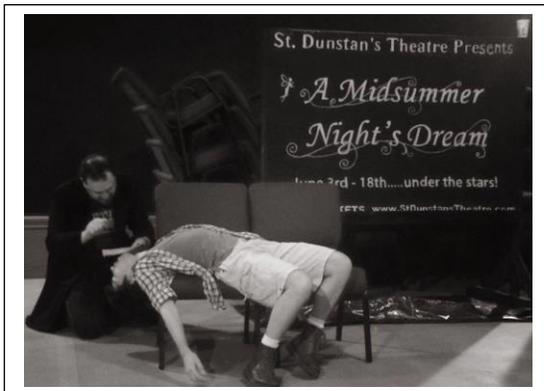


StD Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



MAY 2016



Rehearsals are in full swing for the 100th year of The Greek. At left, Oberon and Demetrius run lines.

Connie McEwan painted the publicity signs—true art abounds!

Midsummer Magic in a Night's Dream

Four young Athenians get lost in the woods and become the playthings of woodland fairies. In true Shakespearian fashion, there are mistaken identities, transformations, and fantastical scenes. Performed in the perfect setting -- outdoors in the beautiful Greek Theatre, in celebration of its 100th anniversary. June 3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18, 2016 All performances begin at 8:30 p.m.

Helena: Shannon Hurst
Hermia: Stephanie Peltier
Demetrius: Joel Hunter
Lysander: Marcus Laban
Bottom: John Boufford
Peter Quince: Daniel Muldoon
Flute: Alan Binkow
Snug: Hoggie Amare
Snout: Jocelyn Ethridge
Robin Starveling: Michelle Ankoviak
Oberon: Jeremy Rahn
Titania: Liz Schultz
Puck: Mandy Bannatz

Theseus: David Klecha
Hippolyta: Christine Kapusky
Egeus: Andrew McMechan
Philostrate: Fiona McMechan
Fairy: Erin Lewand
Fairy: Meg Brice
Fairy: Jessie Newton
Fairy: Roni Kane
Fairy: Arielle Olkhovsky



Lend Me a Tenor Wraps With Wine Bath

Everything about Nat Towle's directing smacked of experience, yet it was his directorial debut! **Lend Me a Tenor** was filled with hilarious slapstick, subtle comic gestures,

some rubber-faced silliness reminiscent of the silent movies, and just plain fun. The actors were having a ball and it was contagious into the audience. The door-slamming farce required split-second timing by the actors, and some pretty solid construction of the set, which was led by Michael Champion. New member and Stage Manager, Mike Butler, ran behind the scenes with ease and aplomb.

Kevin Kaminski (first seen in **Next to Normal**), was Nat's AD. He has theatre credits longer than his arms, and was Nat's go-to guy. Together they directed a crowd-pleaser with some AMAZING and innovative blocking. Each weekend, the play increased its speed of delivery on lines, and the audience's laughter decibel level increased accordingly. Nasir Khajawa was commanding as Tito Morelli—with an excellent Italian accent, eh? Mairo Towle produced the show and was #1 laughter. The blue fire of Janie Minchella's (Mrs. Tito Morelli) eyes could be seen from the last row of the audience, as she growled her disapproval at finding Molly Dorset, in the closet of Tito's hotel room. Molly was stunning in her glimmery evening gown as she coyly milked waves of laughter from the audience with her Gracie Allen-like delivery of

one-line zingers. Newbie Kori Bielaniec rocked the Chrysler Building dress as “Aunt” Julia and gaga over Tito. Amazing that Andrew had any voice at all, after the screaming fits and shouting each night, when he thought Tito had died before performing. DON’T try a pillow fight with Andrew—his pillow beatings are legendary. Deb Dworkin played the operatic vamp to perfection—and she is perhaps one of a VERY few of St. D’s leading ladies who could wear a full outfit UNDER a skin-tight gold lame dress, and NOT look lumpy! Tony Targan was the perfect bellhop with aspirations of being an opera star, with his understated comic delivery and impeccable timing. Gannon Styles got better with every performance. He cried more convincingly and ever more agitated each night. The Friday of closing weekend, Nasir gingerly put the cork in the chianti bottle, but when he flipped it to Gannon, the red wine bathed over Gannon’s face and all over his shirt and suit. Seasoned trooper that he is, Gannon recorked the bottle and managed to slip in wisecracks about being wine-soaked a couple times before the end of the show. Costumes gets megakudos, as Kathy Shapiro and Linda Watson made everything in sync with Roz Basherian’s art deco set. In all, SOOOOO funny, and so well done. Bravo, All.

Scoundrels to Bring Big Fun

Marcus Laban will be directing our first show of the 2016-2017 season. Auditions will be August 8 and 9. Registration at 6:30 p.m., auditions begin at 7.

Cast: Con men Lawrence Jameson and Freddy Benson;

Christine Colgate; Muriel Eubanks; Inspector Andre Thibault and Jolene Oakes
Here’s the plot:

At a casino near the French Riviera, con-artist Lawrence Jameson is tricking wealthy women out of their money with his "bodyguard" Andre. While several women express their devotion and love for Lawrence, Andre warns Lawrence of a con-artist, known as “The Jackal.” While on a train, Lawrence watches American Freddy Benson swindle money from a woman, and invites Freddy to his mansion. Freddy wants to learn more from Lawrence. When Jolene Oakes, a woman swindled by Lawrence, informs him at gunpoint that the two of them will be getting married and moving to Oklahoma, Lawrence gets Freddy to pose as his repulsive brother Ruprecht, and Jolene calls off the wedding. The two men both try separately to run a scam on Christine Colgate, the “American Soap Queen.” Twists and turns and shady plots abound—oh, and a couple kidnappings--all in fun. The scammers scam and get scammed and it is all good, dirty rotten fun set to music.

Call to Attend Annual Meeting MAY 19

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of St. Dunstan’s Guild of Cranbrook, Inc. will be held at the Pavilion, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m to consider the following matters:

1. To elect three new members of the Board of Directors.

2. To announce officers for the coming year, who will be elected by the new Board.
3. Review plan to upgrade lighting.
4. Presentation of the 2016-2017 Season.
5. To hear and pass upon the reports of Officers, Directors and Chairmen for the past year.
6. To consider and act upon any other matters which may properly come before the meeting.

Please be there, 7 p.m. SHARP on Thursday, May 19, 2016.

POST-MEETING FUN --Refreshments and great company after the business is done.

SORTED, CLEANED AND RESHELVED

Roz Basherian and Pam Richards were just itching to clean up the “mound” of fabric, carpets, fabric dummies, old curtains, new dishcloths, and just organize the corner in the shop that used to occasionally explode or implode on unsuspecting actors or set builders. Then the itching REALLY started, with the dust and dirt flying as the shelves were stripped and all bins searched for “good” stuff. The sorting was done and some 30+ bags of unnecessary items were donated to charity, and that area no longer needs caution tape! Ara Basherian was the muscle man who helped Roz remove all the donated items and get them out of the theatre and to somewhere they might be used.

Spiffing and Re-org

Costume Mistress Janie Minchella and Costumer Kathy Shapiro have spent hours reorganizing the costume

storage—especially the hats. For the Set Committee, Tom Edson is planning a clean-up of the shop, since *Midsummer Night's Dream* requires little set building in the Greek. SO much must be done behind the scenes so our shows can go on. If you have a gift for organization, let it be known, and you can be part of the sorting, cleaning and re-thinking for our physical plant!

PERFECT DIRECTORS FOR 2016-2017 SHOWS

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
(October, musical comedy)

Marcus Laban

Marcus will be manning the helm of this hilarious comedy this Fall. Marcus is a familiar face both onstage and off at St. D's. He recently directed **25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** in January 2014. He was in the chorus in Annie and is starring as Lysander in *June's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Marcus' production staff is chock full of regulars including Debbie Tedrick as the music director (*Chicago, Spamalot, Spelling Bee, Wedding Singer*) and Stephanie Peltier and Sarah Kwas as co-choreographers.

August: Osage County (January, drama)

Jeff Davison

Jeff is returning to directing after taking a break following his masterful production of *Next To Normal* in January 2015. His directing resume at St. D's is extensive (10!) and includes some gems that have graced our stage including *Chicago, She Loves Me, The Producers, A Man of No Importance*, and *God of Carnage* just to name a few. Susan Holmes will be assistant

directing alongside Jeff. Everyone is excited to have him back in the fold and at the helm of a meaty drama like August.

Calendar Girls (March, comedy)

Sandy Prokopp

Sandy has become a mainstay directing shows in years including *Almost Maine* and *Dial M For Murder*. She also directed the comedies *Greater Tuna* and *Tuna Christmas* on Second Stage. Sandy has been very active at the theatre since joining in 1999. She was most recently Rosie the "Rapping Granny" in *Wedding Singer* and has been in numerous productions including *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *The Producers*. Sandy is very excited to lend her comedic touch to this charming show.

SONG FOR AN UNSUNG HERO

St. Dunstan's had one of its luckiest months in March, 1995, when Chris Steinmayer joined our Guild family. Chris has faithfully served on many committees, worked tirelessly back stage building sets, tearing them down and working drag out for the June shows. He is ALWAYS there with a "yes" when Lights need hanging or designing, and he is our go-to guy for the new sound board—teaching someone new how to run it, or running it himself when there are no volunteers.

Chris loves excellence and he always sets the example in all he does. When he is in a show, he can always be found running and re-running his lines and dance steps, even when he knows them perfectly. Then, there is Chris' fabulous, FABULOUS voice, both speaking and singing, which has graced

our stage in so many ways. Not only has Chris been our leading man, our supporting character, he has also organized benefit concerts to purchase equipment so needed to continue St. Dunstan's high-quality productions. For some years, Chris sang in a Who tribute band, and he brought them to the stage at St. D's to begin raising funds for purchase of a new sound board. We bought that board and sound cues are now much easier and more reliable for actors. He did it again in April of this year, bringing Sonic Rain to our stage, with benefit proceeds going toward new lighting for the theatre.

Chris Steinmayer is a gold mine of talent, and we are so fortunate that he chose St. Dunstan's as his theatre home. He brought other wonderful people to St. D's, too—Dad Ron and his wife Joanne, and Chris' lovely and talented wife, Julie. (Editor's note: the first time I saw Julie, she was dressed in a shower curtain—playing Janet Leigh to Chris' Anthony Perkins' *Psycho* for Halloween). Chris knows where to find the perfect 1950's table, and he can turn a whole theatre into peals of laughter with his belly laugh. We love to hear you laugh, Chris. We love to hear you sing. We love to see you happy. We love you. You're perfect. You set the example for excellence. Please, don't change!

Goodbye, Dianne Blasciuc

Since Dianne joined St. D's, she has been a go-to person. She cooks, she helps set up and clean up for afterglows and cast parties, and most recently, she served on the Board as

corresponding secretary. Dianne has painted (and re-painted) sets, decorated sets and endeared herself to her St. D's family. She has decided to retire from the cold Michigan winters to her own little piece of heaven in Tennessee, where she plans to raise bees and take life easy! The phone number will stay the same, as will her email, and she says she has a spare room for transient thespians. All the best to you Dianne, and our love goes with you.

PAINT THE SIGNS, O ARTIST OURS

Connie Mulholland Wall McEwan is BACK! Surely with the outdoor advertising signs she has painted for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the patrons will FLOCK to the theatre. After far too long away from us, Connie is back, paintbrush in hand, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Thank you for those mini works of art that truly represent the fine productions we put together at St. Dunstan's. And thank you, Connie, for your unwavering devotion to your theatre family.

Baskets=Revenue ...and Better Lighting

We are again doing a raffle fundraiser during the run of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to benefit the theater for new stage lighting equipment. Here's how you can help:

JOIN THE TEAM AND VOLUNTEER: On show nights: be in the pavilion at the Raffle Prize tables to explain the prizes and sell raffle tickets, before the show and during intermission,

so from 6 pm until after intermission. Dates still needing volunteers: Fridays--June 3, 10, and 17; Thursday, June 16.

RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS: We need donations for raffle items – do you have, or can you get:

New or unused gift cards for local stores, restaurants, ice-cream parlors; Tickets for shows or sporting events that take place after June 15, 2016; Passes to museums, zoos, cinemas or other on-going attractions; Certificates for personal services; Sports memorabilia; Vacation get-aways; Art, jewelry or collectibles; Items for a Father's Day basket or Fourth of July basket; Individual items that could become part of a larger prize; ***Solicit owners of businesses you frequent and ASK for a donation on behalf of the theater! The donated gift is tax deductible and the donor will receive a donation receipt letter. In addition, the donor can be recognized in our show program if the donation is received by the program printing deadline in mid-May.***

Know someone who needs volunteer hours? They could make a certificate for home or garden services, such as lawn-mowing, weeding, running errands, etc., to be performed in the summer months.

Maureen has a Donation Request letter that can be emailed to you upon request. Contact Maureen Edson at 248-931-3017 or mvedson@comcast.net

WITH GREAT SADNESS, MUCH APPRECIATION AND LOVE, WE REMEMBER BARRY ZATE, LONG-TIME FRIEND OF ST. DUNSTAN'S AND BROTHER OF BELOVED MEMBER RON ZATE. "THE ULTIMATE MENCH" LEFT THIS WORLD MARCH 23 AT AGE 50. BARRY MADE CERTAIN ST. DUNSTAN'S PHONE LINE WAS SET UP AND KEPT IT RUNNING FOR YEARS, SO PATRONS COULD FIND OUT ABOUT US.



SONIC RAIN SHOWERS \$\$ FOR LIGHTS by Ruth Bennett

The jazz ensemble Sonic Rain, with guest vocalist Beth Lackey (our Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot*) put on a wonderful evening of entertainment Saturday, April 2, to kick off the fundraising campaign for new lighting equipment. ALL proceeds benefitted St. Dunstan's -- a total of \$1150, from ticket and concession sales and generous donations.

Many thanks to all who worked on this -- Sonic Rain and Beth Lackey; organizers Chris Steinmayer and Ruth Bennett; Sean Kecskes on lights; Alan Semonian and Patrick Wehner -- Masters of Ceremonies and 50/50 Hawkers Extraordinaires; and the "lobby crew" -- Mairo and Nat Towle, Andrea Kane, Rachel Biber, and Al Bennett.

Hopefully, the next fundraiser will be better supported by the membership.

Road Rally Changed to June 25

Sometimes getting it all together just doesn't happen in the planned timeframe. The Road Rally/Treasure Hunt originally planned for April 30, changed to May 7—and then was changed again. The event has FINALLY found a resting date: June 25. Final tweaks are still being made by Jake Zinke and Pam Richards, but the event will begin at 6 p.m. and end by 10 p.m. We will limit it to 20 cars, so we can find a restaurant to accommodate us at the end of the rally to see the solutions to the clues. The total driving distance throughout the night will be about 50 miles. The sign-up and definitive information will be in the

program for **Midsummer Night's Dream**, and recapped in the June **Guild**. \$10/person for a whole evening of fun and brainteasers! Mark it on your calendars NOW!



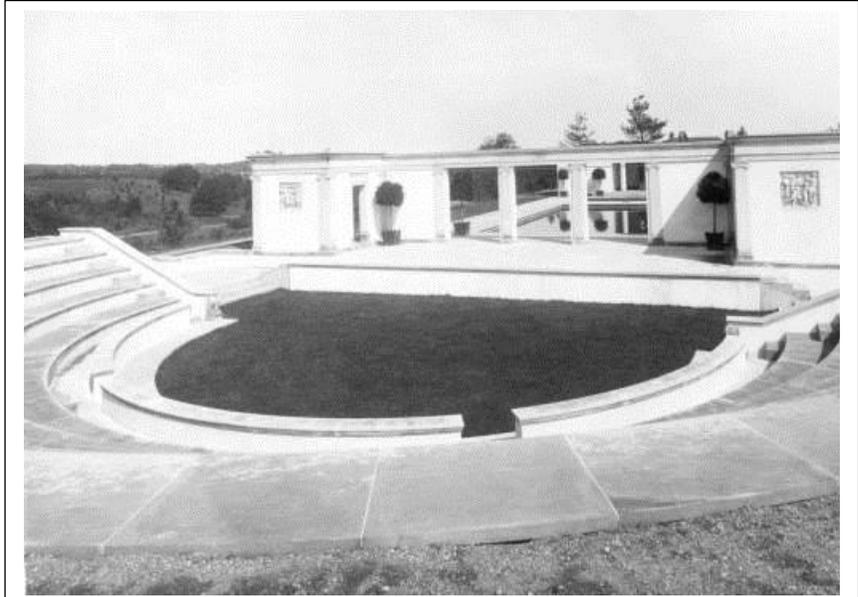
New Thespian In Training

Joseph Edward Kezelian is the newest addition to the St. Dunstan's family. He arrived March 24 at 6:53 p.m., 5.5 weeks earlier than Katie and Mike expected. It is rumored he wanted plenty of time to prepare for his debut to St. D's! He accompanied Mom onstage during **The Wedding Singer**—cleverly disguised by excellent costuming—but now is ready for the world to see him! At birth, he weighed in at 5 lbs. 7 oz and was 16.5 inches long. He sure knows how to strike a pose! WELCOME! Lily Dorset has been waiting for a partner in crime.

Casa Valentina

The Stagecrafters' Second Stage production of Harvey Fierstein's "Casa Valentina" opens May 6. Directed by Jay Kaplan with AD Sue (formerly Mancuso) Chekaway, and Jeff Davison and Suzette Ho in the cast.

THERE ARE ONLY 5 PAGES TO THIS GUILDER.



100 years ago there were no trees. There might not have been spring peepers competing for air space during performances, either. There is history here—and the legacy of fine, open-air theatre. The Greek is unique and it has been part of our St. Dunstan's tradition since the Guild was founded in 1932. In this century celebration, it is truly fitting that The Greek have a starring role in a timeless production.



Amazing set for **Lend Me A Tenor**, with loads of art deco touches. Decorator Roz Basherian even PAINTED the couch!

OH DON'T YOU WISH WE WOULD/COULD SEE THEM AGAIN?

L to R: Sally Garrison, Joyce Morehouse, Dick Hartle (Big Bad Wolf and Father Confessor)

