

# THE GREEN ROOM GAZETTE

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## Next Auditions

Director Allison Remley will have auditions for the summer student production of *Annie, Jr.* for youths 10-18 on May 16, noon-6pm and May 17, 2-6pm at Fort Boise Community Center, 700 Robbins Rd, Boise. Parts for about 40 youngsters are available.

## Theater Organization

### President

*Wendy Koepl*

### Business Manager

*Patrick Ryan*

### Editor

*Ruth Stemper*

### Writer

*Pat Ryan*

### Board of Directors

*Connie Behee*

*Barbara Beautrow*

*Autumn Kersey*

*Jim Koepl*

*John Myers*

## Message From The President

Okay, so March was just a lion all the way around. Let's hope April is better! I am anxious for the blue skies and sunshine and watching the hills turn from brown to green.

My *Foxfire* family has had a few weeks to rest up after a wonderful run. I hope you all had a chance to see it. The cast and crew were great to work with, the set was amazing, and the show turned out very well. It was an honor to be surrounded by such good people with so much talent! I miss it.

Next up is *Our Town*, directed by Nancy Shankweiler. As I write this, the cast and crew are putting the finishing touches on the set and a final polish on the show and will open in just a couple of days. So come on over and visit *Our Town*!

The board has announced the season for 2009-2010. There will be love and laughter. There will be music and dancing. There will be anger and tears. This exciting season will offer roles to a wide range of actors and actresses. Not ready to tread the boards but want to get involved? Stop by auditions or call the box office to volunteer backstage or on the house crew. I hope you have a chance to get outside and enjoy the spring with family and friends.

Wendy



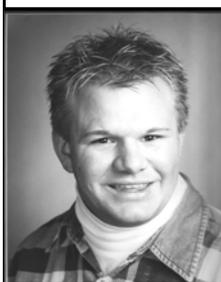
## Members Elect Autumn Kersey & Jay Parker for 2009-2010 Board



Autumn Kersey

The BLT membership re-elected Autumn Kersey and elected Jay Parker to fill the two board member seats at the business meeting March 16, 2009. Autumn has served for the last two years while Jay has never been on the board before.

Jay will join the board for the April and May meetings prior to the May business meeting as an observer and then will take his place at the close of that meeting. He and the other four board members will then select the President and Business Manager for the coming year, terms beginning on June 1.



Jay Parker

An important aspect of this selection is that if someone from that board becomes president or business manager, the candidate who drew the next highest vote total would become the replacement board member. More interesting is that if both officers came from the board, both Barbara Beautrow and Daren Blauer would become board members.

Barbara Beautrow will otherwise be stepping down after serving two terms this time and being a former two term president. She has served the theater well and all of us hope she will continue to be an important part of BLT.

Membership Meeting April 20, at 8 PM

## “Value of Membership” Questioned at March Meeting - discussion to continue at April meeting

Autumn Kersey led a discussion about the definition of a working member at the March meeting. Members present participated in a lively debate about the value of membership, how that value should be recognized, and what the theater needs from its working membership. Some shared concerns that we have an inflated list of working members, yet not everyone participates in the work of the theater. Others felt that there shouldn't be expectations placed on volunteers. The Membership Brainstorming Task Force (MBTF) has been tackling these questions for the past year, gathering feedback from members. A bylaw change to clearly define the expectations (if any are proposed), and benefits of a "Working Member" has been suggested and is being discussed. If you have feedback you would like to share before the April meeting, please email [autumn.kersey@gmail.com](mailto:autumn.kersey@gmail.com).

Please note: There was a misunderstanding at the March meeting, the MBTF is not suggesting that all volunteers must be "Working Members" to participate in theater activity. We value volunteers and the contribution they provide the theater. The "Working Member" discussion relates specifically to those volunteers who seek membership at BLT by paying dues and voting on theater business.

Editor's note: One concern the current board has is that having members who no longer participate and/or out of the area threatens our ability to produce a quorum when important matters are up for a vote.

## By-Law Ambiguities

*The business manager and the retiring president shall be ex-officio members of the board for one year and are not entitled to vote.* (BLT by-laws page 3)

Some members do not understand the meaning of “ex-officio.” These are board members who hold their positions by “virtue of their office.”

They are board members and are only denied voting privileges because of the stipulation of BLT's by-laws. The business manager is appointed every year; so he is a board member each year. The confusion comes on the “retiring president.” Since we have presidents who serve for multiple years, it sounds as though the retiring president has only one year of being a board member. The voting board could “appoint” the retiring president each year or maybe the by-laws should be changed to include the “immediate past president” as an “ex-officio member” in order to take advantage of this person's experience for more than one year if the current president remains in office.

Some day the by-laws might also be changed to allow these two ex-officio members to vote which would make seven voting members of the board.



**Knock ‘Em Dead** presents  
*Once On This Island* March 20—  
April 18, 333 S. 9th.  
[www.kedproductions.org](http://www.kedproductions.org).

**Stage Coach Theatre** presents  
*The Movie Game* April 10—25, in  
The Hillcrest Shopping Center,  
Overland & Orchard. 342-2000

**Prairie Dog Productions**  
presents *Space Trek, The Wrath  
Of Juan*, April 17—May 9, 336-  
PETE (7393) The Alano, 3820  
Cassia..

## Update On Iver J. Longeteig

Jay has been home for a month since spending two weeks in the hospital. He sounds great, is taking phone calls, is doing some work, and driving—almost back to normal.

He thanks everyone for their cards, gifts, and concern while he has been down. We are glad Jay is feeling better and look forward to seeing him at the past presidents meeting on April 17.

## Kay Doty Hospitalized

Another long time member of BLT has been hospitalized (April 4). Kay Doty, a very familiar face around the theater, has been battling poor health for the past year. We hope Kay gets back on her feet soon.

Kay directed several shows, assisted on many, worked the house, and kept track of our history for years. She is in St. Luke's RMC. Remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

**Watch for *Bleacher Bums* (Oh! those Cub fans!) May 22.**

**Gift Certificates Awarded At Membership Meetings** Members who attend the monthly meeting are eligible to receive some excellent door prizes rounded up by Jo-Ann Jones. Last month four certificates were given to Joanna Marshall, Betty Jefferson, Jim Anderson, (restaurant certificates) and Shirley Lake (an oil change).

## Why Don't We Advertise?

Actually, we do advertise! While we cannot afford to run a TV or radio campaign effectively, we are working to reach our demographic in several ways. For each show we run spots on IPTV, weekly ads in *The Idaho Statesman Scene* magazine which not only reaches *Statesman* subscribers, but is available free to all in the Treasure Valley, and ads in *The Boise Weekly*.

Then we mail out 2,600 postcards to people who have purchased tickets at BLT or have asked to be included on our mailing list. Of course, we print posters to hang as well. These items cost from \$1600—\$2000 per show. Add to this our yearly brochure, mailed to 3000 people, handed out at shows, placed in motels and visitors and convention sites, and spot season ads in other publications, and it results in an expense in excess of \$16,000 per year. If we divide this figure by our yearly gross show income, we have a percentage better than most businesses who advertise.

Naturally we hope that other publicity will help us increase theater attendance, but we all realize the number of entities vying for that exposure. Our new \$12,000 sign and word of mouth should help us. The important things about advertising are to direct it toward our demographic, be consistent, and have a cumulative effect.

Please don't compare what we do to ISF or BCT. Those theaters are heavily subsidized by *The Idaho Statesman*, *The Boise Weekly*, and other local media to the tune of many thousands of dollars. The media believes these "professional" theaters are boons to the local economy and they readily hitch their stars to these companies. ISF has yearly contributions in excess of \$860,000 while BCT receives more than \$290,000 plus dues and assessments of \$38,000+. The two of them together spend more on just fund raising than BLT realizes in gross income.

Boise Little Theater is not a fund raising entity. We are a community theater striving to entertain while providing a vehicle for citizens to become part of the dramatic arts. We are all volunteer with the exception that we pay our box office managers a total of \$13,200 a year plus benefits to hold regular hours, keep our books up to date, pay the bills, and generally see to the details of our business, certainly not an extravagant amount.

The tradition of BLT being a volunteer organization which has donors who give from their hearts is a strength that shields it from economic downturns. May we always enjoy the fruits of volunteerism!.

## 2009-2010 Season Will See Changes In Schedules

BLT's familiar run of play schedule will change slightly for next season. We have **added a second matinee** to each production this year on the closing (third) Saturday. It is in addition to our Sunday matinee which occurs on the second weekend. We have **eliminated the Wednesday performance**.

Our two **Thursday performances will have a curtain time of 7:30 PM** to allow those attending to get out a little earlier on a work/school night. Our **ticket prices are remaining at \$11, \$9** for seniors and students. Season tickets and flex tickets are a bargain at \$60 for seven shows. Members can encourage bargain hunters to buy a flex ticket, a cost of \$8.57 a show.

Senior season tickets are \$45! Good for Thursdays and either matinee, Saturday or Sunday. Those who had tickets on Wednesday this year can switch to either of the Thursdays or to either of the two matinees, the second Sunday or the third Saturday.

**This season is more family-friendly** than many as the first five productions (counting the summer show) are definitely family fare. *Annie, Jr.* is the summer student production directed by Allison Remley. It runs July 23 through August 1, 2009.

*You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* directed by Wendy Koepl, *The Mousetrap* directed by Cricket Langworthy, *A Christmas Story* directed by John Myers, and *Fools* directed by Kevin Kimsey all meet the criteria for family entertainment. (Note: *A Christmas Story* will have two extra shows by adding a fourth weekend, Friday evening and Saturday matinee.)

The remaining three shows are for more mature audiences. *Almost, Maine* directed by Larry Dennis, *Twelve Angry Men* directed by David Mendes Priest, and *Chapter Two* directed by Pat Ryan, while not being R rated, because of the subject matters, are meant for adult audiences. The 2009-2010 season brochure will be available on April 9.

**Supervising house managers Judi and Jerry Radek welcome all volunteers who want to help usher during productions! Please e mail them at [jerryandjudi@cableone.net](mailto:jerryandjudi@cableone.net) or 629-0717 to volunteer.**

**Contact Nancy Suiter with information about any associates who are ailing, joining the big cast in the sky, or due for recognition of achievement. 939-0430.**

Boise Little Theater

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The *Green Room Gazette* is published eight times annually during the season. Please direct your comments, questions, and constructive criticism to Ruth Stemper, Editor, 344-0354. Visit our website at [www.boiselittletheater.org](http://www.boiselittletheater.org).

*The news from BLT*



\*\*\*\*\*  
★ Membership Meeting ★  
★ April 20, 2009 at 8 PM ★  
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## 2009-2010 Season at BLT

### *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*

Directed by Wendy Koepl

September 4 through September 19, 2009

### *The Mousetrap* directed by Cricket Langworthy

October 16 through 31, 2009

### *A Christmas Story* directed by John Myers

November 27 through December 19, 2009.

### *Fools* directed by Kevin Kimsey

January 15 through January 30, 2010

### *Almost, Maine* directed by Larry Dennis

February 26 through March 13, 2010

### *Twelve Angry Men* directed by David Priest

April 9 through April 24, 2010

### *Chapter Two* directed by Patrick Ryan

May 21 through June 5, 2010

### ***Our Town* Simple But Poignant**

“Y’ know, Babylon once had two million people in it, and all we know about ‘m is the names of the kings and some copies of wheat contracts and—the sales of slaves. Yet, every night all those families sat down to supper, and the father came home from his work, and the smoke went up the chimney,—same as here.”

When the Stage Manager (Jeff Chapman) ruminates in his folksy way, he is really striking at the basic questions about life. Why are we here and do we understand what is important in life?

But to the casual observer, *Our Town* seems simple and slow to develop. What we see is that our lives are pretty mundane as we go on our way, marking only special days like when we get married and when we bury loved ones

*Our Town* is our town even though it depicts the early 1900s in Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire. “—this is the way we were—in our growing up and in our marrying, and in our living, and in our dying.”

Twenty-six actors will tell this story along with help from stage hands on a minimal set that reflects the simplicity of the story. The play runs April 10-11, 16-18, 23-25, at 8 PM; Sunday, April 19, at 2 PM; and Wednesday, April 22, at 7:30 PM.

Tickets are \$11, \$9 for seniors and students & everyone on Wednesday. Call 342-5104 or visit [www.boiselittletheater.org](http://www.boiselittletheater.org).