

THE GREEN ROOM GAZETTE

All the news that's fit to print!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 *Branson Awards Picnic*
2 *BLT Scholarships*
2 *Summer Auditions*
3 *Enchanted Review*
4 *The Sunshine Boys*

Ailing Members

Nancy Suiter has had her second shoulder surgery recently. She is now our bionic woman with four joints replaced: both hips and both shoulders! She is recuperating at home these days.

Gloria Salladay took a fall in her kitchen and is on the mend at home. It is keeping her from driving some as her shoulder is bothering her.

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Message From The President

Wow! It's May already! Where did April go? I hope if you are busy, it's the fun kind of busy!

Enchanted April was wonderful. From the talented actors to the background music to the beautiful set, it was thoroughly enjoyable. I hope you all had a chance to see it. Congratulations to Janelle and her cast and crew.

Next up is *The Sunshine Boys*, directed by Larry Dennis. Larry has a great cast lined up. Jerry Snodgrass is doing double-duty as a cast member and set designer. This should be a very nice show to wrap up the season.

The summer kid's show, *The Pirates of Penzance Junior*, will open July 17. BLT and Boise Parks and Rec join forces for the ninth year in a row to give the kids in the Boise area the opportunity to learn a bit more about theater, be part of the cast or crew, and make new friends along the way. I encourage all of you to come and support the theater, the program and the kids! (The musical, directed by Cheryl Blauer, runs July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 at 7 PM and July 20 & 26 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$8, \$5 for children 12 and under. 342-5104 or www.boiselittletheater.org.)

Be safe. Be well. Be happy.

Wendy



Don't Forget BLT's Annual Branson Awards Picnic!

The annual Branson awards picnic will be held at Julia Davis Park picnic spot #1 at 6 PM on Thursday, July 10, 2008. This is the one time a year where all members, guests, and friends of BLT can get together and recognize the work done during the 2007-2008 season.

The season's plays are featured along with individual achievements by members throughout the year or years. Members should make an effort to be there since we have so few times to socialize, unlike early years when the theater was more like family.

BLT will furnish the fried chicken and soft drinks while attendees are asked to bring table service and a dish to share. The tradition of sharing food goes back to the beginnings of BLT and is carried on at cast parties regularly.

The Branson Awards Picnic is named in honor of Jim and Pat Branson who served the theater so well for many years, adding to productions and our finances.

Membership Meeting May 19, at 8 PM

BLT's Scholarship Programs

Everyone should be aware that Boise Little Theater is awarding real \$\$ to students pursuing post secondary education, not only as theater majors under our Lum Gerner fund, but for students of any discipline in the case of our Joe Posluszny Trust.

This year, the board of directors decided to increase the awards to \$4,500! Gerner scholarships are going to college students, sophomores and above, who have declared Theater Arts as a major. Interested students should have applied to Nancy Shankweiler, scholarship chair, by May 5, 2008. Anyone interested for 2009, should include full name, home address, current mailing address (if different from home address) and telephone number; theater experience, including work in community theater; future plans in theater; GPA; Evidence of need; college or professional school the student will attend; and letters of recommendation

The Posluszny Trust, on the other hand, is designed to encourage young people, ages 18-24, who have been actively involved at Boise Little Theater and who wish to pursue any post secondary education, no matter the field of study. The award is for \$1000.00 a year or \$500.00 per semester.

"The candidate must be a working member of Boise Little Theater and have demonstrated efforts and support of the theater for at least two years." Application can be made to the board of directors before August 1, each year.

If young people need any more encouragement to become active at BLT, the Posluszny trust should give them some impetus as gaining financial help while learning about community theater is a good way to go.

Pet Ban At The Theater?

The board of directors has discussed banning pets from the theater because of complaints. We have people who are afraid of dogs, for instance, animals underfoot when building sets and running shows, and even dog poop in the building. The feeling of the board seems to be that pets are welcomed to visit briefly, but should not be present during theater work.

Summer Auditions

Plaza Suite, June 28-29, 2 PM in the Green Room. Director Pat Ryan is looking for 2-4 women ages 25-50 and 3-5 men ages 20-55. Full rehearsals will begin July 21 and the show runs September 5, through 20, 2008.

Three couples successively occupy a suite at the Plaza: Act I—the spark has died in a long married couple's lives; Act II—a Hollywood producer tries to seduce his old girl friend; Act III—Parents try to coax their daughter out of the bathroom on her wedding day.

The Mystery Of Edwin Drood, August 9-10, 2 PM in the Green Room. Director Autumn Kersey needs 9 men and 7 women with musical experience, ages 16 and up, but most roles are for adults. Auditioners should prepare a 2 minute song, preferably from a musical, and bring their accompaniment recorded on a CD or cassette.

The Music Hall Royale (a hilariously loony Victorian musical troop) "puts on" its flamboyant rendition of an unfinished Dickens mystery. The giddy playfulness of this play-within-a-play draws the audience toward one of Drood's most talked-about features, which allows the audience to vote on the solution as prelude to the most unusual and hilarious finale!

Drood runs October 17 through November 1, 2008.

Naturally, both productions need backstage and technical help. Please volunteer by contacting Autumn or Pat if you have time to work! These two plays also offer the chance for young people to get involved.

High school students can become eligible for BLT scholarships by aiding in the productions. The Posluszny trust is for students who have been active at the theater and want to continue with higher education. They do not have to be drama students! (See story above on scholarships.)

A graphic advertisement for 'Curtain Call Live Theater in the Valley'. The title 'Curtain Call' is in a large, stylized font at the top. Below it, 'Live Theater in the Valley' is written vertically. The background features a spotlight and a microphone. The text lists three theater groups and their productions:

Prairie Dog Productions presents *The Sword of Zerro or From Z to Shining Z* May 2-Jun 7, 336-PETE (7393) The Alano, 3820 Cassia.

Knock 'Em Dead presents *Jake's Women* May 16—June 14, 333 S. 9th. www.kedproductions.org.

Stage Coach Theatre presents *Moon Over The Brewery* May 30– June 14 in The Hillcrest Shopping Center, Overland & Orchard. 342-2000.

Starlight Mountain Theatre presents summer season: *7 Brides For 7 Brothers, Footloose, Cinderella, Crazy For You, and Let's Murder Marsha* at Garden Valley Boise 83709. 462-5523 or www.starlightmountaintheatre.com

CAN-ACT presents *Odd Couple, Female Version* May 30—June 14, in the Caldwell Center for the Arts, 603 Everett St., Caldwell, ID 442-0676.

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.

Enchanted *Enchanted April*

Enchanted April was such a nice, neat, pretty picture, a poignant story of love and rebirth. Without Earth shattering conflict or tension, the slice of life tale reached out to the audience and captivated them in a warm and witty way.

Under the direction of Janelle Walters Priest, the cast and crew made this account of four women who rent a castle in Italy to escape rainy London in 1922 relative to us today. The worth of a play is in what it says about us: what does it say about life? *Enchanted April* sneaks up on us as we watch these characters slowly work into our feelings about the renewal of our relationships.

There wasn't a weak link in this production as the divergent personalities held their own and never let down their fellow actors. Newcomer Nicole Walton as Lotty Wilton was an absolute delight. She had that little extra something that made her enthusiasm contagious. Juliana Benner as Rose Arnott gave us, at first, the polar opposite of Lotty and a person who shares the blame in a failing relationship.

Ben Hamill as Mellersh Wilton played the domineering husband who had a touch of silliness that made his character more human and likeable. Dropping his towel in the second act was definitely the funniest moment and almost set a new precedent for male nudity at BLT! Cary White as Frederick Arnott was just slippery enough to be the gallivanting writer who gets caught in between his wife and paramour and takes the correct way out of the mess.

Juliet Noonan as Caroline Bramble certainly fit the part of the roaring twenties type, poor little rich girl who slowly overcomes her alcohol dependency and rejoins the living. Steve Cronen was a real surprise as he played older, as a more worldly landlord of the castle. He was steady and believable with a personality that reached out to the diverse women.

Cynthia Tank as Mrs. Graves gave us the cantankerous senior who seemed impossible to please, but learned the importance of enjoying life, wherever she is. She played much older than she is and did a great job being real. Michele Cronen as the cook Costanza was really as important as a character can be as she spoke mostly Italian and was implicitly understood by the audience. Her actions and reactions made for the warm humor that underlay the entire play.



Polar opposites—Rose (Juliana Benner) tries to restrain Lotty's (Nicole Walton) enthusiasm.



Poor little rich countess Caroline (Juliet Noonan)

The set deserves a special mention because of its flexibility in Act I and the surprise in Act II as a realistic courtyard of the castle. In Act I the audience saw the scenes backed by rotating partitions representing the four homes, a church, and a train compartment. When Act II opened, the audience murmured, hesitated, and applauded at the beauty of the stucco walls of the castle. The lighting had much to do with the impression as the pastel yellows, blues, lavenders, reds, oranges gave a warm, cozy glow for the atmosphere.

Please refer to the program to see all the crew who did a wonderful job presenting this picture, but a special mention goes to David Priest for lighting and assisting the director

and Jim Anderson and Duane Holladay for heading up the building of the sets. All in all *Enchanted April* was a nice change of pace and should encourage us to do more of these art pieces.

Variety has been the spice this season with *Steel Magnolias*, *The Desperate Hours*, *A Christmas Story*, *It Runs In The Family*, and *Enchanted April*. Next is *The Sunshine Boys*. Who could ask for more!?



Costanza the cook (Michele Cronen)

Supervising house manager Connie Behee welcomes all volunteers who want to help usher during productions! Please call her at 344-8759 or e mail at cbehee@netzero.com.

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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 ★
★ May 19, at 8 PM! ★

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2008-2009 Season at BLT

Plaza Suite directed by Patrick Ryan
September 5 through September 20, 2008

The Mystery Of Edwin Drood directed by Autumn Kersey
October 17 through November 1, 2008

The Trial Of Ebenezer Scrooge directed by Cricket Langworthy
November 28 through December 13.

Open House directed by Larry Dennis
January 16 through 31, 2009

Foxfire directed by Wendy Koepl
February 27 through March 14, 2009

Our Town directed by Nancy Shankweiler
April 10 through April 25, 2009

Bleacher Bums directed by Janelle Priest
May 22 through June 6, 2009

The Sunshine Boys

Neil Simon based his play *The Sunshine Boys* on a vaudeville comic he and his brother met while writing jokes for comedians. "Mr. Howard greeted us at the door, not of his suite but rather his small, single, drab room with a bath. He was wearing a faded bathrobe over pajama tops, dark blue pants with suspenders, argyle socks, and a pair of slippers.

"...The look and dress of Willie Howard, the seediness and sadness of his room, and the improbability that he would ever work again stayed with me for years and finally became the model in my mind for what later would be *The Sunshine Boys*."

Even as Simon is thought of as the funny playwright, he shows a darker side in plays in the back story, the subtext. Willie makes for a hilarious subject, but behind him is the sad fact of a career that is over.

Director Larry Dennis and his cast and crew will bring this play to life May 23—June 7. Jerry Snodgrass is designing and building the set, and while he says it won't be like the *On Golden Pond* set, it certainly has some nice features included.

Willie is portrayed by Ted Pendleton, and Al is Jerry Snodgrass. Nephew Ben is Lee Vander Boegh, Nurses are Malinda Gunderson and Danielle Byrne. The patient is Grant Horeczy, Eddie played by Duane Holladay, and the TV director by Melissa Montgomery.

342-5104 or www.boiselittletheater.org for tickets.