

ETC NEWS

Volume 10 _____ Spring 2007 _____

Celebration of the Arts Saturday, June 9, 2007

Mark your calendar once again for the 16th annual Celebration of the Arts in Tourist Park. This popular event highlights local and regional artists and artisans, with a wide variety of decorative wares. Add a few musical groups, some yummy food at the food booths, activities for children, and a book sale and you can understand how this event draws several thousand people.

Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 9 at Tourist Park. Those of you who have good used books, books on tape or videos that you are willing to donate should contact Sally Landstrom (822-3554) or Adriann Odil (822-4876). If you are or know of prospective vendors of homemade arts please contact Bernie Masyga (822-8336). This event is the major fund-raiser for ETC art scholarships.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat June 7-10, 14-17

ETC presents Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's wonderful "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" the second and third weekends in June. This will be our most spectacular offering ever, with Technicolor set design, gorgeous costumes, wonderful singers and rumors that Elvis will appear!

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to vibrant life in this delightful musical parable. Joseph is a boy blessed with prophetic dreams, and is his father's favorite son. When he is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and taken to Egypt, Joseph endures a series of adventures in which his spirit and humanity are continually challenged. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless.

Phil Warner and David Hile will alternate in the title role, and Ann Ethen sings the Narrator's role. Quin Buechner plays Jacob, and Joseph's brothers are played by Conor Erb, Dave Evenson, David Halaas, Jeff Hile, Dan Hoffmann, Brian Keeler, Jim Kerr, Ron Ruppel, Travis Thorp and Tom Toftness. Mark Ruppel plays Pharaoh, George Strom and Jaime Helgeson play Potiphar and wife. Principal dancers are Elizabeth Brown and Sarah Jergenson. The women's chorus includes Jeanne Beck, Sharai Bracken-Avery, Cheryl Buechner, Helena Buechner, Jasmine Erickson, Jan Helgeson, Megan Harding, Zoë Hopkins-Hile, Brittany Matthys, Charlotte Pow, and Eva Srubar. Lindsey Bangsberg, Livia Barker, Dakota Buechner, Myles Erb, Taylor Friese, Caitlin Harris, Abraham Ortiz, Megan Wheeler, Aidan Warner and Micah Weltzin form the Children's Choir.

Jeff Hile directs and Ron Ruppel is the Musical Director. Chris Hopkins-Hile is production assistant and Alyssa Tisdell is assistant to the directors. Doreen Weltzin, Lisa Barker, Scott Neby, Nathan Weltzin are the pit band.

The show will be performed at 7 PM on Thursday-Saturday, June 7-9 and June 14-16, with 2 PM matinees on Sundays June 10 and 17. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Video Vault at The Four Corners.

Thank You to our Donors

If you have not yet made a donation for 2007, please take the opportunity to do so right now! For all of you who have given generously over the years, a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for helping to make Cumberland a community enriched through culture!

Membership

Adriann Odil
Diane Craine
Doris Mold
Brian Anderson
Nilo & Lucille Nelli
Bernie & Joan Masyga
Eva Srubar
Jeanne Beck
Marta Ljungkull
Joseph & Irene DeNucci
Paul & Judy Markgren
Family
David & Lorna Halaas
In Memoriam
Nilo Nelli

Sponsor (\$100+)

Allan & Margaret Siemers
Mary Capra
Noreen & Dennis Gilbert
Jim & Pam Baker
Diane & Roger Thorp
Jim & Candy Cotone

Patron (\$150+)

John & Denise Westin
Colleen Warner

Producer (\$1000+)

Claire & Marge Johnson
Dave & Shirley Anne Evenson

Enrichment Through Culture

Dedicated to the promotion and support of the arts in our rural setting
P.O. Box 191, Cumberland WI 54829

Name _____
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Donation _____

ETC Angels	\$5000+	ETC Benefactors	\$350+
ETC Founders	\$3500+	ETC Partners	\$250+
ETC Sustainers	\$2500+	ETC Patrons	\$150+
ETC Producers	\$1000+	ETC Sponsors	\$100+
ETC Directors	\$ 750+	ETC Family	\$ 50+
ETC Leaders	\$ 500+	ETC Individual	\$ 25+

We would be honored to accept memorial gifts at any level.

Dale Skerhutt Honored

Dale Skerhutt, friend of music and theater throughout Northwest Wisconsin was honored by the Barron Spotlighters this spring for lifetime achievement. Below is the letter Mike Clay wrote in support of this honor.

The house is sold out. Sitting at tables in front of the stage and in the rows of seats behind, the audience is dressed for Vegas. Everyone's relaxed and enjoying Cumberland ETC's presentation of *The Rat Pack*. Dino and Frank have already sung several favorite tunes. Suddenly from behind the curtain stage left enters Sammy Davis, Jr. Everyone roars with delight because his make-up makes him look very much like the real singer.

However, the real magic begins when Dale Skerhutt sings. The people are suddenly hushed because rarely on our stage is music performed with such power, craft, and feeling. As he continues, it becomes apparent to everyone that Dale is the real deal, a superb singer in his own right. He captivates the audience. The standing ovation that concludes every performance is as much for Dale's own incredible talent as it is for his uncanny take on Sammy Davis, Jr.

Dale has performed and directed on the Cumberland ETC stage many times, including *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and, of course, *The Rat Pack*. He has made each show notable with his musical and dramatic talent, and he inspires others in the cast to follow suit. When Dale is aboard, rest assured the play will be worth the trip. He brings a discipline and spirit of excellence that makes each show extraordinary.

Successful community theater requires a dedicated group of volunteers, visionary administration, creative artists, and a darned good theater manager, but more importantly, it requires a talented leader who brings out the best by being the best. Dale is that person, and we are in his debt.

We at Cumberland ETC look forward to many more successful collaborations with this wonderful and talented man. Thank you, Dale, for all your years of gifted contributions to the local stage, and to the art of music and drama.

Sincerely,
The Cumberland ETC Board of Directors
and
Your friends and fellow actors from the ETC Theater

President's Column

ETC (Enrichment Through Culture) is a happening place all year round! Between our 3 entities, Theater, Music and Visual Arts, we have had the pleasure and privilege of entertaining, sharing and enriching our community since 1989. We could not be more proud to exist, and could not be more grateful to you, our supporters!

We have received a donation from the United Fund of Cumberland. This organization generously donates funds to local and surrounding organizations that help to make our area a special place to live. This money comes from mostly local people and businesses that donate to this organization. There is a board of directors who disperse the funds based on written requests. The requests must ask for a specific amount and what the money will be used for. All the money raised stays in this area. This is not to be confused with United Way.

We have also been blessed with a grant from the 3M Foundation. This foundation is based out of St. Paul, but is given money to disperse in 3M communities all over the country! Our first gift is being used for the youth of ETC. We want to welcome newcomers (young and old!) to all the areas of ETC and the funds will help to make that happen. Our request for this year is for all ages and will be used to get a summer arts program started, also including all 3 entities. We plan to purchase clay for the kiln and many other art supplies and tools, music stands, art display racks and some instructional books etc. This would be on Monday nights. The start date is yet to be determined. If you have a talent you could teach, please contact us!

We have a busy year lined up for you. We hope you enjoyed the Cabaret Talent Night that was held in February. We hope you won't miss the rest of the year's events that include:

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat"- June 7-10 and 14-17
Cactus Butte (Written by our own Dave Evenson)- Rutabaga Show, Aug. 23-26
Esanaba In Da Moonlight- Oct. 25-28 and Nov. 2-4
A Christmas Story- Nov.29-Dec.1 and Dec.6-8

Don't forget Celebration of the Arts down at the Cumberland Beach on June 9th. There is so much talent and beautiful unique items in one place! Don't miss it. There'll be art items you can purchase, food, book and movie sales, and music galore!

The building continues to improve. We are in the works of raking the theater (that means making seating at different levels so you can see better like a real theater. I didn't know either, but I sure am excited!) We can't actually do the work until Jan. of 2008 because our building is just so busy. We had to schedule it in! Then we will look at new seats and new paint and new floor and add another bathroom for the ladies downstairs and a real handicap bathroom with real plumbing upstairs. It all just takes time and money. Be patient with us. It will be worth it. We want to make your visit the best it can be.

We are also planning soon for a coach bus trip in 2008 to the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis to see "Jersey Boys"- A musical story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons." Watch for more information.

To check out our website or to keep in touch with us, go to www.cumberlandetc.com Also we have a running ad now in the Advocate in about the same spot every week. Look for it. It will keep you posted on what's up.

Have a great summer and we'll see you at the ETC!

Sincerely,

Diane Thorp- ETC President 2007

Board of Directors: Nancy Ruppel, Eva Srubar, Jeanne Beck, Jaime Helgeson, Dan Hoffmann, Roxanne Matthys, Andy Bangsberg, Marta Ljungkull, Tom Toftness and Bethany Barnaby.

Mike Clay- ETC Manager

Dave Evenson- The Newsletter Guy and then some!

Remembering Steve Ranallo

It was with great sadness that the community heard the news of Steve Ranallo's death. A few years ago when we were considering building the handicap ramp, we asked Steve to supervise the construction. Steve and Wayne and Jake from the Ardisam maintenance crew laid out the grades, landings and railings, cut through the brick for entrances and hung the doors. It was fun working with Steve. He knew what he was doing but was patient with volunteers and always kept his sense of humor. This was one of the last projects that Steve completed before a retirement that was cut too short.

The ETC board recently voted to honor Steve with a plaque on the handicap ramp.

Art Center Building Projects

ETC continues to make improvements on the Cumberland Art Center, and also has further plans. Mike Clay has completed the front handicapped exit platform and phone installation. This exit needs some explanation. It provides an alternate exit to the ramp for someone in a wheelchair. Once out of the building, the person would dial 911 from the platform, and emergency personnel would remove the person from the platform. We certainly hope this never occurs, but it is there for that possibility.

The parking lot was paved at the time of the Third Avenue street repair. We ask that Arts Center patrons and staff respect our neighbor, and use our drive entrance, as opposed to driving over the sidewalk and out through the Rectory Bed and Breakfast lot. A side benefit of the paving is that better grading and surfacing stopped the water damage in the kitchen, so we have patched and painted that wall.

More projects are in the works. The Board is considering new doors for energy and aesthetic reasons, a handicap restroom, sloping the floor for better sightlines and new theater seating.

2007 ETC Calendar

Auditions for Cactus Butte, USA And Escanaba in Da Moonlight (Dave Evenson and Eva Srubar)	Wed May 30, 6-8 PM Sat June 2, 9 AM-12
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	Thur-Sun June 7-10 Thur-Sun June 14-17
Celebration of the Arts	Sat June 9, Tourist Park
Cactus Butte, USA	Thur-Sun, August 23-26
Auditions for A Christmas Story (Diane Thorp, Travis Thorp)	Sat Sept 8 and Mon Sep 10
Rehearsals for Christmas Concert	Mon, Oct 1 and following Mondays 7 PM
Escanaba in Da Moonlight	October 25-28, Nov 2-4
A Christmas Story	Thur-Sun Nov 29-Dec 2 Thur-Sat Dec 6-8
Annual Christmas Concert	Sun Dec 9, 2 and 4 PM

Music Scholarships

The Music group of ETC awarded scholarships to two outstanding Cumberland High School students at the Music Awards Dinner on April 27th. Dustin DeGolier received a scholarship to Jazz Ensemble for guitar, and Anne Proescholdt received a scholarship to Band for trombone. These two students auditioned through the Wisconsin State Music Association and were selected for the Honors Project. These scholarships of \$375 each are funded by the free will offering at the Annual Cumberland Community Choir Christmas Concert. Over the 40 years of Christmas concerts \$15,275 has been given in scholarships to deserving young people, including many of our adult music leaders of today. Our Congratulations to Dustin and Anne!

Another Year, Another Cabaret Cumberland

Cabaret Cumberland VII, One Night Stand (Twice) was directed by Jaime Helgeson and Eva Srubar on February 2-3. Comics, singers, dancers and instrumentalists all put on a great show for Cumberland.

Trees on the Moon (Co Walker, Travis Thorp, Dustin DeGolier) warm up for Cabaret Cumberland (above). Singer and comic Dan Hoffman works his act (below)

Auditions for Rutabaga and Fall Plays Sat June 2 and Tues June 5

ETC will be holding auditions for the next two plays at the Cumberland Arts Center on Wednesday, May 30 from 6:00-9:00 PM and on Saturday, June 2 from 9:00 AM to noon.

The Rutabaga play will be a cowboy musical “**Cactus Butte, USA**” written and directed by Dave Evenson. The show is set in the Old West, the Old West that never really was. It features a reluctant hero, a spunky heroine, villains who aren’t really too villainous, and saloon girls who aren’t too unvirtuous, along with various townspeople and kids. There are parts for 11 men and 6 or more women from High School age to 95 or so, and also a half a dozen or so school children from 2nd grade through middle school. Most parts need to sing, although we can incorporate a few non-singers. There will be simple dance for all, and we’re really looking for a young man 8-20’s who can dance or is willing to learn.

On October 25-28 and November 2-4 ETC presents “**Escanaba in Da Moonlight**”. Yooper comic Jeff Daniels wrote this show. It is set in a U.P. deer shack on the eve of Opening Day, where many strange and hilarious events transpire. (Wisconsin hunters and their spouses will be able to relate). When the Soady clan reunites for the opening day of deer season at the family’s Upper Peninsula camp, thirty-five-year-old Rueben Soady brings with him the infamous reputation of being the oldest Soady in the history of the Soadys never to bag a buck.

In a hunting story to beat all hunting stories, **Escanaba in Da Moonlight** spins a hilarious tale of humor, horror and heart as Rueben goes to any and all lengths to remove himself from the wrong end of the family record book. There are parts for 5 men and one woman.

This also is a call for technical assistants. Contact Dave Evenson (822-3397), Eva Srubar (822-8574) for more details.

Wanted: Boots and Holsters

For the western-flavored Rutabaga show, Cactus Butte USA, we will have lots of cowboys to outfit. Many people have jeans and cowboy hats so that part is easy. But western style gunbelts and holsters and cowboy boots aren’t quite as common wear. If you have such, or a lead on where to find them call Dave Evenson (822-3397). Many thanks, Partner!

Cumberland High School Play “Rumors”

Our talented High School Troupe performed in Neil Simon’s “Rumors” as this year’s play. Ann Ethen directed this witty look at upscale society.

Enrichment Through Culture
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