

The FRESIA



From the President

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC.

JANUARY 2014

Greetings to our BSP members,
Happy New Year to you and I hope you have stayed warm and safe during this very exciting winter month of January!

The BSP first show of the season was a tremendous success!! I hope that you made it out to one of the four productions of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". We had huge crowds in spite of the snowy weekend during the run. Janet and Guy Zimmerman did a fantastic job directing the show and everyone who was in the cast gave it their all. The result was wonderful. For any who did not make it to the show, different local musicians were invited to add a short musical interlude which made the presentation even more enjoyable. Overall it was a great start to our season.

So, now let me tell you about the February musical....If you will recall, the rights to do "My Fair Lady" were not available, so we searched about for another show. We particularly wanted to choose a show that the newly recruited musical director had an interest in doing. Thus the show "HONK" was on the docket. However, as things happen...the musical director had to bow out for personal reasons. At that time we did not yet have a full cast for the show in addition to not having a musical director....so there was no benefit in sticking with that show.

Well, theatre types ARE indeed creative! The board's solution was to do a smaller musical that is somewhat familiar and could be produced in a few weeks and one that a super pianist could play for and direct. (Jeff Manchur is that super-pianist!) Additionally, we will only be presenting the show for ONE week end. Oh, and the Zimmermans stepped up to help BSP again as directors--- we know they do good work!

Tadahhh!!! Please mark your calendars to come see "NUNSENSE" on Thursday Feb. 20th thru Sunday 23rd (matinee) at the First United Methodist Church in BG. We are grateful that Pat and Al Smith are again generously sponsoring the musical even though there have been several changes!

It should be a musically fun as well as, just plain funny show...so come and bring a bunch of friends! All that laughing will warm you up in cold February.

Thank you,
Deb Shaffer
BSP President



Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
<i>Nunsense</i>	2
<i>Fox on the Fairway</i>	3
Agatha Christie Murder Mystery	3
Contact info	4
TICKET INFO	4

BSP IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE AGATHA CHRISTIE MURDER MYSTERY IS...

See page 3 for the reveal

BSP AND AL SMITH'S
 CHRYSLER * DODGE * JEEP * RAM
 PRESENT



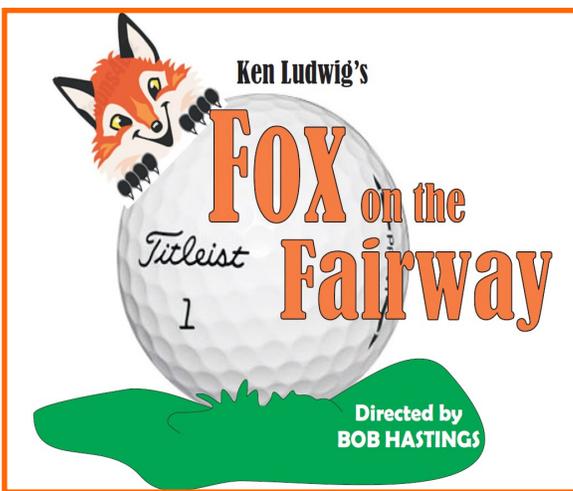
By Dan Goggin

Five of the 19 surviving Little Sisters of Hoboken, a one-time missionary order that ran a leper colony on an island south of France, discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, accidentally killed the other fifty-two residents of the convent with her tainted vichyssoise while they were off playing bingo with a group of Maryknolls. Upon discovering the disaster, Mother Superior had a vision in which she was told to start a greeting card company to raise funds for the burials. The greeting cards were an enormous success and, thinking there was plenty of money, the Reverend Mother bought some electronic equipment, leaving her with no money in the kitty to pay for the last four burials. With the deceased nuns on ice in the deep freeze, they decide to stage a variety show in the Mount Saint Helen's School auditorium to raise the necessary amount.

Participating in the project are Mother Superior Mary Regina, a former circus performer who cannot resist the spotlight played by **Anne Kidder**; her competitive but dignified rival, second-in-command Sister Mary Hubert played by **Deb Shaffer**; Sister Robert Anne, a streetwise nun from Brooklyn played by **Kimberly Bright**; Sister Mary Leo, a novice who is determined to be the world's first ballerina nun played by **Mary Anne Buckley**; and wacky, childlike Sister Mary Amnesia, who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head played by **Melissa Kidder**. The entertainment that they present includes solo star turns, madcap dance routines, and an audience quiz.

Nunsense is co-directed by **Janet and Guy Zimmerman**, choreographed by **Bob Marzola**, and musical directed by **Jeff Manchur**. The show runs February 20th - 23rd. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows are at 8pm and the Sunday show is at 2:00. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Students/Seniors and can be purchased at Grounds for Thought.





March 28, 29, 30 April 4, 5, 6

By the time you receive this Newsletter, I will have just cast my spring comedy, *Fox On The Fairway*, and starting rehearsals. When Melissa asked me to pen a few lines about the show and cast, I had only held one night of auditions and did not know if *Will Ferrell* or *Tina Fey* were going to show up at the church Monday night, begging to appear on the Methodist Church stage for me, since this will be my BSP swan song as a director. *Will* and *Tina* didn't, but Sara Swisher, Ben Forman, Hali Malecki and Peggy Keyes did and with Lane Hakel and Kent McClary showing up on Sunday. And away we go with a good veteran cast...I'm excited.

Lane Hakel will be on stage, reprising his Toledo Rep role as **Henry Bingham**, president of the Quail Valley Country Club. Bingham is in a difficult position, less by finding out that his newly hired hand, **Justin** (Ben Forman), is in love with **Louise** (Hali Malecki), the waitress at the club house, but by the discovery that the club's best golfer he thought would play for Quail Valley in the country club championship, has switched sides. He was recruited by his counterpart and opponent, the cocky and arrogant **Dickie**, president of the rival country club, portrayed by BSP veteran funny man, Kent McClary. The two have a huge bet Bingham would seem destined to lose. But never fear, he discovers that his new employee, Justin, is actually quite a good golfer and finagles his nomination to the club. Justin does not disappoint and has a huge lead, when close to its end, the tournament is interrupted by bad weather. When Justin learns that Louise has lost the engagement ring he gave her - she accidentally flushed it down the toilet - he becomes unglued. The game resumes the next day, but Justin loses the lead, and, being upset, takes an unfortunate swing, breaking his arm. Bingham is desperate, and the appearance of a very funny **Muriel** (Peggy Keyes), his wife, complicates the matter, as she catches him much too close to **Pamela** (Sara Swisher), his sex-starved vice-president. Can Bingham find a replacement for the one armed Justin to win the game, win the wager, and get his complicated life in order? Probably...but damn, it's so much fun doing it! Golfers and non-golfers will find this comedy farce a belly laughing delight. I'm hoping to go out with a bang...come, help me!
Bob Hastings

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S CARDS ON A TABLE

Directed by Kathy Barnes

Set in 1935: Mr. Shaitana is a strange and wealthy collector of snuff boxes and other objects d'art. One evening he invites two specialists, Supt. Battle of Scotland Yard and crime novelist Ariadne Oliver, to a dinner party to view his special collection: Four people who have committed murder and gotten away with it. As they play bridge after dinner, Shaitana is daringly murdered by someone at the party. Battle sets out to solve the crime aided, of course, by the eager Mrs. Oliver who begins with psychological deductions from the bridge score cards. After many red herrings, skeletons in the cupboard and two more deaths, Battle lays his "cards on the table".

CHARACTERS:

Anne Meredith – age 25, shy, timid, but will fight back when cornered
Mrs. Lorrimer – age 63, graceful, intelligent, very forthright, well mannered, expects the same courtesy
Dr. Roberts – age 40, Charming, gregarious, impeccable taste, perfect bed side manner
Major Despard – age 35, dashing adventurer with an eye for the ladies, considers all possibilities
Shaitana (pronounced Say-tana) – age 55, he is the original oily middle eastern, wouldn't trust him to see you a used car
Mary & Doris, Maids
Mrs. Oliver – age 40, big, rather magnificent-looking lady with uncontrollable hair, eccentric, odd manners
Supt. Battle – age 50, intelligent man's man, determined
Butler
Serg. O'Connor – age 28, eager to get on in the force, also a bit of a thespian
Miss Burgess – age 35, secretary to the doctor, touchy sort, but susceptible to flattery
Rhoda Dawes – age 25, rich, beautiful, little naïve, charming steadfast and good friend to Anne
Stephens – wears a cloth cap and overalls, a workman, big whiskers and sideburns

Audition dates:

February 24 & 25 @ 6PM

Audition location:

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

Performance dates:

**May 9, 10, 16, 17 @ 8PM
May 11 & 18 @ 2PM**

Performance location:

First United Methodist Church

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



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