



The Summit Playhouse

Green Room Notes

The Summit Playhouse is a community theatre formed to encourage and practice theatre arts. The proceeds of its performances not required for the support and extension of its activities will be devoted to educational or charitable purposes. Established in 1918

APRIL 2007

A Funny Thing Happened of the Way to the Forum

By Burt Shevelove, Larry Gelbart, and Stephen Sondheim

Producer-Director Vincent J. Balzano brings a talented production crew and cast to our zany farce, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Musical direction will be by Bill Houpt and choreography by Stephanie Lynn Warkulwiz. The cast includes Bill Cater, David Claypoole, Matthew Ruf, Mitch Ruf, Laura Kavinski, Thomas Kitson, Kathie Kneese, Stowe Lovejoy, Bob Olsen, Heath Wasberg, Caroline Adalion, Frances Ancheta, Michael Efron, Julianna Kaloshi, Alison McCartney, Gloria Mui, Mageen Ruf, and Stephanie Warkulwiz.



Forum takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000 year old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow witted courtesan for his young master in exchange for his freedom. With its unforgettable characters, a hysterical, perfectly constructed book and high-spirited score, *Forum* is one of the most popular musicals of the last forty years.

Forum opens May 4 and plays through May 19, 2007. We expect a sell out so be sure you buy any extra tickets you may need promptly. Our ACCESS matinee will be on Sunday, May 6th at 2 pm. This performance will be audio described, signed, and assistive listening devices and large print programs will be available. To reserve, please call 908-273-2192 or go online to [w.w.w.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org).



May 12th Fundraiser

“A Funny Thing Happened on Edgewood Road on the way to see A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”

Invitations have been sent for our Fundraiser, “A Funny Thing Happened on Edgewood Road on the way to see A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum”. The event, sponsored by the Committee of Trustees and chaired by Nancy Boucher will begin to raise funds for a new roof on the 1891 part of our theater. When we started our building renovations, we were told that that roof would last about five years. It’s now in its fourth year and showing its age.

The May 12th Fundraiser will begin at the Edgewood Road home of Betty and Ed McColgan, where drinks, hors d’oeuvres, and a Roman dinner will be served. Comedian, Assemblyman Jon Bramnick will start the comedy that night. The event will then move to the Playhouse where participants will be entertained with the production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. If you haven’t received your invitation and would like to attend or contribute, please call Nancy Boucher at 973-377-9058.

Keeper of the Dream Award

The Playhouse would like to congratulate our Musical Director, Bill Houpt and his wife, Ann for receiving a “Keeper of the Dream” Award from Shaping Summit Together and Schering Plough Corporation on January 15, 2007. They were honored for their extensive community service and improving the lives of others. They certainly have enriched the Playhouse over the years.

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope Theatre for Youth’s summer show will be *Godspell Junior*. This groundbreaking musical by three-time Academy Award winner Stephen Schwartz will captivate audiences with its wonderful message of kindness and love. Featuring a sparkling score from the composer of the Tony-award winning hit musical *Wicked*, this youth production boasts a string of well-loved songs, led by the international favorite, *Day by Day*. Renee Palermo will direct and Abbe Maron will produce. *Godspell Junior* will play the last weekend of July and the first weekend of August.

Auditions will be on **Sunday, May 6 from 6-9 pm**, and **Monday, May 7 from 6-9pm**. Auditions will be at the Playhouse, 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ. We are looking for energetic kids, ages 8 to 18, who are strong singers and actors. Many featured roles are available.

Please prepare a song that shows personality and bring sheet music in your key. An accompanist will be provided (bring an extra copy of your music). A simple dance routine will be taught at the audition. Some parts may be double cast.

Rehearsals will begin in June and held Sunday through Wednesday evenings. Not everyone will be needed for all rehearsals. To ensure a good experience and a great production, attendance at all required rehearsals is mandatory. Those with vacation or other extensive conflicts will not be cast. Please bring your calendars and a list of any conflicts with you to the audition. **All Kaleidoscope auditioners under 15 should be accompanied by a parent.** If you want to be on the Kaleidoscope mailing list, send an email to kaleidoscope-notices@SummitPlayhouse.org.

Plays in Progress

The Playhouse is pleased to announce a new venture. Plays in Progress will present staged readings of new plays, fun for an audience and a tremendous aid to the playwright to see their *baby* on its feet. On Saturday, April 21st at 8:00p.m., Arnold Buchiane, one of our most experienced



directors and a fine actor in his own right, will direct *L.I.N.T.* This is a full length romantic ghost story by Phyllis Paulette McDougal, a former playhouse member who has had many plays produced around the country. The cast includes Marguerite Wurtz, Liz Messineo, Gene O'Brien, Jim Clancy, Kate Schlesinger, Joanna Messineo, and John Becker. Come and see how a play gets started. Meet Paulette McDougal and share in some light refreshments. Audience thoughts and comments are encouraged. Admission will be by a donation at the door.

Plays for 2007-2008 Season Selected

What a stellar group of plays our playreading committee, chaired by Roy Pancirov, has chosen. The Board has approved their recommendations unanimously.

Fall – *You Can't Take it With You* by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Winter – *The Brooklyn Boy* by Donald Margulies

Spring – *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams

We will be requesting potential directors to submit letters expressing their interest very soon.

Tri-County Community Theatre Association

To find out what's happening at other community theatres, don't forget to look on the Tri-County Community Theatre Association at www.TriCountyCTA.org for listings of up-coming productions and audition notices.

Wanted: One Refrigerator

We are still looking for a small refrigerator (no larger than 28wX62hX24d) for downstairs. If you have one and would be willing to donate it to the Playhouse, call Nancy Boucher at 973-377-9058.



Preserving Our Past Shows

The video tapes of our past shows are now digitalized. Thanks to a grant from Investors Savings Bank obtained by our grant guru, Nancy Boucher, and with the help of Bruce Wallace of Captiva Digital, the plays and Kaleidoscope plays that we had in our archives are now DVD's. They are in P.T. Kizzia's care until we move our records to the Historical Society. The old video tapes are in the Green Room.

In Memoriam

In March, the Playhouse lost Michael Scanlon, husband of our President, Joann Scanlon. Michael had served as Chair of House and Grounds, and appeared in several productions such as *The Boys Next Door* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He also appeared with The Chatham Playhouse and sang with the Maplewood Glee Club. His gardening ability was legendary and the Playhouse members often enjoyed their hospitality on their remarkable decks in Chatham. Our condolences and prayers go out to Joann at this time.

Funding has been made possible in part through a capital preservation grant from the NJ Cultural Trust, administered through the NJ Historic trust.

If you would like to receive future Green Room Notes on email, please email that request to Ed Johnson, our Business Manager, at GEJ1936@aol.com.

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