

The FRESIA



From the President

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC.

AUGUST 2013

Greetings Black Swamp Members,
Here's hoping that you have had an enjoyable summer, full of good times with family and friends!

As the new BSP president, I would like to inform you of a few changes within BSP which have just happened over the last couple of months. Our esteemed President Dennis East has had to bow out of that position for personal reasons and Vice President, Deb Shaffer is now acting President. Guy Zimmerman has graciously agreed to fill in as VP for the duration of the 2013-14 board year.

The September production of 'Bonspiel' was to be directed by Dennis East, so we have cancelled that show. Thus, the first show of the BSP season will be "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" in December. This is a charming, heartwarming show with a cast that includes adults and children. It will undoubtedly be a lot of fun for playgoers of all ages. Janet and Guy Zimmerman will be directing this production and auditions will be held on October 6th & 7th.

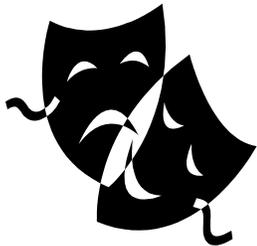
To round out our season we have added a show in the spring. We are very grateful to Kathy Barnes who has agreed to direct an Agatha Christie play which will be performed in **May**. The specific Agatha Christie mystery is currently a mystery...but it will undoubtedly be a thriller!!

As the acting president, I wanted to make an appeal to you, our valued membership, to consider trying your hand at some aspect of the theatrical experience. From your vantage point in the audience you know that a show needs actors--think about auditioning, perhaps...Then there are directors...have any of you done some directing in the past, but you haven't stepped up to let us know? Please, speak up--we would love to have new directors added to the mix. Stage crew and lighting crew are other positions that the audience sees in between scenes during a show...everyone looks good in black...right? Set building and painting is very important and doesn't take a lot of time, just a few sessions before the show rehearsals get going. Costuming is also a short term task.

Additionally, we can always use another Producer. That sounds like a really tough job, but it simply means that you find folks to do the various tasks--you are a delegator...you don't DO all the things that need to be done. Wouldn't it be fun to say "***I produced an Agatha Christie play.***" !?!

Finally, although BSP's first production is not til December, there are a many community theatrical productions to enjoy within a half hour drive in NW Ohio between now and then. A list of some of those events is included in this newsletter.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,



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**PRODUCERS
DIRECTORS
ACTORS
STAGE CREW**

The BSP Board of Directors invites you to get involved with your local community theatre.
Every show needs a collaboration of people in order to create the event...we need set builders, costumers, stage crew, crew to do lights and sound, and more...
ALSO—we are seeking play submissions for the 2014-2015 season—do you have a favorite play to suggest?
Ready to help? Contact Deb @ deb.bgoh@gmail.com

The Best Christmas Pageant

AUG 2013

By Barbara Robinson

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the whole history of the world. They lie and steal and smoke cigars and talk dirty, they cuss at their teachers and take the name of the Lord in vain. And they are going to be in the Christmas Pageant..... and the woman who's always directed the show just broke her leg and can't do it..... So someone else steps in to take charge of the entire pro-

****INFORMATION FOR AUDITIONS****

It would be helpful if those auditioning have some familiarity with the play and an idea as to which character they would like to play.

Adult Roles

Adults will be asked to read from the script

- ✦ **Mother/ Grace Bradley** –major role, in her 30s. A stay at home mom who strives to be a good Mother to her children and helpful to others.
- ✦ **Mrs. Armstrong**–supporting role, Mrs. Armstrong runs everything at the church until she breaks her leg and has to take a back seat to this year's Christmas Pageant, but she is still there to give Grace direction on how things should be done.
- ✦ **Mrs. McCarthy**- supporting role, Mrs. McCarthy wants to be Mrs. Armstrong, strong willed and nosey, she is always looking for the next best gossip.
- ✦ **Mrs. Slocum**- supporting role, she is happy to share juicy gossip with everyone, she's the Herdmans' neighbor and knows all about their shenanigans.
- ✦ **Mrs. Clark**- Cameo role –part of the gossip chain and too busy to help with the pageant.
- ✦ **Mrs. Clausing**- Cameo role –part of the gossip chain.
- ✦ **Piano Player**– to accompany Christmas Carols during the Pageant. Could also be a Church Lady.
- ✦ **Father/Bob Bradley**- in his 30s. He is in a handful of scenes in the beginning and end of the show -Happy go Lucky, laid back family guy that gets sucked into helping with this year's Christmas Pageant when he doesn't even want to go.
- ✦ **Reverend Hopkins**–age 35+ supporting role. Pastor of the Church.

CHILD/TEEN ROLES

Children/Teens are asked to prepare a nursery rhyme to be recited or read at auditions –we will be looking for clarity, projection and character. There will also be a script reading for those that can read.

- ✦ **Beth Bradley**- age 10-11, Narrates and participates in the story.
- ✦ **Charlie Bradley**– age 8-9, Beth's Bother, he is a victim of the Herdmans.
- ✦ **Alice Wendleken**– age 10-11, Alice is a know-it-all and tattle tale.
- ✦ **Maxine**– age 10-11, Alice and Beth's friend, she also narrates the Christmas story in the Pageant

Audition dates:

October 6 & 7 from 6-9pm
 Callbacks (if needed) **October 8 from 6-9pm**

Audition location:

First United Methodist Church
 Room number will be posted at the main entrance

Performance dates:

December 12 & 13 @ 7:00pm
December 14 @ 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Performance location:



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Audition Information Continued...EVEN MORE PARTS!!

THE HERDMANS

The Herdmans are the “Worst Kids in Town.” These kids are larger than life. Other kids fear them, parents want nothing to do with them, including their own mother when she could help it. They are unruly and have no manners. The Herdmans do what they want to do when they want to do it –Watch out here they come!

Ralph– age 12-13, oldest of the Herdmans, bullies anyone smaller than he is.

Imogene–age 11-12, oldest Girl, mean, loud and bossy, she has a pivotal moment on stage when things about the Christmas story “click” for her and she finally gets it, has to cry on stage.

Leroy– age 10-11, tough, sure of himself, steals lunches on the playground at lunch time.

Claude– age 9-10, wants to take King Herrod out with a machine gun, causes chaos during Pageant rehearsals.

Ollie– age 8-9, looking for trouble, he likes to cause chaos.

Gladys–age 7-8, youngest of the Herdmans she is small but mighty, and she likes to bite. Her hero is “The Black Knight.”

SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS

4–8 Sunday School kids will be cast. Ages 6-11. These kids also play roles in the Pageant including the shepherds and Angel Choir as well as school kids on the playground. Some will have a few lines, some will not.

BABY ANGELS

We will cast 2-4 Baby Angels; age 4-6, they will be a walk on for 2 scenes. They will have limited rehearsal time.

Even though your Black Swamp Players will not be performing a fall show, there are many options for theatre shows to enjoy in the surrounding area. BG’s Lane Hakel will be performing in ‘The Mousetrap’ at the Valentine Studio A Theatre in October.

THE VALENTINE THEATRE www.valentinetheatre.com

“Angelina Ballerina” Children’s Series Sat, Sep 21, 2013 2 pm

“The Mousetrap” (including Lane Hakel) Oct 4,5,6, 11,12,13; 25,26,27, 2013

“The Addams Family” Broadway Series Thursday Nov 7, 2013

“A Christmas Carol” Dec 6,7,8, 2013

TOLEDO REPERTOIRE THEATER www.Toledorep.org

“Forbidden Broadway’s Greatest Hits” Sep 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2013

“Talk Radio” October 12, 2013

“Arsenic and Old Lace” Nov. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 2013

“A Christmas Carol” *at the Valentine Theatre* Dec 6,7,8, 2013

“Noises Off” Jan. 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26 2014

“Love Letters” Feb 14, 15, 16, 2014

“The Glass Menagerie” April 4,5,6, 10,11,12,13, 2014

“Moonglow” May 8,9,10, 11, 2014

“Young Frankenstein, the new Mel Brooks Musical” June 6,7,13,14,15,19,20,21,22-2014

WATERVILLE PLAYSHOP www.Watervilleplayshop.org

performs in the Maumee Indoor Theatre on Conant

“Anything Goes” Oct 19, 19, 20 --2013

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC



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**BSP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
FOR 2013-2014 SEASON**

OFFICERS:

President - Deb Shaffer
VP - Guy Zimmerman
Treasurer - Becky Hansen
Secretary - Melissa Kidder

BSP Board Members:

Bob Marzola	Tom Milbrodt
Willard Misfeldt	Heidi Hackel
Andy Lee	Emily Waters

www.blackswampplayers.org

Check us out on the web and on Facebook!

TICKET INFORMATION

Plays - \$12 adult, \$10 for Students and Seniors
The Musical - \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Students and Seniors

GREAT GROUP DEALS FOR BSP PRODUCTIONS!

- A) Discount ticket prices for 10 or more attending all together
- B) Buy the House!!! BSP will Sell the House for an extra show for your group (excepting the musical)

Email BSP or contact Deb to take advantage of the deals



BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC

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