



From The President

Dear Theater Lover,

Hello again, we hope this newsletter finds healthy, warm, and ready for a great musical. For those of us old enough to have picked up and read a copy of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's novel, The Secret Garden, we are already excited at the prospect of seeing it come to life on the FUMC stage. I've loved the book for years and even read it aloud to a few captive groups of children when they came in from recess. (I'm a school teacher by day) My favorite character in the book was always the head gardener, Ben Weatherstaff, grizzled by time and experience. I'm excited to have the opportunity to play that part in this production.

This is going to be a super show. We have a really talented set of leads who are all participating because of the reputation of this show and the chance to sing this book. I've been really impressed at rehearsals on what I've been hearing. Join us!

Our final production will be having its auditions quite soon. *On Golden Pond*, the final production of our fiftieth season, will hold its auditions on Feb. 12 and 13 in the church. Audition information is posted online and in this newsletter. This show will be dedicated to the memory of long-time BSP volunteer, Willard Misfeldt. This show was suggested to the board by Willard and it is with appreciation for all he did for BSP that we present *On Golden Pond*.

And finally, for those of you planning ahead, save Wednesday, May 16 for this year's Swampy Banquet. Details to follow!

Theatrically, dramatically, and maybe even musically yours,

Lane Hakel
Pres. Black Swamp Players



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The Secret Garden

The Secret Garden is a musical based on the book of the same name by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It tells the story of Mary Lennox (Zoe Cross-Nelms), a ten-year-old girl growing up in India who is orphaned when a cholera outbreak kills her entire household. Mary is sent to England to live with her Uncle Archibald (Nathan Wright), a hunchbacked man desolate after the death of his wife, Lily (Megan Meyer), ten years before.

After hearing a mysterious crying in the house at night, Mary wonders if the manor is haunted, but the only ghosts at Misselthwaite are the ones she brought with her -- her father (Keith Guion), mother (Melanie Moore), Ayah (Anjalie Coates), and the other adults and children killed or left behind when she was uprooted (Alyx Fisher, Katy Schlegel, Addie Smith, Gracyn Stechshulte, Lola Truman, Katie Trumbull, Andrew Varney, Rose Walters, Griffen Waltmire, Collin Williams).

Gradually, Mary makes friends at Misselthwaite, with her servant Martha (Lorna Patterson), Martha's brother Dickon (Quintin Bouillon), and gardener Ben Weatherstaff (Lane Hakel). They tell her of a secret and forbidden garden that belonged to her Aunt Lily, and Mary becomes determined to find the key and the door and bring the forgotten garden back to life.

She finds the garden, and also uncovers the secret of the house -- a cousin, Colin (Eli Marx), spoiled, sickly, and kept hidden by the household staff (Ashlee Kluczynski, Dawn Trumbull, Annie Valentine). As she tries to get to know Colin, she finds herself clashing with Misselthwaite's housekeeper, Mrs. Medlock (Lynette Cooley) and her uncle's brother, Dr. Craven (Daniel Cagle), who runs Misselthwaite in Archibald's typical absence. Dr. Craven, haunted like Archibald and Mary by his own past, is determined to send Mary away to a school run by a strict and no-nonsense headmistress, Mrs. Winthrop (Robin Cagle).

If Mary wants to stay at Misselthwaite with the garden and the people she has grown to love, she must find a way to heal her cousin and uncle and banish the ghosts that haunt them all.



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Horizon Youth Theatre News



horizon youth theatre

Horizon Youth Theatre is currently running four of its annual Winter Workshops, with an eye towards a busy spring schedule. For our younger students, instructors Jackie Burns and Haven Bradam are teaching Musical Theater and Introduction to Theater, respectively. Meanwhile, Keith Guion and Cassie Greenlee are preparing students for the Festival of Shorts in April. Keith's devising class will develop and write a show, with the participating students also acting in it. Cassie, on the other hand, is training high school students to direct the other five student-written shows for the Festival. The Festival of Shorts will run April 13-15 at Otsego Elementary School. And in June, HYT will conclude its twentieth anniversary season with the musical "Dorothy in Wonderland." Auditions will take place in late April, with performances scheduled for June 22-24 at Otsego High School. Please keep an eye on HYT's website and Facebook page for upcoming audition and performance times.

HYT also wishes to thank the Bowling Green Community Foundation for its generous support of the Winter Workshops, Festival of Shorts, and Summer Workshops. Additionally, thank you to the Wood County Historical Museum for signing on as a season sponsor, and to MaritzCX, which is sponsoring our spring musical.

The Pemberville Opera House

Live In The House Concert Series

February 3, **Heartland Sings**

March 3, **Corn Potato Duo**

April 7, **Avanti Guitar Trio**

May 5, **The General Guinness Band**

Tickets \$12.00 or entire series of 9 programs for only \$90.00

Available at Beeker's General Store or
 Call Carol 419-287-4848

www.pembervilleoperahouse.org

On Golden Pond Auditions

When: Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm

Where: First United Methodist Church, 1526 E. Wooster, BG

Cast

Norman Thayer, Jr: Late 70's

Ethel Thayer (his wife): 10 years younger

Chelsea Thayer-Wayne (their daughter): 40's

Bill Ray (Chelsea's fiancé): 40's – 50's

Bill Ray Jr (Bill's son): early teens

Charlie Martin (mailman): 40's – 50's

Any question/concerns contact the director, Wayne G. Weber, at waynegweber@yahoo.com.

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