



News and Cues

The Players Guild of Dearborn

April
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2014



KISS Me KATE

Kiss Me Kate, Cole Porter's classic musical based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, opens on May 2. The 27 member cast has been in rehearsal under the direction of Valerie Haas since March 13. Paul Abbott is the music director and Janeen Bodary is the choreographer.

"Another Op'nin' Another Show" welcomes you to the opening of the show. Dashing Fred Graham is at the helm as director and leading man with his ex-wife Lilli playing Katherine the Shrew. Graham's current

love interest, Lois, also stars, as does Bill, the other man in her life. Before long, the musical *Shrew* is impacted by the volatile on-again/off-again romance of Fred and Lilli; the frustrating flirtations of Lois and Bill; and the appearance of two tough gangsters come to collect on a falsified IOU (and who end up joining the show, spats and all). Will the on-stage and off-stage lovers reunite, and will the show come to a successful end with everyone in one piece, before the curtain falls?

Brett Reynolds is Fred Graham with Christine Kapusky as Lilli. Meg Kisch is Lois with James Mayne as Bill.

Others in the cast are Anne Morgan as Hattie and Inez Hernandez as Paul. Tom Varitek and Marc Walentowicz play the gangsters.

Terry Crandall plays Harry Trevor, Michael Belli plays Flynt, and Tim

Carney plays Riley. Mark Byars is General Harrison Howell.

Kerry Plague plays the Stage Door-man, Phil Walling plays the Stage Manager, and Jeff Lokken plays the Dance Captain.

Walter Middlebrook is Stagehand #1, Chris Boudreau is Stagehand #2, and Luke Boudreau is Stagehand #3. The Boudreaus also join forces to become a Donkey. Annette Ripper is the Wardrobe Lady.

Members of the Ensemble are Julie Ballantyne Brown, Lauren Danke, Diane Cliff, Maddie Kaplan, Lexie Kaplan, Elizabeth Kilpatrick, Sara Williams, and Dee Morrison.

Tickets are available online and your friends and family can select their seats on the website. Go to www.playersguildofdearborn.org.

A NEW ERA FOR THE GUILD a letter from the President

Dear Members,

In the ongoing search for additional sources of revenue for our theatre, I am pleased to announce that I am in the final stages of negotiations for what I believe will be of significant financial benefit. This has not been discussed with the board of governors, as I was hoping to surprise them, and I believe our bylaws do not cover this particular source of revenue.

As you may be aware, "product placement" has been utilized by institutions for some years now as a means of raising funds. It has been a regular occurrence to see specific brands of soda or snack foods being sold in schools or recreation centers. While controversial, the ability to raise passive revenue to help defray costs, generally outweighs any concerns.

Interestingly and coincidentally, a recent *Wall Street Journal* article discusses product placement in high school theatres. High schools are resorting to increasingly creative ways while vying with each other to entice businesses to pay for the opportunity to advertise during shows.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304747404579445301988839832>

In order to get a jump on our competition, I have completed preliminary agreements with several companies. I have been advised not to name them until the deal is finalized, but I can say they are very excited to be part of the magic of our theatre. One company, involved in the local adult entertainment arena, is extremely excited to be involved with us, as is a local (but who hopes to be soon national) politician, and a new snack

product hoping to gain market share as an alternative in the energy drink market.

What will this require of the PGD? Nothing that should prove a strain to our members or resources. A sharing of our marquee, cover page of our program, and the placement of advertising above our proscenium, on stage sets and on costumes is part of the negotiated deal. Exclusive product use during intermission should prove to be no hardship. This will give our membership a chance to be even more creative, as the more we advertise the product the more revenue we may receive.

I hope you are as excited about this as I am. Stay tuned for further information.

John Sczomak, Ph.D.
President

The Players Guild of Dearborn

PAINTING AT THE GUILD by Jana Smith

Normally, I HATE painting. I paint my kitchen only once every ten years or so. It took me two YEARS to paint my family room, and that was only three of the walls.

But at the Guild it is different.

Starting with color selection: at home, I agonize over it for days, weeks, and then pick the wrong color 50% of the time. One room I recognized that right away and re-painted immediately. The other two rooms I lived with for years, trying to convince myself that the color was acceptable, primarily because I didn't want to re-paint. At the Guild, the paint color is chosen by a knowledgeable, experienced person. Your input is welcome though. No pressure!

For a start, there is so much less worry about getting paint on the floor. At home, I have to move furniture, clean, vacuum, put down drop cloths. At the Guild, paint on the floor? No problem, it will be painted over the night before opening night. No pressure!

At home, I use spackle to fill any holes, then find any nail pops, put in a drywall screw, plaster, sand, plaster, prime,

then paint. At the Guild, paint over holes, Styrofoam, masking tape, whatever is there to hold a wall together. No pressure!

Most important, however, is the camaraderie. At home, I turn on loud fifties or blues music, but it only helps a little. At the Guild, in addition to music, there are people around having fun, rehearsing, joking, and otherwise working together and having a great time.

It was mentioned while I was there on a recent Thursday that there haven't been too many 'new' volunteers helping out. I'm hardly a 'new' volunteer; as a matter of fact I am very proud to be a lifetime member. The point is that it appeared to me that a small group of people is doing a LOT of work.

Coming down to help out on Thursday set work nights, or volunteering to help sew, helping out with tickets, any of these things does not have to be a full time job. Even volunteering for a couple hours is appreciated.

The only danger is that once you start, you may become addicted. It really is a lot of fun!

ON OTHER STAGES

We have several Guildlings who are in Divine Child High School's production of *Les Miserables*. The performances dates are: Thursday 4/3 @ 7:30 PM, Friday 4/4 @ 7:30 PM, Saturday 4/5 @ 2:30 PM, Saturday 4/5 @ 7:30 PM, and Sunday 4/6 @ 2:30 PM

Many of the roles have been triple cast, and our young performers are featured as follows: Lea Bertucci (Eponine on Sat 4/5 @ 2 PM matinee ONLY); Maddie Kaplan (Cosette at all performances EXCEPT Sat 4/5 @ 2 PM matinee); and, Peter Moore (Garvoche on Thurs 4/3 @ 7:30 PM AND Sat 4/5 @ 7:30 PM ONLY).

Members of the ensemble are Christina Bertucci, Grace Bertucci, Molly Boudreau, Dash Griemel, Lilliana Griemel, and Scout Griemel.

Luke Boudreau is on the stage crew.

And, at Edsel Ford, Nathan Booth IS PETER PAN!!! Info on their website.

Please come out and support our young people.

A LITTLE BIT OF JOY



Joy Dianne-Alice Mullins was born on March 10th to Tiffany and Joe Mullins. She was 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 21.5 inches long. She was welcomed home by her sisters Hope and Noel.

Joy was also welcomed into the family by Grandpa and Grandma, Guild members Mark and Becky Byars.

SAY IT ISN'T SO!!

It is with heavy hearts that we bid adieu to one of our long-standing active members: Brian Townsend has left the Players Guild of Dearborn to pursue other theatrical ventures. Last week, Brian marched into the Guild to announce that he had "had it" and was "moving on" to "something better." He also added something that sounded like "you hacks", but we believe he meant Hugh Jackman, and can only assume his new project involves the star of stage and screen. In the excitement of this news, Brian proceeded to have close, one-on-one conversations with several members, wishing them well in loud, strongly worded tones and shoving them away to make his departure easier.

Although it was difficult to hear as he slammed the doors to the theater, it is believed Brian said "Good luck yourselves" — wishing all the best to his Guild family.

N&C
WISHES YOU
AND YOURS
A HAPPY
APRIL FIRST!!

