

StD Guild

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



MARCH 2012

FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

MAC Mar. 6
Auditions *Forum* Mar. 18, 19
Waiting for Godot Opens Apr. 13

FEEL LOVE IN ESCANABA

Every November brings the opening day of deer camp, when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of guns, whiskey, deer trophies and LOVE??!!....

Well, yes, when we're talking about *Escanaba in Love*, the second part of the Escanaba trilogy. Written by Michigan's own Jeff Daniels, *Escanaba in Love* is the story of Albert Soady, Jr. (played with great aplomb by Ryan C. Dawley), and how he woos and weds 'Big' Betty Balou (Deb Dworkin). Of course, his marrying Big Betty is only part of the problem; the big fun ensues when he brings her to deer camp, an almost capital crime to any deer hunter, and much to the chagrin of his father Albert Soady, Sr. (John Tonkovich), and grandfather Alphonse Soady (Al Rosie). Rounding out the cast playing the wacky 'Salty' Jim Negamanee cast is Thom Griffin, who played Jimmer Negamanee two years ago in *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, making Thom his own grandpa---or some such relationship.



Deb Dworkin shows Ryan Dawley who's on top, as Al Rosie, Thom Griffin and John Tonkovich look on in envy—or is it surprise—or is it wonder? Come see *Escanaba in Love* to find out!

Escanaba in Love also reunites the team of Mark Walters, Director, and Nina Kircher, Assistant Director, who brought us the acclaimed *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. *Escanaba in Love* is being produced by Sandra Prokopp, and the set (from the original by Mark Walters two years ago) has been faithfully reproduced by Tom Edson, with his trademark skill and aplomb. Making the set look good is Bob Yazejian taking on the HUGE job

to find all the props needed for a show like this (and I'm sure he would be HAPPY to consider anything from the pre-WWII era that you could bring to the playhouse). Making the actors look good are Mary Walters, designing and making costumes, and Obie Burch designing the lights for our cabin. Andrew McMechan will keep everyone in line handling the Stage Manager duties.

Escanaba in Love opens Mar. 16, followed by the member's afterglow. It runs Friday and Saturday nights thru Mar. 31, with a matinee performance on Mar. 25.

Come and join in the tenderness, tears, temper and tradition, but also of course the friendship, family, frivolity and FUN of the Soadys, as portrayed in *Escanaba in Love*.

ROSTER UPDATES 'N CHANGES

St. Dunstan's Roster staff has received some corrections and changes to the 2011-12 edition. Please note the changes listed below. Please check YOUR listing in the Roster. If anything needs to be changed, please email the correction to Roster@StDunstansTheatre.com.

Dr. Keith Lepard. His email is leopardk@gmail.com

Thom Griffin. His email is tgriffin980@wowway.com

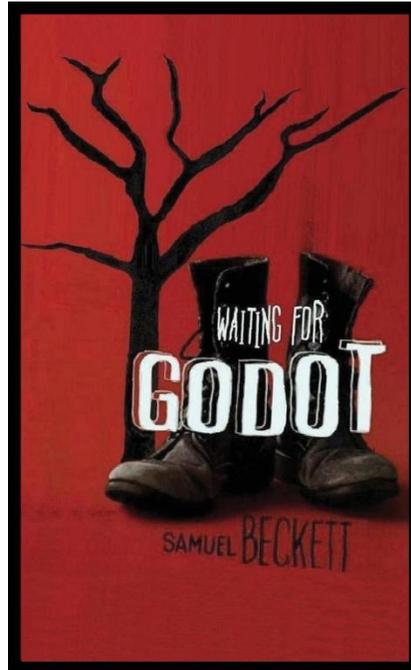
Krystyn and John Irvine. Their new address is **3320 Crestwater Ct., #1513, Rochester Hills, MI 48309**. Phone is **248-622-4720**

Andrew McMechan. His cell number is **248-330-9100**.

Mary Sue Meyer. Her phone number is **248-673-3349**.

Steven F. Booth passed away January 2012.

If you don't yet have your 2011-2012 roster, they are available for pickup in the theater lobby. Get it when you come to see *Escanaba In Love!*



GODOT ARRIVES IN APRIL—NO MORE WAITING!

The five members of our Stage Two cast of Samuel Beckett's classic work, *Waiting for Godot*, directed by Obie Burch, will be presented by;

Scott MacDonald as Vladimir
Paul Dorset as Estragon
Keith Lepard as Pozzo
Andrew McMechan as Lucky and
Fiona McMechan as The Boy.

Linda Watson will contribute Costumes and Susan Holmes will be assisting with Props. Thank you to the PR&C representatives Kathy Shapero and Kendall Doman for their advice and support. Thank you to Kathy Brooks' help in organizing audition. And, thank you to all that auditioned. We are on our way to an exciting, unique theatre experience, opening Apr. 13, with performances Apr. 14, 20 and 21.

Godot is set on a desolate back road, devoid of nearly everything. A barren tree is in the background. The show will be presented on the Pavilion floor in the round.

Vladimir and Estragon, formerly respectable men, are now homeless. They await Godot, their supposed savior, while discussing subjects from the crucifixion to suicide. Vladimir is the caretaker and more optimistic. Estragon is depressed and looks to the bleakness of their existence. Pozzo is a multi-faceted landowner, bold and self-confident in the first act, blind, weak and helpless in the second. Lucky is the Mute and the servant of Pozzo and is led, like a horse, by his master.

(Editor's comment: I always look forward to shows directed by Obie. His theatre savvy coupled with his unique approach, particularly to our Stage Two productions, makes sitting in the audience a learning experience and a pure joy, seeing what he does with a script. With the powerhouse cast he has for *Godot*, April is too far away--I just can't wait!)

HEALING CORNER

Mary Jolliffe has been recuperating at Woodward Hills nursing home since a fall while she was on vacation in the Dominican Republic. Mary broke her arm and her pelvis, so some rehabilitation was called for. She should be at home soon, and would welcome cards and notes until she can comfortably talk on the phone. Mary has shared her grace and endless talents with our Guild since 1959.

HEALING (cont'd)

On a note of healing to come, Connie McEwan is scheduled for two back surgeries in early March (8 and 12), and says that she absolutely welcomes all prayers and positive energy that we can send her way. She should be in Wm. Beaumont hospital for a couple weeks following the final surgery.

ANDY'S BACK--A GOOD THING!

As Andrew McMechan returns to the St. Dunstan's Guild family, those who have known and worked with him in the past know it is a very good thing! Andrew jumped right into the Carol Sing in December, bringing his lovely daughter, Fiona and her soprano voice along to complement the ensemble. Andrew and wife Marion were members for years before business plucked them from our midst and resituated them in California. Imagine leaving here for there! The things our members do for money! Now, the McMechan family is back—and Andrew and Fiona are involved—to use a much-used word from *The 39 Steps*. Andrew is stage managing *Escanaba in Love*, and has taken a role in the next production of *Waiting for Godot*. Fiona has a role in *Godot* also. AND, that ain't all. Andrew will direct our June show, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

AUDITION NOTICE FOR FORUM

"A perfect fit in Cranbrook's unique Greek Theatre," says Director Andrew McMechan. "Our version of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is true to the comedic fundamentals for the play, but looks to update the style of

comedy to something more contemporary. Look for inspiration from Monty Python, National Lampoon, TV shows like 30 Rock, Modern Family and Saturday Night Live. It is an ensemble farce, so we will seek the best team of performers—actors who have the ability to work well with others in improv-like settings." If this sounds like your thing, scripts and music are available by e-mailing forum.in.the.greek.2012@gmail.com and requesting by character names:

Pseudolus: The evening's emcee and host. Needs great acting/singing chops, must also be great comedien(ienne). Auditioners for this role will be asked to prepare 2 minutes of stand-up comedy.

Hero: The young, naïve lover (think Ferris Bueller)

Philia: Young courtesan—not completely innocent.

Domina: Straight out of Real Housewives of Rome. A trophy wife with collagen and implants stoked to the gills on Prozac and Mojitos. Afraid of being displaced!

Hysterium: Bossy, type-A with compulsive need to control, neat and clean.

Senex: Eternal hen-pecked husband who wants to see the courtesans next door every chance he gets.

Marcus Lycus: Self-made entrepreneur and salesman of girls stolen from their homes and forced into a life of sexual servitude.

Erroneous: Addled old man in search of his lost children—at the heart of the show.

Miles Gloriosus: Steroid-inflated baseball star of his time.

Six female dancers: Serious dancing chops, but of any age. (One may be cast as a cross-dressing male)

The Proteans (3): play any parts needed. Director inspired by clowns in *The 39 Steps*, and has lots of comedic plans for the Proteans.

The rest of the production team includes: Laurie Dooley--Assistant Director; Dianne Cragg—Music; Alice Kirby—Choreographer; Mairo and Nat Towle as producers.

A FEW GIGGLES IN FINALE

The Washington Post has a yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. Here are some of the winners :

Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.

Abdicate, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.

Negligent, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.

Lymph, v. To walk with a lisp.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hello again, everybody—the heart and body of St. Dunstan's! It's the beginning of March, which means the winding down of winter and people coming out of hibernation (although, this year we hardly HAD a winter, which has been good news for St. D's!) Attendance was great for *She Loves Me*, but the show was SO GOOD, it should have been sold out every night. This is where the membership comes in. When we send you the publicity information, forward it to everyone on your email list. Post it to Facebook on your page and ask your friends to "like" it. Paul Dorset set up a Twitter account (@StDunstansGuild), so you can also access information there and share it if you tweet. Now, as the director of the next show, I am giving you a personal invitation to put it in your phone, write it on the wall, spray paint it on the side of

your garage, but DON'T MISS, *Escanaba in Love!* (see the accompanying article for info). Hopefully the weather will hold, and we'll have the kind of audiences we had for our *Escanaba* show two years ago. We have been rehearsing for a few weeks now, and the cast is anxious to show you just what love means to a Soady, and to 'Big' Betty Balou, who dreams of being a Soady. This show has something for everyone: for the men (grunts, guns and ummm, gas) and women (tears and the tenderness of father and son). How is THAT for stereotyping? It all in good fun, and the show really should be enjoyable for everybody, although it is PG-13. The show opens Mar. 16. I hope many members can be there opening night and stay for the afterglow (and bring something to share if you can). Producer Sandy Prokopp is doing the arrangements for the afterglow, and any additional delicacies would help tremendously. While I am on the subject of opening night, we are seeking people available to

drive the shuttle van for any of the performances, Contact Sandy Prokopp for that, too. The wonder of our group is how many people are willing to try different things. If you know how to drive a car, you could get this part! Plus, since the police have posted no parking on the side street leading to the theatre, it is much easier to maneuver the van, so you can jump right into the role with NO rehearsal—a thespian's dream!

Bob Yazejian (the propsmaster) for *Escanaba*, would LOVE any pre-WWII era paraphernalia that we could use to decorate the walls of the Soady deer cabin. Photos, license plates, cans, bottles, etc. The show takes place in 1944, so pretty much anything from 1900 (or earlier even) til then would be great. You'll get back anything that you might be able to loan.

Of course, the opening of another show means auditions for the next. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the June musical in the Greek, will audition Mar. 18 and 19. There are some fabulous parts and memorable songs for actors of all ages.

Contributors:
 Ruth Bennett
 Obie Burch
 Sally Garrison
 Connie McEwan
 Ian McEwan
 Mark Walters



Waiting for Godot is getting geared up, too, (Stage Two) and will be presented Apr. 13, 14, 20 and 21. Hope to see you ALL at *Escanaba in Love!!!*

--Mark Walters, President

2012-2013 SEASON REPRISE

It Came From Mars The members of Farlowe's Mystery Theater Hour are in rehearsal for their weekly radio show when they hear an alarming announcement that Martians have landed!

Chicago (a musical) In roaring '20's Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a lover and convinces her husband to take the rap...until he finds out he's been duped. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another murderess, Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces..

Almost Maine (romantic comedy) In the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky, residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways.

Guys and Dolls This oddball comedy soars with the spirit of Broadway. Sarah Brown, out to reform the evildoers of Times Square; Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide, the chronically ill nightclub performer, engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit, her fiancé, desperate to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game.

Directors are still being sought for all but *Chicago*, and PR&C is also looking for suggestions for Children's Theatre and Stage Two. Please send any inquiries/ideas to Anthony Marsalese at tonyjeff@comcast.net.

VISIT ST. DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE

www.stdunstanstheatre.com

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