

# StD Guilder

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



## FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2012

MAC Feb. 7  
Joint Board Meeting Feb. 7  
Auditions *Waiting for Godot* Feb. 26, 27

## LOVE OF SHE LOVES ME

### SHARED

All compliments are appreciated. Sometimes we fish for them...but the nicest, SWEETEST ones are those that spring forth unsolicited and straight from the heart. Here are a few comments from both patrons and members, which were freely offered about the show:

From our head of MAC, Sally Garrison, "The show was fabulous. I enjoyed every moment. Cast and crew, congratulations! I'm only sorry my mom wasn't alive to see it. *She Loves Me* was one of her favorite shows, because of the story line and the wonderful score. I saw it in NYC when my folks lived there with Barbara Cook and Daniel Massey. What fond memories! Mom was a member in the 50's. Dad was, too, and he rejoined after they returned to MI in the 80's."



Paul Kaye, PhD, a new patron, said, "This is the first time I have attended a show at St. Dunstan's. We completely enjoyed the performance and were thoroughly entertained. The couple who came with us know the lyricist, and they saw the show in New York when it originally opened. They, too, felt the St. Dunstan's show was excellent!"

A patron named Gerry wrote: "I believe that yesterday's performance was one of or possibly the best we have seen at

St. Dunstan's. The orchestra, singers (female lead was great), and the acting were first-rate."

This is the latest and greatest from Director Jeff Davison, as *She Loves Me* approaches closing weekend: "A huge thank you to everyone involved in making *She Loves Me* come to life. This little-known show has left its impression on the hearts of many patrons. When I heard comments like 'I've never even heard of this show and I love it,' I knew we had created something very special. I've always loved this show and I couldn't be

happier with the results achieved by us here at St. Dunstan's. The key to directing is to surround yourself with talented people and I did. I could not have asked for a more talented cast and crew. Congratulations to everyone involved."

From Stage Manager Jimmy Luzenski: "Huge thanks and hugs to everyone who worked backstage. We can make or break the show, and I think we not only perfected our craft and made ever-speedier scene changes, we also had loads of fun and laughs while doing it. If you haven't tried working behind the scenes, you are missing some of the theater's most memorable moments. Come join the fun!"

### **TOWLE INGENUITY FIXES WHEELCHAIR**

During the run of *She Loves Me*, the antique wheelchair used to wheel Mr. Maracek around stage was getting progressively more unmanageable with each performance. The third wheel in the back had rotting rubber that was falling off on stage. Stage Manager Jim Lu was picking up these pieces of black and wondering whose costume was falling apart. The flat spots on the wheel were causing concern on stage. Da da da DAH!!!! Nat Towle capitalized on an idea, took a length of rope and attached it around the rim of the wheel with black duct tape—problem solved! And THAT'S one of the MANY reasons we love him!

### **DO NOW UNDO**

Tom Edson, Chair of Set Build needs our help to take down the wonderful set we have had for *She Loves Me*, this coming Sunday, Feb. 5, starting at noon. The take down should take about 3 hours. Food will be provided along with coffee and tea. Please join us, even if you can't stay for the full time needed--many hands make light work! Thanks in advance for your help! See you at the theatre on Sunday, Feb. 5 at noon.

### **2012-2013 SEASON**

**It Came From Mars** (a comedy) in October; 3 men, 3 women  
Oct. 30, 1938. 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! Honesty and hilarity ensue when the dramatic dramatists are faced with true drama.

Author, Michigan playwright Joseph Zettelmaier, is a two-time nominee for the American Theatre Critics Award for Best New Play (*All Childish Things*, 2006 and *Language Lessons*, 2007). His work has also won awards for the Best Locally Created Script and Best New Play, and has been selected as a part of the National New Play Network's Festival of New Plays.

**Chicago** (a musical) in January  
1975 premier and the revival that was the hit of the 1997 Broadway season, *Chicago* won six Tony Awards including Best Revival and later the Academy Award as Best Picture of the Year. In roaring '20's Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her husband Amos to take

the rap...until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another murderess, Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American Dream of fame, fortune and acquittal. This sharp-edged satire features a dazzling score that sparked immortal staging by Bob Fosse.

### **Almost Maine**

(romantic comedy) in March. 2 men, 2 women who play multiple roles, or more people can be cast... On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream. Reviews have called this show, "A charmer...Unexpected magic lingers in the air like someone's breath on a cold winter's night. --Aims for the heart by way of the funny bone," *New York Times*; "A snowy charmer...These nine tales of love in the time of frostbite have a winning glow that proves surprisingly contagious" (*New York Sun*)

### **Guys and Dolls in June**

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, this oddball romantic comedy soars with the spirit of Broadway and a cast of vivid characters who have become legends in the canon: Sarah Brown, the upright but uptight "mission doll," 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 whose condition is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit, her fiancé, desperate to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game. Everything works out in the end of the story, which takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City.

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](mailto:tonyjeff@comcast.net).

### **To Escanaba in Love**

In honor of the next show, *Escanaba in Love*, the most recent show, *She Loves Me* and Valentine's Day (are you feeling the love theme here?), a poem right out of the Soady anthology to woo Big Betty Balou, his potential love:

Collards is green  
My dog's name is Blue  
And I'm so lucky to have a sweet thang like you.  
Yore hair is like cornsilk  
A-flappin in the breeze  
Softer than Blue's  
And without all them fleas.  
You have som'a yore teeth,  
For which I am proud,  
I hold my head high when we're in a crowd.  
Like a good roll of duct tape  
Yore there fer yore man,  
To patch up life's troubles and fix what you can.  
When you hold me real tight  
Like a padded gunrack,  
My life is complete.  
Ain't nuttin' I lack.  
Yore complexion is perfection  
Like the best vinyl sidin'  
Despite all the years,  
Yore age it keeps hidin.  
I got you a gift, with no taste or odor,  
More useful than diamonds  
It's a new trollin' motor!  
--plucked outright from *M-Pathy*, Feb. 2012,  
newsletter of southeast Michigan MENSA

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT MEMBERSHIP**

*She Loves Me* brought in several new members, and through their positive experience with the show, many plan to stay. Then there are the friends of all those new members who came to see their friends in the show---and that's how the word gets out about our great little Guild. Wouldn't it be OVER THE TOP to have so many members that we had a members' ONLY opening night because there weren't enough seats in the house? Now, THAT'S something to shoot for!

The Membership Advisory Committee meets with new members on the first Tuesday of each month. Upcoming MAC dates are Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3 and by appointment. Sally Garrison heads MAC and is always available for membership questions, concerns, providing information, and for follow-up with an interested person. Contact her at [WSARAHSALLY@aol.com](mailto:WSARAHSALLY@aol.com), 248-540-3762.

### **JOINT BOARD MEETING FEB. 7**

Twice each year, a joint Board meeting is held at St. D's. That includes the committee heads and Board members. Since we are all so busy with shows, this is one of the two times that we can all sit down, discuss future plans (including, but not limited to shows) and really redesign the direction of the Guild. The meeting will be held in the Green Room. If you are someone who should be there but are unable to attend, please notify your Board rep.

### **LAPTOP USAGE WARNING**

If you have the habit of taking your laptop to the couch and perching it on your knees to surf the Web while watching your favorite TV program, or even just to relax and play a game of solitaire—BEWARE!!!! New member Jon Huegli took his 5-year-old HP laptop, put it on his lap next to his desktop and pushed the on button and it detonated the laptop. There was an explosion followed by 2-foot flames that shot out from the lithium-ion battery, burning his clothes and leaving him with second-degree burns on his thigh. Put something non-flammable between your lap and your laptop!

### **Waiting for Godot Auditions**

Obie Burch will direct *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett for Stage Two. Auditions are Feb. 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. Performance dates are April 13, 14, 20 and 21. Any or all parts are genderless, so even though traditionally performed by men, we may not adhere to tradition! Vladimir and Estragon, formerly respectable men, are now homeless. They await Godot, their 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. In the first act he is bold and self-confident and in the second, blind, weak and helpless. Lucky is the Mute and the servant of Pozzo. Led by Pozzo like a horse, this is a role for acting without speaking. The last is the Boy (girl?) a messenger from Godot. Age 8 to 16. A small role that will require limited rehearsals.

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. There will be jumping, kicking and physicality in the roles. Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, rehearsal times to be determined by the cast and available facilities. For scripts via email, write to Obie at [Obert.L.Burch@jci.com](mailto:Obert.L.Burch@jci.com) or call him at 248-584-0698 (H) or 734-254-6718 (office).

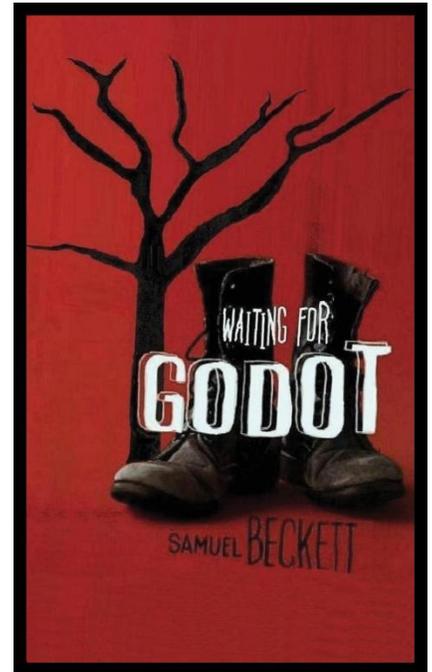
### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

It's February, and we definitely were feeling the love from our patrons after *She Loves Me*. We heard nothing but praise and saw nothing but smiles as our patrons were leaving the theater. So many commented that they had never seen or heard of the show, but were completely charmed and enjoyed the live orchestra. I always share with them that we always have live orchestras for our performances. It must be that if the audience doesn't SEE the musicians, they don't think the music is live! Congrats on a good run and kudos to Jeff Davison and Kathy Brooks for direction, Mairo Towle for production, Paul Abbott for music direction, to Roz Basherian and Kathy Shapero for the exquisite costuming and the attention to detail. Monika Essen designed an amazing set that operated like a music box and Tom Edson engineered its build with help from Nat Towle, Al Tendler and new member Jon Huegli. Obie Burch made sure every detail could be seen with his lighting, and the great cast and crew brought energy and wonderful harmony, along with some great acting. Thanks also to great membership attendance.

As the Director, *Escanaba in Love* is coming together. We still need to cast an Albert Soady, Sr., so all the 50ish guys who might want to have some fun should contact me. Another want/need for this show is some cabin-type props from the 1940s or before. Early WWI and WWII memorabilia, license plates, taxidermy animals and fish, bottles, cans, etc. are among the set pieces and props that we are seeking. The set will be similar to *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, but it needs to have OLDER paraphernalia on the walls.

New member Kathleen Lietz had planned *Improvalooza*, a fundraiser evening of improvisation originally scheduled for May 12, that had to be cancelled due to conflicts with Cranbrook schedules. Hopefully, we will find a time that works for all involved and reschedule soon.

There are some fabulous parts coming up in the Stage 2 production of *Waiting for Godot*, to be directed by Obie Burch and for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, to be directed by Andrew McMechan. If you have been thinking about auditioning, move that to action and give the Casting Committee a full palette of talent from which to choose!



Stage Two Production, auditions Feb. 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. at St. D's.

### **ST. D'S ALL aTWITTER**

Paul Dorset has begun a Twitter account for St. Dunstan's: @StDunstansGuild We'll use it to update people of the goings-ons at the theatre, give updates about specific shows, auditions, etc. Cool, huh?

#### **Contributors:**

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