

ON CUE

The electronic newsletter of the Association of Community Theatres of
Greater Cincinnati

Spring 2009

Linda Roll, Editor

email address

llroll69@hotmail.com

Lots of information to pass along with this newsletter.

With the OCTA regionals coming up fast, it is time to start thinking about what show you might want to excerpt. May 18 is the pick day and at that time, you will need to have all of your paperwork in hand. One item that we ask you to provide at this meeting is the proof that you have permission to excerpt your particular show. This is a very important piece of paperwork that you must have in order to excerpt. You don't have to have paid for the rights, but you have to prove that you have the right to excerpt the show. Also you need to have permission from them if you have made ANY change to the script and that needs to be in writing. SO if you have not done so as yet, please contact your licensing house and ask for permission to do the excerpt.

The ACT/OCTA regionals are scheduled June 25, 26, and 27, 2009 at Parish Auditorium in Hamilton. Thursday is a tentative date. At the meeting just after last year's competition, it was decided if there were more than 12 theatres excerpting we would go to a three day event. This will hopefully prevent any group from having to perform before 9am on Saturday. That early time slot always seems to present a problem. With needing an hour for each excerpt, it was decided that adding Thursday would be the best solution. Each group will be asked to declare whether they are planning to excerpt beginning at the March meeting. This gives some idea as to how many groups are planning to participate this year.

Also, within the next two months, all groups will be asked to sign up for a specific job to do. The past several years, most groups have performed the same jobs. But if your group is unhappy with the current job assignment and wish to change, this is the time to do so.

The ACT scholarship auditions took place on January 24, 2009 at NKU. There were 17 students from CCM and NKU who auditioned this year.

The judges were: Rick Pender(City Beat; Editor Sondheim Review)

Shannon Rae Lutz(Ensemble Theatre)

Norma Niinemets (director, actress)

Dan Doerger (director, actor, choreographer)

Ann Moss (vocal music coach and instructor)

Ritch Stoops was the judges' liaison

The winners of the scholarships were as follows:

ACT Scholarship Lauren Sprague Junior BFA Musical Theatre major
CCM

The Carol Mills Memorial Scholarship Ben Cramer Sophomore
BFA drama major CCM

Dee Wacksman Memorial Scholarship Alysha Deslorieux Freshman
BFA Musical Theatre major CCM

The Freshman scholarship (funded by Rilla Foster) Katie
Johannigman Freshman BFA Musical Theatre Major CCM

Congratulations to all of these talented young people. Thanks to Dee Anne
Bryll for chairing this event.

YO-HO-HO-On The-O-HI-O!

If you have not heard this before, this is the theme for this year's OCTA state conference which will be held at the Holiday Inn Eastgate on September 4, 5 & 6 2009. This year has a pirate theme and there are already a lot of plans that have been made to make this one of the most exciting weekends in a long time! The steering committee has been working hard planning activities for the weekend. Besides the excerpts and the awesome workshops, there will be plenty to keep you busy. On Friday evening, there are First timer events and a prime time version of OCTAWOOD Squares. This promises to be a lot of fun, so sharpen your skills.

Sunday evening, you are invited to attend the masked Pirates' Ball. There will be a costume competition and music to dance the night away.

At the end of the 2008 conference, guests in attendance were given a gold coin and told to bring it with them this year. This was the beginning of what we hope will be a very rewarding treasure hunt. All weekend long you will

have the chance to earn more gold coins. At the end of the weekend, the person who has collected the most coins will win a weekend getaway to Gatlinburg. This prize is being donated by our very own Dee Dunn who owns a lovely “cabin” in the mountains there. (In case there are multiple winners, we will put all the names in the treasure chest and draw a winner) There will also be a gift card to help offset the expenses for this getaway.

Now we need your help. First, we ask that each theatre take on a job at the state conference, just like we do for the regionals. We will be asking you to choose which job you would like to do. Our next steering committee meeting is April 11 at 11am at St Rita’s on Glendale Milford Road in Evendale. We hope that you will send a representative from your theatre to this meeting. We will be assigning jobs beginning then.

The next item is we want all of the theatres not only here but all over the state to design their own pirate flag. We will be giving the final dimensions in April. These flags will be used throughout the hotel as decorations.

The list of workshops will be forthcoming once they have been all set in place.

Also, if you wish to keep abreast of the events, join us on Facebook. Look for the OCTA conference site and ask to be admitted. Amy Waldfogle has been very active in getting this page established and will be updating the information regularly.

%%

After much discussion, the OCTA board has reinstated showcasing this year. There is a change in the policy. In the past, the showcasing theatres were not made known to the audience or to the judges until they were ready to make their selections. This year, the showcasing theatres will be designated in the program. They will be eligible for all awards, but will be excluded when determining the invitees to state. They will not be included in the total count as to how many slots we will receive at the state competition. Hopefully since the state conference is in Cincinnati this year, we won’t have ANY theatres showcase!

+++++

ODDS AND ENDS

If you have gone to the OCTA website recently, you might have noticed that the site has not been updated for a long time. The webmaster has lost the ability to make changes to the site. He is currently looking at finding a new webhost, so until that time, please be patient.

April is once again designated as Ohio Community Theatre month. Patt Robb has more information available to you, so contact her at mommrobb@yahoo.com . She will help you with advertising this. She is also looking for a restaurant that will sponsor a community theatre night, with proceeds going to our region.

In your upcoming theatre packets will be the necessary forms you will need to enter the various competitions. These packets are/will be handed out at the March ACT meeting. Please look for these and enter these events.

ACT is currently working to update the bylaws and regulations and job descriptions for the organization. This is something that is done on an ongoing basis.

Also please remember to nominate someone for the prestigious ACT awards. These are the Mario Pittoco, Roger Grooms and Art Rouse awards, and they are designed to recognize the people who are always doing for community theatre. All nominations are due to Cathy Lutts by May 1, 2009.

Theatre groups are being asked to prepare a basket to be auctioned off at the ACT banquet this year with proceeds going to help Loveland Stage Company.

Send pictures of your shows to the following: Arny Stoller arny@covap.com for the theater collage that is assembled each year and also to Dan Phares dphares6@aol.com to be included on the treasure chest that will be on display at the state conference.

Watch for the next newsletter after the May pick meeting.

Support your fellow community theatres. See a show today!