



The Fresnel

The newsletter of The Black Swamp Players, Inc.
Bowling Green, OH

Winter 2019

From the President...

Dear Theater Lovers,

Welcome to 2019 and the continuation of our 51st season!

Clue: The Musical, our collaboration with FUMC and their dinner theater team, was a smashing success. It was such fun to see so many shows so well attended and to see such talented new faces in the cast. Thanks to Melissa Shaffer, Deb Shaffer, and Karen Long who jointly headed our production team. It warmed the heart of this grizzled Black Swamp veteran to see so many faces in our audience all at the same time. I'm guessing you felt the same way. I feel certain that *The Music Man* will exceed even *Clue's* lofty attendance numbers. Speaking for the board, we know that we have a better product than our attendance rates would suggest. The attendance has been a concern for a number of years. We feel the best solution is finding a permanent home for our theater. We continue to look for and pursue ways for that to happen.

In the meantime, I thought it worth appealing to you, our membership, and anyone else who happens to read this issue of *The Fresnel* for help. As I see it, the future of BSP depends on growing our audience. There are lots of ways to do that. Better marketing, more familiar shows, more musicals, larger casts are all approaches we are aware of and are to varying degrees working towards. Another way is for the people who already come to see Black Swamp productions (Yes, that would be you. You just knew there would be a catch!) to take an even more active role in growing our audience. How could you do that, you wonder? I'm so glad you wondered. Here are a couple humble suggestions.

- Bring a friend/friends that has never been to one of our shows or who hasn't been in a long time with you. Get dinner! Make it a fun night out!
- Tell your friends about us and our productions. Either do it the old-fashioned way, by, you know, actually talking with them or tell them in an email or social media post.

The Music Man is going to be terrific. The production team and cast are so excited about putting this show together that the energy level in rehearsals is already through the roof. Bring extra socks to the show because the chorus is going to knock your first pair off.

If you have any comments, ideas or questions about BSP and our goal to raise ticket sales, then please contact me the old-fashioned way by phone at 419-494-9259 or at lanehakil@gmail.com.

Come see us in River City!

Lane Hakel, BSP Board President, 2018-2019

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Our 2018-2019 Season



Book, Music, & Lyrics by Meredith Willson
Based on a story by Meredith Willson & Franklin Lacey

Directed by Amy Spaulding-Heuring
Music Direction by Jennifer Jackson

The Music Man is presented by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International.

Friday, February 15 & 22

7:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 16 & 23

7:30 P.M.

Sunday, February 17 & 24

2:00 P.M.

*All performances will be held at the First United Methodist Church, BG.
Tickets for all performances are \$15/adult and \$12/Senior or Student
and are available through blackswampplayers.org*

The Music Man follows fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill (Bradley King), as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize—this, despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. Hill's plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian (Jennifer Braum), the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

The principal cast includes: King (Harold Hill); Braum (Marian Paroo); Liam Rogel (Winthrop Paroo); Alice Walters (Amaryllis); Andelus Elwazani (Zaneeta Shinn); Bob Walters (Tommy Djilas); Perry Andre (Marcellus Washburn); Lane Hakel (Charlie Cowell); Keith Guion (Mayor Shinn); Sally Stemen (Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn); Deb Shaffer (Mrs. Paroo); Evie Van Vorhis (Gracie Shinn); and Matthew Crawford, Lane Hakel, Allen Rogel, and Andrew Varney as the school board members/quartet.

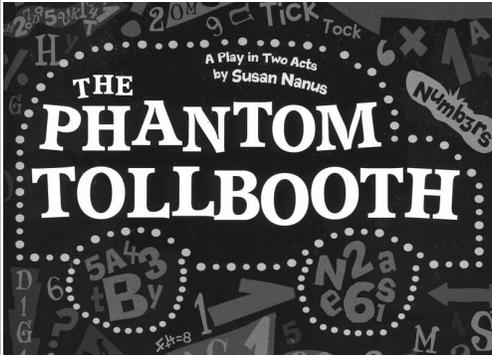
Written by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey, *The Music Man* has been entertaining audiences since 1957, when it premiered on Broadway. The musical earned eight Tony-award nominations in 1958 and went on to win six Tonys, including nods for Best Musical, Best Performance by a Leading Actor, and Best Performance by a Leading Actress.

Visit us online @ blackswampplayers.org and "Like" us on Facebook.



horizon youth theatre

Coming Spring 2019



The Phantom Tollbooth follows Milo's adventures in the Land of Wisdom, where he's forced to think about many new things. Milo learns of the argument between King Azaz and his brother, the

Mathemagician, whose disagreement over words and numbers has led to the banishment of Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason. Milo is dispatched to rescue the princesses from the Land of Ignorance. The knowledge and skills Milo picks up on his journey help him to save the princesses. When he must return home, Milo's sorry to leave his friends—but enriched by his experience, he realizes his attitude toward learning will never be the same.

Coming in
April 2019



The world premiere of an original play about America's favorite pastime

Written and Directed by
F. Scott Regan

Performances
April 26-28, May 3-5

Help Us Plan Our Upcoming Seasons



Greetings to our wonderful BSP Members!

As chair of the Play Selection Committee, I would like to solicit ideas from you, the Members, for possible plays or musicals to do in the upcoming season (or seasons). We have asked you in the past and gotten great suggestions—we did *Dixie Swim Club* a couple of years ago because of a member recommendation. If you have any production ideas that you would like to share, then please e-mail me at deb.bgoh@gmail.com with your suggestions. Also, if you have directed or know someone who directs theatre, then please let me know...we like to reach out to new directors when possible! Thanks very much for your input!

Deb Shaffer, BSP Board Vice President, 2018-2019

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Get Involved with BSP

Black Swamp Players is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers. Have you ever thought about volunteering for a production? If you aren't one to audition to act, then you may enjoy other aspects of volunteering. Shows require help with building sets, painting sets, finding props, finding costumes, running sound and lights, and serving on stage crew. If any of these exciting jobs sound like fun to you, then please e-mail Lane Hakel at president@blackswampplayers.org.

2018-2019 BSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lane Hakel
Vice President Deb Shaffer
Treasurer Deb Weiser
Secretary Heath A. Diehl

Trustees Monica Hiris, Inge Klopping,
Karen Long, Hali Malecki, Tom Milbrodt, Penny Parker, Mark
Pike, Steph Truman, Wayne G. Weber, and Bob Welly

Now Accepting Board Nominations



Want to become more involved with BSP? Why not join the Board of Directors? Our Nominating Committee will accept nominations for Officers (one-year term) and Trustees (two-year term) to serve from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020.

For more information, please contact us as president@blackswampplayers.org no later than May 1, 2019.

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