



STAGE WHISPERS

A newsletter for members and friends of Brunswick ACT

Coffeehouse Theatre To Serve Laughs

Yes, there will be coffee, tea, and lemonade, but the main attraction of the evening will be a hearty menu of laughs as ACT serves up three one-acts full of interesting characters in interesting places and situations. Audiences will hop from Russia to New Orleans to a mysterious city in... well, we'll let you be surprised about where you might end up!

Our Coffeehouse Theatre production of comedy one-acts includes three separate plays with works by two world-famous authors, Thornton Wilder and Anton Chekhov. The third play is... well, we can't say right now. It's a surprise. What we can say is that a talented cast of over 15 performers will present the three plays.

Among those cast in the one-acts are Heather Laproti, Tom Arnold, Tim Swancer, Ken Chambers, Oksana Shezchuk, Walter Hay, Stacey Nabors,

Marilyn Sobotincic, Syl Balash, Janet Welch, and Barb McGreer.

The Chekhov story, called *The Bear*, has been translated from the original Russian text by Zoya Wilson, who is also directing the show. Zoya, a Medina County resident who has taught classes in Russian literature at several area colleges, holds an undergraduate degree in theatre from her studies in Russia and a M.A. from the University of Akron.



The Bear introduces us to a charming widow who is being asked to repay a debt her dead husband owed to a friend. The explosive argument over money takes a hilarious turn as the widow and the Bear get to know each other better.

In Wilder's *The Queens of France*, we find ourselves in the French Quarter of New Orleans at the end of the 19th

century where we get a good look at humorous characters who are so steeped in French culture that it clouds their visions of reality. Brunswick ACT president Shawn Skeabeck will direct this little gem.

The third play? As we said - it's a surprise. It has to do with detectives, radio, and history, but you'll just have to come and see for yourself!

Coffeehouse Theatre runs for just one weekend only, Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18 on the Brunswick Rec Center stage. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets are available in advance by calling 330-558-0376 or by mail using the order form in this newsletter. Tickets will also be available at the door, but don't wait that long. These tickets will go fast!

Fund for Sound Equipment

Thanks to the generosity of a local resident and ACT supporter, we have started a special fund for purchasing needed sound equipment that we can use as we move from facility to facility for our productions. We will be making some special plans to build this

fund in the future, but meanwhile, any donations will be welcome. Just make out your check to Brunswick ACT and mail it to: Brunswick ACT, P.O. Box 600, Brunswick, OH 44212. Mark it to be used for the Sound Equipment Fund and we will add it as you request.

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Get Coffeehouse Theatre tickets today:

Ticket order form inside

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Three fun shows!

Chatterbox

Who's Doing What And Where?



Ken Chamers, Stayce Nabors, and Bob Kenderes appeared in a production of *J.B.* in North Royalton this past January 13, 14, 20, and 21. Sheldon Lawrence, who has been in several shows for ACT, (*Twelve Angry Jurors*, *You Can't Take It With You*) directed.

Hannah Laird and Alex Nixon, two former young actors for ACT, had their pictures in the Plain Dealer recently. Hannah Laird, who appeared as one of the children in our first production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in 1996, was shown in a photo of performers in Cain Park's 2005 summer production of *Songs for a New World*. (By the way, Hannah's brother, Jeff Laird, just appeared in our December production of *The Nerd*. Brother and sister were active in the Brunswick High School theatre program when they were in school.) Alex Nixon, who appeared in our Christmas one-acts in 2000, was shown in a photo as the eighth grade TV host of

a bi-weekly taping of the Brunswick Schools' cable sports show at Tony Roma's restaurant. Alex is an active member of the school district's video club.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Chandler on receiving her law degree. A very nice newspaper article last fall described how she studied for her degree while also working in a law office. Mary Ann was in our production of *God's Favorite*.

Art Fenton has been elected to a new job this year. He's serving a term on the Medina Show Biz Board of Directors as both board member and secretary. Art has been in many of our shows in the past few years.

Nancy Purcell, who works in the Brunswick Schools Board of Education Office, has been elected President of The Brunswick Optimist Club. Nancy served on our ACT Board a couple of years ago and helped with program and costumes on several shows.

HELP WANTED:

Backstage and Front-of-House

Rehearsals for ACT's *Coffeehouse Theatre* one-acts are well underway, but we still need volunteers to help with backstage duties and front-of-the-house committees - ushers, ticket sellers, etc.

The production will be performed at the Rec Center on Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18, and the week preceding that there will be rehearsals almost every night. That means

the house committee must work one or both performance nights, and the backstage crew will need to be available for the whole week. Check your calendar, and please volunteer if you can.

If you would like to try your hand at any of these jobs or for more information, just call our Producer, Nancy Spowls, at 330-725-6443.

President's Letter

We often ask ourselves, "What is Brunswick ACT going to present next?" Our board members always try to guide our group toward the goal of presenting a wonderfully diverse and entertaining array of performances.

To that end, ACT produces a host of theatrical events each season. We offer popular plays and ambitious full-stage musical productions, challenging audience participation shows like our popular *Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre* and historical-themed events such as our annual *Walk with Spirits of the Past*.

Most recently, director Bob Kenderes and his talented cast and crew presented a hilarious production of *The Nerd*. This well-attended show was a hit, and many folks commented on the comedy's outrageously funny slapstick moments that brought howls of laughter. Bravo to all who were involved in this terrific show!

So what is Brunswick ACT going to present next? We're eagerly looking forward to *Coffeehouse Theatre: An Evening of One-Acts*. This production presents three wry and funny comedies, including a challenging one-act by Anton Chekhov, a work by Thornton Wilder, and a third piece which promises to be a special theatrical surprise! *Coffeehouse Theatre* will be performed on the Brunswick Recreation Center stage for one weekend only March 17 and 18, and tickets will be available at the Rec Center front desk. Order your tickets soon. You won't want to miss this one.

And don't forget to visit our website at www.brunswickact.com for more information on upcoming shows and auditions.

Shawn Skeabeck
President, Brunswick ACT



From left to right are John Thobaben, Jeff Laird, Kevin Becker, and Dan Sekanic playing the "sock game" in *The Nerd*

Musical Performances Come to the Brunswick Rec Center

The Brunswick Rec Center has three great performances in February, March and April that are sure to be of interest to ACT folks. Here's what's coming up, according to Barb McGreer at the Rec Center.

Dave Parsons and Dan Polk in Concert
Classic Rock - Vocals and Guitar
Sunday, February 26, 3 p.m.

Free admission

Dan and Dave are BHS grads who were active in theatre and music when they were in high school. No strangers to the stage, the duo has performed together in area night clubs for almost 20 years.

Linda Madsen
Professional Flutist
Sunday, March 26, 3 p.m.

Free admission

Welcome spring with a musical program entitled "A Spring Bouquet of Music."

Tenny Shoe-Bop Bunny Band
Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m.

Free admission

This popular band is a favorite of children. (Part of the "Egstravaganza" and parade happening on the same day.)

Tickets for these free events are available in advance by calling 330-273-8000 or at the door on the day of the show.

Check Us Out on the Web...

Want to know more about what's happening at ACT?

Just go to our website at www.brunswickact.com for information on our current and upcoming productions, auditions, tickets, and membership opportunities.

You'll also find past editions of this newsletter, see who's on our board of trustees, and discover a complete list of our productions from 1987-present. You'll even learn about how ACT first got started. And if you want to send us your comments, you can do that, too. All you want to know about ACT is now at your fingertips. Check us out. It's as simple as typing www.brunswickact.com.



Reserve Tickets Today!

Coffeehouse Theatre

A Night of Comedy One-Acts

The Queens of France by Thornton Wilder,
The Bear by Anton Chekov,
 and a "surprise" detective show "spoof"

Presented by BRUNSWICK ACT
Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18
Curtain time: 8 p.m.
Brunswick Recreation Center Stage

Adults \$10, Seniors \$9

Call 330-558-0376 for more ticket information.

Make your check payable to:
 Brunswick Alumni Community Theatre

Mail to:

P.O. Box 600 Brunswick, OH 44212

Deadline for mail-in reservations: March 11

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|------|
| Name: | | |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: |
| Phone (very important): | | |

| Date: | Price | Qty. | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Adults | \$10 | | |
| Seniors | \$9 | | |
| Total amount enclosed | | | |

Help Support Brunswick ACT

Do you love the theatre, but find it hard to find the time to volunteer? Do you wish that you could find a worthwhile way to help Brunswick ACT? Consider becoming an ACT theatre supporter.

Even though our productions are underway, it's not too late for you to give a boost to our current season - a big part of which is yet to come. We would love to list you in all of our remaining eighteenth season programs as special theatre supporters.

Your contribution of just \$10 will give you the title of "Friend" in our programs, and a contribution of \$25 or more will list you as a "Patron." We'll even call you a "Producer" for a contribution of \$50 or more!

Just print your name on a piece of paper as you would like it to appear in our programs, make your check out to Brunswick Alumni Community Theatre, and mail both to:

Brunswick ACT
P.O. Box 600
Brunswick, OH 44212

You can feel satisfied knowing that your donation to Brunswick ACT is a wonderful way to support the arts right here in your own community.

Spring Auditions

Auditions for the Kander and Ebb musical revue *The World Goes 'Round* will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 25, at the Brunswick Recreation Center, 3637 Center Road.

Another session will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, February 27, at The First Christian Church at 3611 Center Road, Brunswick. We ask singers to come with a musical number prepared and the sheet music to be played by our accompanist.

Thanks to all who contributed to this ACT newsletter:

Nancy Sprowls
Shawn Skeabeck

Newsletter by
BANA Creative Services
330-721-7386

