

Drama is life with the dull bits cut out.

Alfred Hitchcock

Newsletter of the Heritage Hunt Little Theater



Play Time

July 2005



Highlights

One of our members tells what's it like to be on the radio!

Read the poem dedicated to HHLT.

Will Cloud Seven be our next production?

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Counting Down to *Afraid of the Dark*

by Alan Mager,
Director

Auditions for our fall production, *Afraid of the Dark*, will be held in just a month, and my excitement is building. As a reminder, the auditions will be in the boardroom August 10 (7-10 PM), August 11 (7-10 PM), August 13 (10 AM-1 PM) or at other times by special arrangement. Many people dread the audition process, but I promise to keep my auditions low-key and painless. I'll be talking about what actors can expect at my auditions on July 16 at Reader's Theater Workshop (10 AM in the craft room) and again at the HHLT general meeting on July 28 (7 PM in the craft room). Come hear what I have to say about it and then sign up for an audition slot. I will

have packets of information ready to hand out no later than July 28 to all who sign up for an audition. This will give information on each of the characters and will indicate the scenes that will be read for each character at the auditions. To sign up for an audition, you can call me at 732-5436 or e-mail me at alanmager@comcast.net.



I've been continuing with my preparations for the show. Dave Milbradt has volunteered again to work on set construction, and Lloyd King who has done such a fantastic job on our earlier sets will once again be doing the set design and painting. The three of us have worked out a plan for the set that we think will be a visual knockout, and one in which the actors should enjoy playing. I have also been working with the script

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to figure out blocking and stage business that will make this snappy farce sparkle.

We had a read-through of the entire *Afraid of the Dark* script following the June general meeting. It was the first time that many of our members had read the script, and the first time that I had heard voices other than my own read it. Although comedy is very difficult to do in a cold reading, I think everyone was generally delighted with the snappy dialog and the wacky humor that runs throughout this play. There was some concern that the play seemed too long, but it will run much faster on the stage once lines are learned. Also, a lot of the lines are meant to be delivered simultaneously, which of course didn't happen during the cold reading. I estimate that the play will run about 90 minutes – about the same length as *Charleston!* which we did last fall.

We are going to continue with more readings of the script at the Readers Theater Workshop sessions on July 16 and possibly August 6. On these occasions, however, instead of reading the entire script in round-robin fashion, we will read selected scenes and readers will be assigned specific roles for each scene by random drawing. I think this will be more fun than the first full read-through and will give readers a chance to get a better feel for the various characters in the play. I urge all who are interested in auditioning for *Afraid of the Dark* to come to these sessions.

I can't wait until auditions start and we can really dive into this project. There will be a lot of hard work ahead, but it will be a lot of fun, too. Come join me for what I think will be a great experience.



My Radio Days

by Grace Baeir

At twenty-two years of age, I was thrown on the air as a Women's Program Hostess for WRAC, an NBC radio affiliate, in Northern Pennsylvania.

I had been hired as an advertizing copywriter. The station had received a call from a sponsor for a Women's Show one morning, and my boss said, "Why, yes—we are beginning a new show today called the "Thrifty Shopper." He then informed me that I was it.

We ripped material such as household hints from the United Press ticker tape machine and from the morning newspaper, chose some music to fill time and, at one o'clock that afternoon, a new radio program was born.

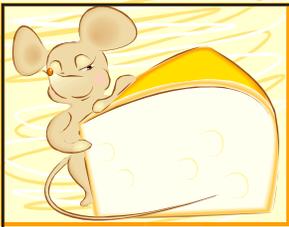
I was terrified, but after a few weeks, I began to relax and really enjoy myself.

The Thrifty Shopper Program lasted for almost five years.

During that time I conducted some fascinating interviews on the air. Satchel Paige, a baseball pioneer, was a really fun person. Blackstone the Magician was very mysterious and a little frightening. One day a Women Marine Recruiter was scheduled and she was an interviewer's nightmare. All she could say was "yes" or "no" in quotes, and I ran out of questions so the disk jockeys cut us short with music.

During the run of Thrifty Shopper, I became a Charter Member of the newly created National Organization "Women in Radio and Television."

All in all, it was a wonderful time in my life.



Say Cheese.....Cake

by Helen Esposito

The 2006 Heritage Hunt calendar is a joint effort of the Garden and Photo Clubs. Instead of HH foliage, the calendar will feature HH residents engaging in some of the fun group activities available to us here. In fact, you may see a little **more** of your friends and neighbors than you bargained for. The calendar is following the theme of the popular movie, *Calendar Girls*.

Fourteen of your fellow thespians turned out for the HHLT photo op on June 30. We had outlaws, balloon ladies ala *Gypsy*, glamour girls with cue cards, Broadway bound wanna-be's with suitcase in hand, musicians, beach beauties and others decked out not quite in their finest threads. This reporter will not reveal the names of the parties, and we are all sworn to secrecy regarding birthmarks and tattoos. You'll have to purchase the calendar to learn the **intimate** details. Watch the *Horn* for calendar sales info

Our Newsletter Needs Your Input

by Bets Knepley,
Newsletter Editor

To make our newsletters interesting, we need **you, our members**, to participate by contributing an occasional item about your theater experiences, either with HHLT or other organizations. Also any play or theater book reviews will be welcomed.

You have read (over the past few months) about some of the experiences our members have had. Didn't you find them interesting?

I will be asking each and every one of you to contribute, so be prepared! Or better yet, send me an article today! Thanks.

A Poem:

The Show Must Go On!

by Sam Mills, Guest Writer

Some act merely as a lowly spearholder,
Some, shoulder to shoulder, bolder and bolder,
Some must act the foolish joker and raise cane.
Some act because they must, others on a lark.
Like flint and steel, actors apart, are mundane,
But put them together and they strike a spark.
Some face daunting audience, come a cropper,
While others rise and become a show stopper.
And if your memory fails you must la la,
No stopping, you can't just say, "Sorry, ta ta!"
The stage can give some an awful, awful fright!
The stage can bestow on others rank of knight!
Remember that the stage ain't no beanery,
So please, never, ever eat the scenery!



Dates to Remember

General Meetings

Fourth Thursday at 7 PM
in the Craft Room

Readers Theater Workshop

1st & 3rd Saturdays at 10AM
in the Craft Room

NO RTW MEETING ON Sept. 3rd

*Readings of Selected Scenes from
AOTD* at August 2nd Meeting

Summer Picnic

July 24 at 3 PM at the Schooners

AOTD Audition Dates

August 10, 11 & 13
Call Alan at 5436 to schedule
your audition slot now!!

November Production Dates

November 1, 2, 3 & 4

RTW Update

by Bets Knepley, RTW Coordinator

The Readers Theater Workshop is moving along with attendance ranging from 24 to 10. You're invited to join us. RTW is very flexible so that you can participate whenever you have free time. And no memorizing!

RTW members work on monologues and skits. Plans to do a full length play are in the works. We've had several exciting discussions. At the last meeting, Alan discussed what will happen at the AOTD auditions.

RTW meets the first and third Saturdays at 10 AM in the craft room. **There will be NO MEETING on September 3rd.**



HHLT's Website

Have you visited our website lately? www.hhlittletheater.org is our address.

The audition packet for *AOTD*, prepared by Director Alan Mager, can be viewed or printed from our site. Be sure to study the packet. Alan has included everything you'll need to know for the auditions: Audition Notice, Character Descriptions, Rehearsal Schedule and Audition Form.

Also starting this month, you'll be directed to the website to view or print our newsletters.



Play of the Quarter: *Cloud Seven* by Max Wilk

by Sandy Mills

Everyone's fantasy (at least it was mine) is to quit one's job. Just walk away and never return. In the play *Cloud Seven* by Max Wilk, this is Newton Reece's dream and he acts on it. What follows are the repercussions—within his family and with neighbors and townspeople.

The time is the 1950's and most women do not work outside the home. While Newt intends to spend some amorous time with his wife, Mary, she has other ideas. After all, someone has to be the grown-up.

The reaction of the town business people is quick - no more credit, cash on demand. Newt's teenaged daughter, Sally, loves having dad at home and comes to appreciate Newt for the wonderful qualities that she discovers in him. She wonders what ever caused her parents to be attracted to each other and the rest of the play resolves this matter. There is a funny scene involving Newt's attempt at baking brownies for his wife's PTA "caucus."

Some great characters are Newt's boss, Mr. Trumbull; Fiona Bostwick, a defeated housewife whose husband is so caught up in his hobbies, he has no time for her. Inspired by a conversation with Newt, Fiona is transformed into a hottie and her husband Dudley ends up beholden to Newt.

Other characters are the PTA ladies, Mrs. Doubleday, Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Finch; Mr. Marlowe and Mr. Doubleday the bankers; a commuter; a delivery boy; Russ, Sally's randy boyfriend; and Helga the maid. In all there are parts for 9 men and 8 women and some of the men's parts could be doubled.

This comedic play is about love, sacrifice, fulfillment, and contentment. I think our audience would identify with its themes. The acting is much more substantial than we have previously required. The question is are we ready for this one?