

StD Guild



ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK

JANUARY 2016



Michael Gravame (L) as Sancho Panza and Doug Clark as Don Quixote work through lines and props as they prepare for opening night of *Man of La Mancha*, set for Jan.15. Make your reservations NOW!



The Quest: A Full House Every Night

Have you ever noticed that your sensitivity to your surroundings is colored by your daily activities? Illustration: Windmills and references are popping up all over for the cast members of *Man of La Mancha*. For instance: Patrick Wehner found a Barnes and Noble bag pictured here:



Director Rachel Biber went to see *Newsies* at the Opera House, and parked her car at Don Quixote. The set is amazing and the cast is

surprising itself with how well they are picking up on the fight scenes and flamenco dancing. Make your reservations for opening night. You will be so amazed that you will want to come back every weekend! There also will be an afterglow opening night—come meet the amazing new folks who will be packing the house!

Seeking Financial Genius

June 2016 seems like a long way off. Between now and then, there is one BURNING question: How can we replace Kathy Brooks as our financial wizard? Kathy has been writing all the checks, figuring out all the sales tax, collecting yearly dues, paying all our bills and uncrumpling receipts for all the

committees for about 15 years. She let us know a year ago that she plans to step down from that all-year, every-year commitment at the end of our run in 2016---and that time is FAST approaching. YIKES! In the immortal words of Anthony Newley from *The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd*, "Who Can We Turn To...If You Turn Away?" Could you be our help? Contact a Board member, if you have even a glimmer of interest, and we will fan the flame!

Props is relatively organized!

Two elves spent most of a Monday spiffing and pitching in the Prop area of the work room. The much-needed housecleaning was done by Janie Minchella and Pam

Richards, who giggled and reminisced and tripped over props from nearly every show since they joined St. Dunstan's for *Grease* in 1992. The plates are with the plates, all the silverware is organized and the bookshelf from *Dial M* is now housing all the booze bottles (empty, alas) for ease of handling. Check it out the next time you come to the theatre!

Lender, Borrower, a Tenor Please

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 6:30 pm; 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 ***Lend 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

NEWS FLASH!!!

2016-2017 Slate Chosen

After months of voracious reading, spirited debates, and ice cream at Sandy Prokopp's house, the Play Reading and Casting Committee is proud to present the 2016-17 slate: St. Dunstan's Red Carpet Season!

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

(October 2016, musical): Based on the hilarious Steve Martin/Michael Caine comedy, two con-men try to extract \$50,000 from an American heiress on the French Riviera and both wind up with more

than they bargained for! This 2004 musical offers great parts for men and women of all ages.

August: Osage County (January 2017, drama): A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. The original run of the won both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play, and was most recently adapted for the screen with an all-star cast starring Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts.

Calendar Girls (March 2017, comedy): When Annie's husband, John, dies of leukemia, she and best friend, Chris, resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow WI members to pose with them for an "alternative" calendar...This is a great vehicle for women in a hilarious comedy based on the 2003 sleeper hit film.

42nd Street (June 2017, musical): This is the story of hard work, being in the right place at the right time, talent and love. **42ND STREET** is a celebration of Broadway and the people involved in shows. It focuses on aspiring chorus girl Peggy Sawyer, and takes us along her journey from chorine to star. Originally a 1933 Busby Berkeley film starring Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell, it was adapted to the stage in 1980, and will be produced by St.

Dunstan's for the first time in 2017!

POTENTIAL DIRECTORS!!!!!!

Now that the slate has been chosen we're looking for Directors! If you have interest in directing any of these shows please reach out to Paul Dorset at StDunstansGuild@gmail.com or directly at 248-321-1868. PR&C has a short director submission form they need you to fill out which will be due back by Monday, Jan. 25. Drop Paul a note and he will get you the form.



UNLUMPY SIDEWALKS— PLAYHOUSE SIDEWALKS

It may not be dressed in holiday style, but the new sidewalk puts a smooth, youthful look to the front of St. D's! Here is the scoop: The fluorescent stripes are gone from the steps and sidewalk in front of St. Dunstan's, and there is a new sidewalk—free of bumps to trip our patrons and actors! HOORAY for asking for what we need! Thanks, Nat Towle, for the chronicle of events!

From St. D's to Broadway

Alexandra Silber, who went to Groves and was in the St. D's most recent version of **Carousel** when she was a child, is starring as Tzeitel in the revival of **Fiddler** on Broadway.



Ash vs. Evil Dead Returns: From St. D's to Hollywood

The cult franchise will now be a Starz TV series, once again starring former St. Dunstan's member, Bruce Campbell. The *Detroit Free Press* article calls it "older and funnier," while Campbell himself calls it "a love letter to fans," as it has all three "The Evil Dead" founding fathers (all from metro Detroit), in place. Campbell, in addition to starring, is an executive producer. Sam Raimi, who directed the "Spider Man" trilogy (and met Campbell in junior high in Birmingham), and Rob Tapert (Raimi's friend from MSU) are also executive producers. "The Chin," as Campbell has been called, is best known for his character of Sam Axe on the USA hit, "Burn Notice." He has also authored a best-selling memoir, "If Chins Could Kill." Watch for "Ash vs. Evil Dead" premiere at Halloween.

