

Informmer

62nd Season Issue 3 - January 2007

The Cemetery Club Appeals to Your Hearts

“It’s going to be different” agree directors Douglas Carlsen and Rich Hinz, as they discuss the set for *The Cemetery Club*. “It’s very innovative: representative with touches of realism. No walls, but real windows – and we are using the whole stage.” Their enthusiasm for this part of the production comes through as they discuss the play. They chose *The Cemetery Club* because it has wonderful roles for mature women and is very well written with humor and great touches of pathos. It deals with issues close to the heart, and in the directors’ words is “funny, touching, engaging and engrossing.”

The plot deals with three Jewish widows, all dear friends, who monthly visit their husband’s graves in the cemetery. Ida (Joyce Klassen)



is undecided about beginning another relationship. Lucille (Mary Hanna) is very free spirited and ready to find another man – any man! Doris

(Phyllis Bonds) does not want any change in her life. However, into their lives steps Sam (Gil Alden), a widower who has accepted his wife’s death and has begun dating without looking for a lasting relationship. In addition, Mildred (Terri Trick) comes along and provides an impetus for change and decision-making.

Directors Carlsen and Hinz are very pleased with their partnership. They feel that their appreciation and perspective of the play are quite similar, and both have shared ideas that have worked well as the production developed. They are thrilled with their cast and how the characters come to life through a wide range of emotions as they gossip, quarrel and make up.

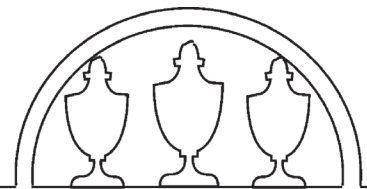
The directors also laud their crew: The set building team that helped with the initial construction of the set, Cheryl Sutlick (stage manager), Barbara McKinney (producer), Robert Randall (lighting), Patricia Wilson (costumes) and stage crew Frank McKinney,

Kyle Singer, Cheyenne Wissenbach and Angie Alden. “It takes many

THE CEMETERY CLUB

dedicated people who are willing to put in hours of volunteer time to make a play come to life,” says

Carlsen. Hinz comments that he is sure the audience will share the directors’ feelings about the importance of this play. He is confident the audience will laugh, cry and truly empathize with the characters in *The Cemetery Club*.



Performances

February 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17
at 8pm

February 11 at 2pm

Box Office Hours:

January 30 through February 17
Tue, Wed, Thu 3-6 - Fri, Sat 3-8
& Sun 1-2

Box Office Phone: (509) 529-3683
Season Subscribers may telephone
for reservations January 29 from 3-6pm

**Season Subscribers:
Don't miss out -- Make your
reservations EARLY!**
Please see note to Season
Subscribers on second page

2007 Already?

It is difficult to recall a year that has sped by as quickly as 2006. Though it seems that way each year, 2007 will probably move even faster. This means that we must plan ahead for fall and our new season. It means also that if you have ideas or suggestions for making The Little Theatre a better place, attending our plays a better experience, or have ways to promote what we do to more people, then we need to hear from you. Don't hesitate to drop us a card, give us a call or send an email with your thoughts and concerns. We are happy to hear from you. This is your theatre and we hope that with your help we will continue to produce "good plays, done well" for many years to come. Visit us at www.lttww.org for more information and for ways to get involved. See you at *The Cemetery Club*.



-- Douglas Carlsen

Subscription Policy

Season Subscribers

A season subscriber is entitled to four tickets to be used throughout the season as they wish - i.e. four tickets for one show, two tickets for two shows, etc.

Subscriptions however are not guarantees of admission and subscribers must call to reserve a seat for any show they wish to attend.

Cancellations must be made by 6:00 p.m. the night of the performance. Any tickets cancelled after that time cannot be refunded.

Subscribers receive first chance at tickets, so call early in order to reserve your seats before they become generally available, and remember to cancel before 6:00 p.m. if you cannot attend.

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Box Office Manager, Connie Johnson Her Love for The Little Theatre Shines

"Little Theatre of Walla Walla, may I help you?" The voice you hear on the phone is probably Connie Johnson, who has worked in the box office for over 25 years. Years ago, Connie's journey with the theatre began when she offered to help an overwhelmed friend. Within days, Jim Webster, the box office manager, asked her to work in the box office. She agreed, and when the manager position became available, she took over and has been there ever since.



Connie has observed several changes over the years. For example, she used to spend hours sorting tickets, while now they are professionally printed in the correct order. In addition to maintaining the box office, she picks up the mail, keeps track of season tickets, monitors donations and door sales and prepares weekly financial reports for the treasurer and the Board President.

Connie shares that her background helped her with the organizational skills this job requires. She grew up in Starbuck where she delivered the Union-Bulletin and worked in Zinc's grocery store. After high school, she worked in the office at St. Mary's hospital. After getting married, she and her husband built and ran a successful plumbing business for almost three decades.

During that time she also raised four children. She is grateful that her children live close to her.

Connie also volunteers 20 hours a week in the office at the VFW, in addition to working bingo nights.

She helps with the Eagles bingo, and is very involved at St. Francis Catholic Church. For the past 40 years she has bowled at least twice a week, and will compete in the upcoming city tournament, a state competition in April and at nationals in May. She is also

planning a February vacation to Mexico with her family. "We just love to travel!" she says.

Throughout the years Connie has worked with wonderful people in the box office. "Jan Torland is always a joy to work with," and she notes how helpful Lenore Smith has been. She feels fortunate to have dedicated people working with her right now, too, including Ruth Thomassen, Nadine Dysart, Wes and Shirley Miller, Henry Pope, Mary Hanna, Kathy Randall and Sonja Gourley. "As always, we are looking for more help," and adds that anyone interested can call her at 525-3665. (She especially needs extra help during Kaleidoscope.) "I like to keep busy," says Connie - and we are thankful that she includes The Little Theatre in her busy life!

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kaleidoscope

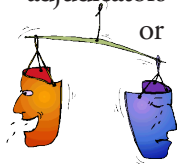
Competition Coming in March

On March 9, 10, and 11 The Little Theatre will host Kaleidoscope, the 2007 Washington State Community Theatre Association (WSCTA) Short Play Festival. Every two years this festival celebrates the best in community theatre and chooses a theatre to represent our state at the Region IX competition, with the winner advancing to the national competition. The Little Theatre has gone to nationals twice in the past with *Spoon River Anthology* (1977) and *The Subject Was Roses* (1986). Eight theatres will participate in Kaleidoscope 2007.

The Little Theatre entry is Arthur Kopit's play *Wings*, directed by Jeff Schlicher with Gloria Schille as stage manager and Eric Powell as technical director. The cast includes Jodi Lindquist as Emily Stilson supported by Terri Trick, Alicia Taylor, Roger Trick, Al Chang, Lance Ivy, and Marilyn Washabaugh.

Kaleidoscope is under the jurisdiction of AACT, the American Association of Community Theatre, and has strict criteria. Each theatre has ten minutes to set up, sixty minutes to perform, and

ten minutes to tear down. Failure to stay within time limits will disqualify the theatre. After the performance, the actors and crew are critiqued by three adjudicators chosen from professional or academic theatres. The adjudicators will choose the top three productions, and other awards.



Performances are on Friday and Saturday, at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. each day. (We do not know which session our entry will be in.) On Sunday at 10:00 a.m. a brunch at the Marcus Whitman will feature the awards presentation. Festival tickets for the performances are \$10.00 per session or \$25.00 for all four. Tickets to the brunch are \$20.00 and must be purchased by February 15. Please contact Carol at 525-7233 to purchase them.

Festival week Box Office hours are 1-7p.m. Thursday and 8a.m.-8p.m. Friday and Saturday. A strong reminder to arrive at the theatre early, for *there will be absolutely no admittance to performances after they have started.*

Help Needed

A work party to clean and ready The Little Theatre will be held on March 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Please come help us put our "best foot forward." Besides cleaning we will need to do some serious work getting the backstage area ready. For information call Brian Hatley at 301-6179 or Carol Anselmo 525-7233.

We also need volunteers to host Kaleidoscope participants from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. If you can take a shift or donate snacks such as cookies, cakes, or appetizers, please call Jean Weber at 522-1206.

RV, Motorhome or Trailer Needed

Does someone have a motor home or travel trailer they can loan us for the weekend of March 9-11, preferably with toilet facilities? The adjudicators need a sequestered place to work while making their decisions. Please call Carol at 525-7233 if you can help.

A Special Thank You!

The next time you visit the Mildred Stewart Room, take a look at the floor in the kitchen. Thanks to Conner's Mr. Carpet for donating the new floor. Their generosity is truly appreciated.

We also recently received several costume donations. Dina Baker donated a beautiful mink stole and Virginia Mahan gave us several dresses, skirts and coats. Thank you for thinking of The Little Theatre!

Gallery Artist Profile

Robert Baker, Photographer

Born in Stockton, California, in 1941, Robert Baker moved to Walla Walla when he was 11 years old. His father, who loved taking slide photos of the family, inspired in Robert a life-long interest in slide photography. In 1997 he joined the Blue Mountain Photo Club and began to learn from the many accomplished members. Robert eventually narrowed his interest from "shooting anything" to shooting mainly landscapes and wildflowers.

The digital revolution opened a new dimension in Robert's work. His ability to control all aspects of his pictures has made photography even more fun, he says. Robert's prints and cards are featured at Fenton-Stahl Gallery, and his cards can be found at Holly's Flowers. Robert also has been a guest photographer for The Union-Bulletin and in area brochures. He considers his "biggest reward," however, the "galleries" in his four children's homes.

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Auditions:

*Charlotte's
Web*

Don't miss out on your chance to audition for a Little Theatre show this season. Auditions for our last play, *Charlotte's Web*, are scheduled for March 6 and 7 at 7:00 p.m. at The Little Theatre. Six men and nine women are needed to cast this ever-popular classic by E.B. White.

Director Eric Rohde is using adults to perform this children's classic, and is looking for actors ages sixteen and older. For more information, check out The Little Theatre web site at <http://www.ltwv.org>.

Can You Help Us?

We need volunteers (individuals or groups) to park cars for our performances. We would need help for an hour before each performance. Call Jan Torland if you are interested at 522-1485, or email jan@ltww.org.

A Raffle in Every Show!

Again, The Little Theatre will hold a raffle during *The Cemetery Club*. Raffle items include gift certificates from Verve Coffee Shop, O'Cons Flowers, Bright's Candies & Gifts and a bottle of wine from JLC Winery. Raffle tickets may be purchased during intermission of each show.

Successful Run

The 1940's Radio Hour sold 1,378 seats out of a possible 1,400. *Congratulations to the cast and crew for a fabulous run.* Don't wait to get your tickets for *The Cemetery Club*; they're going fast.

*The Little Theatre of Walla Walla
Informer*

The Informer is a periodic publication of
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PO Box 39 - Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 529-3683
<http://www.ltwv.org>

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