

CALLS & CUES

9 to 5 & Mary Poppins | Call for Directors | Letter from the WPS Chair

Seeking Directors for 2019-2020

—Joe Barton, Season Selection Chair

Our 2019-2020 season kicks off November 15-17 with the musical comedy *The Addams Family*. A dinner theatre featuring Sondheim's classic *Company* at Nazareth Hall brightens the winter Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2020. Our spring show will certainly bring joy to young and old alike as *Matilda* takes the stage April 24-26, 2020. A TBA youth production is set for June 26-28, 2020.

Those interested in directing should submit his/her name and show choice (s) to Joe Barton by April 19, 2019. The WPS Board of Trustees will hold interviews during its Wednesday, April 24, 2019 board meeting.

Submit your resume and request and direct all questions to Joe @ jbarton22@msn.com.

Working 9 to 5!

Get up and join the fun!

by Michelle Johnson

Playshop is gearing up for its second “from screen to stage” show of the season, the stage adaptation of the 1980 movie *9 to 5*! With a score by Miss Dolly Partin herself, the show's music and action move the story along without a hitch!

Pictured above (clockwise)

are Chris Stack (front) as Mr. Hart, the egotistical boss; Jess Mullins as Judy; Jill Reinhart as Violet; and Kristin Kukic as Doralee. One of the original female empowerment stories, this production features such high energy songs as “Shine Like the Sun” and “Change It.”

When the chauvinistic attitude at Consolidated becomes more than Violet, Judy, and Doralee can bear, the three decide to kidnap repulsive Mr. Hart and keep him prisoner in his own home! The trio then sets out to prove that they can run the company better than Hart ever could by empowering their workforce and providing benefits the “little guy” needs to feel valued. **(cont'd on page 2)**



What's Happening in NW OCTA?

Fellow OCTA theatres are taking the stage with some great productions in April and May. Why not check out a show? To stay up-to-date on all that NW OCTA theatres have to offer, check out the OCTA Callboard at www.octa1953.org/callboard.

Do you have a student ready to head off to college? If he or she has been an active participant in Playshop productions, your student is eligible for an OCTA scholarship. Download the requirements at www.octa1953.org/documents. Look for the link: 2019 Scholarship Requirement and Entry Form.

Each year at the NW Regional, a deserving individual is honored with the Spirit of Community Theatre Award. Nominate a deserving thespian or patron who continually fosters live theatre in NW Ohio. Download the form at www.octa1953.org/documents. Look for the link: Spirit of Community Theatre.

Calls and Cues editor:
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(9 to 5 continued)

The cast features the talents of:

Pam Williams Rumer (Roz), Emily Meyerson (Maria), Brittany Kupresanin (Kathy), Betsy Watson Hermann (Margaret), Nikki Moyers (Missy Hart), Brian Jones (Joe), Danny Leatherman (Dwayne), Ben Bascuk (Josh), Dave Fitch (Dick), Bill Persson (Mr. Tinsworthy), Alan Owens (Bob Enright), Tanya Strayer, Jessica Hildreth, Morgan Kellow, Corryn Short, Hillary Gibson, Shannon Ruhe, Marsha Cochran, Mary Ann Sesson, and Sara Ledzianowski. Michelle S. Johnson directs. She's assisted by Tyler Strayer (Music Director) and Nicole Spadafore (Choreographer). Tammy Fitch produces.

Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, at 8 pm, and Sunday, April 14 at 2:30, at the Maumee Indoor Theatre.

Tickets are on sale now at www.watervilleplayshop.org. Connect to the website, select "Tickets" from the banner menu, choose your show date and seats.

9 to 5 the Musical is produced with special permission from MTI, New York, NY.

May the Fourth Shenanigans



Be sure to mark May 4, 2019, on your calendars! Playshop is set to host its annual picnic. Gather a carload of friends. Meet at Playshop at 5:30 to get your instructions, then fire up the Millennium Falcon (aka SUV) to head out on a scavenger hunt through the outer spaces of the Anthony Wayne community! Meet back at Playshop by 7:00 for a picnic dinner, prizes, and a time to honor those whose service has made a difference to Playshop. RSVP to Tammy by April 14 at 419.309.1005 so that we can prepare food and prizes.

THIS EVENT IS FREE.

A Moment with Matt: Awards, the Board, and what's to come...

Happy spring to everyone, and I hope you're all ready to go to work. 9 to 5, that is! And of course, by work, I mean a crazy fun time at the theatre. After we cut loose back in November and then had a successful winter children's workshop featuring Disney's Cinderella Kids, we are now ready for some Dolly Parton in a couple weeks and then Mary Poppins, Jr., in a couple months. It's hard to believe that we are almost done with another season, and yet we have so much more fun before this season comes to a close. Besides those two upcoming shows, we also have our annual event on May 4th. We're going scavenger hunting, so get ready. Because then in July, we start all over again with some great new material (See page 2)!

And before we begin again, we are looking for YOUR help. The board—whom I thank wholeheartedly for all their awesome work these past couple seasons—will be looking for some new participants over the next two years. Specifically, we will need a Season Selection Trustee to help choose incoming seasons, a PR/Publicity Trustee to share all Playshop news and event announcements, and a Vice Chair to coordinate workshops and program materials. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information about these worthwhile positions, please feel free to contact me; I'd love to chat with you.

And finally, the award goes to...you get to help decide! It's indeed award season, and we are looking to honor Playshop participants with Spirit Awards and Lifetime Achievements. Spirit Awards are for those who have dedicated at least 5 years of excellent service to our organization, and Lifetime Achievements are for those actively participating for 20 years or more. Additionally, we want to reward our student participants with college scholarships. Any incoming college student who has worked with Playshop for two or more shows is eligible for this monetary award. For more information on these awards, please check out our website for application forms and guidelines. You can also contact me for the same forms or for any and all questions.

Thank you all for your patronage and interest in our humble theatre troupe. It has been a privilege to serve this year as Chair, and I look forward to what's to come with Waterville Playshop. Since I have invited you to contact me, here is my information. Phone is 419-276-0032 (text or talk), and email is mzwyer@gmail.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

Break a leg, all!

Matt Zwyer, Waterville Playshop Chair

Access forms for the Spirit Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Playshop Scholarship application at www.watervilleplayshop.org. Deadlines are rapidly approaching so don't delay!

Playshop's 2019 Youth Workshop was a Fairytale Come True!

By Michelle S. Johnson

Each year, Waterville Playshop hosts a workshop for the area youth. Shauna Newbold, Playshop Educational Director, has led the class for three years now. The goal, says Newbold, is for each child to grow into a more confident performer in a positive learning environment. "I love seeing each kid become more confident each week. I especially LOVE to see kids feel proud knowing that they have worked hard and feel physically and emotionally ready for the next step in their journey. The lessons that kids learn in these classes will help to shape who they become as adults."

This year 27 kids took part in the 9-week workshop that culminated in a performance of *Cinderella, Jr.* (MTI, New York). Amelia Cappel, age 11, had high praise for the class. "My friend's older sister is now an actress and this is the first thing SHE did! I really like singing and I'm learning a lot about breathing and characterization so it is FUN!" Giada Terrill, age 10, enjoyed being in last summer's youth production *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* so much that she was excited to come back. "I'm playing Anastasia the not-so-nice stepsister which is fun because I get to let out my evil side. I had to think about being mean to my annoying brother to create my character." Others joined the fun because a friend had signed up. Madison Gendaszek, age 10, did just that! "I am playing a boy, the Grand Duke, which is fun because he's part of the royal family. I learned how to waltz, about stage directions and how to memorize my lines!"

Following the 9-week course and its production, kids were able to participate in an audition workshop to help them prepare for tryouts for Mary Poppins, Jr., this summer's youth show! Auditions will be held at Waterville Playshop on Sunday, April 28, from 3-6 pm. Visit www.watervilleplayshop.org for audition forms and information.

Auditions for Mary Poppins, Jr!

Sunday, April 28, 2019

3-6 pm

Waterville Playshop
808 Michigan Avenue
Waterville OH 43566



Calling all kids 6 to 18!

Prepare up to 16 bars of a Broadway-style song that best shows off your ability. You'll be singing acapella. There will also be an optional dance audition to let us see how well you move!

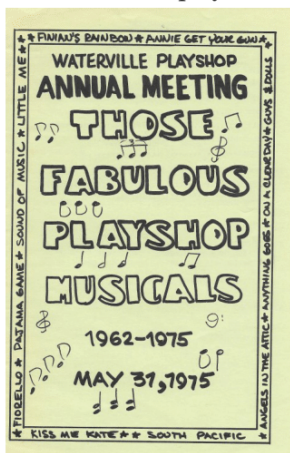
Performances are June 28 and 29 at 8 pm, and June 30 at 2:30 pm. All performances will be held at the Maumee Indoor Theatre at the corner of Conant Street and the Anthony Wayne Trail in Maumee.

For more information contact director Shauna Newbold at shauna.newbold@gmail.com.

Visit www.WatervillePlayshop.org to download audition forms and the rehearsal schedule.

Annual Meetings: Talent and Fun *by Sam Macera*

Early in the history of Waterville Playshop, annual meetings were a rather informal gathering of members, often at a cook-out in someone's back yard or even in a member's home. Entertainment, if there was any, consisted of someone (usually Marian Thornberry) developing a short one-act play for the group.



It continued this way until the blockbuster Annual Meeting of May 31, 1975, titled "Those Fabulous Playshop Musicals, 1962 to 1975." There were 19 performers, many from the original shows, a chorus of 10 women and nine men, 28 songs from *Fiorello!* (1962) to *South Pacific* (1975).

Ginny Dean sang "Til Tomorrow" from *Fiorello!* (1962), Dick Dean performed "Edelweiss" from *The Sound of Music* (1965), Galen DeVriendt sang "The Girl That I Marry" from *Annie Get Your Gun* (1968), Galen joined with Betty Coulter to perform "You're the Top" from *Anything Goes* (1968) and Joe Bush performed one of the songs from his original musical *Angels in the Attic* (1969), "A Quiet Time."

Herb Wyandt, Teresa Teifke and David Mertz gave a hilarious rendition of "Deep Down Inside" from *Little Me* (1971). Betty Coulter was the perfect Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (1973) and her rendition of "Adelaide's Lament" demonstrated why. Herb and the chorus brought the house down with "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" from the same show.

Another raucous, big hit was "Nothin' Like a Dame" from *South Pacific* (1975) with Herb and the men outdoing themselves. Pat Dickey (as Bloody Mary) sang the lilt-ing "Bali Ha'i" and the evening concluded with another super hit from the same show, "Honey Bun" featuring Barb Wilson, Herb and the women's chorus.

It was an awesome, unforgettable night and would not be matched until 1997.

Another interesting Annual Meeting was on May 21, 1977 when the "lesser lights" (those performers who yearned to be in the limelight but never quite made it) got to do their thing. And did they ever!

Titled "What a Swell Party This Is," it was on a smaller scale and had 19 performers and 10 songs. The highlight of the night was the duet of Roy Heinz and Mary Edwards of "Indian Love Call." It was so hilarious, it moved Joe Bush to say, "I've never seen anything so funny in my life!" It was one of many highlights: Bill Beaber and Don Aldred sang a parody of "Life Upon the Board;" There were songs by Gwen Willson, Donna Algase, Diana and Gary Waugh. Annette Blair strolled across the stage sending out one-line zingers (To Diana Waugh: "Didn't you used to be married to an old man with a beard?"). The finale was a parody of "That's Entertainment" in which the performers asked directors to "open your eyes." The long, standing ovation was well deserved.

The next blockbuster occurred on May 31, 1997 at the Town Hall Theatre in Grand Rapids and titled "A Nostalgic Evening." There were 25 performers singing 34 songs from *Fiorello!* (1962) to *Cinderella* (1997) in the form of solos, duets and choral numbers and two accompanists, JoAnna Umlauf and Robin Price.

Highlights were Ginny Dean again opening with "Til Tomorrow" (*Fiorello!* 1962), and joining Jane Williams for "My Favorite Things" (*Sound of Music* 1965, 1993). Diana Waugh and Roy Heinz performed their show-stopping "I'll Never Be Jealous Again" from *Pajama Game* (1983) while Bill LaRue sang the poignant "More I Cannot Wish You" from *Guys and Dolls* (1973). Karen Wiggins was a energetic "Cockeyed Optimist" from *South Pacific* (1987). Suzy Hanifan and Jane Williams scored with their duet, "Bosom Buddies" from *Mame* (1992), and it has not lost any of its freshness. Suzy was back again, this time with the wives for that wonderful song from *The King and I* (1995), "Getting to Know You." Two of the more contemporary songs were from *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1996) performed by Lynn Kearney ("I Don't Know How to Love Him") and Joe Barton ("Herod's Song").

The two big group numbers were "Nothin' Like a Dame" from *South Pacific* 1975) by Herb Wyandt and the men and "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" from *Guys and Dolls* 1973) with Herb again and the chorus.

It was an awesome evening and we are not likely to see such an accumulation of outstanding Playshop talent gathered in one place again.

Space does not permit a longer article on the other Annual Meetings. Examples: "A Tribute to E.Y. Harburg" (1981), "Sentimental Journey: A Musical History of Waterville Playshop" (1986), "A

Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That" (1989) The Mad Tony Awards (1994-1996), "Songs of World War II" (2006), "Broadway Baby" (2009).

I hope it gives you some feel for what these production-like shows were like and the work that went into putting them together and gathering so many original performers.

