

The FRESNIA



From the President

BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC.

NOVEMBER 2013

Greetings to you,

Coming very soon--- our first show of the 2013-2014 season! In spite of the long wait since our last show in May, the show in December will be a wonderful kick off for BSP!

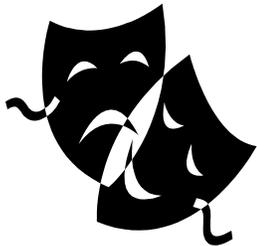
Guy and Janet Zimmerman, the directors, have been working very hard with the large cast of children and adults. It takes real talent to tell 20 some kids to run around yelling like there's a fire and still be able to maintain control and calm them down for the next scene, which might be in the Sunday School room... Kudos to the Zimmermans!

This has been a year when the BSP Board has had to be very flexible. The September show was unavoidably cancelled but we were able to add an Agatha Christie mystery in May, thanks to Kathy Barnes who will be directing. We will announce the title of that show a little later in the year.

You gave us positive feedback about presenting "My Fair Lady" as the musical, however the licensing rights are not available—"indefinitely on hold" is what our producer was told. Sooooo.... The search was on for a replacement show. We are pleased to inform you that BSP will be presenting "HONK!" This is another family friendly show, so plan on bringing your kids and/or grandkids. We are very excited to welcome JJ Pearse as the musical director for the February musical, HONK! You can read more about this musical in this newsletter.

Even though we got a late start, from here to May we will be providing four great shows for your theatrical enjoyment! "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" in mid December. "HONK!" --February, "Fox on the Fairway" March/April and a play by the Queen of Mystery in May! We hope to see you at every show!

Many thanks for your ongoing support,
Deb Shaffer/BSP President



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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 Ever



By Barbara Robinson

The beloved family classic, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be presented on **Dec. 12th, 13th, and 14th at 7 pm** and also at **2 pm on the 14th** by BG's community theatre, the Black Swamp Players, Inc. The show will be directed by Guy and Janet Zimmerman. Performances will be at the First United Methodist Church on W Wooster street across from the Stroh Center. Tickets may be purchased at Grounds for Thought or at the door. Adults \$10, Children and Seniors \$8.

The story is narrated by Beth Bradley played by **Johanna Slembariski**. It is the time of year for this family's church to once again prepare for the Nativity Scene Christmas Pageant. Due to some unusual circumstances, Beth's mother, played by **Stephanie Truman** has ended up being in charge of the pageant. Beth's brother, Charlie, played by **Bob Walters**, would rather not have anything to do with the whole affair, but of course he must once again wear his father's bathrobe in the pageant. Bob Bradley, the dad, played by **Lane Hakel**, is generally supportive in an ambivalent sort of way...

A particularly unique aspect to this year's Pageant is that all six Herdmans have managed to take over the main roles for the Nativity Scene...the Herdman's are...well, let's just say that the Herdman's don't ever get teacher's pet awards. In fact, the very name "Herdmans", strikes fear into the hearts of their school-mates....The actors playing the infamous Herdmans are from the oldest down--
Ralph Herdman: **Andrew Wise**; Imogene Herdman: **Maddy Palmer**; Leroy Herdman: **Trevor Gill-Snow**; Claude Herdman: **Sabrina Ramos**; Ollie Herdman: **Nataleigh Hartman**; and the youngest, Gladys Herdman: **Calista Wilkins**.

Other players in the show include Mrs. Armstrong--**Becky Hansen**; Mrs. McCarthy--**Karen Walters**; Reverend Hopkings--**Mike Walters** and Elmer Hopkins--**Brandon Knell**. There are many more actors and actresses in the play, too numerous to mention all.

In order to round out your enjoyment, (since this is not a long play) various local musicians will be performing 15-20 minute musical acts at each show. On Thursday the 12th, **Tim Tegge** will be performing. Friday the 13th, the **BGHS Madrigals** will be singing, and on Sat. at 2, we will have a **Ukelele Quartet** perform. The Saturday evening musical act will be a surprise! AND the ladies of the First United Methodist Church will be holding their annual **Christmas Bazaar** before and after each performance.

Come see the play and you will enjoy laughs as well as poignant moments. There are nearly 50 adults and children in the cast--including baby angels, Sunday School kids, the Pastor, firemen and church ladies on their phones---and the Herdmans... Not to mention, the added musical acts and the FUMC Ladies Bazaar! What a great family outing!!





Book by
Anthony Drewe
Music by
George Stiles
Lyrics by

Director -
Kevin Cagle
Music Director -
JJ Pearse

A Musical Comedy of the Ugly Duckling

In the London season featuring the appearance of THE LION KING, HONK! became a stand-out by winning the 2000 Olivier Award (the British equivalent of the Tony® Award) for Best New Musical.

Written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (dubbed "The brightest hopes for the future of the British musical" by The London Daily Telegraph), HONK! is the story of Ugly, whose odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from his family and neighbors. Separated from the farm and pursued by a hungry Cat, Ugly must find his way home. Along his rollicking and harrowing journey he not only discovers his true beauty and glorious destiny, but also finds love and acceptance in all its forms.

Witty and hilarious, but also deeply moving, HONK! will treat your audiences to equal amounts of laughter and tears. Perfect for a cast as small as ten or as large as 30 (or more), HONK! can be performed with simple sets and costumes. No feathers or fur necessary! Its charm, humor and message of tolerance is perfect for a family audience... and every audience.

Character Breakdown:

Bullfrog (male): A laidback, self-confident frog who is encouraging, light-hearted, optimistic

Cat (male): Story's antagonist; sly & cunning, he is a very hungry cat who preys on his next meal

Dot (female): Greglag's composed, respectful wife

Drake (male): Ugly's father who detests his son

Ensemble—ducklings; fish; froglets; graylag's flock; goose squadron

Father Swan (male): Penny's loving, protective and caring father

Grace (female): Most distinguished duck on the lake and the school governor

Greylag (male): A good and the Admiral of the squadron charged with Ugly's safe return; Dot's husband

Henrietta (female): A friend of Maureen and Ida's, she is somewhat of a busybody

Ida (female): Ugly's loving mother and the only person who is supportive of the outcast child

Mother Swan (female): Tender, compassionate, and caring; Mother to Penny

Penny (female): A beautiful swan that is kind, compassionate, and caring; Ugly's unlikely love interest and friend

Queenie (female): Very domesticated, humorous, snobby cat who live the "high-life"

Turkey (male): The School Headmaster who is self-basting, self-boasted prime specimen; deathly afraid of Thanksgiving

Ugly (male): Story's youthful protagonist; gawky and odd-looking, he is shunned for his odd appearance; possesses a heart of gold

Audition dates:

November 24 & 25 @ 6PM

Audition location:

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

Performance dates:

Feb. 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 @ 8PM
Feb. 16 & 23 @ 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



BLACK SWAMP PLAYERS, INC

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