

THE GREEN ROOM

All the news that's fit to print!

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Auditions

Director Larry Dennis will hold auditions for Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys* on March 29 and 30 at 2 PM in the theater Green Room. He needs three men and two women of various ages. The two main characters are elderly men (ie. Geezers).

Theater Organization

President

Wendy Koepl

Business Manager

Patrick Ryan

Editor

Ruth Stemper

Writer

Pat Ryan

Board of Directors

Barbara Beautrow

Autumn Kersey

Jim Koepl

Joanna Marshall

John Myers

Message From The President

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Although it is technically still winter, it sure feels like spring to me! Keep it coming!

In the Restroom at Rosenbloom's has wrapped up. The older members of our audiences seemed to especially enjoy it. We had great fun dressing John Myers up like a bag lady and seeing how many people could guess that she was really a guy - yes, he was "Minnie T. Moocher"!

Thank you to my cast and crew for all their hard work! Well done!

It's that time again--time to vote for board members. The current board has been so busy that I hate to mess with their momentum! Here are just a few things that the current board is working on: Getting the theater lobby expanded and box office moved and updated, adding additional lighting equipment and dimmers, and installing a new hardwood stage floor. We have just added new, heavy-duty shelving in the furniture room to protect the pieces we have and make them easier to locate and easier to put back after each show. Along with all that, the board, with huge help from Jo-Ann Jones, has been tirelessly spending many hours a month helping Elizabeth and Lynda with the culling and cleaning of the wardrobe area. Jim is currently working with Elizabeth on a plan to readjust clothing racks and add new shelves to help organize the wardrobe room to better serve their needs and make it easier for costumers to find what they need for a show.

As you all know from coming to the plays and working at the theater the last couple of years, we have gotten many fine things done for the audience such as the improved sound system, new main curtain and painting of the auditorium. For our actors and tech people we have made improvements behind the scenes as well. We have replaced the back door with a new one that has a small window so you can see out for safety reasons. In the green room we have painted the walls and replaced the carpet. We have added the much needed and appreciated second dressing room. For the set builders we have bought 4 new, safer ladders and have added electrical cord reels over the stage. Our goal is to make BLT more comfortable, efficient and updated.

Hopefully we can keep the momentum moving. Jim, John and Pat, along with current secretary Connie Behee, and continuing board members Barb and Autumn, are vital to the continuation and completion of these projects and I hope you will consider keeping them around! And a special thanks to Joanna Marshall for her work on the board.

In closing, I just want to say, "Break a leg, Jay. Learn your lines and don't walk into the furniture. You will be missed."

Wendy



Vote For Board Members March 17!

The March meeting each year is the time to vote for new board members, this year for three who will serve until May 2010. We will elect either one woman and two men or three men this year.

Those elected will meet as non-voting participants with the current board during April and May before taking their official positions at the May membership meeting, May 19, 2008. At the close of that meeting, the new board will meet and select a president and business manager to serve for the year.

An absentee ballot and instructions are printed in this issue for those who cannot attend the March meeting. Note that in case of any tie in the voting, only those members present will determine the outcome.

Remembering Jay Sherlock March 17

Members have two reasons to attend the March 17, Business meeting at BLT. One is to vote to fill the three open positions on the board of directors.

The second is equally important—to give tribute to Jay Sherlock. The meeting should be over by 8:45 and we can begin to honor Jay at 9:00 PM by recalling his contributions, telling funny stories, and sending him off with our best wishes.

Nonmembers are cordially welcomed and can attend the meeting or drop in after to take part in the remembrance. Refreshments will be available afterward for all to enjoy.

Auditions For The Summer Show

Director Cheryl Blauer will hold auditions for *The Pirates Of Penzance, Jr.* on May 10, 2008, from 10 AM to 6 PM at the Fort Boise Community Center, 700 Robbins Road (just up the street from BLT).

Young performers ages 12 to 18 are encouraged to make an audition appointment by emailing Cheryl at cwblauer@clearwire.net or phoning 846-9149 or 631-1550.

Auditioners should prepare a 2 minute song, an accompanist and CD player will be available, and dress appropriately for a dance audition to be taught by choreographers Clay and Heather Lee.

Improvements Back Stage

The new dressing room is complete and the old dressing room has received some upgrades.

Finishing touches were added to the new dressing room in the form of paint and mirrors. Both the new and the old now sport new tile floors, covering those old concrete floors and their flaws.

The old dressing room also has matching black makeup chairs so that we don't have the garage-sale look that has been the norm.

The furniture room has some real organization to it now! Industrial shelving has been installed to hold the furniture up off the floor and separated from other furniture. Long we have suffered with furniture scratching and denting each other as they were thrown on top.

Thank you to the workers who toiled on Saturday and Sunday, February 16 & 17. John Myers, Jim Koepl, Jim Anderson, Jerry Graves, Mike Mullins, Connie Behee, and Pat Ryan worked in those rooms and on other maintenance problems.

At the same time, the *Rest Room* set was being finished by Wendy Koepl, Cricket Langworthy, and Duane Holladay. Duane and Jim Lambert also were completing the lighting. Elizabeth Greeley and Jo-Ann Jones were culling wardrobe hats while Autumn Kersey was organizing the wigs.

Randy Lord held his Saturday seminars on acting and Janelle and David Priest held their auditions for *Enchanted April*. —What a busy weekend at BLT!

Curtain Call

Live
Theater
in the
Valley

Stage Coach Theatre presents *Spinning Into Butter* March 7-22, in The Hillcrest Shopping Center, Overland & Orchard. 342-2000.

Starlight Mountain Theatre presents *A...My Name Is Alice* Mar 7—19, at "The Star" 1851 Century Way, Ste. 3 Boise 83709. 462-5523 or ictickets.com.

Prairie Dog Productions presents *Smash Gordon: King of the Somewhat Improbable* Mar 14-Apr 12, 336-PETE (7393) The Alano, 3820 Cassia.

Knock 'Em Dead presents *Tin-types* March 21-Apr 19, 333 S. 9th. www.kedproductions.org.

CAN-ACT presents *Lost In Yonkers* March 28-Apr 12, in the Caldwell Center for the Arts, 603 Everett St., Caldwell, ID 442-0676

In The Rest Room Speaks To Our Older Audiences

In The Rest Room At Rosenbloom's strikes a cord with older audiences because it neatly illustrates the stress of growing old and having fewer social options.

Director Wendy Koepl's cast of four elderly women lead us through "a day in the life" of the three who meet regularly in the restroom and the sister of one who brings a new (ongoing) threat to their happiness.

Myrah (Vicki Patterson) is the strong one, speaking out, threatening with her cane, showing off her bright red bloomers and getting most of the laughs. Violet (Diane Benedict) is a little flighty and does the worrying about the group. Winifred (Judi Radek) plays the victim who lives in the imaginary past, wearing her yellow wedding dress and waiting for her husband to return from WWII.

Clare (Elizabeth Greeley) who suffers from the road blocks Myrah and Violet create, is the threat who might put Winifred away, never to return.

Much of the fun, though, is the result of all the visitors to the restroom who float through without any dialogue. Helene Myers as the gum-chewing (teeny-bopper?) who needed to "go" was one of the cutest.

The show continues through Saturday, March 8.

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.

An absentee ballot (included here) should be marked, inserted in an envelope with the **member's name printed and signed on the exterior of the envelope**. This envelope can be delivered or mailed inside another envelope to Boise Little Theater, 100 E. Fort St., Boise, ID 83712 so that it is received prior to the meeting on March 17, 2008. Please be aware that in case of a tie, the members present at the March 17th meeting will decide the issue in a second vote taken. Absentee voters will not have another chance to vote. You may fax your ballot to 342-1320 if you do not mind the box office manager seeing your selections.

MARCH 17, 2008

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION
BALLOT
VOTE FOR THREE (3)**

We will elect either 3 men or 1 woman and 2 men

_____	Connie Behee	_____	Kevin Butler
_____	Keith Couch	_____	Duane Holladay
_____	Jim Koepl	_____	Jody Mummert
_____	John Myers	_____	Tom Poremba
_____	Nancy Suiter		

Nancy Suiter From the ingenue role--a one-line walkon--in *The County Girl* at the Gowen Field theater, to Clairee in this season's *Steel Magnolias*, I've been an active and loyal fan of Boise Little Theater. At various times I've applied makeup, done janitorial work, assisted costumers, and served on the Board of Directors in 1992-93. Currently, I'm the Courtesies chair for the membership. My intention and desire as a member of the Board now would be to preserve the best of what makes Boise Little Theater what it is today while remaining open to new possibilities for growth and future success.

Jody Mummert—I have been a member of BLT since 1955. I have previously served on the board, but it has been at least 20 years since I served. I feel that I have a balance of theater knowledge and business knowledge to make the decisions on the board that would be the best possible course of action for Boise Little Theater. I am very interested in helping to keep the integrity of BLT intact. I would dedicate my time as a board member solely to BLT and not divide the time with other theater groups in town. Thank you for your vote.

Duane Holladay—Many know me, more do not. I have been with B.L.T. since 2003. A love hate relationship. Love the show, hate when it ends. I have been in seven shows here and two elsewhere, acting, set construction, special effects, stage managing, tech. I am stage managing for *Enchanted April* and will be AD next spring for Janelle Walters Priest. I am resourceful, enthusiastic and love the challenge of creation. I desire to be involved in this theater's vision and growth. I am native to Boise and a self employed craftsman by trade, versatile in all aspects of construction and maintenance repair. I look forward to serving if elected. Thank you.

Tom Poremba has been involved in theatre since 2003, acting in over a dozen productions at BLT and other local theatres. He has helped design and build many of the sets while having the pleasure of working with all members of his family. He considers many of his acquaintances at the theatre as members of his extended family. Tom was recently featured in Boise Weekly as a structural engineer who helps artists fulfill their vision with means and methods of installation and anchorage requirements of their large sculptures. Tom now is focused directly on BLT, as the most professional, complete, and organized of the community theatres in Boise. He believes in working to ensure its continued respected position in the community.

Connie Behee—My introduction to BLT was as secretary to the Board of Directors. I thought it was temporary. That was five years ago and I have been an usher, historian, supervising house manger, worked backstage and even been a walk-on. Community theater is so much fun! I have learned the value of community theater and the amount of work that goes into it. I have enjoyed seeing the improvements to the building over the last few years. I am honored by the nomination and if elected will work to ensure the improvements continue.

Keith Couch—I first appeared in a BLT production in 1974. In the late 70s I served on the board and was instrumental in starting the summer theatre group. I moved away in 1982 and returned to Boise in 2004. During the past two seasons, I have appeared in two BLT productions. I served as the Director of Quality Assurance for Oxygen Media (Oxygen TV, an Oprah Winfrey company) and play nicely with others in the organizational sandbox. I did radio theatre in Seattle and my own weekly radio call-in show in San Diego for several years.

Kevin Butler—Since my introduction to BLT over six years ago I have found that there is so much more to a show than wonderful actors and fantastic directors. To that end I have enjoyed helping with scene changes, set building, shooting the publicity pics and more. I am running for the board not to change things but to continue the great work past boards have done. BLT is what it is because of the hard work by dedicated individuals and I feel that it is time for me to toss in my hat. Please vote (and vote for me!!) because this is your theater.

John Myers—There is little at BLT that John Myers is not heavily involved with. He is up front in every activity at our theater. He serves as supervising director, script committee chair, and 50--60 year co-chair. His directed shows are always well done and his cast and crew happy to work with him. He is a talented actor, but will play a walk-on (Minnie T. Moocher!) or build a set for someone else. Members like John are hard to replace and since he is willing, should be re-elected to serve on Boise Little Theater's board of directors.

Jim Koeppel—Jim has been instrumental in all the recent improvements at BLT, from the upgrade of the old dressing room, to the second dressing room, to the purchase and installation of the shelving in the furniture room. He has been a tireless worker, building sets, cleaning out the furniture room, installing plumbing, procuring needed set pieces, etc. He has always been there when BLT hosted a special function, donating beverages and serving the public. He is an active participant who is willing to serve on the board and has Boise Little Theater's interest at heart.

Jay Sherlock Exits Stage Right

Back in the 60s, Jay did public relations for the gas company where he demonstrated the control of using a gas burner by frying an egg on a paper plate. He took as much pride in acting that part as he did others that were on the dramatic stage.

Jay left us on February 27, 2008 as he was nearing his 87th birthday. A person who loved the limelight, Jay nevertheless was a private person and he stated many times that he did not want a memorial service where people fawned over him and expressed much sadness.

Therefore, we will have a “tell a funny story about Jay Sherlock” time after our regular business meeting on March 17. Figuring we will be done with business and our election of new board members by 8:45 PM, we can start roasting Jay at 9 PM in the theater where he directed fifteen regular season plays and three special productions, while acting in many more.

Jay won four Beulahs for his acting: ‘60-’61 for *Harvey*, ‘64-’65 for *Under The Yum Yum Tree*, ‘68-’69 for *The Odd Couple* (tied with his co-star Bill Shankweiler), and ‘76-’77 for *The Sunshine Boys*. He also won a cameo for his performance in ‘99-’00 for *The Rainmaker*. He directed fifteen regular season shows and probably three summer shows, one being ‘83 Anything Goes.

Jay’s all time favorite was his role as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*, a part he played many times in California before doing it at BLT.

He recognized that the director is the key to a play—he can make actors and scripts better, can save a show. What he liked best about our theater—the people. It was like one big family. And he said that BLT would always be the “Mother theater” in this community.



Jay on his 86th birthday, April 9, 2007



Jay and Bill Shankweiler played the odd couple in 1968 and both were awarded Beulahs for their work. At first people thought Vaughn Price was wrong to cast Jay as Felix and Bill as Oscar. They thought it was against type, but it was the correct way to play it and it worked as Jay made a perfect fussy Felix.

Jay recognized that his life was waning. “I have had a fantastic, fantastic life because I was able to do the things I loved to do—and get paid for most of them. I have always thought that I was blessed. The good Lord smiled on me down here. As a result, I am as ready to go as anybody.”

His only regret was that “I should have been a teacher,” as he believed that directing was that part of him. “I always made it a practice never to embarrass anybody. For one thing, you never know if that person is going to be a star.”

He imagined that when he arrived at the pearly gates, St. Peter would say, “we saw your last play, and honest to God, Jay, . . .”

But then he quickly added, “I picked two good plays to quit on. *Dearly Departed* (at Stagecoach) and *Fiddler On The Roof* (Knock ‘Em Dead) and I feel good about that.”

Jay hoped and believed that he had made some small contribution to theater and those that knew him are sure to back that supposition up. He was a trouper. He loved being in front of an audience and being a part of a story being told.

That is why when he did demonstrations for the gas company or acted in commercials or on the stage, Jay enjoyed every minute of it and wouldn’t have traded these moments for all the wealth in the world.

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.

The news from BLT



★ Membership Meeting ★
★ Mar 17, at 8 PM! ★

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2007-2008 Season at BLT

Steel Magnolias directed by John Myers
September 8 through 22, 2007

The Desperate Hours directed by Nancy Shankweiler
October 19 through November 3, 2007

A Christmas Story directed by Randy Lord
November 30 through December 15, 2007
With a special 60/50 opening night gala!

It Runs In The Family directed by Kevin Kimsey
January 11 through 26, 2008

In The Rest Room At Rosenbloom's directed by Wendy Koepl
February 22 through March 8, 2008

Enchanted April directed by Janelle Walters
April 11 through 26, 2008

The Sunshine Boys directed by Larry Dennis
May 23 through June 7, 2008

Enchanted April in April

Director Janelle K. Priest has announced her cast and crew for BLT's April production of *Enchanted April* and we welcome the newcomers in the cast.

Stepping onto our stage for the first time are Nicole Walton as Lottie, Juliana Brenner as Rose, Juliette Noonan as Caroline, Cynthia Tank as Mrs. Graves, Cary White as Frederick, and , almost new, Steven Cronen (Michelle and Mike's son) as Wilding. Michelle Cronen will be Costanza and Ben Hamill will play Mellersh.

The assistant director is David M. Priest, stage manager is Duane Holladay, and set design is by Jim Anderson. Joyce Van der Eyken will handle props and David M. Priest will create the light design.

The story is that in 1922, two rain-soaked London housewives enroll a bored socialite and a stuffy widow into renting a castle in Italy for the month of April. There, under cascading wisteria and Mediterranean sunshine, these dissimilar women learn more—both about themselves and from each other—than they ever expected.

The play runs from April 11 through the 26th and tickets are \$11, \$9 for students, seniors, and everyone on Wednesday, April 23. Call the box office at 342-5104 or visit www.boiselittletheater.org for information and reservations.