



THE CALLBOY ▪ NEWSLETTER FOR READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS ▪ April 2011 ISSUE

"Doubt" is certain to make you think

By Cheryl Thornburg

Perhaps Kirk Lawrence has missed his calling. As Father Brendan Flynn in the Reading Community Players' production of "Doubt," his sermons are both convincing and entertaining. His performance as the priest who has come under suspicion of an inappropriate relationship with a young boy in a 1960s Catholic school is multilayered and will keep audiences guessing – which is what this play is all about. Did he or didn't he? The subject matter could be ripped from today's headlines, though it is set more than 50 years ago.

Director Robert Bruce McLean has assembled a talented cast that brings this thought-provoking Pulitzer and Tony award-winning play to the Reading theater scene for the first time.

Lawrence's charming Father Flynn is offset by the not-so-likable school principal, Sister Aloysius, capably played by Susan Sneeringer. Her strict, no-nonsense interpretation evokes memories of stern nuns for former parochial school students, but she also evokes laughter at times, a surprising element to a play about such serious subject matter. Her demeanor may be harsh, but Sneeringer also lets us know that her intentions are good. She is truly concerned about the young boy in question.

Julia Parsons provides perfect contrast as the naïve, soft-hearted Sister James, the boy's teacher. Her confusion about who and what to believe as she is drawn into the controversy mirrors that of the audience.

Just when you think you've got things figured out, along comes Andrea Griffith as Mrs. Muller, the boy's mother. Griffith gives this complicated character believability, even if her actions don't make sense to you. Her performance adds another dimension to the story and more possibilities.

It is just that complexity of characters that makes John Patrick Shanley's play so compelling. There are many shades of gray in its telling and you may come away still trying to sort it out – and that's just what director McLean and the playwright want. The uncertainty, the discussion following the play is what Shanley himself referred to as the "second act."

And that "second act" was in full force Sunday afternoon as people left the building. And that's the hallmark of good theater – it makes you think, it stays with you even after the final curtain.

Cheryl Thornburg, writing for the Pottstown Mercury, posted this review of Doubt.

If you didn't attend this show, you missed an outstanding production as well as the opportunity to support YOUR local theatre. Many thanks to Bruce Mclean, Pat Perfect, Sue Sneeringer, Julia Parsons, Kirk Lawrence and Andrea Griffith for a magnificent show.

DUTCH BLUE POSTPONED

Unfortunately, RCP has had to postpone Dutch Blue. We had hoped to celebrate the contributions to our theatre by Life Member, Roma Greth with this production. However, since the turnout for auditions was disappointing, we decided to cancel the show for this season. We have every intention of staging Dutch Blue in the near future.

Since the theatre will be dark during the Dutch Blue time slot, we hope to have several work days scheduled to bring the rest of the space up to the standard set by the "new look" lobbies. As always, we will give you information about the dates/times for those days, hoping that you will come out to help continue the theatre's facelift!

AUDITIONS

Debbi Silas and Marissa Hoover, directors of **A Little Princess**, have announced auditions for the show on Saturday, April 16 beginning at Noon. Additional information follows:

A Little Princess is a play set in Victorian England. It centers on a young girl attending a girl's finishing school while her father is away in the war. When he is presumed dead, the head mistress forces her into becoming an ordinary servant girl.

NEEDED: 5 Men, 5 Women, 8 Girls (age 8 to 18), 1 Boy (age 8 to 12)

Auditions will be readings from the script. No prior preparation necessary. Upper class English and cockney accents are encouraged, but not necessary. Show dates June 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Cast members need to become members of the organization.

What little girl, or mature woman for that matter, wouldn't want to be a princess? Here's your opportunity, take advantage !!!

Our summer show, **FAME**, directed by Hope O'Pake, marks the 10th anniversary of the same show directed by Ed and Carol Butler in 2001. Hope is looking for the same mix of teens and adults from across Berks County. Audition dates are tentatively scheduled for May 14 and 15. You'll hear full details in next month's Callboy. Help spread the word that **FAME** is coming to RCP!

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Pennsylvania's Third Oldest Community Theater ... Founded in 1920



APPLEBEE'S FUNDRAISER

Imagine, you can enjoy all the pancakes and sausage you can eat AND support RCP. For just \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children you can do just that on Saturday morning, **APRIL 9**, from 8-10 am!! Your breakfast awaits at the Fairgrounds Mall Applebee's. Join us!!!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012

Although we've barely begun this season, it's time to begin thinking about our 92nd! Our production manager, Pat Perfect, chairs the play reading committee. She's looking for members for that committee as well as suggestions for shows for next year. You may contact Pat at plplove@comcast.net. How awesome that YOU can help to chart RCP's course in 2012 season!

APRIL FOLLIES

Get your tickets to APRIL FOLLIES, the benefit drag show for the SPECTRUM GLBTQ Youth Group ... which happens **THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 1**.

As of this writing, over 100 tickets have been sold, so don't miss out!

Ticket can be still be ordered online through our website at www.readingcommunityplayers.com

\$10 Adults

\$5 Students

Friday, April 1, 2011 at 8pm Tickets - General Admission: \$10 - Students: \$5

Kincade Productions and The Rainbow Review Present:

APRIL FOLLIES

A Benefit Drag Show For The SPECTRUM GLBTQ Youth Group

AMIE VANITÉ KINCADE

JOEY JOSEPHS

NIOOLE DUSHEY

PRECIOUS CALIENTE

FAUXIE DE-GLAMOURE

WITH PERFORMANCES BY: THE KIDS OF THE SPECTRUM

HOSTED BY: *Sylvia*

Reading Community Players - 403 North 11th Street, Reading, PA

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS 2011 SEASON

HATS

Directed by Ruth Martelli
February 19 & 20

DOUBT

Directed by Bruce McLean
March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

A LITTLE PRINCESS

Directed by Debbi Silas
June 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

FAME

Directed by Hope O'Pake
July 29, 30, 31, August 5, 6, 7

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Directed by Bruce McLean
September 23, 24, 25, 30, October 1, 2

HOUSE OF YES

Directed by Ray Rhoads
November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

www.rcptheatre.org



Reading Community Players
403 North 11th Street
P.O. Box 13425
Reading, PA 19612