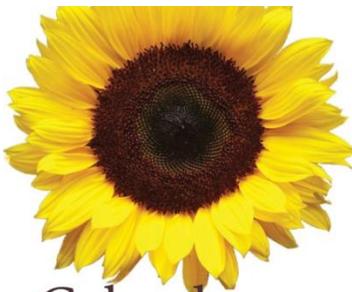


StD Guilder

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



MARCH 2017



Calendar Girls

by Tim Firth

OPENS MARCH 17

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 members of the Women's Institute to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar, with a little help

from hospital porter and amateur photographer Lawrence.

News of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of press soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. The calendar is a success, but Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test under the strain of their new-found fame.

Based on the true story of eleven WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukemia Research Fund, *Calendar Girls* opened at the Chichester Festival Theatre and has since become the fastest selling play in British theatre history. (Rated PG-13 for partial nudity) Broadway World-Detroit ran a

full-page article about our production!

Cast: Chris: Nancy Cooper
Annie: Janie Minchella
Cora: Suzette Ho
Ruth: Pat Rodgers
Jessie: Linda Watson
Celia: Julie Yolles
Marie: Sandra Deering
Elaine: Jennifer Crouch
Brenda: Mary Myers
Lady Cravenshire: Laura Bradshaw Tucker
John: Tom Pagano
Rod: Alan Binkow
Lawrence: Eric Franz
Liam: Hoggie Amare

Directed by Sandra Prokopp
Performances: March 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, and April 1 at 8pm;
Sunday matinee at 2 pm March 19 and 26
\$20 regular/\$18 seniors

Special "Ladies Night Out" ticket price Fri., Mar. 24, only! Ladies' tickets just \$15.

Tickets & Information

Season Subscribers and St. Dunstan Members, make your reservations now.
By phone: 1-844-DUNSTAN, #3
The sooner the better for best choice of seats! Call 1-844-DUNSTAN (1-844-386-7826) and

leave your reservation information on option #3. Or go to St. Dunstan's website link: <http://www.stdunstanstheatre.com/reservations.php>

Specify where you want to sit, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

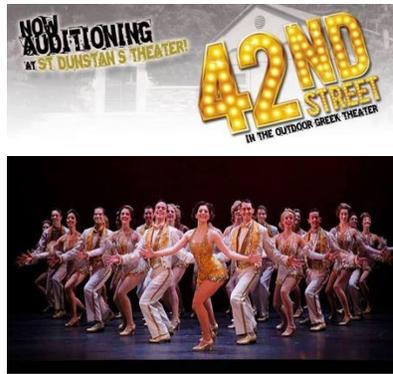
The matinee 3/26 is almost sold out.

COME TO THE AFTERGLOW!

Members, *Calendar Girls* opens next Friday, March 17. Come out and support our brave cast members! See them as you may never have seen them before! Make your reservations now by calling 1-844-DUNSTAN, #3; or online at www.StDunstansTheatre.com. Plan to stay for the afterglow, immediately following the Opening Night performance, and bring a dish to pass!

WISH THIS WERE MY IDEA

Stage Manager, Katie Kezelian, leaves nothing to chance. She sent out a request for stagehands on the St. D's Member Facebook Page, complete with a sign-up matrix for the dates she needs help. Katie is a great organizer and a wonderful teacher. Here is the text, in case you missed it: *Hey you! Do you like to keep track of props? Move things? Wear black? Try to be as quiet as possible while telling other people to be quiet? Don't have much going on yet this month? You should sign up to be a stagehand for Calendar Girls! We are looking for 1-2 stagehands per show, you may sign up for multiple nights if you are so inclined.* So, sign up!



42nd Street is an American musical with a book by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble, lyrics by Al Dubin, and music by Harry Warren. The 1980 Broadway production won the Tony Award for Best Musical and became a long-running hit. The show was produced in London in 1984 (winning the Olivier Award for Best Musical) and its 2001 Broadway revival won the Tony for Best Revival.

Based on the novel by Bradford Ropes and the subsequent 1933 Hollywood film adaptation, the show focuses on the efforts of famed dictatorial Great White Way director Julian Marsh to mount a successful stage production of a musical extravaganza at the height of the Great Depression.

Production team: Jennifer Ward, Director

Laurane Lake, AD;

Music by Dianne Cragg; Mairo Towle, Producer

Some songs you may know: "I Only Have Eyes for You," "We're in the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," and "Forty-Second Street."

Auditions: Sunday, Mar. 19 and Monday, Mar. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Dunstan's Playhouse

Performances: June 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 2017

See the St. Dunstan's Web site for songs and dancing requirements for each role, as well as how to get audition cuts.

Characters:

Peggy Sawyer (Lead) – Nervous but enthusiastic new chorus girl from Allentown, Pennsylvania

Billy Lawlor (Lead) – Leading tenor in *Pretty Lady*

Dorothy Brock (Lead) – Past her prime Prima Donna, renowned for inability to dance

Julian Marsh (Lead) – Famous, but notorious, director

Maggie Jones (Support) – Co-writer and producer of *Pretty Lady*

Bert Barry (Support) – Co-writer and producer of *Pretty Lady*

Abner Dillon (Support) – Producer of "Pretty Lady"; Dorothy's "Sugar Daddy" and Texan admirer

Andy Lee (Support) – Choreographer/Dance Director

Pat Denning (Support) – Dorothy's former vaudeville partner and romantic interest

Mac (Support) – Stage Manager
Ann "Anytime Annie" Reilly, Lorraine Flemming, Phyllis Dale, and Gladys (Support) – Experienced chorus girls who help Peggy

Oscar – Onstage rehearsal pianist for the show "Pretty Lady"

Doctor

Other small speaking roles (Thugs, waiter, etc.)

**WINDS CAUSE VENUE
CHANGE**

Due to power outage at the playhouse caused by high winds, the Saturday, March 11 tap workshop was held at Marian High School from 10:00am to noon. The workshop was designed for those interested in auditioning for the roles that require advanced tap knowledge.

**Genuine Portrayal of
August: Osage Characters
Grabs Audiences**

"I was uncomfortable with the arguing and the language, and I was ready to leave, but something about how REAL the characters were had me hooked, and I stayed. I was uncomfortable the whole time, but I loved it," said one of the participants at the talk-back after a Sunday matinee of **August: Osage County**. The talk-back participants—anyone who chose to stay after to chat with the actors and the directors—heartily agreed that they LOVED the characters, and actually felt connected to them and their situations. Some think it is good acting, some think it is good directing—it is all of those, plus a whole that is SO much more than the sum of its parts. The **August: Osage County** ensemble deserves another standing ovation for going above and beyond all expectation.

In addition to designing and running the lighting for the show, Obie Burch designed, dressed and led the build of the revolving set, with Michael Campion, Nat Towle and Tom

Edson. Producer Mairo Towle recruited "volunteers" for the "push hole," the center portion of the revolving set that always had two stevedores (or stevedoris') to begin the "push" as the set rotated. Andrew McMechan and Kathy Brooks Burch were always at the ready to "people" the other push-points with the cast of some 8 volunteers. Linda Watson and Kathy Shapero put together outstanding costumes (we just can't thank them enough) and Pam Richards made the breakaway plates, the fake fish and the green bean casserole that came out of its dish in a big lump. She also served up a full funeral meal to 11 cast members at each performance. Luckily, Sheriff Dan Muldoon was on hand to WASH all those dishes EVERY show—this is a big, dishpan hands shout-out to a cast member who didn't have to do what he did. Connie McEwan painted the greenware that was smashed every night, as well as lending her steady, artful hand to painting the signs advertising the show that are placed on Woodward. Ruth Bennett ran tickets, was the smiling voice and face to every patron who came to the show, as well as dressing the ticket booth to delightfully reflect different aspects of the play and character portrayal. An award-worthy ensemble, to be sure!

AOC is another overwhelming success at St. D's, thanks to the tireless dedication of far too-few people.

GREAT SLATE, 2017-2018

FALSETTOS,

9 performances, Oct 6-22, 2017

At its center is the confused heart of Marvin, a gay man in 1979 who introduces us in an early sequence to his lover, Whizzer, and his ex-wife, Trina, along with Marvin and Trina's precociously smart son, the 10-year-old Jason. Although no one seems wholly at ease, they have continued to maintain an equilibrium, to the point of still sharing meals together.

American families come in all shapes and sizes. "Falsettos" was eerily prescient in its presentation of one such family, well before it became almost — normal. ("What is normal?" Jason asks early on, in a telling moment.) The plague of AIDS no longer claims lives in the numbers it did in the 1980s, and definitions of masculinity, a sharp undercurrent in the show, have expanded considerably.

***The Ultimate
Christmas Show
(abridged),***

**7 performances,
Dec 8-17, 2017**

Welcome to the Annual Holiday Variety Show and Christmas Pageant at St. Everybody's Non-Denominational Universalist Church, where all faiths are welcome because we'll believe anything. But there's

a problem: none of the acts scheduled to perform have arrived, so three members are pressed into service to perform the entire Variety Show and Christmas Pageant by themselves. An irreverent yet heartwarming trip through the holidays, THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS SHOW (ABRIDGED) is festive, funny, physical, family fun as these Three Wise Guys send up and celebrate our favorite holiday traditions.

Clybourne Park,

9 performances,
Feb 23-March 11, 2018

A spin-off of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, this razor-sharp new satire takes a jab at race and real estate in a fictional Chicago neighborhood. The play begins in 1959 as a black family moves into a white enclave. Act Two takes us back to the same house in 2009 as gentrification sets in and the roles are reversed. One agile ensemble of actors play two sets of characters in the play The Washington Post deemed "one of its feistiest, funniest evenings in years."

OLIVER, 8 performances, June 1-16, 2018

Young Oliver Twist runs away from an orphanage and meets a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an elderly mentor. It is memorable characters (young and old), pulling at

your heartstrings, as only Charles Dickens is able to do. Wonderful songs, such as "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two," and "Where is Love?"

FACEBOOK USERS, CHECK OUT THIS PAGE

Detroit Area Theatre—Members. Go online and see so many wonderful faces we love who have graced our stage—both present and former members. There is also a St. Dunstan's Members page on Facebook, where all pertinent information about current and future productions is written and shared. Like it or not, it is THE best way to stay informed and to communicate with fellow members.



Baskets for the June Raffle

St. Dunstan's needs you! We are again doing a raffle fundraiser during the run of **42nd Street** to benefit the theater for needed updates. Here's how you can help:

RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS:
We need donations for raffle items:

New or unused gift cards for local stores, restaurants,

coffee shops, ice-cream parlors

Tickets for shows or sporting events that take place after June 20, 2017

Passes to museums, zoos, cinemas or other on-going attractions

Certificates for personal services (barber shop, manicure, pedicure, massage, etc.)

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.

JOIN THE TEAM AND VOLUNTEER: We need three people each show night to be in the pavilion at the Raffle Tables to explain the prizes

and sell raffle tickets, before the show and during Intermission. It's not too early! Contact Maureen Edson at 248-931-3017 or mvedson@comcast.net

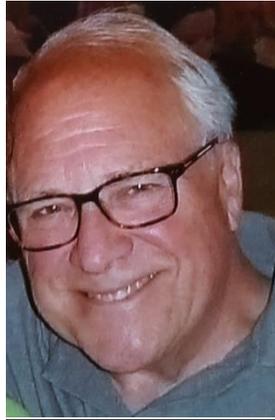


SHE WENT NORTH

Nancy Teegarden Wegienek and hubby, Steve, have moved from Birmingham to Suttons Bay. Nancy has been a member since 1982, is a past-president and has directed several shows at St. D's. She has photographed many a show and helped by donating some of her fabulous, hand-made jewelry as special "basket" items for the June show raffles in the Pavilion. Nancy was a bit nervous about the move, since she "spent her whole life here in the Detroit area," but being close to Scotty, his wife and her granddaughter, Willa Mae, gave her the courage to pack up and go.

Nancy would love to hear from her St. D's friends. Here is her contact info: 115 S. Elm St. Suttons Bay, MI., 49682 #248-505-7457 Nancytw87@gmail.com

Word has it that Betsy Todd plans on moving to CALIFORNIA. More on that one in the May *Guilder*.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

"We can't very well develop a marketing plan if we don't know our mission," John Irvine stated in a meeting last week. "Do we even have a mission statement?" Duffy retorted. "If so, why haven't we seen it published?" These were among some of the comments folks made as a group of St. Dunstan's stalwarts and past members met in Ian and Connie McEwan's home to discuss and propose improvements in the way we market ourselves to our members, potential members and future audience members.

As a boater, I thought to myself that without a clear and compelling mission, an organization like St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild is like a yacht without a rudder. It drifts aimlessly and cannot be piloted through the

shoals, rough waters and sandbars between it and its home port.



Three years ago, when I first joined the Board, Tom Edson and Nat Towle wanted us to begin strategic planning to guide us through the upcoming years of white water and changes in current membership and patron demographics and psychographics. We began the process in a day-long retreat. The result was an updated mission statement along with the core values that drive us toward fulfilling it.

Unfortunately, after the statement and values document was finalized, it has remained "asleep" in a computer digital archive. And Duffy's wakeup call is a reminder that because we have not kept it before us over the past two years and

striven to fulfill it, that we have lost sight of our purposes and have not mustered the human spirit to focus us on St. Dunstan's growth and vitality well into the future.

So, here are our mission and values that serve as the

motors to drive us forward in a focused way:

Mission:

Our mission is to provide a theater experience for our members, participants, patrons, and community that has a reputation for production quality excellence provided by a dedicated group of volunteers that love theater and truly enjoy their involvement in putting on a show. We aspire to build on the heritage of the St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, refine our production processes and facilities, and attract a growing cadre of talented and active members.

Our Values:

We take pride in delivering theater productions of the highest quality within our limited resources

We promote a culture within our group that attracts talented and active members who celebrate the fellowship of community theater, participate in all aspects of the theater, develop and grow their skills and talents by association, and have fun in the process

We pursue access to show titles that will attract the best talent to our auditions and productions, and, when marketed effectively, will draw strong audiences and

patrons to support our ongoing operations

We respect the history of the Guild and our unique venue while we take necessary actions to provide upgrades to our facilities and technology to meet the future requirements of our members and patrons

We view our group as a strong contributor to our local community by providing a valuable cultural resource, by providing development, training and growth to our membership and community participants, and by providing the opportunity to join a group that demonstrates acceptance of others, diversity and inclusiveness

Based on the sage advice of Nat, Tom, Alan Canning and other past Board members, our present Board undertook addressing three critical issues by using strategic planning methods: **Membership, Money and Marketing.** Task forces have been formed to gather information for decision making, planning and implementation of action steps in these three areas. Board members are spearheading each of the task forces, and will report out results at our Annual Meeting in May. Join us at the Annual Meeting on 19 May to learn how your Board is helping pilot our St. Dunstan's boat through the

current white waters of change.

MARCH GUILDER DELAYED

Ordinarily, the Guilder comes out soon after the first of the month. In March, there was a 7 lb. 14 oz. reason for delay, named Maisie Jane Swanson—the first granddaughter of Guilder editor, Pam Richards, born Mar. 4 to Maryse Richards Swanson and Robert Swanson.



**ST.
DUNSTAN'S IS
A COMMUNITY
THEATRE AND
A THEATRE
COMMUNITY!
BE PART OF
IT!**

