

StD Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



SEPTEMBER 2015



Eric Kopsch (set builder and Dad about town, poses with St. D's publicity displayed by Board Member Tom Kopsch in front of his chiropractic office on Woodward during Dream Cruise.

The Wedding Singer ROCKS

Kathleen Lietz is rocking the '80s, as the Director for our opening production. Her cast is rocking, too! Here is the lineup: **Julia Sullivan:** Randi Hamilton; **Robbie Hart:** Gannon Styles; **Glen Guglia:** Chris Steinmayer; **Holly:** Bridget Leary; **Linda:** Deb Dworkin; **Sammy:** Jude Purcell; **George:** Jeff Foust; **Rosie:** Sandy Prokopp; **Members of the Ensemble:** Sarah Seely, Patricia Leary, Katherine Kezelian, Mike Kezelian, Jamie Altman; Craig VanKempen; Michelle Ankoviak; Stephanie Peltier; Angela Tomaszycski; Nat Towle; and Steve Melling.

The Production staff: AD, Laurane Walker; Music Director, Debbie Tedrick; Choreographer, Roberta Campion; Set Design, Kathleen Lietz; Set Build, Tom Edson; Stage Manager, Bill Graham; Costumes, Linda Watson, Kathy Shapero, Janie Minchella; Sound Design, C.J. Ramseyer; Lighting Design,

Lucy Meyo; Props, Michael Campion and Pam Richards; Tickets, Ruth Bennett; Publicity, Molly Dorset and Alan Canning; Program and Web page, Susan Holmes; Producer, Mairo Towle.

The show opens Oct. 16 and runs through Oct. 31. Make your reservations now--we have reserved seating this year. (See article further down for instructions.)

Synopsis: The Wedding Singer is set in 1985 with the main character Robbie Hart as the lead singer in a band which performs at weddings. He's about to marry Linda. Julia is a waitress at the banquet hall where Robbie performs. She is waiting for her long-time boyfriend, Glen, to pop the question. The next week Linda leaves Robbie at the altar and Glen finally asks Julia to marry him. Glen leaves the wedding planning to wed Julia who then asks Robbie for help. Julia is with the wrong guy and she falls for Robbie and vice versa. Robbie thinks there is no way he can compete with Glen because Robbie is "just" a wedding singer and Glen is rich and successful.

HAIR—bouncy and radiant

Each night, the audience ROCKED with the performers, and each night the cast outdid the performance before. St. Dunstan's *Hair* was heady, silly, serious, poignant, and the message of love and acceptance rang through every show. The cast couldn't stop hugging one another, and they still continue their get-togethers. Something happened during that run. Lives were changed and attitudes adjusted. Permanent friendships were forged. To top it off, Stephanie Ragni, widow of one of the original writers of the show, and the original Sheila, came in from Pittsburgh to see our production closing weekend. She stayed and did a talk-back with the cast. We were awed and charmed at her presence—and she led the standing ovation the night she saw our show. Kudos, peace and love to all.

NEW SEASON OPEN HOUSE

New season, new opportunities for fun! Come to the Open House and bring some friends! It is the time for new folks to get acquainted with "seasoned" members and to just have some great fun together. Mark your calendars (ooooo, I should have said, "Put it in your phone."). Sept.13 from 3-6 p.m. Make a point to make an appearance, even if it is just a cameo.

DESPERATELY SEEKING '80s STUFF

For *The Wedding Singer*, we need a few unusual props such as an '80s car phone, guitars, tambourine, dress mannequin, bridal veil, eight '80s-style

briefcases, a mail cart and a rolling cart for a wedding cake. It is the property master or property mistresses' job to gather and control the props. With the help of the cast, we try to beg and borrow the items needed. Some we end up just making. Do you have anything we can use?

SPIFFED & READY 4 SHOW

The ceiling of the Playhouse -- formerly grungy brown with white patches -- is painted a lovely light gray, as are the interior doors. The trim is a darker shade of gray, and the walls have a fresh coat of black paint. This was done by Cranbrook and coordinated by Tom Edson; Tom and Ruth Bennett selected the colors. Nice work!

SEASON TICKETS: THE PERFECT GIFT!

St. Dunstan's Season Tickets cost just \$62 for 4 great shows, with reserved seating for the indoor productions! Our season opens Oct. 16 with the pop-rock musical comedy *The Wedding Singer* (based on the Adam Sandler film of the same name). January brings the Broadway hit musical *Man of La Mancha*, packed with memorable tunes including "The Impossible Dream" and "Dulcinea." The rollicking farce *Lend Me a Tenor* will chase your winter blues away in March, and we celebrate 100 years of the Greek Theatre with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in May/June. Give someone you love a season ticket! You KNOW they will thank you!

PRESIDENT'S PARTY: small attendance, BIG FUN

It was a great idea to have the President's Party during the summer, so everyone coming off the June show had a chance to return to normalcy (or as normal as thespians get) before another evening of merriment. This year, vacations seemed to have interfered with attendance. Well, you missed a GREAT time, hosted by the BEST hosts, Tom

and Mo Edson. You also missed a margarita cheesecake that people are STILL raving about! When the calendar comes out for the 2016 party, mark it down so you aren't left in the background wishing you had planned better.

HERE COMES RESERVED SEATING!

Members whose dues are paid up can make a reservation for the show, date, and seating area at any time, including before tickets go on sale to the public. It's easy! There are two ways you can do it:

ONLINE: Go to www.StDunstansTheatre.com and click on the Reservations link at the top of the page. Fill out the form as in the past. Be sure to click on "Member". Then check the date and seating area you prefer.

BY PHONE: Call 248-737-3587 and leave a message on option #3. Say your name, the date you want to come, the seating area you prefer, and give your phone number.

Then pick up your tickets at the counter when you come to the show.

This year we do NOT have the beautiful tickets that say "Member." We'll be using printed tickets with seat numbers on them. The chairs will be set up in the customary way, but the rows will have letters, and the chairs will have numbers. Bringing along guests? Best thing is to call our local number (248-737-3587) and give that information with your reservation. We will hold your seats, and you can pay for the guests at the door. **But if your plans change, you must call again as soon as possible to cancel your reservation!**

And remember – if you aren't using your member ticket, you can give it to someone else to use! Let's fill the house for our hardworking cast and crew!

NOTE: You CANNOT make a reservation by calling ShowClix or going to that website. ShowClix is only for purchasing tickets.

IS IT COINCIDENCE?

--Jon M. Huegli PhD, DD
On 4 July 1826, fifty years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams' dying words were: "Jefferson lives." In truth, Jefferson had died two hours earlier on that very Fourth of July! Was it just pure coincidence that 210 years earlier, two great authors died just 10 days apart in 1616? On 25 April, 1616, did Shakespeare ask whether Cervantes still lived, even though Cervantes had died on 15 April? And was it chance that our Play Reading and Casting Committee selected **Man of La Mancha** [based on Cervantes' **The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha**] followed by Shakespeare's **Midsummer Night's Dream** for production in January and June 2016 respectively?

Cervantes' and Shakespeare's lives were not celebrated upon their deaths. Shakespeare was buried in Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-on-Avon in a simple crypt--within the Holy Trinity church chancel, because he was a lay-rector of the parish--not because he was a famous playwright. His headstone reads: *"Good friend for Jesus sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blessed be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones."* But, due to some doubt about his burial in this location and his authorship of the plays and sonnets, archeologists and historians have proposed opening the grave and taking DNA samples to determine just who is in the grave.

On the other hand, this year archeologists have discovered Miguel de Cervantes' burial place in an unmarked crypt beneath Madrid's Convent of the Barefoot Trinitarians. And while Will Shakespeare left a verbal hint as to who is in the crypt, Cervantes left some more physical evidence, based on a self-description shortly before his death. It seems that he only had six teeth left in his mouth, and he made reference to wounds he had sustained during the naval battle of Lepanto in 1571; he had received a blast in the chest from a harquebus, and another wound that left him unable to use his left hand. Hence,

the archeologists and historians who located the bones have matched them up to the self-described injuries. There is no doubt here.

And there is no doubt that this 2015-2016 season will offer you the best of humor and romance from two of our finest authors who died but a few days apart. Our decision to produce these two marvelous plays will celebrate the 400th anniversaries of two great writers' deaths—and lives--as their works of art live on.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hey there, long time no see. I hope you all have had a fun and relaxing summer! As we get closer to September, I can't help but feel the joy that comes with the anticipation of another wonderful season! We have some amazing shows to look forward to. *The Wedding Singer* rehearsals are already in full swing! *Man of LaMancha*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are all waiting in line, chomping at the bit for their turn to entertain our audiences. When I was given the honor of being your President for this season, I found myself going through a whole gamut of emotions. First was surprise at the nomination, and the humble realization that I am being trusted to lead our group for a short time. Next came a little fear, a bit of uncertainty regarding the responsibility. What could I possibly contribute to this amazing group? The thing that drew me to this theater some 20ish years ago was the feeling that I had found, not just a group that shared my love of theater, but a family that truly cared about me. Through the years, I have been that gypsy that wandered to other theaters to do shows I was interested in, but I always found my way back here...back to my family. There exists, in this wonderful organization, some of my dearest and most beloved friends.

Through the years, one thing has been common in all of the theaters I have worked with. It has been and continues to be extremely difficult to find volunteers to help crew our shows. I and the rest of the board

have made it our mission this season to try to elicit the participation of our members both onstage and offstage. We need your help to do this. I invite all of you to send me your ideas. What do you think would make our members want to come and help, even if just for a week, a month, or hopefully for an entire show? What would entice YOU to come and help out? I know that our wonderful directors for this season would be grateful NOT to have to beg for assistance. Our producers work their tails off to staff our shows--how wonderful would it be for them to have the show fully staffed before auditions! If you would like to learn a new theater skill, how about volunteering to help with that crew for an upcoming show? Together we can make this another wonderful, less stressful season.

Thank you for putting our theater in my hands, I will do my best to make you all proud.

SOME SAD NEWS

Members Peggy and Bob Yazejian lost their beloved Dad, "Yaz," on Aug. 15. He was 93. Yaz never met a stranger, which accounted for his great success in business, where he worked for Kaufman Aluminum/Internation Extrusions for 58 years. Our condolences to the family, and our love and hugs to you as you deal with your loss.

SOME HAPPY NEWS

Members Delle and Dan Clair celebrated the birth of their first child, Adrienne, who was a very visible dancing part of our June show, *HAIR*, even before her birth! Daddy had the lead role in *Memphis* at the Crowell Theatre in Adrian this summer, and Mom couldn't be more proud of her two lovies.

HAPPY PATRONS SPEND on Fundraiser Project

The fundraisers managed by Maureen (Mo) Edson during the run of the outdoor show *HAIR* were highly successful again this year! The Basket Raffle consisted of 15 donated prizes and collected \$980 in ticket sales, bettering last year's sales - even with one less show due to

the rain-out. The prizes drawing the most interest were salon services from Antonino's Salon & Spa, a gift basket from Scripps Networks Interactive, original necklace designs by Nancy Wegienek and Jennifer Kroll, Chiropractic Care by Tom Kopsch, Kinerase Skin Care products, and a basket from the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

In addition, Mo's team sold "Peace" symbol earrings made and donated by Michael Campion, and accepted bids on an original painting donated by Ann DeMay, together adding another \$435, to bring the total fundraiser contribution to \$1415. It was a lot of fun to work the fundraiser and if you'd like to help, just contact Mo at mvedson@comcast.net.

Start thinking now about possible businesses to solicit donations for next year's fundraiser during the run of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Donated items can be combined to make a darling prize such as movie tickets, restaurant or store gift cards, picnic items, wine or alcohol, sports-themed items or game tickets, to create a Father's Day, 4th of July, or date night basket. Ask for support for local live theater from businesses you patronize! We provide a thank-you letter from St. D's acknowledging the donation and confirming us as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Let's all add more "fun" in this next fundraiser opportunity!

YOU PAY NOTHING!

The Kroger Family of Stores offers the unique Community Rewards Program of Michigan, which donates money back to St. Dunstan's for purchases made by its supporters. ONLY 8 HOUSEHOLDS from St. D's signed up! Here are the results from the first quarter:

Your supporters who shopped at Michigan between 2015-05-01 and 2015-07-31 have

contributed to your \$43.02 total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days. 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! Please sign up and get us some much-needed cash-on-hand!

- To re-enroll on-line they just simply go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- click "sign in"
- enter their email and password
- click "enroll now"
- put in the NPO number (#90023) or part of the organizations name
- check the correct group
- click "enroll"



NEW PREZ WIZDOM

--as seen on St. Dunstan's Theatre Members Page on Facebook. You can be INCLUDED, if you aren't already!
 The kitchen in the pavilion is ready for use! HUGE thanks to Rachel Biber and Diane Blasciuc for helping me with the cleaning and disinfection. ...Remember please, we are a group of people with a common goal and love. Treat each other fairly and don't blame anyone for anything you did not actually see them do. The energy can be better put to use fixing an issue instead of pointing fingers unjustly. Presidential wisdom for the day—PEACE, the Prez.

Fran's Views R NOT Folly

I had looked forward to attending the St. D Annual Meeting so I would have a chance to see long-time friends that I don't see often these days primarily because of age related changes to our lifestyles. I was greatly disappointed as only 22 people, including the Board members showed up for the meeting. There was a group from the cast of HAIR who opened the meeting with a song from the show, but all of them left immediately after the song. Aren't any of them members of St.D's? St Dunstan's is not some commercial company that puts on shows. It has been and I hope it still is a club of members who put on shows and become good friends through participation in the various functions of putting on those shows. We get to know and care about each other. For several reasons I have not been able to be as active as I used to be during my 60 years as a member and I am sorry about that. I hope I may be able to do more in the future. I still look forward to seeing more of all you guys and gals.

--Fran Loud, former writer and producer of Fran's Follies, an evening of sheer fun for St. D's members.(editor's comment: at 90 years old, Fran is apologizing that he hasn't done more...our excuses pale in comparison!)

THE

- ..most destructive habit: worry
- ..greatest joy: giving
- ..greatest loss: loss of self respect
- ..most satisfying work: helping others
- ..ugliest personality trait: selfishness
- ..most endangered species: dedicated leaders
- ..greatest "shot in the arm": encouragement
- ..greatest problem to overcome: fear
- ..most effective sleeping pill: peace of mind
- ..most crippling failure disease: excuses
- ..most dangerous pariah:a gossip
- ..world's most incredible computer: the brain
- ..worst thing to be without: HOPE
- ..deadliest weapon: the tongue
- ..two most power-filled words: "I can"
- ..greatest asset: faith
- ..most worthless emotion: self-pity
- ..most beautiful attire : a smile
- ..most prized possession: integrity



AUDITIONS FOR MAN OF LA MANCHA WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, OCT. 16 AND MONDAY OCT. 17. CHECK THE ST. DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE FOR ROLES, AUDITION MATERIAL AND VOCAL CUTS.

RACHEL BIBER WILL BE MAKING HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT, BRINGING IN SOME PRODUCTION CREW NEW TO ST. D'S AND RELYING ON SOME SEASONED FOLKS, TOO!



Set building well underway for The Wedding Singer. Carpenters first had to organize materials backstage and then move out what they didn't need or couldn't use. Thanks, Guys! (and any gals who might not be pictured here.)



Jeff Davison and Anthony Marsalese send a corny hello to their friends at St. D's