### **NOTES FROM THE PREZ**

Hello fellow Thespians! I can’t believe how quickly this year is coming to a close! What a great season we are having. The Wedding Singer was a huge success, wonderfully directed, teched and performed by actors and musicians alike! The Man of LaMancha is in rehearsal, and looking and sounding great. I am incredibly fortunate to be part of this incredible cast. One thing I have noticed with both our shows so far, is how many new members we have drawn with our show slate! Please make sure if you are at the theater and see a new face, introduce yourself!

We (your friendly neighborhood board) are attempting to organize a get together on December 19. We would like to

have Santa there to greet the new generation of children, and a piano player to help us sing some carols. If anyone in our membership is interested and could help us out with one of those “parts” we would be eternally grateful! Please private message me on Facebook or send me an email.

I would like to apologize to everyone for the delay in getting out the roster, the hold up is completely on my end. With rehearsals, an incredibly busy work schedule and other concerns in my personal life, I have dropped the ball a bit. I will get the necessary info to our wonderfully helpful Susan by the end of this month. I appreciate your patience and understanding. I’m not proud of having let it go this long.

I tend to get a bit sappy this time of year. I have a terrific family that I absolutely adore, but the friends I have made in the theater are closer to me because they share my everyday triumphs, fears and dreams. I am thankful for each and every member and friend I have made at our theater, these past 20-some years. I am sending a HUGE collective hug to all of you. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and many blessings and much love to everyone, whatever you celebrate!

Here’s to a fabulous New Year!

Love, The Prez (Peggy Lee)

#### **BABIES GALORE: WELCOME MINI THESPIANS!**

Dan and Delle Clair added to the beauty in the world with baby Adrienne, born shortly

after the close of Hair, (Dan went on to triumph in **Memphis** at the Crowell Theatre in Adrian over the summer).



Paul and Molly Dorset are celebrating their move to a new home while their daughter Lily is enjoying the change of weather and scenery and her new room.



Former member Samantha Koyle Silver has a beautiful son, Calvin, born in November.

UPCOMING NEWS: A new addition to the curling team will be coming to the Kezelian household in 2016!

#### **HAUL OUT THE HOLLY!**



**DECEMBER 19—A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION WITH THE WHOLE St. D’s FAMILY! WATCH FOR MORE INFO IN YOUR WEEKLY E-MAIL!**