

# NEWS & CUES

a publication for and about the players guild of dearborn

Anna Dewey, Editor

## Inside this issue

Mice and Socks

Annual Party Highlights

Who was your first?

Birthdays and Awards

*Seussical* on stage

What's up, Gov'nor?

Murders, murders

Summer at the Guild

On other stages

Directors announced

## SOCK-CESS!

Remember all those socks you donated during *Cheaper by the Dozen*? The final foot count came to 715 pairs! The socks were donated to benefit Detroit-area homeless folk in need. Socks are the #1 most-requested item from the homeless. Thanks to **Ashley Sword** for leading this endeavor.

Follow us on **Facebook** for insider news, announcements and continued drama...  
Join "**Players Guild of Dearborn**" (closed group) for our members only

# THE MOUSETRAP



*-photo courtesy of Marni Mayne*

Congratulations to the cast and production team of *The Mousetrap*! The show had the best opening night attendance in three years with 239 patrons (96% of the house sold). Word traveled quickly of its popularity and after only a handful of seats remaining for most of the performances, the final weekend sold out entirely. The audiences were rapt both by the performances onstage and the incredible set design.

The Guild welcomed Director **Karen Pritchard** and new members **Ken Overwater** and **Andrew St. John** to our stage for this production. A recipient of many theater awards and honors, Karen taught, produced and directed for 37 years with Hillsdale High and Divine Child High School until retiring in 2012. She has directed at multiple community theaters since then and we are so glad she has finally made it to the Guild! Bravo to all who worked so hard on this production!



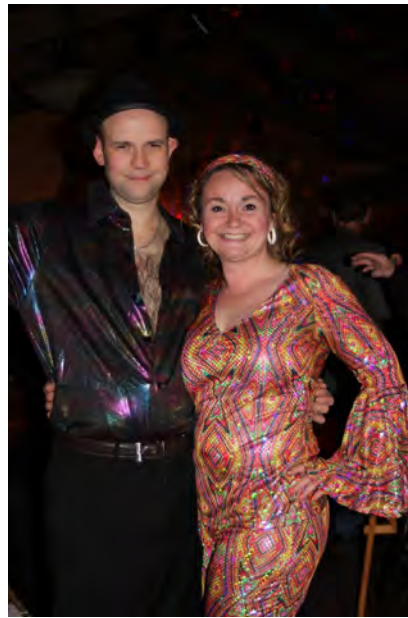
## Annual Party totally groovy!

Did you boogie with us on February 13<sup>th</sup> for the annual party? We had 42 cool cats that came to get down and man, their threads were outta sight.

The food was dyno-mite, thanks to **Pat LaFramboise**, **Debbie Pletzer**, **Sally Goodman** and **Paul Bruce**. Paul's sweet selections were solid: blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, apple and pumpkin pies; sugar cookies; chocolate cake; and chocolate chips bars. Total sweetness!

Hospitality Governor **Tim Carney** and his committee took this party to the max. Special thanks to **Ron Williams**, **Carissa Madley**, **Katelyn Harrison**, and **Casey Irwin**.

For those of you who missed out this year, hope to catch you on the flip side next season.



Photos (far left): Meredith Ferry. Clockwise from top left: Jeff Lokken and Carissa Madley; Juliette and Paul Abbott; Giorgio and Janine Bertucci; Sally Goodman, Patti Martin, Amy and Richard Moore, Julie Yolles; Tom and Julie Sparrow. *Photos by Sue Suchyta.*

**OUR MISSION**

It shall be the purpose of the Guild to promote and foster community interest in good drama and all its forms; through group endeavors in the training of persons interested in theatrical arts — acting, directing, play production, scenery and costume design, and playwriting in apprentice workshops, youth productions, and actual presentation of plays by novices and experienced persons.

***YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!***

**MARCH**

Greg Viscomi	March 1
Diane Cliff	March 4
Kevin Dewey	March 5
Tiffany Byars Mullins	March 8
Brian Townsend	March 9
Ken Overwater	March 19

**APRIL**

Madelyn Kaplan	April 1
Pat LaFramboise	April 21
Robert Ostrowski	April 25
Linda Mosley	April 30

**MAY**

Lexie Kaplan	May 7
Paul Abbott	May 9
Mary Davis	May 9
Brad Pfeifer	May 20
Tom Davis	May 21
Mary Ann Denyer	May 22
Diane Kaplan	May 24

*My apologies to anyone I may have missed! We are working on updating our database. Let me know if you'd like to help!*

**MEMBER VOICES MATTER**

Is there something or *someone* you'd like to see in the next edition of *News & Cues*? Contact Editor Anna Dewey at [ahnatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:ahnatiuk@gmail.com) with your suggestions or submissions.

*Who Was Your First?*



The first person I remember meeting was the late, great EJ (Elna Johnson) in 1999, as she was membership governor and met me on my first night of rehearsals for *Jake's Women* to give me my welcome packet and collect my membership dues and form. I remember being a bit intimidated by her as she had a very sophisticated air about her, but I soon learned that she was a wonderful person with an enormous heart.

But when I think of the Guild, and the first person I made a connection with, that person is **Kim Donovan**. Kim played my mother in *Jake's Women* and became a motherly figure to me in general at the Guild. A lot of my fondest memories include Kim, and I will always hold her dear to my heart. The cast for that show as a whole was wonderful, and many of that cast is still actively involved at the Guild, including but not limited to, **Sally Goodman** and **Patti Jones Martin**. It was a deeply emotional show that perfectly set the groundwork for a lifetime of memories and friendships. I couldn't have asked for a better welcoming experience to the Guild. Thank you **Nancy Wolter** for casting me in the show!

*- Meredith Ferry*

*Have a juicy story to tell? Email yours to Anna Dewey at [ahnatiuk@gmail.com](mailto:ahnatiuk@gmail.com) subject line "Who Was Your First?" and it may appear in the next News & Cues!*

*Hall of Fame*

Congratulations to **David Reynolds, Jr.**, who was selected for DATA's Hall of Fame this year! Dave is the third generation of Reynolds to receive this award. Both his mother (Diana) and father (David Sr.) are Hall of Fame recipients.

The ceremony will take place during the DATA/PAGE Awards on **Tues. May 24, 2016 at 7:30pm** at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. Come support Dave, watch the cast of *Seussical* perform a selection, and support all that local theater groups are doing in Dearborn!



# Seussical the Musical



Gordie Mosley – photo by John Sczomak



Painters: Laura Kanclerz, Nate Hermen, Andrew Brown, Mike Hermen, Tom Sparrow – photo by John Sczomak

Our last show of the season, *Seussical the Musical*, directed by Valerie Haas, will open on April 29 and runs through May 22. It caps off our family-friendly season here at the Guild. Adults and children alike will love seeing their favorite Seuss characters such as Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie the Bird, the Grinch, and the iconic Cat in the Hat. Don't miss your chance to see familiar faces, and some brand-new ones, too, strut their stuff on our stage.

One of the many high points of *Seussical* is the music, directed by Paul Abbott. From the upbeat ensemble number of "Oh, the Thinks You Can Think" to the haunting strains of "Alone in the Universe" and "Solla Sollew", the music of *Seussical* is full of complex harmonies and expressive solos. The music is constant through the entire show, all of the lines are spoken in rhythm, and while that was a challenging aspect for the cast at first, intense rehearsing has made the end product nothing short of fantastic.

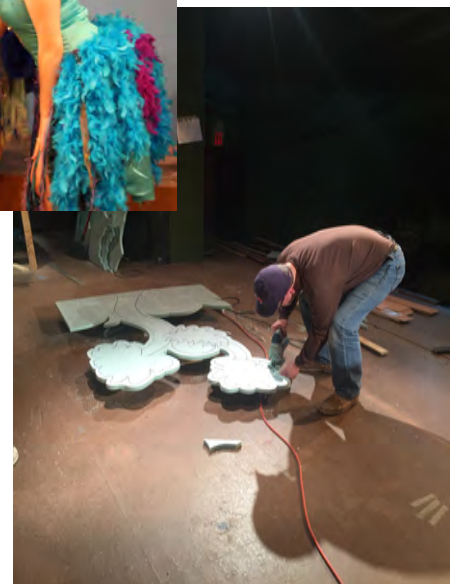
Other can't-be-missed components are the extravagant sets, designed by Kirk Haas and worked on by the Scene Shop crew, the fantastic dance numbers, choreographed by Janeen Bodary, and the fanciful variety of costumes provided by our talented costuming committee. This entire show is a feast for the eyes and ears, which makes it a perfect event for all ages.

We've worked very hard on this show; come and watch us shine.

~ Julie Ballantyne Brown  
Assistant Director



Top (left to right): Danielle Riley, Samantha York, John Denyer, Kayla Chavez, Amanda Chatila  
Photo by Sue Suchyta



Right: Kirk Haas  
Photo by John Sczomak

## 2015 – 2016 Board of Governors

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## Governors' Notes

### Tickets:

We implemented our new encrypted credit card machine with the start of *The Mousetrap*. The encrypted machine is not like the chip readers/credit card machines you may see at many retailers. When a card is swiped the number is encrypted and better protected from hackers attempting to access credit card information. **We're asking all members and patrons to refrain from leaving their credit card number on our answering machine.** Instead, members and patrons should use the website, when possible, to place their order online. Member tickets can be redeemed online. Members and patrons can place their ticket request online and a committee member will call them back for their credit card number.

– Megan Lizbinski

### Stage:

The Stage Committee is the only committee at the Guild that has a fixed weekly meeting date (Thursday nights), but the magnitude of the builds (and in all honesty the fun of the work) has the stage group getting together more frequently. This is a great opportunity for experienced woodworkers or handymen to challenge their skills or develop new ones. It is an opportunity for those that want to engage in a semi-physical activity, learn about basic tools and be a part of a creative process. It's also an opportunity for someone who "just wants to help" and wants to do it in a welcoming environment that needs constant cleaning and sorting. In the past few months we have people stop by and give a hand who fit pretty much every demographic category. This help is great, but what we are really looking for is enough interest to make it consistent. If anybody has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 248-496-6885.

– John Szczomak

## Partnership with the Dearborn Symphony

- WHAT:** Joint fundraiser with the Dearborn Symphony: *MURDER AT THE COURTHOUSE* - an interactive murder mystery event at the Dearborn Courthouse.
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 29, 2016
- TICKETS:** \$125 per person / \$200 benefactor / \$300 patron  
(prices based on typical Symphony fundraisers)
- DETAILS:** Includes dinner and a bar. Catered by **Park Place**. Play written by our own **BRIAN TOWNSEND!** Auditions in September. More info to come.

– Frann Stempel, Ways & Means Governor

## TAKING TALENT ON THE ROAD...

At the Players Guild we are fortunate to have such talented members working both behind the scenes and onstage for all our productions. Though we love what we do right here at home, and we help keep the Arts alive by bringing audiences *in* to see our work, there are other creative ways our talents can be beneficial beyond the walls of the Guild. That's what happened with the recent production of *Murder Comes to Uptight Abbey*.

According to director and writer **Brian Townsend**, "the show came about from **Randall Nicholls** asking if I might put together a show for his church (who used to do shows once in a while in their past — I remember walking up there to see a friend of mine in *The Velveteen Rabbit* many many moons ago). I asked if there were any restrictions or preferences; namely, did it need to be biblical or religious? Randall said there were two things the congregation loved — *Downton Abbey* and murder mysteries. So I decided to kill two birds with one stone, as it were, and make a parody of both.

"The show started rehearsals in February and while we worked on act one, I was writing act two. We laughed at rehearsals a lot. In fact, some flubs during rehearsals led to great lines and additions to the script. We were very fortunate to have help from the Guild, not only with actors sharing their talents but our Governors lending advice, set pieces, props and costumes."

Numerous Guild members stepped up to make this happen. **Nathan Booth** was stage manager and worked lights and sound with **Stan Guarnelo**. Current Governors **Inez Hernandez** and **Diane Cliff** helped with costumes and props, respectively. **Philip Booth** aided in the schlepping of supplies, and **Paul Bruce** wrote and played the theme music.

The collaboration and efforts culminated in a fundraiser on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> for the church's Youth Group Mission Trip to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico (an education and retreat center), and "over the two-night production, [they] raised \$5,633 (a total from seat/ticket sales and additional donations)." The members of Allen Park Presbyterian Church were extremely grateful, and Brian and the cast and crew "had a great time doing it!"



An original play by Brian Townsend  
Fundraiser Performances for  
Allen Park Presbyterian Church Youth



Back row (left to right): *Brian Townsend, Kori Bielaniec, Randall Nicholls, Amanda Chahine, Megan Meade-Higgins, Jillian Drapala, Kenyada Davis, Alex Gojkov, Ken Kilgore, Ken Kilgore*  
Front row: *Nick Graham, Samantha York*  
Photo by *Nathan Booth* with cloning by *Brian Townsend*

Did you miss the chance to see these sold-out performances? Never fear! *Murder Comes To Uptight Abbey* is coming to the Guild!

Friday, June 17, 2016	8pm	
Saturday, June 18, 2016	8pm	Tickets: \$15
Sunday, June 19, 2016	2:30pm	Stay tuned for more info!

*Proceeds will go to Guild projects (like the repaving of the parking lot).*



# SUMMER at the Guild

## GUILDLINGS!

### **FOOTLOOSE**

For teens ages 13-18

Director: Marc Walentowicz  
Assistant Director: Kori Bielaniec  
Music Director: Mary Melonio  
Choreographer: Emma Garber

#### **Auditions:**

Mon. May 9<sup>th</sup>, Tues. May 10<sup>th</sup>  
6pm registration, 7pm auditions

#### **Performances:**

Thurs. July 21<sup>st</sup> – Sun. July 24<sup>th</sup>

★★★

### **THE SUPER HERO OLYMPICS**

For children ages 5-12

#### **Auditions:**

Mon. June 6<sup>th</sup>, Tues. June 7<sup>th</sup>  
6pm registration, 7pm auditions

#### **Performances:**

Thurs. August 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun. August 7<sup>th</sup>

For more information on both of these shows, go to:

[www.playersguildofdearborn.org](http://www.playersguildofdearborn.org)



Photo by Olivia Raxter

## STARSHINE WORKSHOP

Workshop dates: Monday, August 8 – Friday, August 12, 2016

Performance: Friday, August 12, 2016, 7pm

It's hard to believe, but the Starshine Theatre Workshop is in its seventh year and will be happening August 8-12th. Starshine is a collaboration between the Players Guild and the Neighborhood Service Organization. During the week, young adults with developmental and intellectual challenges become involved in many aspects of theater, culminating in an evening performance that has always been aweing and inspiring to the audience and everyone involved. We're continually humbled by the Guild's embracing of this activity and by the number of Guild members who have volunteered their time and talents. This year we're incredibly fortunate to have **Marybeth Kinnell** returning as director extraordinaire. The kids love Marybeth and the way that she makes the work of theater both fun and challenging. Please come to the free performance Friday, August 12th at 7pm. For more information on Starshine, call John Sczomak at [248-496-6885](tel:248-496-6885).

-John Sczomak

## CREATIVELY PROMOTING THE GUILD

Members of the Guild have developed a new method of promoting selected Guild shows. **Sue Suchyta**, an Honorary Member and long-time Active Member suggested promoting *Seussical, the Musical* through story hours at local libraries. **Brian Townsend**, our resident graphic artist among many other things, designed a *Seussical* bookmark and Sue visited many of the local libraries to distribute the bookmarks and offer *Seussical* cast members as story hour talent.

A number of local libraries accepted the offer, and the cast members led by **John Denyer**, as The Cat in the Hat, went to libraries in costume to read Dr. Seuss stories to the attending children. Cast members who participated were Denyer, **Vince Hanchon**, **Rebecca Hermen**, **Diane Cliff**, **Amanda Chatila**, **Ben Apostle**, **Josh Lisiecki** and **Tom Sparrow**.

## Governor's Award

Another congratulation is in order! In a surprise announcement during the dress rehearsal of *Seussical* - in front of an auditorium of students from Salina Intermediate – Guild member and Salina teacher **Paul Bruce** was notified that he will be the 2015/2016 recipient of DATA's Governor's Award. Congratulations, Paul!

Another great reason to come on down to the DATA/PAGE Award Ceremony **Tues. May 24, 2016 at 7:30pm** at the FCPAC!

Thanks to all Guild members involved in coordinating this wonderful surprise for Paul, including **Diane Kaplan, Mike Moseley, Greg Viscomi, and Jim Kirwan** to name a few!

### CREDITS & SPECIAL THANKS for this edition of *News & Cues*

#### Content contributors and/or writers:

Kori Bielaniec, Julie Ballantyne Brown, Paul Bruce, Tim Carney, Anna Dewey, Meredith Ferry, Robert Jones, Megan Lizbinski, John Sczomak, Tom Sparrow, Frann Stempek, Sue Suchyta, Brian Townsend

#### Photographs courtesy of:

Marni Mayne, Olivia Raxter, John Sczomak, Sue Suchyta, Julie Yolles

#### Editor:

Anna Dewey

*My sincere apologies to anyone I may have omitted. I appreciate all contributions great and small, which help make News & Cues possible.*

## Curtain Call: On other stages

**Michael Suchyta** as Mordred in *Camelot*

Downriver Actors Guild (Wyandotte)

Show dates: May 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7:30pm; May 8, 15 at 3pm

<http://downriveractorsguild.net>

*\*John Sartor (Arthur) first played Arthur on the Guild stage in 1990!\**

**Marybeth Kinnell** directs *Bye Bye Birdie*

Melvindale High School (Melvindale)

Show dates: May 13, 14 at 7pm; May 15 at 3pm

★★★

## Bravo to our Guildlings and young thespians on recent productions!

**Luke Boudreau** (tech) and **Molly Boudreau** (chorus) in *Phantom of the Opera* (Divine Child High School)

**Matt Apostle, Trevor Berry, Adam Chatila, Majorie Gaber, Maddie Kaplan, Kayla Katona, Maria Viscomi, Ryan Chatila** (stage crew), **Scout Greimel** (hair and makeup), **Heather Slanec** (hair and makeup) in *Almost, Maine* (Dearborn High School)

**Lily Kanclerz** (Tracy Turnblad), **Gavin Deckert, Ava Dobos, Alia Elhadj, Ava Evenhouse, Nate Hermen and Bailey Holmes** in *Hairspray Jr.* (Stout Middle School)

### Directors Announced for Players Guild of Dearborn 2016-2017 Season

#### *Two By Two*

**Mary Jane Town**, director

**Rich Alder**, music director

#### *Arsenic and Old Lace*

**Paul Bruce**, director

#### *Legally Blonde*

**Ron Williams, Jr.**, director

**Steve Woznicki**, music director

**Jen McPherson**, choreographer

#### *Lion in Winter*

**Robert Jones**, director

#### *Sugar*

Director TBA

**Paul Abbott**, music director

**Janeen Bodary**, choreographer