

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS

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



THE CALLBOY • NEWSLETTER FOR READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS • August/September 2011 ISSUE

September Dates to Remember:

September 2: Meet Pat Perfect at the Bandshell in City Park for theatre activities Friday evening

September 7: Auditions for *The House of Yes*

September 13: General Membership meeting in the theatre at 7:30PM

September 23: *To Kill A Mockingbird* opens

FAME is a certified hit! It's been a very long time since any show at RCP attracted audiences of a hundred or more for each performance, but that's exactly what this show did! How wonderful to have the theatre rocking with awesome performances and the energy that young people bring. Here's Cheryl Thornberg's review from the Pottstown Mercury: Thanks, Cheryl for reviewing all local theatre productions.

Young actors have a claim to 'Fame'

By Cheryl Thornburg • <http://curtaincallpottsmmerc.blogspot.com/>

The plot of Reading Community Players' current production "Fame" is fairly simple -- dozens of talented young people attend a prestigious performing arts high school in New York to hone their skills and head on the path to stardom. And this show does the same thing on a smaller scale -- it gives young area performers the chance to develop their skills and showcase their talent. And some of them are already on the path to stardom. They not only have talent, they have spark that makes them shine a little brighter on stage. Among them are Bronson Taylor as Ralph Garcy, a young man who plays fast with the truth and has a fascination with the late Freddie Prinze. Taylor delivers a Ralph with lots of swagger and a touch of insecurity underneath. He seems at home on stage -- and he belongs there.

Showing off some fine dancing skills and a flair for comedy is Michael Roman as Angel, who originally came to auditions to help a friend and ended up winning a slot at the school. Also impressive is Amanda Gray as CoCo, who delivers two of the most memorable songs from the show, "I Want to Live Forever" and "Out Here on My Own."

James Barksdale, who may be familiar to area theater-goers, turns in a solid performance as Leroy, a talented, but belligerent young dancer who battles with Mrs. Sherwood, an English teacher who tries to help him. Hope O'Pake, who is also one of the directors of the show, is intense and believable as the teacher and the two share a tender scene in the second act. Elizabeth Pienta evokes sympathy as the talented, but timid, Doris, who is overpowered by her overbearing stage mother, Mrs. Schwartz, played with comedic flair by Laura Stewart.

Alex Potcovaru turns in a fine performance as the sensitive Monty MacNeil, who has lots of "issues." Owen Halsey, one of the younger performers (He will be in 9th grade at Exeter High School this fall) shows that he is a fine musician and singer as well as an actor. He plays Bruno, the young composer who keeps his music to himself, at first.

Integrated throughout the show are some familiar tunes sung by a fine barbershop quartet -- Nick

Moore, Zach Weisman, Dan Lesko, and Colin Long. The ensemble format gives ample opportunities for cast members to show what they do best, sing, dance, act, or even tell jokes.

Other performances of note are Katie Spencer as Joy, whose powerful vocals steal the show and Allison Gieringer as Deirdre who conjures up a delightfully silly, fun-to-watch character. The grown-ups in this show who play teachers and parents, manage to hold their own amidst this talented group of up-and-coming performers. Chuck Austin gives a first-rate and funny performance as Mr. Farrell, the drama teacher; Greg Mazurek, who also served as music director for the show, plays Angelo, Bruno's father; Ruth Martelli seems very comfortable as the music teacher, Mrs. Shorofsky, as does Marjory Ewald as Miss Berg the dance instructor.

Other members of this outstanding cast include Karl Kemmerer, Alex Forsyth, Mikee Echavarria, Alex Torres, Logan Hatt, Summer Rose Biros, Billy Bailey, Jess Feldman, Shannen Moser, Kelly Fries, Amy Swartz, Danielle Moore, Ali Clark, Daphnee McMaster, Erika Guthier, Sydne Lyons, Jen Heydt, Cece Peery, Krista Grevas and Briana Hafer.

In addition to and O'Pake and Mazurek, Amanda Leam, choreography, and Josh Austin, assistant director, helped make this production possible. Although the show is very upbeat and inspiring, some of the material may not be suitable for young audiences due to language and sensitive subject matter.

If you're looking for something to restore your hope for the future, "Fame" may just be the ticket. As the show's closing anthem says, "We can make a difference, It's not too late; Bring on tomorrow, we can't wait." There's nothing like the enthusiasm of the next generation to lift the spirits of those of us who may have become somewhat jaded.

• **Cast Of *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* Announced** •

Director Bruce McLean has announced his cast for the upcoming Reading Community Players production of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Jean Louise Finch.....	Beth Farmer
Scout.....	Kathleen Majesky
Jem.....	Luke Ott
Atticus.....	William Santoro
Calpurnia.....	Joan Reppert
Maude Atkinson.....	Ruth Martelli
Stephanie Crawford.....	Diane Stewart
Mrs. Dubose.....	Peggy Orner
Dill.....	Pete Clauser
Heck Tate.....	Randy Miller
Judge Taylor.....	Earl Boehmer
Reverend Sykes.....	John Foster
Mayella Ewell.....	Julia Minatto
Bob Ewell.....	Kevin Wade
Walter Cunningham.....	Bob Barskey
Mr. Gilmer.....	Brian Miller
Tom Robinson.....	James Barksdale
Helen Robinson.....	Andrea Griffith
Nathan & Boo Radley.....	TBA

• **Audition Dates for *THE HOUSE OF YES* Announced** •

Auditions for *THE HOUSE OF YES*, directed by Ray Rhoads, will take place on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:30PM at Reading Community Players. Possible callbacks or extra audition date on Thursday, September 8 (location TBA).

Cast Listing

“Jackie O” Pascal – mid 20’s -early 30’s
Marty Pascal – (her twin brother) – mid 20’s – early 30’s
Anthony Pascal – (their younger brother) – mid to late 20’s
Mrs. Pascal – (their mother) – Late 40’s to early 60’s
Lesly (Marty’s girlfriend) – mid 20’s – early 30’s

The show runs November 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, 20 (run time approx 80 minutes). Rehearsals will begin on September 9th – 13th, and then you will have periodic e-mail and phone discussion with the director. We resume rehearsals to stage the show again November 1st -10th. Off-book on November 1st.

For more information: http://wendymacleod.com/plays/house_of_yes.shtml

• **Donations, Please!** •

Like all non-profits, Reading Community Players relies on the kindness of strangers (okay, friends!) to help us fulfill some of our needs. So, here are some items from our wish list for your consideration:

- A laptop computer
- Gift cards to Lowes
- ~~Dehumidifiers for the basement~~ Thanks to **Dr. Bill Santoro** for his donation of another dehumidifier!
- Gift cards for 1-800-Got-Junk
- Paper supplies for the bathrooms

Any and all donations of time, talent, and materials are greatly appreciated! Thanks for your continued support of RCP!

• **A Note From Jerre** •

To the Board and Members of RCP,

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation to RCP in celebration of my 90th birthday (July 15, 1921). That was really neat! I'll let you know when I hit 100.....OK?!!! Break a leg everybody!

-Jerre Boyer Richards

Thanks to you, Jerre, for your thoughtfulness and devotion to RCP. We'll keep everyone informed about how those Richards donations are spent!

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

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Directed by Bruce McLean
April 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

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

DUTCH BLUE

Directed by TBA
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



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