

StD Guild



ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK

DECEMBER 2011

FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

Tree Trim	Dec. 2
Carol Sing/Santa Party	Dec. 3
Stage Combat	Dec. 10
Chanukkah begins	Dec. 21
Christmas	Dec. 25
Kwanzaa begins	Dec. 26

CAROL SING NABS STARRING ROLE ON TV!

Put on your best red and green for this year's show because we're going on TV. Bloomfield Cable will be taping the performance on December 3 at 3 p.m. for showing throughout the holiday season! You'll enjoy a fabulous performance by the St. D's singers, the Detroit Youth Choir, the Woodward Corridor Musicians - Woodwind Trio, and John Repulski on the organ for your favorite sing-alongs. It's just the best way to start off the holiday season for everyone in the family. For the little wiggle ones, it is perfect, since it only lasts one hour. We ask and hope that you will share this information with your family, friends and neighbors. Each year we hear from someone who didn't know about it and would have loved to attend. We're doing our best on PR but nothing beats a personal invitation so, pay back a host or hostess, and invite them to a wonderful afternoon/evening out. See you on the 3rd at Christ Church Cranbrook and at the Santa Party afterward!



Aantsy Aardvaark characters Susan Holmes, Kevin Garringer and Nat Towle get into the mood with a snarl, a spell and a very silly smirk! They didn't want to do the aantsy dance!



Lily is posing under protest, but wishes everyone a ho-ho holiday!

SANTA, BABY, ICE, PLEASE!

The Tickets and Concessions Committee is wishing for something special for Christmas -- a little dormitory-size refrigerator, like the kind folks keep in their garage for those extra bottles of cheer. Not a cube, but a shortie. Here's why: we would like to do away with those big tubs of ice cold water and drippy pop cans and water bottles at the Concessions table during shows. We'd be able to plug in the mini-frig and keep those goodies chilled and dry (plus save the cost of ice for every show).

So if you happen to have a used one in good condition, or would even like to purchase a new one, YOU would receive a donation acknowledgement (since St. Dunstan's is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) and the enduring gratitude of a whole lot of people! Please contact Tickets chair Ruth Bennett, rbenmsc@gmail.com, if you can help.

FIGHTING STAGE STYLE FOR FUN AND SAFETY

A unique workshop will be offered at St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, guaranteed to release that inner swashbuckling pirate in the most meek and mild. A course in stage combat intensive (hmm, sounds a bit like a Procurator Fiscal Personally, doesn't it?) taught by maestro Christopher Barbeau, fight director and stunt coordinator at the Michigan Opera Theater, the Toledo Opera, Village Shakespeare Festival and the Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre, on Dec. 10 and 11 from 1-3 p.m. on both days at St. Dunstan's. The cost is \$75. Register yourself. Tell a friend. Refer everyone to our web site at www.stdunstanstheatre.com

PR&C CLOSE TO 2012 SLATE

Play Reading and Casting is getting closer to choosing the slate for our 2012-2013 season. The committee is busy reading and discussing plays and musicals that will be great for our membership and theatre-goers. We are pleased to announce that Nina Kircher will be Mark Walter's assistant director for *Escanaba in Love* and Laurie Dooley will assistant direct for Andrew McMechan's direction of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Mark your calendars and come out to audition for our next three shows:

Escanaba in Love: Jan. 23 & 24
Waiting for Godot: Feb. 26 & 27
A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum: Mar. 18 & 19.

Audition information will be posted on St. Dunstan's website as the dates get closer.



ARTISANS STARTS STRONG!

It's been a good year for St. Dunstan's Artisans program. So far our generous members and guests have donated \$2,522. If you're looking for something to give that "hard to buy for" person, donating to our Artisan program would make a great gift and help our theatre prosper. All donors, regardless of amount are listed in our season program.

A huge thank you to this year's Artisans:

Tim and Julie McGee
Donna Ryder
Martha Smith
David and Susan Smith
Maggie Allesee
Jeff Davison and Anthony Marsalese
Terry Brown
Bunny and Mel Shaw
Jim and Margie Brooks
Dagnya Ilya
Virgina Gehab
Arlene Schoenherr
David and Susan Steinhagen

WISH I'D SAID THAT...

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one."
- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."
- Winston Churchill, in response

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."
- Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."
- Groucho Marx



ST. DUNSTAN'S THEATER GUILD OF CRANBROOK NOW OFFERING A TWO DAY INTENSIVE STAGE COMBAT COURSE

HOSTED BY MAESTRO CHRIS BARBEAU
OWNER - RING OF STEEL ACTION THEATER AND STUNT TROUPE
SATURDAY DEC. 10TH - SUNDAY DEC. 11TH - 1-3PM
COST \$75

REGISTRATION NOW BEING ACCEPTED - SPACE IS LIMITED TO 25

ST DUNSTAN'S THEATER IS LOCATED AT:
400 LONE PINE ROAD, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304

MERCI, GRACIAS, DANKE & THANKS!

We all spend enormous amounts of time and energy at St. Dunstan's, doing what we love. Boy, wouldn't it be phenomenal to get paid for all our hours, or otherwise compensated? Well, dream on—BUT, just in case you are feeling overwhelmed or under-appreciated for all your efforts, this article is for you! THANK YOU! Thank you for your time. Thank you for sharing your limitless talent with the Guild. Thanks for stepping up to drive the bus, for taking out the garbage after an afterglow. Thanks for volunteering in whatever way you do. Thank you for putting your heart into our productions, making them stellar in every way—right down to wool suits and wool coats so we sweat off 15 pounds on stage. Thank you for singing in the chorus when you wanted a lead part. Thank you for washing clothes and dressing sweaty actors. Thank you for cheerfully serving our patrons on the ticket committee and picking up the programs and sticky candy wrappers they leave on the floor.

Thank you for producing show after show when no one else will do it. Thank you for loving each of your fellow thespians, even when we aren't always loveable. Thank you for the room you give all of us to be who we are and yet call us to be better than we have ever been.

Each of you is an integral part of the success of our theatre guild, and as Guilder editor, I want to give each of you the standing ovation you so richly deserve. For all your actions seen and unseen—you are appreciated. You are truly a star on our stage and we love you!

--Pam Richards



A VISION IN RED—FROM THE PAST. ANYONE NOT IN THE SHOW KNOW WHICH SHOW THIS IS? CAN YOU NAME ALL THE CAST MEMBERS? WHO DIRECTED IT?



To gleeful audiences, the motley crew of *The Aantsy Aardvark*, sang and sillied its way through a very successful run. Kathy Brooks runs a tight ship—Obie Burch builds 'em and the audiences came to enjoy the corn-y-ness of another excellent children's show. Thanks again to the cast that included four newbies and Taylor Gray, returning former member.

**The cast in no particular order:
Aabigail, Treger Strasberg
Aalice/ One Eye, Susan Holmes
Aabraham/Captain Messy Ned. Kevin Garringer
Grambo, Bruce Toncray
Teacher/No Feather Nellie, Jean Garringer
Merchandise Marty/Six Eye Scumbucket, Taylor Gray
Mayor Naysayer/Neckbeard, Nat Towle**

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As we leave Thanksgiving celebrations and enter into the remainder of the holiday season, we can all look back and reflect on the blessings of the past year. We all have much to be thankful for. The new year should hold many more great things for our members and St. Dunstan's, as we continue into 2012 and the rest of our 80th season.

What a wonderful Theater for Children presentation of *Aantsy Aardvark* in October! As usual, the cast and crew had a fantastic time entertaining themselves (oh, and the children, too). Thanks to Kathy Brooks for directing the show written by her brothers Mike and Pat. The costumes were outstanding, thanks to Linda Watson and Obie Burch built the most gorgeous ship. When I walked on stage, it was hard to believe that it was only half a boat! As I watched pirates Nat Towle and Jimmy Luzenski, I couldn't help but think that perhaps while we have two such robust scoundrels, we might think about Peter Pan, as we could cast Captain Hook and Smee with no trouble (but the hook would have to change hands!). Sometimes the time slot for the children's play is difficult for members to make a commitment, even to the shortened rehearsal schedule. It is such an important outreach for children, and we do appreciate everyone who participated.



Coming up on Dec. 3 is the annual Carol Sing and Santa Party so lovingly organized by Connie McEwan. Susan Holmes made a positively gorgeous poster, which you all received by email. It takes many hands to make the Guild run smoothly. We thank each and every one for all their participation!

At the Carol Sing, there will be great, joyful singing at Christ Church Cranbrook for all ages, immediately followed by the Santa Party at the pavilion. Remember that members and guests are invited to this festive event, where we'll enjoy treats and some holiday cheer. And, for the young (or maybe even young-at-heart) there will be a visit from you know who. Please plan to join us for this wonderful event. It's a great way to start off your holidays. **When you come, please bring a treat to share**, and if you want adult libation, bring that along with you as well (we'll have cups if you want to share that, too). AND REMEMBER, this is the last year that Connie will be organizing the Carol Sing! If you want this long tradition to continue into 2012 and beyond, someone will need to step up and take over. In order to get an outside choir or performers on board, preparations for next year's event need to begin immediately. We can't wait until next summer. If you are so inclined, please let Connie or a board member know. Connie will be pleased to answer any questions as to what is involved to facilitate this fabulous event.

Editor: Pam Richards
Contributors:
Ruth Bennett
Kathy Burch
Jeff Davison
Anthony Marsalese
Connie McEwan
Mark Walters

On the weekend of Dec. 10 and 11, Alan Canning has arranged for Chris Barbeau, the preeminent expert and teacher of stage combat, to hold a workshop at our venue. Registration is only \$75 per person for the 2-day class, and is limited to only 25 participants. Chris has taught his art all around the country, to many stage and screen stars. He is considered the foremost authority in stage combat, and we are exceedingly lucky to have him available to impart some of his knowledge. If you have ever wanted to learn how to fight onstage, whether just for fun or for auditioning for a part in the future that may involve combat, this is your opportunity. Chris will supply all the accoutrements necessary for the class, and you will be rewarded with a peek into a number of combat disciplines and movements.

Rehearsals continue for *She Loves Me*, the funny and tender musical that will be presented for three weekends starting Jan. 20, 2012. Plan on coming to see this show, which is the basis for *You've Got Mail*, the movie starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

Now, I wish for you all a safe, relaxing, and joyful holiday season, with lots of participation in St. Dunstan's activities in the new year!

God Bless,
Mark

VISIT ST. DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE
www.stdunstanstheatre.com

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TO DETROIT'S BEST
COMMUNITY THEATER, CALL
248.737.3587