

CURTAIN CALL

2010-11 Season, Spring Issue

Editor: Heidi Ackerson

A Funny Thing Happened...on the Little Theatre Stage

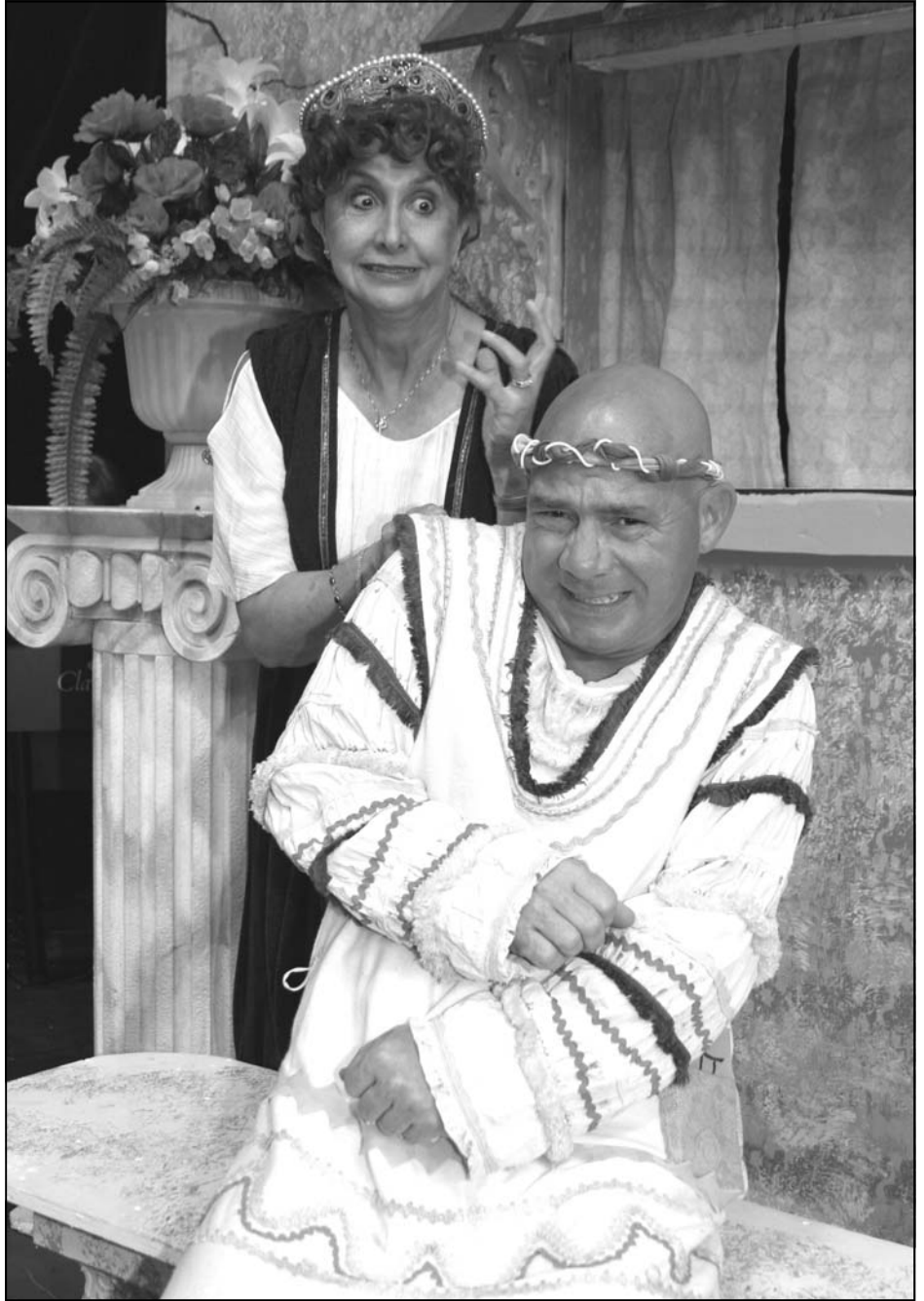
Combining classic vaudeville with the time-tested, 2,000 year-old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* took comedy back to its roots. The superb cast and crew helped make this show a success! The crafty slave, Pseudolus, played by **Brian Fitzgibbons**, struggles to win the hand of Philia, **Alexa Baldwin**, a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan, for his young master, Hero, played by **Robert Baldwin**, in exchange for freedom.

Written by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, the *Forum* cast had audience members laughing their togas off at 11 performances!

Other brilliant actors in this production include: **Austan Sullivan** and **Ken Guilbeault** as The Proteans; **John Stenko** as Senex; **Pat Justin** as Domina; **Larry Schnabel** as Hysterium; **David Santiago** as Marcus Lycus; **Casey Rollins** as Tintinabula; **Donna Fahey** as Panacea; **Joey Reader** and **Danielle Farmer** as

The Courtesans; **Amanda Ryals** as Vibrata; **Bill Walker** as Erronius; **David Lowe** as Miles Gloriosus; and **Paige Elizabeth Shouse** and **Danielle Grau** as Gymnasia.

Assisting Artistic Director **John Stenko**, Musical Director **Elizabeth Brahm-Kruger** and Choreographer **Daniel Walker** behind-the-scenes were Stage Manager **Dr. Dale Lilyfors**; Ass't Stage Manager **Steven Smith**; Technical Director **John Stenko**; Set Painting by **Bev Zau-meyer**, **Trudy Havu**, and **Peggy Walsh**; Set Construction by **John Stenko** and **Larrie Tiffany**; Props by **Steven Smith**; Lights & Sound Design by **John Stenko**; Lights & Sound Booth by **Noël Bickford**; Program Cover and Poster Design by **Susan Bradley**; Program Design and Layout by **Bill Cook**; Lobby Flowers by **Tina Brown**; Photographers were **Heidi Ackerson**, **Sandi Carroll** and **Bill Cook**; and Publicity by **Dottie Hughes** and **Bill Cook**.



Left to Right: Pat Justin as Domina and Larry Schnabel as Hysterium

Our season is almost over and there are so many things on which to reflect. We have only two more plays to go before we close the season and the ones we've seen this year were so successful. We thank all those volunteers who were involved from the office staff to the set builders and painters; from the actors to the stage managers; and to all the others who help to make a successful production. I am blessed to be the President of such a wonderful group.

However, don't get complacent just yet! We are all about volunteering and we need you. Volunteering is not only a rewarding activity because it provides you with a natural high as you give your time helping, but it also makes you feel needed and can lead to learning new skills. Volunteering helps you meet new people and can create contacts for you in your social/personal life. You may be thinking "The little bit that I can do will never help much!" or "What in the world could I do?" Be assured, there are many places we can use you in the Theatre if you are available for even a few hours!

For example, WonderLand, our children's theatre program, was a huge success this season providing many hours of fun to the youngsters in our community; and we thank the volunteers who were involved. However, we are now looking for more people to help the instructor with arts and crafts, or bandaging a "boo-boo" or just sitting with a child who needs a little extra TLC. Call **Tina Brown** and tell her that you are available! Another example where you could help is to give some hours to the office staff to photocopy our past records so that we can put the information in a database. Our "regular" staffers could always use a few extra hands to help with ticket sales, or mailing brochures. Call **Agnes Briggs** or **Wynne Cook** and let them know you are available! In addition, sets need painting, props and costumes need rearranging, flyers need to be distributed, we always can use ushers and the list goes on and on. Our group is the best and only because of people like you! Call **Estie Keyes**, our volunteer coordinator, and let her know that you have some hours that you can give to the Theatre. There are classes and workshops where you can learn new skills and you also learn from fellow volunteers. Bring a friend - share a responsibility - or you can match your skills to a job that is needed. No one person can solve the world's problems, but whatever you can do makes our little corner of the world a happier and more successful place to be.



During the week of March 14, Dr. Harriet Winokur, WonderLand Theatre Director, reports that young thespians sharpened their dramatic skills at The Little Theatre's WonderLand Spring Break Camp. For ages 7-12, classes started in the morning, broke for lunch, and continued through the early afternoon until 3 p.m. This week-long camp explored musical theatre pieces, focusing on scenes and songs, to teach students about popular American musicals. Students participated in creative dramatic games and other theatre activities.

On the last day of camp, parents and friends were invited to view the students' performance, which included a WonderLand's Got Talent Review. Tuition was \$115.

Most WonderLand classes offer limited financial scholarships for students seeking assistance. Several scholarships were offered to students in these classes. Scholarships are granted based on family income and need.

Know a youngster interested in theatre? Check WonderLandTheatre.org for additional information regarding WonderLand classes.

ADULT BASIC ACTING AND BEGINNING DIRECTOR CLASSES

begin April 2, 2011 on consecutive Saturdays through April 23, 2011

To enroll FREE, please call the Box Office at 386-423-1246

or visit us online at www.NsbPlayers.org/education

OUR NEXT SHOW IS A CLASSIC!

Veteran director, **Ted Pack**, brings this classic drama by Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn to the Little Theatre stage. *Foxfire* opens Friday, April 8 with additional performances: April 9, 10*, 14, 15, 16 & 17*. All shows are at 8 p.m., except Sundays, which are 2 p.m. matinees.

Annie Nations, an indomitable Appalachian widow of 79, lives on her mountain farm with the acerbic ghost of her husband, Hector. Her tranquility is threatened on two fronts. A brash real estate developer wants to turn her land into a vacation resort. And she becomes concerned over her son, Dillard, a country singer who has come home after his wife has run away, leaving him and their two children behind. Annie's battle to decide her future takes her through some funny, touching and magical flashbacks to her life with Hector. Dillard, still singing the music which used to infuriate his father, has an exuberant scene in which the audience becomes his public at a fairground concert. Can Dillard woo his mother away from the recalcitrant ghost? Will development swallow up the family farm? Only Annie can decide. Played on Broadway by Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, this play offers a staunchly affirmative tribute to mountain folk.

Cast in this show are **Bobbi Fouts**, as Annie Nations, **Don Campbell** as Hector Nations, **Cody Gigold** as Prince Carpenter, **Joey Reader** as Holly Burrell, **Will Bordelon** as Dillard Nations, and **Bill Walker** as the Doctor. **Carol Choma** is Stage Manager.

All seating is reserved. If you purchased season tickets, then you already have your seats for *Foxfire*. Good seating, however, is still available. Prices for adults are \$14. Seniors are \$13. Students under 18 are \$7. Purchase tickets at the Box Office by calling (386) 423-1246 or in person. Personal checks, cash or Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Visit the Little Theatre online at www.NsbPlayers.org for additional information on this and other shows.

* Sundays are 2 p.m. matinees

CASTING CALL FOR SEASON CLOSER

'Blithe Spirit'

By Noel Coward

Genre: Comic farce

Auditions: April 10 & 11, at 7 p.m.

Performances: May 20, 21, 22*, 26, 27, 28 & 29*

Director: Shelly Wawrzonek

Setting: Living room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent

Synopsis: The smash comedy hit of the London and Broadway stages, this much-revived classic from the playwright of *Private Lives* offers up fussy, cantankerous novelist, Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira who is called up by a visiting "happy medium," one Madame Arcati. As the worldly and un-worldly personalities clash, Charles' current wife, Ruth, is accidentally killed, "passes over," joins Elvira and the two "blithe spirits" haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity.

Roles: 2 men, 5 women (Ages 20's-60's)

Edith: The Condomines' maid, always in a hurry

Ruth Condomine: Charles' second wife, smart looking woman, sophisticated

Charles Condomine: A sophisticated man with a sense of humor

Doctor Bradman: Middle-aged, pleasant

Mrs. Bradman: The doctor's wife, a bit faded

Madame Arcati: A psychic

Elvira: Charles' deceased first wife



Auditions are open to the public, and stage experience is not necessary. Auditions are held at the Little Theatre, 726 Third Avenue, New Smyrna Beach. Readings will be from the script and a copy is available at the reference desk at the New Smyrna Beach Library. For add'l information contact the LT office at 386-423-1246 or e-mail info@NsbPlayers.org. Performances are at 8 p.m. except Sunday performances are at 2 p.m.

BE STILL AND DON'T MOVE

By BILL COOK, reprinted with permission from Life Style Magazine published March 1, 2011

My friends will look at you incredulously if you accuse me of being an actor. That's because most are so taken by one of the miniscule roles I played on stage that they have forgotten all my other acting endeavors.

In September 2006 I auditioned for a part on the live stage at the Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach. My "audition" wasn't the usual kind. I simply begged my friend, **John Stenko**, to let me play the dead guy in *The Unexpected Guest*, a 1958 Agatha Christie mystery piece he was directing. It was my aspiration to someday be in a **John Stenko** cast. After a month of my hinting and conniving, he finally took pity on me.

What he said was that yes, I could play the part of Richard Warwick, who sits in his study - dead in a wheel chair during the first half of the first act of the play - for about 23 minutes. John gave me one instruction. "Be still and don't move. You could ruin the show," he said.

Well, there were several nights when I came close. I didn't anticipate the nearly insurmountable challenges to just sitting absolutely still for 23 straight minutes. It's not as easy as it sounds.

On the plus side, as Richard Warwick facing away from the audience in an old wicker wheel chair, I had the best seat in the house. But you can never say for certain where an audience will laugh or where they won't. This play was a mystery, but there were laughs - each night in a different place. So, from my narrow vantage point, I never knew exactly why something was funny. I could only see straight ahead. John Stenko had said I couldn't move.

Friendly houseflies come from nowhere to pester you. I never see them anywhere in Volusia County, but one buzzed my face repeatedly on opening night like I was on a picnic and even landed on my hand. It walked around, taunting me to lash out and end it all. But John Stenko had said I couldn't move.

If you have lumbago you know that the only way to relieve lower back pain is to readjust your sitting position. But John Stenko had said I couldn't move.

Elvis Presley once said that he never made any vulgar movements in his act. I yearned for any kind of movement - even if a vulgar one - just to wipe away that bead of perspiration dripping from my nose every night under a dozen Fresnel stage lights radiating 1,000 watts each. But John Stenko had said I couldn't move.

The cast was required to be in the building one hour before show time. This is because there's makeup, costumes, and the need to get into your role for an on stage performance. My Richard Warwick character had makeup - a bullet hole in the forehead with blood dripping down the face that took about 15 minutes of exacting work. **Joanne Phillipp**, who played Mother Warwick, took care of that for me. Even though I was facing away from the audience, Jo's bullet hole would complete my crowning appearance at the end of the show - during the curtain call.

Audiences can become "chatty" in a performance. That's one of the reasons they turn down the lights during the show. It puts everybody on notice - time to keep quiet. But during the curtain call, the audience is encouraged to be spontaneous and even stand up and give ovations. The actors in John Stenko's cast got that kind of reception. The audiences loved this show.

My own recognition for a good performance came one night, during the curtain call. First out, I walked to the front edge of the stage and heard a lady in the front row remark quite loudly after seeing my made up face for the first time, "Frederick! It wasn't a mannequin! It was a REAL person."

As I recall, Richard Warwick smiled back at her and wiped the perspiration from his nose. Then, dead as he was, he moved - actually, quite dramatically - and took his bow.



Mother Warwick (Joanne Phillipp) and Richard (Bill Cook)

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR 2011-2012 SEASON!



'The Foreigner' (Not included in Season Package)

Comedy by Larry Shue

Performances: July 29, 30 & 31* and August 5, 6 & 7*

Auditions: June 19 & 20

A comical, but non-existent language barrier fuels the non-stop hilarity and leads to a wildly funny climax in which things go uproariously awry for the "bad guys" and the "good guys" triumph.

'Alone Together'

Comedy by Lawrence Roman

Performances: Sept. 9, 10 & 11* and Sept. 15, 16, 17 & 18*

Auditions: July 31 & August 1

How can Mom and Dad empty the nest once again and make their adult children grow up? A cleverly comic, witty and wise show for parents everywhere.

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber; Lyrics by Tim Rice

Performances: Oct. 14, 15 & 16* and Oct. 20, 21, 22 & 23* and Oct. 27, 28, 29 & 30*

Auditions: August 28 & 29

A popular musical with catchy music based on the "coat of many colors" biblical story of Joseph. Fun for the whole family!

'Dashing Through the Snow' (Not included in Season Package)

Comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Performances: Dec. 2, 3 & 4* and Dec. 8, 9, 10 & 11*

Auditions: Oct. 23 & 24

Holiday hilarity abounds in Tinsel, Texas and the laughs are non-stop. These tales will make your season merry and bright!

'I Hate Hamlet'

Comedy by Paul Rudnick

Performances: Jan. 13, 14 & 15* and January 19, 20, 21 & 22*

Auditions: Dec. 4 & 5

The laughs are nonstop as Andrew, a relocated LA actor, wrestles with his conscience, John Barrymore's ghostly pressures, his sword, and the fact that he fails as Hamlet in the prestigious Shakespeare in Central Park. Absolutely a hoot!

'Pajama Game'

Book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell; Music & Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

Performances: Feb. 24, 25 & 26* and March 1, 2, 3 & 4* and March 8, 9, 10 & 11*

Auditions: Jan. 8 & 9

This lively, romantic musical comedy deals with labor troubles at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory. Songs include Steam Heat, Hernando's Hideaway, There Once Was a Man and many more!

'On Golden Pond'

Drama by Ernest Thompson

Performances: April 13, 14 & 15* and April 19, 20, 21 & 22*

Auditions: March 4 & 5

An American classic! This heartwarming story explores the often turbulent relationship of a young woman and her father and the difficulties faced by a couple in the twilight years of a long marriage.

'Crimes of the Heart'

Comedy/Drama by Beth Henley

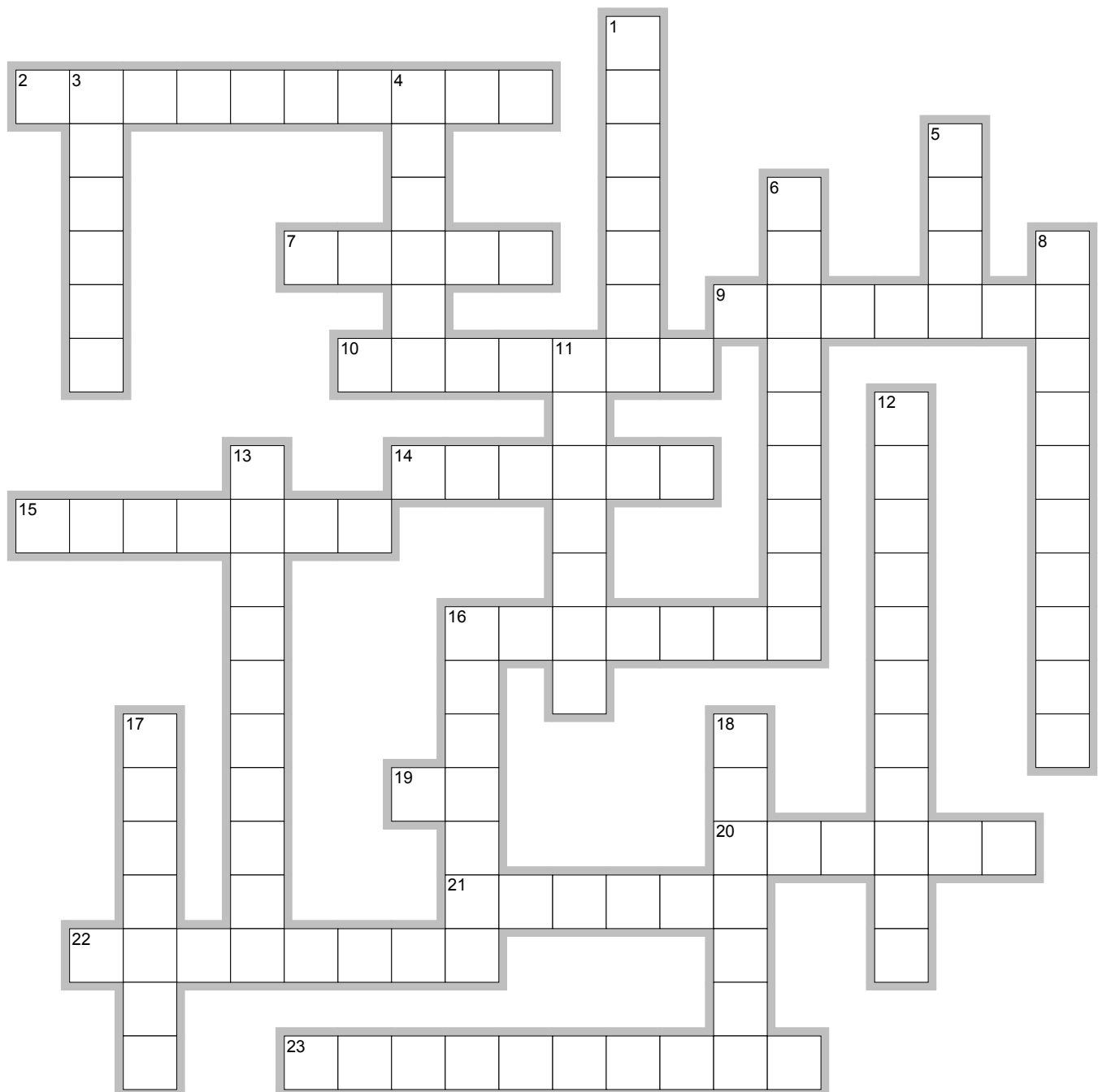
Performances: May 18, 19 & 20* and May 24, 25, 26 & 27*

Auditions: April 15 & 16

This warm-hearted play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three sisters in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. So true and touching and consistently hilarious this story will linger in the mind long after the curtain has descended.

Auditions: 7 P.M.; **Curtain Times:** 8:00 P.M. (Evenings), 2:00 P.M. (Matinees*)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE CROSSWORD



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

2. LT's website, .org
7. Hurried housekeeper
9. Roman playwright
10. Sunday performance
14. The late Mr. Nations
15. LT's Amanda Ryals in Forum
16. LT's president
19. LT's VP
20. Condomine's clairvoyant
21. Blithe Spirit author
22. Social network
23. LT for young thespians

Down

1. Cooper & Cronyn wrote it
3. Forum's director
4. The late Mrs. Condomine
5. Blithe Spirit setting
6. LT's president's request
8. LT volunteer coordinator (2wds)
11. Cooper's widow
12. Publication name
13. Light, comic theatrical style
16. Cook's role, Richard
17. Single, singing dad
18. Coward's Dr. or Mrs.

Let's Be Friends!
The Little Theatre is now on FACEBOOK at Little Theatre-NSB.

ABOUT 2010-2011 MEMBERS OF RECORD

What follows is a list of members in good standing for the 2010-11 Season as of the date of the printing of this newsletter. According to Little Theatre By-Laws, persons who were not members in good standing by the start of business at the January Membership Meeting are not eligible to vote in the election of new board members which will occur in our annual membership meeting in May. For questions about this listing, please contact our Membership Chair, Wynne Cook, either by calling the Box Office or by contacting her directly by e-mail at *WynneCook@BillCook.net*.

Here is our list of members:

Eric Abramowitz, Rebecca Abramowitz, Heidi Ackerson, Ida Anderson, Bob Armbrust, Karen Beiersdorf, Irm Belles, Georgia Benjamin, Noel Bickford, Justine Blanchette, Dan Blazi, Kendra Blazi, Gary Bolinsky, Sharon Borgerson, Charlotte Brewer, Agnes Briggs, Tina Brown, Donald Campbell, Anna Mae Cardone, Steve Choma, Carol Choma, Nancy Clementz, Carol Cole, Bill Cook, Wynne Cook, Kylie Coolbeth, Tylyn Coolbeth, Connie Cox, Terry Cox, Kathy Cridland, Pat Curry, Greg Curry, Mike Czczot, Simon Davies, Jennifer Davies, Irene DeDomenico, Susan DeMarco, Camille Dickinson, Rose Dingas, Kathy Doherty, Gary Earl, Patti Earl, John East, Joan Eldon, Deborah Fontaine, Peggy Foran, Mike Funaro, Robin Gill, Danielle Grau, Toni Griffin, Ken Guilbeault, Lois Reed Hagemaiier, Janie Hale, Priscilla Hall, John Hardebeck, Mary Jo Hardebeck, Robert Hart, Veronica Hart, Trudy Havu, Kenneth Hollenbeck, Peggy Hollenbeck, Dottie Hughes, Rose Iovino, Merlene Jacobs, Denise Jameson, David Jenkins, Karin Jenkins, Dee Jones, Alisha Joseph, Jeff Jowers, Pat Justin, Marjory Keenan, Dolores Kemp, Robert Kemp, Pete Ketterer, Estie Keyes, Margie Kluttz, Marguerite Kowalski, Helen Kramer, Donna Kyrzcz, Tom Kyrzcz, Ursula Lang, Laurie Lawrence, Marc Levy, Louise Lilly, Robert Lilly, Dr. Dale Lilyfors, Hal Linn, Nancy Linn, John M. Long, Ed Love, David Lowe, Leigh Anne Manter, Paul Manter, Sara Marsh, Jacqueline Mayberry, Nancy McCormick, Malissa McDonald, Linda McGrath, Jack McGrath, Patricia McVey, Arlene Mendenhall, Nancy Monaco, Jean Morano, Nancy Murphy, Patricia Pack, Ted Pack, Carol Paden, Nancy Palmer, Diane Parent, Jane Patterson, Carlton Peters, Rick Peterson, Angelina Petrozza, Will Pierce, Mark Plinska, Karen Poulsen, Keith Poulsen, Agnes Quinn, Patrick Quinn, Mary Rapp, Bill Roehrborn, Carolena Saccone, Rita Saglibene, Mary Salgado, Diane Santo, Sarah Savich, Beatrice Scalise, Lori Stamatis, Ruth Stammen, John Stenko, Norman Stockwell, Pauline Stockwell, Ron Stuckey, Susan Stuckey, Bernice Sturak, Melanie Swadner, Jim Taylor, Jane Taylor, Melinda Tedeschi, Christine Thompson, Larrie Tiffany, Diane Tomaski, Lois Troxell, Ober Tyus, Shelly Wawrzonek, Susi Wilde, Harriet Winokur, Ed Winokur, Bev Zaumeyer and Debbi Zill.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our patrons in the community and posterity, we take this opportunity to thank each and everyone on our list of active volunteer members for their hard work and dedication, which, many have said, many times, makes us one of the most successful community theatres in Central Florida.

'FOXFIRE'

2011 Show dates are April 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 & 17

A DRAMA BY SUSAN COOPER & HUME CRONYN

WITH MUSIC BY JONATHAN HOLTZMAN

Directed by Ted Pack

tickets are \$14 adults, \$13 seniors and \$7 students under 18 years of age

**For Ticket Information, please call the Little Theatre Box Office
386-423-1246 or visit online at www.NsbPlayers.org**



P.O. Box 114
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CURTAIN CALL NEWS STAFF: Harriet Winokur,
Wynne Cook, Dottie Hughes, Ted Pack, Bill Cook

When you see her, please congratulate
Heidi Ackerson on an outstanding job as
sole Editor of her first issue of *Curtain Call*.

Board of Directors

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Vice-President Shelly Wawrzonek
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At Large Karen Poulsen
At Large Ted Pack
At Large Bill Roehrborn

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