



# CALLS & CUES

Waterville Playshop, PO Box 75, Waterville OH 43566

November 2016

## A MOMENT WITH MATT

Matt Zwyer, Chair

The “Start of Something New,” or do we “Stick to the Status Quo?” Not only are these two songs in our upcoming show, *Disney’s High School Musical*; they are also the exact questions asked by Playshoppers as we begin our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary season! The board has been wrestling with this juncture of ideals, and what we’ve decided is to do both! What does that mean? It means that we are trying to forge ahead into the exciting 21<sup>st</sup> century while also maintaining the family values of our theatrical past.

For example, ever since Fox aired the musical special *Grease! Live* this past January, several of our audience members have been asking to see something like that on stage. While the Playshop Board of Trustees loves that show, we also want to promote Waterville’s mission of being a proponent of theatrical education and entertainment appropriate for the entire family. *High School Musical* is a Disney, family-friendly, 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of that high school story, and Disney just recently announced a fourth installment of its popular movie franchise. Hopefully Waterville Playshop will be on the leading edge of that Disney hype, especially since we plan to do many more Disney shows possibly even yet this season and in the years to come! It is indeed a season of anniversaries, with Waterville Playshop celebrating 65 years as a community theatre and Disney celebrating 10 years of *High School Musical*! How could that not be a winning combination?

Hopefully our reaffirmed and newly established traditions continue to blossom beyond *High School Musical*, to *Fiddler on the Roof* and in other shows to come! And we would love to hear from you; how would you like to be a part of this start to something new? And just as importantly, what should remain as status quo? Send me a note, and I will be thrilled to share your input. After all, to quote another song from our upcoming show, in the world of community theatre, we’re all in this together!

## DIRECTORS NOTE: A WILDCAT CHEER FOR PLAYSHOP

Matt Zwyer, HSM Director

Waterville Playshop will present *Disney’s High School Musical On Stage* November 18 & 19, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. and November 19 & 20, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at the Maumee Indoor Theatre. And not only can you see the show, but you can be part of it! Come 1 hour before show time to learn choreography of our last song, and then join in the final dance number. Tickets for the show are available at our website, [watervilleplayshop.org](http://watervilleplayshop.org), through cast members, and at the door. Ticket prices are \$12, \$15, and \$17.

*Disney’s High School Musical On Stage* is based on Disney Channel’s smash hit movie musical written by Peter Barsocchini. With new book by David Simpatico, musical arrangement and production by Bryan Louiselle, and musical composition by a crew of Disney composers, the movie comes to life before your very eyes! Troy, Gabriella, and the students of East High must deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities.

*Disney’s High School Musical* is fun for the whole family—and in this case, the entire greater-Toledo area! With a cast of nearly 50, almost every corner of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan is represented. Furthermore, the cast and directing staff represent over a dozen schools and colleges all over the area, including Anthony Wayne, Bedford, Four County Career Center, Maumee, Otsego, Springfield, St. John’s, Swanton, Sylvania Northview and Southview, Toledo Public, Toledo School for the Arts, Bowling Green State University, and the University of Toledo. Within this cast is so much talent that there is also an understudy cast who will perform the Saturday matinee. For many of the students who desire to study acting professionally, this is an early opportunity to learn and practice the craft in a way not many community theatres are able to offer.

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As director, I am very proud of everyone involved in the production. This has already been a fun and interesting process, from our set design to our publicity, with everything else in between! The production staff has reinvented the wheel this time around with choreography; check out how in the special article on the show's choreographer. We are also taking a special personal interest in this show, as the cast itself is helping to design the school set and is immediately establishing character with their own costumes. Thanks to the production team, we will have a two-story set on which to perform; how exciting! And craziest of all, we have a HUGE publicity campaign for this show. Between the Roche de Boeuf parade, Facebook promotion, radio interviews, and television appearances, the cast is well representing Playshop—not only on stage, but also throughout the media. Check out Denny Shaffer's show on Q105.5 Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and WTOL's Saturday morning show on November 12<sup>th</sup> to root on your fellow Playshop participants (with some possible other appearances to be announced). Oh! And come see one heck of a show the weekend of November 18<sup>th</sup>! See you there; after all, we're all in this together.

## OCTA Report

by Joe Barton, OCTA Rep

This past September, I attended Wild, Wild OCTA, the Annual OCTA State Conference. As you can guess, the theme was the Wild, Wild West. Conference Chair Michelle Dolciate (NE Region) did a wonderful job of bringing together 16 excerpts from across the state along with a plethora of first class workshops

to make this a conference to be remembered. Many Waterville Playshoppers were in attendance because of their involvement in other shows.

At Conference, multiple awards were given to various individuals and groups for participation and performances during excerpts, but also for technical theatre, web sites, newsletters, set design, costume design and many other categories. Of note, Northwest Ohio gained another Hall of Fame recipient- Willard Misfeldt from Bowling Green's Black Swamp Players was inducted into OCTA's Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to community theatre in the Northwest Ohio area as well as his stewardship of multiple students in his role as Professor at BGSU. Willard was both touched and surprised at his induction and accepted his award through tears. He joins Playshop's Sam Macera and Waterville Playshop itself as members of this illustrious group.

From the Northwest Region, 3B Productions, Black Swamp Players and Lima Encore Theatre all had excerpts to represent the NW Region. In addition, 3B Productions won the travel award for having the most participants in attendance at Conference from the furthest distance. Waterville Playshop won this award several years ago for *Ragtime* at the SW Conference When Pigs Fly held in Cincinnati.

In other news, Playshop Lifetime Member Jesse Bernal was elected President of OCTA and Playshop Lifetime Member Joe Barton was once again elected to the Board of Directors. Joe will serve as OCTAFest Chair this coming year. Michelle Johnson, who has participated in Waterville Playshop productions, was elected to Vice President of MMPR (Media, Marketing and Public Relations). Other NW Ohioans elected to the Board include Rose Perry (Toledo Rep) who will serve as OCTA, Jr, Chair. Jerry Zimmerman and Scott Berry-Antesky will continue as State Board Members with Scott serving as

Vice President of the Finance Division (soon to be re-named Fundraising Division). Northwest Regional Reps will be Playshop Member Inge Kloppe, as well as Lifetime Member Sara Ledzianowski and Playshop participant Matt Richardson along with Denver Henderson, Crystal Bowers, Mitch Antesky and Linda McClure. In other words, Northwest Ohio is WELL REPRESENTED!!

Oct. 21-23, OCTA had its annual Board Retreat in Columbus, OH. Led by President Jesse Bernal, the Board enjoyed a weekend of networking and making OCTA better than ever. A lot of changes are being made and one of the biggest will be OCTA, Jr. Because of the immense popularity of OCTA, Jr., it was decided that OCTA, Jr. should have its own mini conference. This coming August, OCTA, Jr will be officially called OCTA, Jr. State Festival. This will be held at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, OH. the first weekend of August. Because of the amount of entries from last year, with the hopes of an eventual increase in numbers this year, OCTA, Jr. will begin on Friday evening and conclude on Sunday morning with Workshops, Excerpts and other events for the youth to participate in over the weekend. OCTA is putting an emphasis on our youth—the FUTURE of community theatre.

The Northwest Region will be having a meeting on November 12, at Fort Jennings, Oh, at The Fort Restaurant to discuss our exciting upcoming year in community theatre!! Items to discuss will be OCTA State Festival, OCTA Jr changes, future of NW Region, using Owens as our "home" theatre, etc....lots to discuss as we get ready for the MAGIC of Community Theatre.

PS....next year's conference theme will be "The Magic Show" at Crowne Plaza North in Columbus, OH. More details as we receive them from the Conference Committee! Start getting ready now....we have "magic to do, just for you!"



**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

by Sam Macera

[I've been asked to provide articles on the history of Waterville Playshop. This first article deals with the founding of our organization]

Let's start from the very beginning, a very good place to start.

Postulant Maria Rainer to the seven Von Trapp children in *The Sound of Music*.

This season, Waterville Playshop will be celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup>, a record of longevity exceeded only by the Toledo Rep. Over the years, many generations have contributed endless time, energy, talent and provided Playshop with a solid core of determined members each time. Each generation provided its own spark to keep the organization viable.

How did it all start? What was the spark that propelled the organization on the long road to success?

Two words: Marian Thornberry and a picnic.

Marian Thornberry was a very talented Waterville woman who had organized a group of interested and talented people to present one act plays for the Mothers Club and other civic organizations. She herself was an accomplished actress and very active in area community theatres. She believed there was enough talent in Waterville to create a successful theatrical organization.



**Marian Thornberry**

At a picnic held in the yard of the Thornberry home, the subject of organizing a community theatre was raised. At the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Heymans, Mr. and Mrs. John Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Shepard Kinsman, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Richards. They decided to contact other interested Watervillians and hold a meeting.

In August 1952, 36 interested people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Robertson and enthusiastically agreed to organize an amateur theatre group. What to call ourselves?

From many suggestions, Waterville Playshop, proposed by John Saunders, was accepted by acclamation.



**Scene from our first production, *George and Margaret*. Actors not identified.**

For the first season, three plays were selected: *George and Margaret*, *Double Door* and *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. To provide a financial base, all the members agreed to buy three advance tickets at 75¢ each. Marian Thornberry would direct the first production.

Rehearsals were held at the Waterville Fire Hall and since the only building with the semblance of a stage was at the Waterville Elementary School on River Road, arrangements were made for its use. Our first show, *George and Margaret*, was presented there

Waterville Elementary School was not necessarily ideal. The stage was very small and there were no seats. Chairs had to be brought in, set up

and after the show taken down and returned. The shows, of necessity, were all one-set designs. But it was gladly done.

In November, the rather loosely organized Playshop elected Marian Thornberry Chair with Les Crowl as business manager. These were the only two officers elected.

In the meantime, Anthony Wayne High School was being built and the hope of the organization was that it would be completed in time for our second show, scheduled for February 27 and 28, 1953 but delayed until March 6 and 7. Unfortunately, the school was not completed and our second production, *Double Door*, was also presented at Waterville Elementary School.

The final production of that first season was *The Happiest Days of Your Life* and it was presented in the new Anthony Wayne High School auditorium for one performance, June 13, 1953.

Thereafter for 53 years, the Anthony Wayne High School auditorium, with its hard wooden seats but actor friendly venue (no mics needed), became "home" for the Waterville Playshop.

Buoyed by the success of the first season, the Playshoppers enthusiastically made plans for another season, never thinking or dreaming that several generations and 65 seasons later, others would repeat the process with the same commitment and enthusiasm as the founders.

## Waterville Playshop Is New Venture

ACTORS ARE NEEDED  
FOR THEATRICAL  
GROUP

## HIGHSCHOOL CHOREOGRAPHY: A HOMECOMING

By Matt Zwyer

Another special component to this particular production is the choreography developed by St. Francis and Ohio Northern alumnus, Mark W. Blowers. Mark is a professional actor, dancer, singer, voice over artist, and choreographer residing in New York City, slated to be the choreographer of an upcoming off-Broadway show about Marilyn Monroe. As an actor, Mark has performed across the United States and Europe, through New Zealand, Singapore, and China. And as a dancer, he has choreographed for Canton Comic Opera, Write Act Repertory, and the Helen Hayes Youth Theatre, among others—including Otsego Schools.

Yes, three years after student teaching with Janine Baughman at Otsego, Mark has graciously agreed to return home between his most recent professional stints in Texas and New Jersey. And “home” is a true term in many ways; while Toledo is his hometown, Playshop is also a home theatre, of sorts. Fifteen years ago, Mark graced Playshop’s stage playing the role of John for Jane Williams’ production of *Peter Pan*. And now he is tackling *High School Musical*, a show with almost 64 dance numbers of various styles; but with Mark’s help, the cast will certainly “Bop to the Top!”

In this show, mostly due to Mark’s schedule, the staff has completely inverted the rehearsal process by beginning with the dancing after a brief musical introduction.



This way, the cast learned the music in the location and manner in which they will actually be performing, instead of having to re-learn music after a break to dance and block. In mid-September, Mark led a weeklong camp of choreography intensive rehearsals; after that week, the cast had already learned seven numbers! Furthermore, through the magic of 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology like video chat and recordings, the cast has continued to receive both face-to-face and digital choreography direct from New York City.

Additionally, having worked with the original director of the stage version of *High School Musical*, Mark has left our actors in this show with a few hints and tips from the professional touring production. The cast is certainly getting an education this show, and we hope you enjoy the dancing as much as we have! And we also hope that Mark will continue to come home once and a while to share his theatrical talents with Playshop and Northwest Ohio.

Welcome Home Mark W. Blowers!!

## BOARD POSITION INFO

In May a few board positions will be open. Those include Season Selection, Publicity, Ticket and Vice-Chair. Have you always wanted to get involved but never have?? It might be your time!! Maybe you have always wanted to build and create sets — you are needed in Production!! We are looking for someone to take over for our 2017-2018 season. Want to see what its all about?? Email Tammy Fitch at [dfitch@bex.net](mailto:dfitch@bex.net) to help this season! Contact any board member for info on other positions!

## MORE HIGHSCHOOL MUSICAL: DO YOU WANT TO BE A WILDCAT??

Here is your chance to be a part of the High School Musical Cast!! Not only can you come and see the show, but you can be a part of it! Come 1 hour before show time to learn choreography for our last song, and then join in the final dance number of the show! It’s your chance to be a Wildcat!!

Remember - Tickets for the show are available at [waterville-playshop.org](http://waterville-playshop.org), through cast members, and at the door. Ticket prices are \$12, \$15, and \$17.



## OCTA CALL BOARD

- 10/21-11/05 Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
- 12/02-12/04 The Farnsdale Avenue Christmas Carol Wadsworth Footlighters
- 11/04-11/12 Mary Poppins, Oregon CT
- 11/11-11/20 The Sunshine Boys, Harlequins, Inc.
- 12/01-12/11 Miracle on 34th Street, VWCT
- 01/19-01/29 Murder in Green Meadows, VWCT
- 02/10-02/18 Nunsense, Oregon CT
- 03/09-03/12 All Shook Up, 3B Productions
- 03/16-03/26 9 to 5: The Musical, VWCT
- 04/21-04/29 Forever Plaid, Oregon CT
- 05/04-05/14 Last Round-Up of the Guacamole Queens, VWCT
- 05/19-05/22 Sister Act, 3B Productions
- 07/28-07/31 The Wiz, Teen Production, 3B Productions
- 10/29-11/06 Catch Me if You Can, Stagecrafters
- 10/28-11/06 Eating Raoul, Beaverccreek CT

# CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

## 2017

by Inge Klopping

The Children's Workshop is dedicated to enriching the lives of young people by offering opportunities in the performing arts that support self-confidence; inspire both individual expression and ensemble teamwork in a loving and educational environment. Our mission is to create extraordinary theatre experiences to educate, challenge and inspire the minds and hearts of children through inclusion and accessibility.

The workshop meets on Saturdays starting March 4 from 9 to noon and ending on April 29 at Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville. Children ages 6 to 13 are welcome. The cost is \$100 per child. If there are multiple children in the same family, we have a family rate of \$75 per child. Watch our website for registration information in February.

### General Curriculum Outline (so you know what to expect):

**Week 1:** Introductions, Stage Directions, Basics of Singing, Stage Presence, Intro to Performance pieces (1 song and 1 script)

**Week 2:** Review Week 1, Work on more specific singing, acting, performing skills. Begin to learn choreography to performance song as well as the blocking for the script portion of the performance. Last 15 minutes of class, perform for other students.

**Week 3:** Review Week 2, Continue working on singing, acting, performing skills, blocking and choreography. Begin to memorize script/song. Last 15 minutes of class, perform for other students.

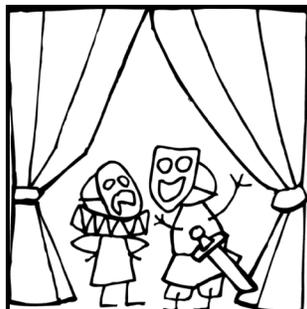
**Week 4:** Review Week 3, Continue working on singing, acting, performing skills, blocking and choreography. Work to memorize script/song. Last 15 minutes of class, perform for other students.

**Week 5:** Review Week 4, Continue working on singing, acting, performing skills and choreography. Song/Script/choreography/blocking should all be memorized. Last 15 minutes of class, perform for other students.

**Week 6:** Review Week 5, work on specific skills to improve performance. Understand Director's expectations in an audition and practice in front of the group. Last 15 minutes of class, perform for other students.

**Week 7:** Review Week 6, work on specific skills to improve performance. Review all choreography and blocking notes as well as extensive vocal warm ups. Perform the songs and skits repeatedly in small groups and as a larger group.

**Week 8:** Practice the performance and review the expectations for the performance. And perform!



### Playshop Board of Trustees

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Newsletter Editors: Angie Peinert Weber & Publicity Committee

### Box Office

Waterville Playshop tickets can be purchased through any cast member, online at [www.watervilleplayshop.org](http://www.watervilleplayshop.org), by calling the box office at 419-823-7364 or at the door, pending availability.

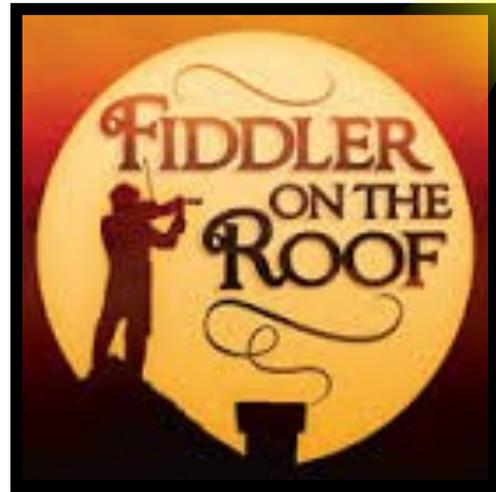


# COMING UP!



Directed by: Matt Zwyer

**November 18-20th 2016**



Directed by: Michael Barlos

**April 28-30th 2017**

**@MAUMEE INDOOR THEATRE**



Get your tickets online at [www.watervilleplayshop.org](http://www.watervilleplayshop.org), from any cast member, or call the box office at 419-823-7364 to leave a message.

**\*\*Group Rates are available for groups of 20 or more!!**

**Monday, November 7th 4-9 p.m.**

DINE OUT NIGHT @

**Local Thyme**

6719 Providence St. Whitehouse, OH

Come out and support Waterville Playshop

\*\*Let the hostess know you are dining out for Waterville Playshop and a portion of your bill will be given to us!!

We hope to see you all there!!

**\*\*\*Watch for our  
NEW WEBSITE!  
It will make its  
debut in early  
JANUARY 2017**

