

# Summit Playhouse Green Room Notes

## July 2005

### ***Kaleidoscope Theatre Presents "Dear Edwina - Junior"***

The Junior version of *"Dear Edwina,"* Zina Goldrich's one-act musical based on the book by Marcy Heisler, will be our Kaleidoscope Theatre for Youth's summer production at the Playhouse. It will run July 22–24 and July 29–31, Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. The plot concerns thirteen-year-old Edwina Spoonapple from Paw Paw, Michigan, who wants to be part of the Kalamazoo Advice-a-palooza Festival. She puts on hilarious shows in her family's garage dealing with such topics as birthday party etiquette and how to set a table for dinner.

Director Liz Messineo has cast twelve talented children ranging in age from six to thirteen: Paulina Casey, Rachel Donahue, Julia Karlin, Steven LaMaita, Tim Lynch, Meghna Maranthe, Priya Maranthe, Joanna Messineo, Michael Nitting, Mukta Phatak, Zachary Rissman, and Caroline Turner. Judy Brewer is musical director, while Nancy Boucher, Frank Hawrusik, and Tamara Nedjar are sharing the duties of producer.

Playhouse members and parents and grandparents will want to bring their friends and neighbors to see this musical romp. Call (908) 273-2192 soon to buy tickets or go online [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org) and process your order there. All tickets are \$10.

### **Playhouse Election Results**

At the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 8, Nancy Boucher was unanimously re-elected Playhouse President. Rose Pancirov was elected Vice-President. Also re-elected were Tamara Nedjar, Secretary; Mike Tatlow, Treasurer; Ed Johnson, Business Manager; and Stephanie Fisk, Ticket Officer. Maya Daniels, Tamara Nedjar, and Joann Scanlon won the positions of producer on the uncontested ballot. Robbi Curtis, Betty Kaus, John Luckstone, and Lyn Mackie were elected to the Nominating Committee.

In addition, several changes to the by-laws were approved, the first creating a Board of Trustees to raise funds, develop an endowment, and to oversee the care and maintenance of the historic building; the second creating a Community Advisory Board on artistic matters. Finally, Playhouse members approved a change in the way producers are chosen. Henceforth, they will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Governors rather than elected.

### **Playhouse Receives Three Grants**

The Manley Winsor Foundation has given us \$5000 for building restoration, while the Summit Area Public Foundation has awarded us \$6000 for the same purpose. These two grants totaling \$11,000 will enable us to begin the third phase of our building project in July: the replacement of rotted wood and reglazing of windows on the stage and backstage level. The curved molding at the roof level that must be handmilled will also be replaced. We hope to paint all wooden and stucco surfaces in the fall and then next spring re-landscape our property.

A \$500 HEART [History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands] grant we received from the Union County Cultural and Heritage Commission will enable us to begin an advertising campaign in *THE INDEPENDENT PRESS* and *THE SUBURBAN NEWS*. We chose these newspapers to reach underserved populations in Union County and the surrounding communities in Essex and Morris because they are delivered free to more than 128,000 households. The first ad, which will appear in September, will include the "Discover Jersey Arts" logo. Having made the Playhouse accessible to patrons with mobility problems, we are now turning our attention to people who live in cities and people who have visual and auditory impairments. *The Miracle Worker* is the perfect play with which to launch this initiative.

### **Expanding ACCESS to Our Playhouse and Its Implications**

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance and Kean University will help us establish our ACCESS program. The Theatre Alliance will lend the electronic equipment for audio description and for assistive listening. If you are unfamiliar with audio description, imagine hearing a description in one ear when with your other ear you can hear the dialog on stage but not see the actors, scenery, or movement because you are blind or otherwise visually impaired. If you can see what is going on but not hear it well, then you can use an assistive listening device or you can watch an interpreter with sign language. Some deaf and hard of hearing people read lips, but need the person they are "reading" to be directly in front of them, not talking into the wings or to the back of the stage.

Professor Rachel Evans from the Theatre Department at Kean University will audio describe some matinees for us, while Dr. Carol Goodman from the Department of Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will sign. Because we do not have a sound booth, we will require a closed circuit television set up so that Professor Evans can audio describe from downstairs and not disturb the members of the audience who have normal vision. (You will notice this item on our wish list.)

We have selected a matinee performance of each play in our 2005-2006 season for our ACCESS program and will advertise them that way. People requiring the ACCESS need to reserve space and equipment at least two weeks in advance either by telephone or on our web site. Because of space limitations, we may find that we have fewer seats to sell for those three matinees. That means that our "matinee regulars" should renew early and arrive early to assure themselves seating.

## Lynn Maleh Receives \$500 Theatre Arts Award

At the Board of Governors meeting on June 21, **Lois Hageman** presented Lynn Maleh with a certificate and a check for \$500 in recognition of her contributions to theater arts in Summit. She performed in numerous productions in Summit High School and served as President of the Drama Club and a director for the Annual Director's Showcase. (She also appeared in our Kaleidoscope Theater and with the Stony Hill Players.) Lynn will attend Emerson College in the fall to prepare for a career in the theater.

## Cathy Hawrusik's SAVE A HEART Campaign

To date, Cathy has raised over \$3500 for the defibrillator project, enough to purchase the equipment and pay to train Playhouse member in its use. The Red Cross will schedule an Adult CPR and AED training course on a Saturday morning in September. If you are interested in learning CPR and how to use a defibrillator, please contact Cathy at (908) 273-3855 or email her at [CathyOT@comcast.net](mailto:CathyOT@comcast.net). Thank you, Cathy, all donors, and all volunteers!

## Important Dates – Mark Your Calendars – Important Dates – Mark Your Calendars

<p><b>Sat, July 30: Summit Sidewalk Sales Days, 10am–4pm</b></p> <p>We will have a booth to promote the Playhouse. Six volunteers are needed to cover two-hour shifts. Contact Nancy (973-377-9058; <a href="mailto:nboucher@patmedia.net">nboucher@patmedia.net</a>)</p>	<p><b>Sat, Sept 17: Annual Clean-Up Day, 9am–1pm</b></p> <p>Teams are needed to clean scenery room, backstage areas, kitchen; organize costumes &amp; organize props; &amp; work on grounds. If you are unable to attend Sept 17 but can work on a prior date, contact Nancy (973-377-9058; <a href="mailto:nboucher@patmedia.net">nboucher@patmedia.net</a>)</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 18: Playhouse Fall Party</b></p> <p><b>Joann &amp; Michael Scanlon, Hosts</b> (Watch for invitation)</p>
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## Brochure for Season of Tony Winners

Bill Roome is busy designing our brochure for the 2005-2006 season that will be mailed at the beginning of August. You will be happy to see that the price of an adult subscription remains at \$40. People who subscribe by September 15 will receive an extra discount coupon for a single ticket purchase. Please bring your friends to the Playhouse and encourage them to become subscribers.

## Playhouse Archives to be Housed at the Summit Historical Society

With our new historic designation and applications for the State and National Registers of Historic Places, we need to make our archives accessible to the public. The Summit Historical Society has graciously agreed to store them at the Carter House on Butler Parkway. Soon our ever-growing collection of Playhouse pictures, programs, scrapbooks, and recent videotapes and CDs that has been stored over the years in members' offices, garages, and basements (most recently in PT Kizzia's family room) will be delivered to their new home.

## Playhouse Hosts Ladies' Movie Night as Cancer Benefit

On Wednesday, June 15, Playhouse neighbor Sue Roberts hosted a movie night to raise funds for the fight against breast cancer. Playhouse members attending included Nancy Boucher and Betty Kaus. Over the next eighteen months Sue and eleven college friends will turn 40. In honor of their birthdays they have decided to walk 40 miles and raise \$40,000 for the cause. The movie night was to raise funds toward that goal. The film *Calendar Girls* was shown and Melissa Knez, a Summit mom, two-year breast cancer survivor and the first Playhouse subscriber for the 2005-2006 season was the inspirational speaker. If you would like to support Sue and her classmates in this worthy cause, please call her at 908-277-6011 or e-mail her at [jrsue@comcast.net](mailto:jrsue@comcast.net). Get out your wallets and/or walking shoes or both!

**WISH LIST — Can you supply any of these items? (1) Closed Circuit TV Camera and Monitor? (2) 3-Drawer Filing Cabinet? (3) Kitchen Cabinet 2-feet deep and 4-feet long? If so, call Nancy (973-377-9058)**

## Volunteers Needed – Call Nancy (973-377-9058) or e-mail her [nboucher@patmedia.net](mailto:nboucher@patmedia.net)

- Publicity – Individuals to take pictures, to write press releases, and to deliver or e-mail material to the local newspapers.
- Gifts and Benefits - Individuals to attend the plays at Summit High School, Kent Place School, and Oak Knoll School and serve on a committee to select the art student winner for 2006
- Communications (Telephone/E-mail) – Individuals to contact members and subscribers, when necessary
- Technical and backstage help – Individuals to help with props, costumes, stage managing, hair and wig design
- Housekeeping and grounds – Individuals to prepare theater immediately before and during the run of a production

**The Playhouse Association, Inc., 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 (908) 273-2192**  
 Nancy Boucher, President • Ed Johnson, Business Manager • John Bauer, Editor • [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org)