

THE GREEN ROOM GAZETTE

All the news that's fit to print!

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Auditions

Director Janelle Walters will hold auditions for *Enchanted April* on Saturday and Sunday, February 16 and 17, at 2 PM in the green room. Needed are 5 women, ages 25-70, and 3 men, ages 30-40.

The play about four English women who rent a castle in Italy for the month of April runs April 11 through the 26th.

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Message From The President

Well, we closed 2007 with a bang (and as far as I know, no one put their eye out!). *A Christmas Story* was fun for the whole family and judging by the attendance, many, many families enjoyed it. Congratulations to Randy Lord and his cast and crew! Well done!

It Runs in the Family is up next. Written by Ray Cooney and directed by Kevin Kimsey, both masters of the British farce, this play has a band of "farcical nuts and lunatics" that will undoubtedly keep you laughing! Mark your calendars and be sure to catch *It Runs in the Family*.

This is a very exciting time for all of us here at BLT. Due to generous support through grants, donations and volunteers, we have been able to update our auditorium, green room, dressing rooms and now the lighting system. All of these changes help in the production of plays and in the care and comfort of our patrons, actors, and tech crews. There are more improvements to come, as grants and donations come in. I have been pleased with the number of actors who have praised the long-awaited second dressing room, the tech people who are truly excited about the added lighting versatility, as well as the positive comments from patrons.

Our nominating committee is looking for six people to run for the board. We will be voting in three new board members at the March meeting. It is very important to keep our building up-to-date and attractive, give our patrons what they are looking for, and provide an appealing outlet for the incredible talent in and around Boise. If you would like to be a part of the BLT board and help BLT continue to thrive, please contact Diane Benedict, our nominating committee chairperson.

Recently I pointed out BLT to some acquaintances and described it as my home away from home and the place I go to play with my friends. I smile when I think of it now. BLT is a thriving community theater filled with volunteers who spend their free time helping each other give the community quality entertainment, all the while building skills, self-confidence, and lasting friendships. I am proud to be a part of this theater family and to be helping to preserve it's wonderful building and 60-year history!

Happy New Year to all of you and remember to "take a cup 'o kindness yet, for days of auld lang syne." Here's to a happy and healthy 2008! Wendy



A Christmas Story

Ralphie (Graham Richmond) protects the homestead with his Red Ryder, 200 shot, BB gun in a dream sequence. The Old Man (Tom Poremba), Mother (Jennifer Page Stockwell), and little brother Randy (Jaxson W. Thorton) are thankful for his bravery.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING JAN 21, 8:00 PM

50th Anniversary-60th Season Brochure Available

Thanks For The Memories

Pick up free 50-60 brochures at the theater when you come to the meeting or to a show. This flyer visits several members who have bridged our history from the pioneers until today.

Jay Sherlock Update

Jay Sherlock still resides at the Idaho State Veteran's Home, 320 Collins Road. He recently spent ten days in the hospital with liver problems and lost sixty pounds. While he did have pounds to spare, he doesn't recommend anyone using this form of weight control.

Jay maintains his humor and still paints whenever he can get into the arts and craft room on the first floor. He can usually be found there in the afternoons. Jay is in room 124, first floor, west wing. Keep him in your thoughts.

Curtain Call

Live
Theater
in the
Valley

Stage Coach Theatre presents *The Sensuous Senator*, 1/4—26, in The Hillcrest Shopping Center, Overland & Orchard. 342-2000.

Starlight Mountain Theatre presents *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, 1/11-12 at Capital High; 1/18-19 at Nampa Civic Center. 462-5523 or ictickets.com.

CAN-ACT presents *Harvey* January 11-12, 18-19, 24-25-26, Matinee January 19 at their new digs—The Caldwell Center for the Arts, 603 Everett St., Caldwell, ID 442-0676

Prairie Dog Productions presents *Gunsokin', Have Fun Will Travel*, 1/25—2/23 336-PETE (7393) The Alano, 3820 Cassia.

Knock 'Em Dead presents *Flaming Idiots*, 1/25—2/23, 333 S. 9th. www.kedproductions.org.

That Was The Year That Was

2007 began with *Till Death Do Us Part*, an irreverent look at all that is marriage. While there was plenty of fodder here for people to take offense at, it was received with laughter and applause for the satire that it was.

Both *Death* and the next play, *Too Soon For Daisies*, were financial successes that brought in above average box offices. *Daisies* was another in the line of our "older ladies" comedies that have proved popular the last several years. Audiences love the silliness that, nonetheless, echoes real life themes for those of us "senior" citizens.

April saw a reprise of *Butterflies Are Free*, the 60s era comedy about a blind young man, his overbearing mother, and a worldly blonde who lives next door. While it seemed like a fairly tame story, compared with what we see today on TV, we received a few strong objections to the underwear scene. The feedback came via phone, letter, and e mail.

If those patrons didn't like *Butterflies* after they saw it, they were out front in objecting to *The Graduate* and its story of the young man who has an affair with his father's best friend's wife while later falling in love with her daughter. Both plays were well-acted and well-paced, but did not do as well at the box office. Some of our season ticket holders traded their *Graduate* tickets for other productions rather than attend. It seems also that there are many who have bad memories of the 60s and don't want to go back to visit.

Summer came and with it BLT's co-sponsorship with Boise City Parks and Recreation of the student production of *Grease*, a rousing success for all involved. This was the eighth year of the program which has shown growth of the local young talent, and it brought in more money than any of the previous offerings. We were able to give P & R over \$4,000 this year as their cut of the net proceeds, more than double their previous receipts.

We opened the 2007-2008 season with another reprise, *Steel Magnolias*, a finely done dramatic comedy, complete in its presentation. Audiences laughed and cried along with the characters who brought the beauty shop to life. It was difficult to find fault with this production.

The Desperate Hours might have sounded too serious as this dramatic story based on a family's experience being held hostage by three escaped convicts didn't have much humor in it. This play was also brought back, from 1971, and featured some good, solid acting to present the realistic tension that built until the very end.

Then we had *A Christmas Story* which again proved that our audiences love comedy more than anything else—comedy that is familiar and family oriented. This play broke all the financial records as it played to virtually sold out houses for twelve performances, two more than our normal productions. More on this play—next page.

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.

Records Are Meant To Be Broken—A Christmas Story Does It!

A *Christmas Story* shattered the box office record held for two years by *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, taking in at least \$9,000.00 more than the previous maximum gate. One reason was that it was a combined effort from many contributors to present a warm, family-pleasing Christmas comedy to about 4,000 attendees.

Director Randy Lord and his cast and crew worked hard to delight the audiences with this funny show, complex in its number of scenes and flights of fancy in and out of the mind of a grownup Ralph who narrated the tale. Ralph, the narrator (Jerry Graves), had just the right blend of wry humor, nostalgia, and enthusiasm in relating his childhood Christmas memories.

When telling about the neighborhood bully, the narrator bent over, hands thrust out as he asked the audience incredulously, “What kind of parents would name their boy ‘Scut’!?” Yes, Scut Farcus, played by Sam Welker, lived to torment the boys of the neighborhood, twisting Flick’s (Chandler Prohl) sore arm regularly.

Of course, the main thrust of the play is ten-year-old Ralphie’s quest to receive a Red Ryder, 200 shot, lever action, etc. BB gun and Graham Richmond fit the part perfectly with his red hair and big, black glasses. Ralphie schemes from the moment he awakes until he falls asleep, slipping hints into conversations, bombarding his father with flyers, and writing a theme to convince everyone that the BB gun is the perfect toy for him.

Ralphie’s mother (Jennifer Page Stockwell) was first to give the BB gun blocking line, “You’ll shoot your eye out!” which becomes his biggest obstacle. The Old Man (Tom Poremba) perfects cursing as he fights the furnace and the neighbor’s hounds.

The kids captured the audience, Randy (Jaxson W. Thorton) pigging on his cereal, Helen (Lily Yasuda), the whiz kid, Esther Jane (Emerald Smith) the romantic interest, and Schwartz (Colton Buzzard) Ralphie’s co-conspirator. And we all recognized Miss Shields (Glenda Talbutt), the fifth grade teacher who just wanted correct margins.

A contributing strength of the show was how the crew put together the set, lights, costumes, sound, and special effects to complete the production. Thanks to all for a wonderful holiday show!

50-60 Celebration Opening Night

BLT celebrated the sixtieth season and the fiftieth anniversary of our building with a gala opening for *A Christmas Story* on November 30th. Music, refreshments, and libations were provided to first-night attendees and other guests as BLT’s thank you to our patrons.



Please contact Supervising House Manager Connie Behee to volunteer to help with our indispensable house crews, without which we cannot run the theater. 344-8759 or cbehee@netzero.com.

