

StD Guilder

ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK



NOVEMBER 2011

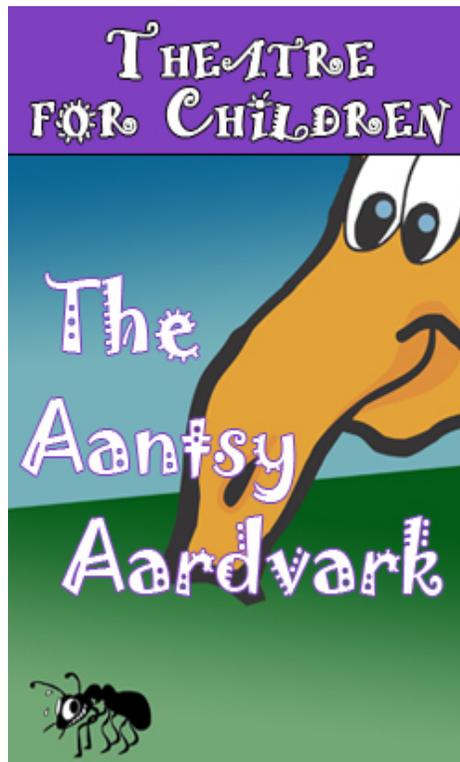
FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

Hear a la Carte	Nov. 5
Daylight Savings Ends	Nov. 6
Board Meeting	Nov. 8
<i>Aantsy Aardvark</i>	Nov. 18-20
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24

OUR THEATRE SPARKLES....

Besides our wonderful productions, our theater itself has taken on a new look. Starting with new carpeting last year, we've added new paint in the lobby, stairway, and Green Room. Many thanks to Connie McEwan and Sandy Nahm for the color choices, which have garnered many compliments. The monitor, with show photos and ads, is up and running in the lobby thanks to Alan Canning. We have new, outdoor parking signs constructed by Tom Edson (lettering coming courtesy of Connie McEwan and Dianne Blascuic). Mary Myers graciously donated funds for the two lovely magnetic signs to identify our courtesy shuttle van. A new clock for the lobby and labeled recycling containers were donated by Ruth Bennett. Jimmy Luzenski scrubbed the large glass block window till it shone. And tarnish has been cleaned off a number of brass fixtures, allowing them to gleam once again.

But the best improvement of all is the new set of handrails on the



interior staircase going up to the performance area. Mairo Towle "took one for St. D's," and her most unfortunate and painful fall on the bottom steps (she very literally did "Break a Leg"), caused some scurrying at Cranbrook, and the new railing which had been requested by the Board since April, was finally installed, and is up to code. We wish Mairo fast and complete healing, and make her promise not to take us literally ever again!

THE AANTSY AARDVARK BY A NOSE AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

Aan original musical written by Mike and Patrick Brooks, directed by Kathy Brooks Burch, with musical direction by Maargie Brooks, The Aantsy Aardvark will crack corny jokes and dance its way into your heart one little ditty at a time. When Aabigail A. Aardvark begins to question the routine of her aardvark life, she dreams of far-off lands and adventure. She longs to see outside her world—to be more than a stay-at-home aardvark. Aabigail launches headlong to find out what the world holds in store for aan aardvark who is aantsy for adventure! With the help of Graambo, Aabigail sets out to explore the world and maybe even to eat some brussels sprouts!

Graambo and Aabigail end up on a pirate ship with a cast of privateers, all in search of the Six-Eyed Scumbucket, a dangerous sea beast who thinks he is scary. Aalong the way, Aabigail and her pirate friends find out that life isn't always what we think it is, and that adventure isn't always what it's cracked up to be!! With a little song and dance, we ride along with her to a great time.

BELLY LAUGHS AND ACCOLADES GALORE

The 39 Steps closed to a sell-out crowd Oct. 28. The heat was on and the cast and crew stayed cool under pressure! If you saw the show, you KNOW the amount of sweat equity (LITERALLY) went into this fine production. If you didn't see the show, you can purchase a DVD from Alan Canning, because after you read the comments that follow, you'll be SO sorry you missed the performance!

Clown 1, John Rutherford, shared this comment from his friend Susan, "We watched Hitchcock's (movie) '*The 39 Steps*' Friday night. Your play was soooooo much more entertaining!"

Patron Sheila Brice wrote, "We so enjoyed *The 39 Steps*...I will pass the word on a show not to miss this coming weekend. Thank you and your fellow cast and the crew for a most splendid matinee performance."

"What a fun show with comedic timing that is unsurpassed. It is hilarious and captivating at the same time and I couldn't stop laughing." --Nancy Wheeler

The *Bloomfield-Mi.patch.com* said that if you "like to laugh, deep belly laughs of pure delight, then *The 39 Steps* is a must-see." The article called St. Dunstan's a "celebrated local theater," called Alan Canning an "expertly played rogue," and Julie Spittle's facial expressions "incredible to behold." The clowns, John Rutherford and Jake Zinke were characterized "in perfect harmony" and as "a natural, born comedian," with "spot-on timing."

From Stuart Bloom, parent of one of John Rutherford's drama students, "You are all phenomenal performers. It's one thing to learn your lines, but to see an ensemble of actors with extraordinary talent is a joy. The chemistry between all of you, the timing, the energy and the enthusiasm just blasts off the stage like a tidal wave. The insanity of it all is so much fun. Clearly, this is no small feat—this is not typical community theatre. This is theater at it's best."

The Oakland Press said, "*The 39 Steps* may be a community theatre production, but their comedic timing, chemistry, ability to bounce back from any snafu, and their never-ending energy is fitting for any local professional stage." Of all the quick changes, the article said, "...these stage soldiers never lose a beat." Of newcomer, Julie Spittle, the article called her "a starlet in the making, with the timing of a young Lucille Ball and the stage presence of a Broadway ingenue." BRAVO, ALL!

MANY NEW FACES CAST!

She Loves Me auditions were held on Oct. 16 and 17. The bounty of talent on our stage was both humbling and inspiring. We send a huge thank you to everyone who came out for auditions, and truly wish we could have cast everyone. The rehearsal process has begun and we ask you to mark your calendars NOW for opening night, Jan. 20. There will be some familiar faces and some new ones on the St. D stage.

The set will be designed by Monika Essen, who designs for Michigan Opera Theatre and who designed the St. Dunstan's set for The Producers in 2009. Tom Edson

and crew will be building Monika's design, complete with moving parts that somewhat resemble a music box mechanism.

***SHE LOVES ME* CAST:**

Georg, Jeff Foust
Amalia, Kate (Rasmussen) DeBoer
Kodaly, Chris Steinmayer
Ilona, Suzette Ho
Sipos, Benjamin Ludwig
Maraczek, Jon Heugli
Arpad, Niko Bokos
Waiter, Jake Zinke
Customers, Pam Richards, Laurie Dooley, Val Mould
Ensemble, John Tonkovich,
Sandra Prokopp, Nat Towle
Perky Pooch, Lily

***SHE LOVES ME* CREW**

Director, Jeff Davison
Music Director, Paul Abbott
Producers, Mairo Towle and
Claudia Moffit
Assistant Director, Kathy Brooks
Apprentice Director, Mairo Towle
Choreographer, Val Mould
Interpretative Director, Anthony Marsalese
Set Design, Monika Essen
Light Design-Obie Burch
Costume Design, Kathy Shapero
and Roz Basherian
Props, Susan Holmes and Paul Dorset
Sound, Nina Kircher
Set Builder, Tom Edson
Stage Manager, Susan Holmes

We still need prompters, so if you want to be a part of the fun, contact Mairo Towle at pandamonia@comcast.net

MUSIC TO HEAL, EDUCATE

Heart A La Carte, a delectable assortment of songs, spirits and sweets will be held Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Music Hall Jazz Café. In a benefit performance with all proceeds going to the John H. Wineman Education and Research Fund in Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan, Elaine Stritch will perform 'Stritch Singin' Sondheim.'

St. Dunstan's member, Duffy Wineman, established the fund in 2000 in memory of her husband, John, and in recognition of the care he received from the faculty and staff at U of M as he battled a rare form of bone cancer. Each year a faculty member researching cancers which affect individuals under the age of 55 is chosen to benefit from this fund. Seating is limited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance is at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$100 Friends; \$200 Patrons (with premium seating). Call 248-642-1035 or email jwine2216@aol.com

ALLESEE UNDERWRITES CAROL SING

A well-known local philanthropist and one-time member of St. D's, Maggie Allesee, has graciously accepted our invitation to underwrite the Christmas Carol Sing this year. St. Dunstan's has been able to use this event as a small fundraiser for the last few years. If you can sing and would like to add your voice to this wonderful holiday kick-off, write to Matt Horn, who is the musical director. The rehearsals (oh yes, there will be rehearsals!) will be

held on Sunday evenings in the pavilion. Put it on the calendars - yours and your friends, neighbors, relatives, business associates, etc. Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook featuring the St. Dunstan's soloists and ensemble, The Detroit Children's Choir, the woodwind trio and hopefully, all of you!!! And don't forget that St. D's members can invite guests for the Santa Party afterward in the pavilion.

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

**!CREATIVE PEOPLE!
ARTISTS
MERCHANDISERS
MARKETING EXPERTS
WRITERS
CLEVER JOKESTERS**

**ST. D'S NEEDS YOUR
TALENT**

**THINK UP SOME
UNIQUE, WILD WAYS
TO MARKET OUR
GROUP AND SHARE
YOUR IDEAS WITH A
BOARD MEMBER!**

**OUR SHOWS SHOULD
ALL BE SOLD-OUT
BEFORE OPENING!**

**COLLECTIVELY, HOW
CAN WE MAKE THAT
HAPPEN?**



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

JULIE AND LILY ON THE STAGE



Julie Spittle, also known as Annabella Schmidt, Pamela Edwards and Margaret from *The 39 Steps* has worked at a handful of local theaters, but marked her first production with St. Dunstan's, and she hopes there will be many more. Having previously worked with director Kathleen Leitz on Stagecrafter's production of *RENT*, Julie jumped at the chance to audition for this outrageous comedy. She played Shelby in The Box Theatre's production of *Steel Magnolias*, and was seen on

Stagecrafter's stage in *White Christmas* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Julie loves argyle socks, The Beatles and making people laugh. She attended school at Oakland University and the International Academy of Design and now works in Merchandising.



Lily Huegli is all-girl! She recently joined the cast of *She Loves Me*, and will open the show with a walk-on part, but Lily has done such a fine job of endearing herself to the director and cast, that she might have an added bit or two throughout the show. Mairo Towle says that Lily will be great help to her backstage as she sets up the cast party at the end of the run. Lily has graciously offered to make certain that all crumbs are removed from the floor in the Green Room!

Editor: Pam Richards
Contributors:
Kathy Burch
Jeff Davison
Anthony Marsalese
Connie McEwan
Duffy Wineman

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

President Mark Walters regrets that he doesn't have a formal article for the Guild this month. His wife, Mary, ruptured a disc in her back, and Mark has been her round-the-clock caregiver until her surgery on Oct. 31. He asked that we urge all members to attend the opening of *Aantsy Aardvark* on Nov. 18, and think about coming out to audition for *Escanaba* in January. "Remind them about the Carol Sing, too," he said, "Dec. 3 at 3 pm, Christ Church Cranbrook, followed by the Santa Party in the Pavilion."

AANTSY AARDVARK CAST

As Guilder Editor, I admit to being lazy. The whole layout was finished, when I realized the *Aantsy* cast had been omitted.

Here it is! Last, but not walking the plank! --Pam Richards

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

Pat Brooks, wife Stephanie and some friends started Corn Productions in Chicago many years ago. Corn was the birthplace of *The Aantsy Aardvark*.

VISIT ST. DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE

www.stdunstanstheatre.com

**FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS
TO DETROIT'S BEST
COMMUNITY THEATER, CALL
248.737.3587**

