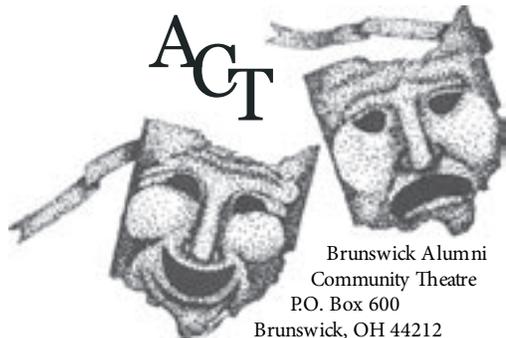


March/April 2007



# STAGE WHISPERS

A newsletter for members and friends of Brunswick ACT

## Expectations for "Don't Drink the Water"

### ...An evening of laughter

We all expect comedy when we hear that Woody Allen wrote something, and our audiences will get plenty of laughs when they see "Don't Drink the Water" in March. The show was first produced on Broadway in the mid-60s, and when we decided to look at the show, we wondered how the international political overtones would play to today's audiences.

After reading the script, we decided that it was possibly funnier than ever. The events of the last four decades give today's audiences a perspective on international relations that intensify Allen's biting wit - including the recent news stories suggesting the Russians may have poisoned one of their own agents.

Aside from that, a great deal of the comedy comes from the clash of individual personalities and family relationships that are timeless in their humor. The basic plot involves an American tourist



family seeking refuge in an American Embassy somewhere "behind the Iron Curtain." In charge of the Embassy, is Alex, the bumbling son of the Ambassador. The father has been



Skyview Lodge Dining Room

temporarily called away out of the country, and it is Alex who must deal with the tourists seeking asylum. The fleeing family includes a caterer from New Jersey, his wife, and their adult daughter.

### ...And delicious food

The Skyview staff will be serving a delicious buffet dinner which for the first weekend will include a tossed salad with assorted dressings, dinner rolls and butter, choices of roast beef or Chicken Cordon Bleu, French style green beans, vegetables, and potatoes.

Beverages included with the meal will be coffee, tea, or a house punch. Dessert will feature an assortment of pastries. A cash bar, open at 6 p.m., will be available for soft drinks, beer, wine, and mixed drinks throughout dinner. It will be open again at intermission.

The menu will vary for the second weekend with entrees of grilled chicken breast or kielbasi and kraut. The sooner you make reservations the better, as seating is limited to 80 guests for each show.

### ...The cast

**Sheldon Lawrence**, who has appeared in several ACT shows in the past few years, will be directing. **Shawn**

**Skeabeck** will assist, and **Gary Bewley** will be in charge of Tech.

Cast members are **Ross Fertel** as Father Drobney; **Shawn Skeabeck** as Ambassador Magee; **Brian Kucherak** as Kilroy; **Dan Sekanic** as Axel Magee; **Pam Matthews** as Marion Hollander; **David Holmes** as Walter Hollander; **Linda Sekanic** as Susan Hollander; **Russell Siegel** as Krojack; **Tim Swancer** as Burns; **Bassel Hage** as the Chef and **Ruth Wilson** as the Countess. The stage manager is **Cheryl Bowman**.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER *from Shawn Skeabeck*

The new year finds Brunswick ACT in our new location, the Skyview Lodge. Located at 336 Pearl Road in the northerly part of town, Skyview Lodge can accommodate an audience of 80 to over 200, depending on the type of production or event. The Lodge has constructed a stage and lighting system perfect for community theatre. Our holiday show, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," was a great success. **Gary Bewley** installed lighting just for the theatre, and **Linda Hudson** runs a top-quality catering kitchen there. This makes Skyview not only a great place to host your next event, but it is also the perfect setting for a dinner show.

That's why Brunswick ACT's next event will be an evening of dinner theatre. We've planned Woody Allen's hilarious comedy, "Don't Drink the Water," for the final two weekends in March. The show has laughs, intrigue, and young lovers, and the evening ticket price includes dinner. Visit the website at [www.brunswickact.org](http://www.brunswickact.org) for information on ordering tickets online, or use the ticket order form in this newsletter.

Dinner shows are just one more way we're expanding to provide fun and entertaining arts events right here in Brunswick. From children's theatre, to plays and re-enactments based on local history, to full-stage musicals and now dinner theatre, Brunswick ACT is YOUR local community theatre.

Yes, it is cold this time of year, and the weather can make driving a chore. But you can stay right here in town, where we are presenting a variety of events with you and for you. This is our first dinner theatre event, and it is one of our most ambitious productions. The play is full of terrific comic moments. Come and laugh with us; you'll enjoy this show.

Finally, Brunswick ACT is community theatre - we can't be successful without you. Become a supporter of the arts by joining us as a patron sponsor, and be sure to invite your friends to come to the shows with you. Whichever side of the footlights you're on, you help make community theatre through your patronage and support. Thank you, and we'll see you at the show!

## Pageant Wrap-up

Our last newsletter went to press too soon to include a cast list for our December production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," so here is the scoop on the large cast that was directed by **Stayce Nabors**. Heading the cast as the Bradley family was **Becky Lowe** as the mother, **Ken Chamers** as the father, **Samantha Reichle** as Beth, and **Sean McClain** as Charlie. **Linda Ingram** was Mrs. Armstrong.

Also in the cast were **MacKenzie Grenfell**, **Dan Sweet**, **Jen Sedlak**, **Aaron Switalski**, **Jacob Harris**, **Jacob Lowe**, **Kaitlyn Harris**, **Jack Reichle**, **Denise Elshaw**, **Lu Ann Sweet**, and **Debbie Reichle**. Supporting players were **Emily Gaffga**, **Kristen Sedlak**, **Morgan Steitz**, **Allison Tuvdik**, **Shawna Wolf**, **Tyler-Lynne Gittinger**, **Emily Fagan**, **Bethany Wolf**, **Julia Morales**, **Keri-leigh Russell**, **Mary Jo Talley**, and **Elizabeth Turk**.

Handling technical and staff duties were **Gary Bewley**, **Jordan Bewley**, **Shawn Skeabeck**, **Denise Daugherty**, **Barbara McGreer**, **Nancy Sprowls**, and **Kevin Schact**.

## Auditions for "The Secret Garden" scheduled for April

Our show scheduled for this coming summer, "The Secret Garden," is a treasure for both children and adults in the cast as well as the audience. It is slated for July 13, 14, 20, and 21 and will be presented on the Performing Arts Center Mainstage at Brunswick High. The Tony Award winning show was described by one critic as "Elegant...the best American musical of the Broadway season." Another critic has said, "It's all you can hope for in children's theatre. But the best surprise is that this show is the most adult new musical of the season."

The show is based on the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Book and lyrics are by Pulitzer Prize winning

playwright Marsha Norman, and the music is by Lucy Simon. Other critics have said "...some of the most beautiful music written for Broadway," "achieves the irresistible appeal that moves audiences to standing ovations," and a "compelling tale of regeneration."

The story revolves around an eleven year old girl who is orphaned in India. She is sent back to England to be raised by an uncle she has never met. The uncle is the father of an invalid son. The setting is an estate in Yorkshire with a huge house on a hill and a mysterious walled garden.

The story has a wide range of fascinating characters, drawn

from both the English setting and flashbacks to the child's life in India. All actors and singers will find great opportunities to play wonderful roles and will want to watch for auditions in April. Check your local newspapers and our website ([www.brunswickact.org](http://www.brunswickact.org)) regularly. Needed are 12 men, 10 women, and several children.

**Nancy Sprowls** will direct the show, **Paula Donoian** will be Vocal Director, **Eric Berken** will be Orchestra Director, **Donna Kronander** will be Accompanist, and **Shawn Skeabeck** will be Tech Director. If you want more information about the show, call 330-725-6443.

# Chatterbox



## Who's Doing What And Where?

The Medina County Arts Council's "Spotlight Showcase" last November featured several Brunswick performers and crew members who are familiar to local audiences. Singers included **Ali Malone**, who appeared in our production of "A Grand Night for Singing", and **Conrad and Karen Hornung** with their German Band. **Dan Polk** also sang a solo, then joined in to sing another number with the German Band.

**Bob Clarke**, who has been in orchestras for many of our musicals and appeared as Thomas Jefferson in "1776" played classical and flamenco guitar numbers.

Running lights and helping with other tech duties was **Shawn Skeabeck**. **Roger Smalley**, former Brunswick teacher and Arts Council 2005-07

President, also helped with tech duties. **Amy Winnicki**, who used to work at the Brunswick Rec Center, was House Manager.

### On stage elsewhere...

Many of Brunswick's talented performers are currently busy all over Northeast Ohio. **Ken Chamers**, ACT's treasurer is appearing in Broadview Height in a new play called "Messiah on the Fridgidaire." It will run Fridays and Saturdays, March 9 through 31.

**Bob Kenderes** has been working on "Fools" in North Royalton which opens this month. **Allen White** has just directed "Camelot" in North Ridgeville, **Candace Lipton** is in another show at Clague, and **Pat**

**Ciamaco** is in "Cabaret" at Cassidy Theatre in Middleburg Heights.

Later this month, **Joe Kenderes**, **Pat Ciamaco** and **Joe Ciamaco** are taking their improv group, "Laughter League," into downtown Cleveland for performances on March 23 and 24.

Thanks to all who contributed to this ACT newsletter:

Nancy Sprowls  
Shawn Skeabeck  
Bob Kenderes

BANA Creative Services  
330-721-7386



## ACT Dinner Theatre!

### "Don't Drink the Water"

by Woody Allen

#### Buffet Style Dinner and Show \$28. Cash Bar.

Friday and Saturday, March 23, 24 and 30, 31

6:00 P.M. Doors Open - Cash Bar

6:30 P.M. Buffet Dinner Served

8:00 P.M. Curtain Time for Show

#### Reservations Required.

#### Skyview Lodge

336 Pearl Road, Brunswick, OH 44212

Call 330-725-6443 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 16

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

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

| Date:                 | Price | Qty. | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Tickets               | \$28  |      |        |
|                       |       |      |        |
| Total amount enclosed |       |      |        |



## A Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

The cast is shown in rehearsal for last December's production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". See complete cast list in this newsletter.

### ***In This Issue:***

#### *A Delicious Article:*

Brunswick ACT's latest  
Dinner Theatre offering

#### *President's Letter:*

A message from our  
esteemed president

#### *Audition Update:*

Audition information for  
our upcoming summer  
show, "The Secret Garden"

#### *Past Successes:*

A look back at our hugely  
successful winter show,  
"A Christmas Pageant"

#### *Chatterbox:*

A listing of who is doing  
what and where

#### *"Don't Drink the Water":*

Ticket order form inside!

