

The FRESNIA

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC.



MARCH 2010

From the President

Our season is more than half over, but there are still two great productions that you will want to see. Dennis East is directing "Born Yesterday", which will be presented later this month. Leroy Morgan will be directing the Agatha Christie mystery, "The Unexpected Guest", to be presented in May. More details about both of these plays are presented in this newsletter.

The Wizard of Oz has just finished its run, and I hope that all of you were able to enjoy it. At the last performance Bob Hastings announced that after directing 23 consecutive musical productions for the Players, he is retiring as director. His productions have been very popular and well attended, and this year's was no exception. We are truly grateful to Bob for all those years of service. He has worked tirelessly bringing these productions to our audiences, taking care of the myriad of details from set building and finding the right costumes to directing the actors to bring the show to life. He has been assisted in recent years by Bob Marzola. Good News!! Bob Marzola plans to direct our musical next season with Bob Hastings as his consultant!

I hope to see many of you at the Swampy Banquet, which is scheduled for May 19. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Tom Milbrodt



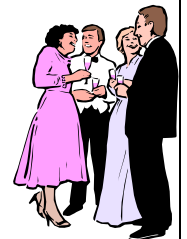
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2009-2010 SEASON ANNUAL SWAMPY BANQUET

The annual Swampy Banquet is booked for May 19th at the Riverview Banquet Hall in Pemberville. Social hour begins at 6, dinner at 7 followed by the famous or one could say infamous Swampy Awards.

All you BSP-ers are welcome to attend—you'll enjoy the mingling and the food. Chicken dinner or Grilled to order Steak dinner and homemade pie! Invitations will arrive by mail;RSVPs will be needed. P.S. Attire is not formal (this is the only picture I could find)



FOURTH SHOW OF THE SEASON—MAR 19,20,26,67 @ 8 28 @ 2



BORN YESTERDAY by Garson Kanin

What do Rod Blagojevich , Kenneth Lay, Bernie Madoff, Jack Abramoff, and even Abscam, and the ousting of former Speaker of the House, James Wright, have in common with BSP's upcoming production of *Born Yesterday*? They all draw from the polluted waters of corruption, greed, selfishness, influence, and power.

For Garson Kanin, who wrote *Born Yesterday* while in the service in London during WW II, American democracy was very much on his mind. He knew first hand of the sacrifices made abroad to preserve democracy and he did not want to see it eroded at home. He may have equated selfishness and greed – and as attorney, Ed Devery, says, “don't carism” - with the enemy: Fascism.

Born Yesterday opened on Broadway in 1946, with Judy Holliday replacing, on four days notice, Jean Arthur in the role of Billie Dawn. Paul Douglas played Harry Brock, the vulgar, egotistical junkman, and Gary Merrill appeared as the idealistic reporter. The play ran for 1,642 performances before moving to another theater for 153 shows starring Madeline Kahn, Ed Asner, and Daniel Hugh Kelly.

It's a simple story really – but a serious , sometimes crude, comedy—of good over evil, good guy gets good girl—centering on **Harry Brock**, the egotistical, vulgar junkman, who brings his not-too-bright former showgirl, companion , **Billie Dawn**, to Washington, D.C. , while he buys, with the help of his lawyer, **Ed Devery**, some influence and favorable legislation. An energetic, idealistic reporter, **Paul Verrall**, investigating corruption and who has an interest in Brock's presence in the nation's capitol is hired by Brock to educate Billie. A great gin rummy game, a few twists and turns, and an evolving love story later . . . well I won't tell you.

My reasons for wanting to direct this play are several: my wife, Kathy and I really, really liked the Shaw Festival's first –ever-production of *Born Yesterday* last summer and I told her I was going to propose the play to BSP for this season as I had tired of directing Neil Simon's offerings. Later I found that BSP has never been presented the play. Also, given the political and financial corruption, greed, selfishness, and lack of trust plaguing our country of late, I thought the message of *Born Yesterday* might be timely. Thanks to BSP for letting me direct this play!

Our production stars BSP veterans: Sara Swisher as Billie, Lane Hakel as Harry Brock, Guy Zimmerman as Paul Verrall, and Leroy Morgan as Ed Devery, with Willard Misfeldt as Senator Norvall Hedges, Renell Simrau as Helen, the maid, and manicurist, and Anderson Lee as bootblack/bell hop. Three newcomers - Kelly Hass, as the Senator's young, trophy wife; Cody House as Harry's cousin and gofer, Eddie; and Stephen Becker, as the assistant hotel manager and barber - round out the cast.

A bit of warning: I don't believe this is a show for young children as it contains slapping, shoving, cursing (we cleaned up some of the language), sexism, and multiple insults and derogatory comments. Use your own good judgment, please.

You'll be sorry if you don't see bubbly, coming-to- life Billie Dawn and the downfall of you know who. Come see them on stage in *Born Yesterday* -- March 19, 20, 26, 27 at 8 P.M. and March 28 at 2 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church in Bowling Green.

Dennis East, Director



FIFTH AND FINAL SHOW OF THE SEASON MAY 7,8,14,15 @ 8 MAY 16 @ 2

Hello. This is Leroy Morgan, and I have the pleasure of being the director of the final show of the Black Swamp Players' 2009/2010 season, Agatha Christie's

The Unexpected Guest.

What is it about? Glad you asked!

...After a dense fog forces his car off a remote road in Wales, a stranger finds his way to an isolated house--where he discovers a woman standing over the dead body of her husband with a gun in her hand. In a daze, she confesses to the crime. But the unexpected guest is not convinced, and the estate is soon brimming with suspects, clues, and intrigue in one of Christie's finest mysteries.

AUDITION!!

I would like to invite you to not only come and see this show, but to consider auditioning for it as well.

Auditions will be March 21 at 2pm & March 22 at 7pm at the First United Methodist Church on Wooster Street.

The play calls for the following:

- 1 male, late teens to early 20's
- 2 males, 30's-40's
- 3 males 40's-50's; 1 female, 20's
- 1 female, 40's
- 1 female 60's.

These are the recommended ages of the characters, so if you are interested, come and try one on for size. You are sure to enjoy yourself as you allow yourself to be taken in by the great Agatha Christie!

Hope that takes care of it.

Coming Soon

BSP Board Member and oft seen actor Guy Zimmerman will be recreating our website in the near future. We are very excited about the new look we will have and all the info that will be available. The actual arrival of the site is not set, so just periodically go to www.blackswampplayers.org and you will see it in the near future. Thanks Guy!

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN @ the Pemberville Opera House April 23, 24 @ 8, 25 @ 2

Dr Scott Regan will be directing this classic story about a Father, a Mother and their 12 children (only 9 kids will be seen on stage). Brian Shotwell will play the Father, Deb Shaffer has the role of the Mother and Becky Hansen the role of Miss Brill...too many kids to name...for ticket info call Carol Bailey at 419-287-4848 or see www.pembervilleoperahouse.org



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BLACKSWAMPPLAYERS.ORG

**BSP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
FOR 2009-2010 SEASON**

OFFICERS:

President-Tom Milbrodt

VP- Kent McClary

Treasurer-Becky Hansen

Secretary-Deb Shaffer

BSP Board Members:

Bob Marzola

Tod Butler

Peggy Keyes

Lane Hakel

Guy Zimmerman

****Leroy Morgan**

****Many Thanks to Leroy Morgan who has agreed to step in and fill the Board vacancy for the rest of the season. Leroy is a valuable asset to BSP—acting, directing and building sets. Thanks!!**

GREAT GROUP DEALS FOR BSP PRODUCTIONS—

- A) Discount ticket prices for 10 or more attending all together—call Tom or Deb**
- B) Buy the House!!! BSP will Sell the House for an extra show for your group (excepting the musical)**
- C.) It is possible to arrange to attend the Dress rehearsal of a show if you arrange it in advance!!**
- D.)Individual Ticket Bundle—BSP is now selling ticket bundles for the remaining shows of the season.**



Ohio Community Theatre Association

CALLBOARD

NORTHWEST OHIO

03/11-03/20	The Odd Couple	Fort Findlay Playhouse	(419) 422-4624
03/19-03/21	Seussical, Jr.	Bellevue Society for the Arts	(419) 4484-2787
04/09-04/17	Jesus Christ, Superstar	Bellevue Society for the Arts	(419) 4484-2787
04/23-04/25	Cheaper by the Dozen	Pemberville Opera House	(419) 287-4848
03/19-03/28	Dixie Swim Club	Fremont Community Theatre	(419) 332-0695
04/29-05/02	Arsenic and Old Lace	Fort Findlay Playhouse	(419) 422-4624
04/16-05/02	Auntie Mame	Toledo Rep Theatre	(419) 243-9277
05/14-05/16	Chorus Line	3 B Productions	(419) 422-4624
05/7-05/16	Wizard of Oz	Fremont Community Theatre	(419) 332-0695
05/07-05/22	The Fantasticks	The Village Players	(419) 472-6817

