

St. Dunstan's Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK

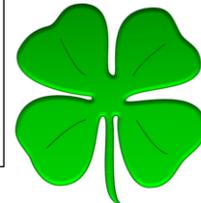


MARCH 2015



Cast top to bottom, L to R: Mr. Jansen: Sean Kecskes; Leslie: Paul Dorset; Arnold Grunion: Andy Moldenhauer.

Floyd Spinner: Jeff Foust; Kate: Katie Kezelian; Jon: Jason Dilly; Vivian: Susan Chekaway; not pictured: Connie: Bronwen Hupp.



LOVE, SEX and the IRS

Mar.13,14,20,21,27&28,

*March 22 performance is sold out!

Jon Trachtman and Leslie Arthur are out-of-work musicians who room together in New York City. To save money, Jon has been filing tax returns listing the pair as married. The day of reckoning comes when the IRS informs the "couple" they're going to be investigated. Leslie masquerades as a housewife, aided by Jon's fiancée, Kate. Complicating matters further, Leslie and Kate are having an affair behind Jon's back, Jon's mother drops in unexpectedly to meet her son's fiancée, and Leslie's ex-girlfriend shows up demanding to know why Leslie has changed and won't see her anymore. Add a snoopy, macho landlord who is determined to keep women out of the bachelor pad, and it

is the perfect tax season comedy.

From The Detroit Performing Arts Examiner, R. Anton Montalban-Anderssen wrote, "That explains in part the amazing success that William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's *Love, Sex and the IRS* has had in the more than 30 years since it premiered in 1978. More than 10,000 productions since then and the story is still as funny today." He interviewed Director, Deb Dworkin and Asst. Director, Molly Dorset. Deb said, "'we have a great cast of actors who are genuinely funny and they all bring their unique, comedic style to the stage. It is really fun watching them discover moments in the play and what they can bring to it.'" To that, Molly added, "I've been on stage several times, and this is my first time working on the directing team. It's been a great experience and I'm

gaining a new perspective on acting and everything that goes in to putting a show together. It is especially fun because I get to work with my husband, Paul, who is playing Leslie."

Set construction: Michael Champion and Tim McGee; Set Decoration, Dianne Blasciuc; Lighting Design, Frank and Paul Dorset; Sound Design, Chris Steinmayer; Costumes Kathy Shapero and Linda Watson; Stage Manager, Peggy Lee; Props, Susan Holmes; Producers, Jake Zinke and Pam Richards.

AFSP AND St. D's RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS

The Friday, Jan. 30 performance of *Next to Normal* was a fundraiser hosted by St. Dunstan's to benefit the Michigan Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Spearheaded by

member Brian Dooley and D'Ann Stelly, the fundraiser also included a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres. It was a great success, raising over \$7,000. That money will be put to use right here in this area, educating kids and adults about mental health problems and how they can be addressed, and providing support for survivors of suicide loss.

Thanks go to Brian and D'Ann for their tireless efforts, to Ruth Bennett and Nat Towle for working on the practical arrangements, to Tom Kopsch for helping get the green room cleaned up, and to Laura Raish for her help with the beautiful decorations and keeping things running smoothly during the event. In a message to all who participated, D'Ann and Brian wrote: "We'd also like to thank the cast and musicians of *Next To Normal* for their brilliant performances, and the wonderful people at St. Dunstan's, who through their hard work and involvement helped make this event possible."



D'Ann Stelly and Brian Dooley present Laura Edwards, Michigan Chapter of the AFSP, with a check for \$7,002.52 on Feb. 17

STEWART FRANCKE IN CONCERT APRIL 11

St.D's old walls will be rocking Saturday night, April 11! Stewart Francke, a popular Michigan songwriter and performer, will perform with his band to celebrate the release of his latest CD.

Midwestern: The Very Best of Stewart Francke, 1995-2015, is a compilation of favorites and includes "Summer Soldier," performed with Bruce Springsteen. The show starts at 7 pm; all tickets just \$15. A portion of the proceeds benefits the theatre. This is Stewart's 3rd concert at St. Dunstan's; he loves our theatre, and we love him! Come out in droves and support this St. D's supporter!



The Green Room was transformed for the AFSP fundraiser. Nice, huh?



Nat Towle and Laura Raish enjoy the fellowship, a fabulous show, and contributing to a most worthy cause.

SAVE IT FOR ME! RESERVE SEATING COMING NEXT SEASON

The Guild is gearing up for reserve seating for our indoor shows, starting with the October production. You'll soon see little number tags appearing on the arms of the new chairs. Each row will be identified with a letter. Many of our patrons have expressed enthusiasm for reserve seating, and we think this will help ticket sales. More information will be coming over the next few months.

THE TROUPERS OF LOVE, SEX & THE IRS

On Jan. 31, the closing day of "Next to Normal," Cranbrook maintenance men showed up at St. D's to tell us a water line under the road had broken, right in front of our entrance. Bubbling water was running down Lone Pine and splashing onto the sidewalk.

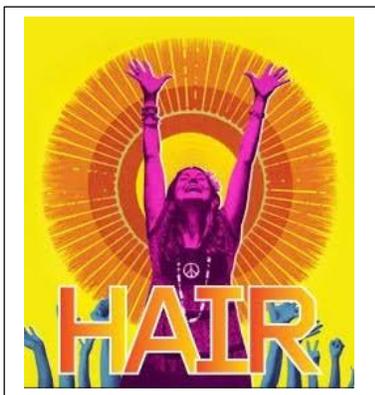
The Cranbrook crew kept the sidewalk and steps well salted for that night's show. Since then, they have been working on the problem. However, they had to shut off the water to the building right when rehearsals and set construction were underway for *Love, Sex & the IRS*.

Despite this obstacle, the builders built, painters painted, and the cast managed to rehearse. Jeff and Jake's little son Daniel even offered the use of his potty chair. (Not sure how that turned out!) Troupers one and all!

NEXT TO NORMAL ACCOLADES STILL RING...

The final dress rehearsal of *Next to Normal* served as a fundraiser for Common Ground and the organization raised more than \$900 for their operations. Said Ruth Bennett, the smiling ticket face of St. Dunstan's and wonderful promoter of our little theatre, "I think it's wonderful when the theatre can partner with groups in the community. It's a win-win all the way around!"

After seeing the show, one supporter wrote on Facebook, "Go to St. Dunstan's Theatre. Go there and see this show. Do it. It is not a happy show (deals with depression, mental illness, hope, fear, and loss) but holy hell was it good. The cast was phenomenal... It truly felt far above what you expect from community theater. ...Top notch. Go see it. Now."



HAIR AUDITIONS MAR. 15 AND 16

Hair is a Rock Musical about a diverse group of people who have banded together as a Tribe. These free-spirited flower children are bonded by their search for Peace, Freedom of Expression and Love in a world at war.

Director Peggy Lee shares her vision for the show: "As *HAIR* will be performed in our wonderful outside Greek Theatre, I would like this show to be as organic as possible, by using the space as it is. There will be minimal set, so we will be depending upon the Tribe to be engaging, and extremely high energy. We want the grounds of Cranbrook to vibrate with the sound and energy coming from our stage. You will be encouraged to help us help you to become the Hippie you want to be. Not everyone will be onstage at all times, as we will have various Hippies wandering the grounds, including hanging out behind the stage. If you have always wanted to be part of this show, but don't necessarily want to sing or dance, please come out anyway. All Hippies will be put to good use before, during and after the show. We want to surround our audience with love and peace!"

Hair has traditionally been a very progressive musical, but we would like to stress that the actor's comfort is our **TOP** priority. **Nudity will not be required for anyone who is cast.** Claude, Sheila and Berger are typically nude on stage and those actors should be comfortable in little to no clothing, and any additional Tribe members who want to feel the evening breeze on their skin are more than welcome to do so, but again, it will NOT be a requirement for consideration in casting.

*Please note *Hair* contains Adult Themes. No one under 18 will be permitted to audition.

Sunday and Monday, March 15 & 16, 2015

Sunday: Check in 5:30 pm, Auditions begin at 6 pm

Monday: Check in at 6:30 pm, Auditions begin at 7 pm with callbacks at 8 pm.

ROLES:

Claude: (Rock Baritone/Tenor, Character age 19 – early 20's)

The most beautiful beast in the forest. Smart, playful, lover of life but conflicted between doing what society and his parents expect, and what his heart and his fellow tribe members tell him is right. Strong actor and singer.

AUDITION SONG: Where do I go

Berger: (Rock Baritone/Tenor, Character age early 20's)

Berger is the perfect example of a hippie, unfiltered in his comments and actions. "Leader" of the Tribe. Strong stage presence required, with the ability to engage the audience in banter. High energy, quick on his feet with a strong singing voice.

AUDITION SONG: Donna or Hair

Sheila: (Rock alto/belt), Character age early 20's)

Student at MSU, is committed to changing the world. Highly intelligent and idealistic. Loves Berger. Must have a strong stage presence and strong acting/singing.

AUDITION SONG: Easy to be Hard Jeanie: (Rock Alto, Character age 20's)

Sweet, upbeat and full of life. She is in love with Claude, and is soon to give birth to the Tribe's baby. Must be able to play both comedic and dramatic scenes.

AUDITION SONG: Air

Woof: (Rock Baritone/Tenor, Character age 20's)

High energy nature boy, loves the trees and wants to live off the land. He is an equal opportunity sexual being with a crush on Mick Jagger.

AUDITION SONG: Sodomy

Hud: (Soulful Baritone/Tenor, African-American, Character age 20's)

High energy, wise beyond his years, Hud pulls no punches when it comes to the attitudes of the world around him. Strong voice and presence.

AUDITION SONG: Colored Spade

Tribe: Various vocals/Variety roles will be performed by the Tribe

Embodiment of the line, "Be whoever you are, do whatever you want to do, just so long as you don't hurt anybody." We want our Tribe to be a diverse collaboration of humans of various sizes, ages, genders and ethnicities. The Tribe members are never very far apart, and personal space is freely shared. Be prepared to engage in a lot of physical contact.

The Tribe is not a chorus, they are as much a part of the show as the "leads" and there are many opportunities for solos. I encourage everyone to audition with the song they would like to be considered for performing in the show. Please don't feel that you have to replicate any cast versions of the songs, I want you to feel free to artistically express yourself! If you are new to the show, please come prepared to sing the opening of "Aquarius"

Rehearsals will begin on Monday, Mar. 23. Rehearsals will be minimal the first two weeks due to the current show. Starting the week of March 29th, rehearsals will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

Please bring a list of conflicts to auditions. Performance Dates: May 29, 30, June 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
All Performances at 8 pm
For audition and music cuts, please contact: Peggy Lee at peggyannlee333@gmail.com
Above all else, come prepared to have FUN! Peace, Love and HAIR!

Production Team:
Director: Peggy Lee
Assistant Director: Janie Minchella
Music Director: Dianne Cragg
Choreographer: Roberta Campion
Producers: Pam Richards and Dianne Blasciuc

MEMBER INFO

Jake Zinke and Jeff Foust have another son! Benjamin joined the family a short time ago, and Daniel is enjoying being the big brother! Congrats!

Ron Zate and his spouse, who now live in California, have TWINS! Check Facebook for pictures of the happy family!

Alan Canning is playing in Village Players' "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolff?" opening Friday, Mar. 7.

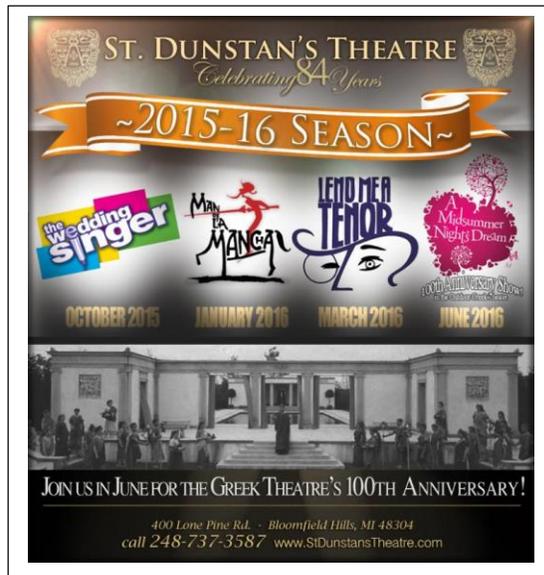
PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Our workshop production of Urinetown has ended! The water at St D's is back on, and we are free to use the toilets. The new parking lot is amazing, and we had lots of opportunities to use it during our run of *Next to Normal*. Jake, Daniel and I have been busy at home with our new son, Benjamin. Thanks to my stand-in during *Love, Sex & the IRS* rehearsal!



RESERVE YOUR TIX NOW!



NEXT YEAR'S SLATE HAS BEEN CHOSEN!

The Wedding Singer (a musical) is in the October slot; *Man of La Mancha* in the January timeframe; *Lend Me a Tenor* (comedy) in March of 2016, and to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of our beloved Greek Theatre, our June show will be all about the beautiful theatre as the fairies cavort in the forest and St. Dunstan's presents its first Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Play Reading and Casting has been busy interacting with possible directors, but the final decisions haven't yet been made. Watch for more information in the May Guilder.

Thank you to this month's contributors: Ruth Bennett; Roberta Campion; Jeff Foust; Susan Holmes; Peggy Lee; Pam Richards; Jake Zinke.

HAIR focuses on love and peace. Those who served in the Armed Forces maintained peace and freedom in our land. We would like to honor those you love who have served. Send a picture, a write-up about yourself or a family member. We want to make a wall of pride to be on display during the run of HAIR, to honor our Vets and the sacrifices they made for us. Send to snakeladypam@yahoo