

A Character Of Pure Evil

Tonight, the cast of *It's a Wonderful Life* met to have a mass read-through of the script. I must say that I did not know that there were so many characters of such evil intentions in the literature surrounding what is traditionally known as the "most wonderful time of the year." First, we have Ebenezer Scrooge (I really want to see the new version coming next weekend). Years later, the Grinch very nearly stole Christmas from "every Who down in Whoville." Now, I have been introduced to a character who has so many unredeemable qualities that he puts both of them to shame. Henry F. Potter is going to be a magnificent role to portray. I have been an evil HENCHMAN before; however, I have never before been **THE** evil character with his own entourage. Just reading the script, I could tell how delicious this will be.

I will once again be on the glorious Huber stage with a large cast both young and older and some of which I have been fortunate to work with before. Another WCCTer will be making his debut on the stage. He was even taking pictures of the bare stage and marveling at the size. People have asked me where I prefer to perform: anywhere they will have me. How's that for a diplomatic answer?

I did manage to get home by the third inning of Game 2. I had to call my pals and relate my excitement! Sorry I interrupted *The Office*. I could not believe that they were actually able to watch as it was broadcast. And I am extra excited because the series is now tied 1-1 and tomorrow is a travel day to the City of Brotherly Love. **Four Games to go!!!**

Sometimes Just One Word Can Mean A Lot

Like in a newspaper's picture caption. Many locals make fun of our county's newspaper; pointing out miscellaneous typos, erroneous information and errors, but today's typo in the following picture caption is kind of a big oopsie:

*The line for the H1N1 virus snakes through the parking lot at the County Fairgrounds
Wednesday afternoon.*

Obviously our county does not have people lining up to get the H1N1 **virus**; the replacement word here in case you've fallen asleep is *vaccine*. *The line for the H1N1 vaccine snakes through...*

Now **that** would be one nasty small-town rumor!

The Lee Utley Show

Ok, ok... granted... Game One of the World Series was not C.C.'s finest pitching outing. Cliff Lee pitched his behind off and the defending World Champs definitely came into the Bronx ready to go... but **IT WAS ONLY GAME ONE, FOLKS! Yanks in 6!** Very little to say that went well for a Yankee fan other than we are glad game one is over. A-Rod silenced, Mark "Chris" Teixeira no help either, C.C. down in seven after getting no help from his offense. In fact, very little offensively until the ninth when we finally got a run in. Once again Fox Sports announcing duo managed their typical balanced commentary. I do believe there was a total of two players on the field and neither wore pinstripes.

Final: Phillies 6, Yankees 1

Game 2 Tomorrow night. Have a read-through so I will have to miss half. **GO YANKS!!!** Maybe we will get to see a pie delivered by starter A.J. Burnett (hopefully not since they only come after a from behind victory).

An evening with lines

Studying lines for tomorrow night's rehearsal. I have some fun parts and they are the smaller roles. The intoxicated Santa at the beginning of the play is going to be a lot of fun all on 3 lines. Another 3 lines, and being on stage with my 3rd daughter makes the role of Dr. 2 very fun. Another 3 lines for another small part and 3 more for my 4th small part. 12 lines all memorized.

Some lines were taken away and I was given the part of Kris Kringle's friend and Dr from the Maplewood home, Kris' home away from the North Pole. This should be fun.

Anyway back to the lines....

Quack Doctors – Take Two

Just a little update to let you know my mouth is finally feeling better and yesterday I was able to indulge in food and got to actually enjoy the feeling of being full for the first time in an entire week. No thanks to our local doctors, though, my husband made me some sort of concoction from stuff

we had around the house that I swished around in my mouth. I don't know if it was coincidence or if that's what finally did the trick, but all I have to say to the doctor's \$300 mouthwash is **HMPF!** And it should be noted that we went to the doctor's office again yesterday and sat there for an hour and half waiting for the doctor whom they said was out to lunch. I didn't want to pay to be seen again, but I wanted him to change my prescription to something that would help me and that I could afford. Finally tired of waiting, we left with the nurse's promise that she would call me as soon as he got back from lunch, but they never even bothered to call until this morning when I was finally feeling better. Rude isn't even the word for this, I was in agony! And all that after 3 different nurses and Walmart told us like 5 different ways they could help me, none of which turned out to be true. As my husband put it, it seems like at this medical center, the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing! Kind of sounds like another local organization we've worked with, but that's another blog...

I'm a bit concerned that this canker sore problem is something that I might have to deal with from now on in my old age. Even though we think this latest canker sore outbreak was caused by hand, foot, and mouth disease, the doctor shrugged off our internet diagnosis since it's so rare in adults. So if he's right and it was just canker sores, it might be something that I'll have to deal with every once in a while, especially since it seems to be a hereditary problem! Let's hope not – my family can't handle the stress of anyone else being sick!

On a side note, please pray for my little nephew who was admitted last night into the hospital with croup. I'm praying that he gets well and that it's not H1N1 and that none of the other kids he was playing with (his brother and my kids!) last weekend get it. I'm really really hoping we can dodge some bullets this flu season since there are six of us, thus six

open doors for viruses to come into our household. But for now, we're hanging tough (groan!) and ready to party this Halloween weekend. Don't worry – I plan on getting the house scrubbed down for all of you coming to the Halloween party! Can't wait!

I think we need a lawyer...

Some trouble with casting the latest show I'm in. At one point in time all of the roles were cast and everything was going well. I'm not sure what happened but we lost one of our male actors and one of the females. We had volunteers to take up the missing female parts, but we still need one more male. I'm sure our director is at her wits end.

The male parts available would be an lawyer for the court room all in Act 2. If that part wasn't desired, the new male actor could play Mr. Macy and other assorted roles. We have about 4 weeks left for rehearsal, and are almost desperate for this. We have other actors with multiple roles, but because all of us are in the courtroom scenes, we can't take on this one additional role.

Hey, it is only about 40 lines. Anybody in the Williams County OH area want a chance to be on stage????

King In Ohio

I have recently started reading novels by Stephen King and I must say that they really are page turners. I have been considering them for a while and ever since I picked up *Carrie* from the library I have been hooked. Great character development, plot, and creepiness throughout. I have been working my way through pretty much in order of publication. I really liked *'Salem's Lot* (a terrific vampire nail-biter). *The Shining* just creeped me out (I have never seen the Jack Nicholson movie... I dunno if I will).

I am now making my way through the 1100+ page uncut, unedited version of *The Stand*. While spending a lot of time backstage in the last play I was in, I was only starting on the post-apocalyptic novel. An apocalypse brought upon by a strain of (now isn't this ironic) a superflu...OH, GREAT! The survivors of the epidemic make their way from various points of the country to Colorado. Some of these make their way via I-80/90 through my neck of the woods. Archbold, Maumee, and even little Columbia are mentioned. I am in the 800s so I am nearing the climax and good thing with the next play starting rehearsals Thursday night.

Intriguingly, one of Mr. King's short stories is no longer to be found on the open market which only increases my desire to hunt down a copy. Following the rash of high school shootings in the late 1990s, the novelist himself made the decision to pull [Rage](#) from publication. The plot was a little too close to the tragic events.

Suspenseful, page turners all. I have seen a few of the other movies adapted from the books: *Firestarter* and *Christine* years ago; *The Running Man* (starring the Governator); *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*, of course. However, I rarely prefer a movie adaptation to the original novel.

I Have Gas

I know what you are thinking... and no... not that kind. This morning, I set out to complete my Halloween costume (still missing something I would have liked to add, but not essential). Ran into some old friends/former co-workers and chatted a bit and caught up and let them know that I have not completely disappeared from the planet.

I also bought my first Christmas gift for the menagerie of people I choose to buy for. Someone mentioned that they enjoy a certain fantasy book series so I looked for that. Then I realized that a movie was made from the series and luckily enough I found that. One down... several to go.

Just before I hit the city limits on my way home, I glanced at the dashboard. The little needle was in the red zone with very little room to go. I found the first driveway available, headed to the nearest station, and made it just as the little light came on. **PHEW!**

Great Weekend, Even if the Bears Didn't Play this Sunday.

I would usually write about the Bears today but since they didn't play Sunday I can enjoy writing about the rest of the weekend.

I had a GREAT weekend. I am a huge haunted-house fan... To me, a haunted house is **theatre-in-motion** – scene after scene of live (and interactive) entertainment. As with any theatrical productions, some of the actors were better than others and some of the “sets” were better than others, but all had their charms. *I cannot wait until our friends and ourselves can put on a haunted house in our area!*

But, by far, the best part was spending time with family and friends. My friends are just amazing. I can do anything with them and have a good time. It really didn't matter in the end if we were driving in the car eating Italian Beef (YUM!!), or wandering through a haunted house, or just waiting in an insanely long line – I was enjoying myself fully! As much as I HATE LINES (man, I HATE lines) I kept thinking to myself – how unbearable would this be without these guys! Standing there wasn't much fun in a conventional sense, but it was another experience we had together... And thinking about us standing in that line – now makes me smile. **I love my friends** (which makes living with my best friend awesome!).

After a night of haunted house action we got to spend Saturday seeing all of our family. Everyone! It was just one of the best days I can recall. It started with us being very late, getting stuck IL traffic – ugh! Although stressful at the time, it actually is perfect – the in-your-face reminder of why we're so lucky to live where we do. Anyhow...

After the delay we got to see my (side of the) family. We had a delicious breakfast (that poor Lisa couldn't enjoy) and then visited at my Sister's/Mom's house. Spending this time with my family was just delightful. I had such a feeling of peace being with them and was just ecstatic to see my mother so happy and healthy.

From there we went to visit Lisa's grandparents. Her grandfather lives in a nursing home so we went there for the visit. The home was nice and they were both in good spirits,

enjoying their situation as best they could. How wonderful is that! They're still appreciating the wonders of life – nursing home and all! They just glowed when they saw the great-grand-kids.

At Lisa's sister's house we celebrated her mom-and-dad's 40th wedding anniversary. It was a low key event that was very enjoyable. Kim & Tim are always great hosts and Lisa's family just eats-up our little ones. I just had a blast running and chasing the "big kids" (Taylor, Austin, Sammie, and Disney) and was completely exhausted afterwards. We then enjoyed a meal (yummy lasagna) together and played a bit more. After the meal we went to another haunted house. This time with Kim & Tim – Derek too. It was a very good haunted house; probably the best one all weekend. But I thought that by far the coolest part was seeing Kim & Tim out on a "date" together. They've had some rough times lately and it was just awesome to see them connecting and just enjoying one-another. Lisa and I both felt really great that we got to enjoy this experience together as two couples. It was a nice double date + Derek! And, Derek being along just made it better. He's no third wheel, he really made everything more fun! Like all of my friends, he always enhances every experience.

So – even though the Bears didn't play this weekend it was still the best! It was awesome. All the ingredients – Lisa (LISA!!), Taylor, Sammie, Disney, Christopher, Derek, Jamy, Megan, Mary, Mom, Caroline, Wilson, Ben, Gwyn, Lilly, Great Grandma, Great Poppa, Uncle Bud, Mother-in-Law, Father-in-Law, Kim, Tim, Austin, and Ryan + Italian Beef + Haunted Houses.

A recipe for a great weekend indeed!

Ohh!! You didn't tell me

you were going to kill it!!

Reliving a bit of my childhood tonight. I'm watching "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown". Of course I have a signed document, even though it isn't notarized.

Of course cartoons of the 1960's were sometimes written for adults as well as children. I remember watching these shows year after year, but my parents would also watch. When they stopped showing them as often, my wife and I got the Charlie Brown cartoons on Video. I'm not sure, but I think I've seen each show at least 20 times. It could be more, but I don't remember watching as much in High School or College.

Good shows, good humor make a timeless show.

Anyone have a favorite childhood cartoon?