

Farewell to the “Has Been Idea Gal”: Pat Dickey *Sam Macera*

Some years ago I was discussing Playshop with a group of members that included Pat Dickey. Reflecting on her years (25) as an active member she commented, “I’m a has-been.”

Indeed, Pat was a has been – she *has been* an active, dedicated member who gave unselfishly of her time and talent for many years and whose passion for Playshop never wavered. She’s worked numerous times backstage – as a worker and committee chair; she’s served on the Board numerous times since being appointed Membership Trustee in 1978, including Chair three times. She was our long-time representative to OCTA, faithfully attending all meeting and functions; she was one of the original performers of *Juke Box Saturday Night*, belting out ballads and novelty songs (the catch in her voice singing “Boo Hoo!”) making them poignant and fun. She could also found strolling along with other Playshopper on cold December evenings singing carols to Waterville residents and businesses.



Pat as Bloody Mary singing “Happy Talk” to Galen DeVriendt (Lt. Cable) and Bev DeVriendt (Liat) in Playshop’s 1975 production of *South Pacific*.

With all her activities, Pat found time to occasionally perform onstage. Normally a chorus member, she was outstanding as Bloody Mary in Playshop’s 1975 production of *South Pacific*. She dressed as a Nun in *Ladies in Retirement* (1983), was one of the Brewster Sister (Abbey) in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1991) and Mother Burnside in *Mame* (1992). In 1998, she sat in the director’s chair with husband Ken for *Crazy Quilt Club*.

She is proud of the fact that three generations of Dickeyes were onstage at the same time in three Playshop productions: *Fiddler on the Roof* (1977), *Mame* (1992) and *Music Man* (1999).

Pat’s real “ideas” were in the development of show programs. Since I was printing the programs, it was my job to turn Pat’s ideas into reality. Always a challenge. She created a special program for *Music Man* (1982), an 8½ x



Pat as Abby Brewster in our *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1991) production with Linda Knowlton-Wagner who portrayed her sister, Martha.

11 glossy full of articles, program notes and many photos. For *Hello, Dolly!* (1980) it was cut-out photos of the cast with write-ups. On the cover, the sketch of the lady had to have lipstick red lips.

For 19 years, Pat was either editor or co-editor of Playshop’s Newsletter, *Calls & Cues* and as such brought home of trunk full of awards, mostly in the Outstanding category, the highest rating.

When Pat went through some serious health problems some years ago, it did not stop her. It just slowed her down a bit as she continued to give of herself unselfishly and with the same dedication, enthusiasm and energy.

For her outstanding achievements, Pat was awarded the Spirit Award in 1999 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011, both well-deserved acknowledgements of someone with the true Playshop spirit

Being with Pat was a lot of fun. Often it would involve trips to Findlay to Dietsch’s for ice cream or Put-in-Bay for the day or the New Years Eve dance to Johnny Knorr’s orchestra or just going out after a show for some dinner.

And always there was Playshop talk and the exchange of ideas.

Pat Dickey was an exceptional woman that Playshop was fortunate to have as an active member for so many years. She will be greatly missed.

The Lord obviously needed a “has been idea gal.” He got the best.