

Fridays Are Great

Not only because it was Good Friday, either. I did join the choir yesterday for services at noon. It was interesting because our priest skipped all over the place, leading many to believe that we were going to skip over the reading of Christ's Passion all together. Actually, one of my favorite moments of mass every year. Resembling a play, with readers assuming various roles in the passion, the priest serving as Jesus and the congregation serving as the chorus of people sending Christ to his crucifixion. However, Father Steve eventually got back on track and continued onward. Someday, I would love to suggest that the choir (or soloist... never heard a choir version) sing "I Only Want to Say" from JCS. The meaning of the song is found within the Bible if not the exact words. Every year, I find myself reflecting on the sentiment. Christ praying to His Father in the garden questioning whether or not He will actually be able to do "His will" moments before he is handed over.

I just learned that an EHS alum is part of the ensemble in a semi-professional production of Superstar at the [Croswell Opera House](#) in Adrian, Michigan that ends its run tonight. If only Cindy's mother would have let me know sooner... Semi-professional since amateur rights are not available at this time ☐

One More Angel In Heaven

I know what you are thinking... this is yet another post on the upcoming summer musical... but you would be wrong. Opening week of the new baseball season took a tragic turn early this

morning when a 22 year-old rookie pitcher for the California Angels of Anaheim was killed as the result of a hit and run accident after he had pitched a stellar game. [Nick Adenhart](#) was a young man like a lot of other kids who dream of someday playing major league baseball was achieved for one moment. He called his father Tuesday night and told him that he better come to the game Wednesday because “something magical is going to happen.” Unfortunately, that magic ended just a few hours after the rookie celebrated his six innings of pitching shutout ball against the Oakland A’s.

It really puts a damper on the new season and puts life in perspective. I turned the tv on to see if the Yankees had started the year at 0-3 and saw the headline “Angels postpone game with Oakland” and shortly discovered the reason why. Suddenly, the Yanks victory over the Orioles seemed totally trivial. Hopefully, not only do the Angels cancel their game but all baseball takes a moment to honor the young man whose life was cut so senselessly, dramatically short.

Boldly Go... To The Beginning

As the days count down to May 8, so too does the speculation of whether or not J.J Abrams’ vision of (IMHO) one of the two most iconic and enduring franchises in sci-fi will live up to the legend. Even if you have never seen one of the hundreds of Star Trek television episodes (spanning over 40 years, 5 spin-offs, and an animated series), any of the 10 big screen movies, or could care less... unless you live under a rock, you have at least heard of the phenomenon in some way. Last night, a group of movie goers who thought they were walking into a screening of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* were given a huge surprise. Patrons at the Alamo Draft House in Austin,

TX were greeted by the movie's writers and the "old" Spock: Leonard Nimoy, himself and given an advance screening. Unlike the recent problematic internet leaking of another summer blockbuster: *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. Of course, in today's world I would not be surprised to hear that *Star Trek* has by now made its way onto downloads... if so, I don't want to know.

Personally, I want to know as little about the movie as possible; but the trailers look amazing. What I want from the movie is basically what I enjoy most about the original series. A good plot, a good villain, action whether it be on land or in space (however, a good ship to ship confrontation with phasers and photon torpedoes blazing is always enjoyable. However, what I enjoy most about the old show is the chemistry between the three core characters: the devil-may-care, go where angels fear to tread Captain Kirk; the logical, usually stoic half-Vulcan/half-human Spock; and the certainly outspoken, cantankerous, passionate Dr. Leonard H. "Bones" McCoy (my personal favorite of the original characters). Some of my favorite moments revolve around heated displays of verbal one upsmanship between the first officer and the chief medical officer of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. Most often, Captain Kirk would be the man in the middle who had to ease the tension.

Overall, I hope to be entertained and feel like I am stepping back into the world of 22nd century excitement. The actors on screen may not be the same, but hopefully the characters they portray will be recognizable.

May 8th seems like an awfully familiar date to me... wonder why
□ Maybe if I check out my countdown widget....

Feelin' Groovy And Yet Not So Groovy

I recently posted on my friend from high school who went to her first movie audition a few weeks ago. Today, she came into the store looking rather depressed. As I was waiting on her, I asked what was wrong. Thier family dog had just passed away. I still remember being really upset for a long time after losing MY dog so I knew how she felt.

However, she did have some good news. Monday was the day she was to get any callbacks for the movie. She got a call from the director and SHE GOT THE PART! She was absolutely floored. The director said that her casting was totally unanimous. Excellent for a first-time auditioner! I have only been told that my casting in any role was unanimous one time and it was not the first time I ever auditioned. I was not able to ask for details and Peg did not look like she was in the mood to discuss it. But from what little I know, she is cast in the role of the mother in a horror film (ironic that she is the wife of a church pastor... wouldn't you say?). Apparently, the shoot starts in June in Coldwater. Peg also told me that she has definitely decided to minor in film at UT after one of the faculty advised her to. Doesn't it just give you a great feeling to know that you helped someone achieve something special in some small way? Congrats, Peg.

The Plays The Thing

Our community theatre, in it's infinite wisdom, has decided to limit the number of musicals to one per season. I suppose

that I can see the need for this. A good, well-known musical is much more expensive to produce than a play. However, it has been pointed out time and again that musicals are the bread and butter of most theatres and if the right musical is chosen and performed well, they generally bring in more money than most plays. Most of the musicals I have either been involved with or heard about have done well (with one exception but the reasons for the financial loss were many).

The problem is... trying to find plays that will bring in audiences. It has been suggested that we attempt to focus on seasonal shows. In October, I cannot wait to be part of the all cast production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. In December, we are performing *Miracle on 34th Street*. Both shows would appeal to the seasons.

For next season, we already have the musical locked in. *Taffetas* is going to be done in October 2010. I suggested doing another Christmas show like *A Christmas Story* (yes the movie has been turned into a stage play that I think would be a riot to perform). There are also any number of versions of Dickens' perennial favorite, *A Christmas Carol*. I also mentioned via email a suggestion given to me for future October shows: *Dracula*. Are there any other shows that would fit into other seasons? A good romantic comedy for February. Something like *Honk!* for future spring shows?

Or another possibility, our theatre has within it at least two people who have the fantastic knack of playwriting. Many times, these are given spots entitled "independent projects." I think that if someone has a piece ready for performance it should be included as part of the season.

So, if any of my readers hiding in the shadows have any suggestions, please come out and suggest them. I still think that it would not hurt to do *Romeo and Juliet*. I know most people cringe at the idea of bringing Shakespeare to a small stage, but I say why not take a chance?

Bird Meet Hamster

In earlier days, my family had quite a menagerie of pets (just not more than two at a time. When we moved to town when I was the tender age of 6 months, we got MY dog, Buffy from the wonderful friends who sold us the house. I loved my poodle a lot. The summer after I completed the 4th grade, Buffy had to be put to sleep. She was really ill. Arthritis had set in so badly, that she could not walk upon or down the porch steps. The poor girl would not eat and shivered all the time. So one day, my parents took her to the vet, unbeknownst to me.

In addition to Buffy, we had a total of three cats (not all at once, but one in particular that I know I have posted about). The poodle would go crazy when approached by the felines. I don't think it was the stereotypical dog vs. cat scenario but more like playful chasing around the house.

The Christmas after Buffy was put down, we received a blue parakeet from our "grandparents". We named her Corky after "Grandma" Margaret. One summer while on break from college, my brother brought home Skippy the hamster whom he "saved." The parakeet must have become jealous because he would imitate the hamster by walking around on the floor and following it. I remember going so far as to put the bird inside the hamster's ball and seeing her attempt to roll it.

There's Always Tomorrow

I see by the ol' [tangents](#) homepage, that there are two blogs which have yet to see any posts. I am certain that these two very talented and resourceful individuals can come up with brilliant things to pique our curiosity. One of them has vowed to make her first posting AFTER April 1st. It is now nearing April 7th.

As for my day, I spent a few hours typing the script for a new version of [Seven Brides for Seven Brothers](#). The only things I know about the original movie musical is that it featured the original Catwoman (Julie Newmar) as one of the brides and there is a lot of dancing involved. Obviously, it deals with a group of seven brothers in search of seven brides. This version transports the action to twenty-first century Alaska and the age of laptop computers among other phenomena of the day. There is music and very little dancing (none that I could not handle, anyway) involved.

Then, I WAS looking forward to opening day. The outcome was not pleasurable at least for the Bronx Bombers and their multi-million dollar lead off pitcher, C.C. Sabathia. Four and two-thirds innings. Six runs, eight hits, five walks, two wild pitches in one inning, and no strikeouts. The Yanks' second big money hopeful, Mark Teixeira did not fare well either going 0-4 at the plate. Teixeira was also eyeballed during the off-season by the Baltimore Orioles and the Orioles faithful showed their disapproval as they booed the Maryland native unmercifully at each at bat. The pressure for any new Yankee must be immense. It was a good thing that opening day was not at the new stadium because I am sure that the reaction would not have been pretty by fans in the Bronx. Ah, well one game down. Can only go up from here. At least the Cubbies were victorious. Sorry j, I see the Tigers were unsuccessful on opening day as well.

Ann Vows To...

Ok... I think I'm safe. Last weekend was extremely fun and wonderful. I had been telling my friends that if they needed any help with their anniversary celebration to let me know. Friday, I was pleased to get the call to action. I was asked to undertake the daunting task of printing the vows which would be read for the renewal. Not really daunting, but I had to be careful to find the right place to tear the paper. It would not sound quite right to have them read part of the other's vows. I did not want to read the words on the paper so it would not spoil the moment. After making contact with my lovely escort for the evening and deciding to meet each other at the theatre, I set out to help.

When I arrived, there was a note on the door indicating that the couple was at the local China Garden. So, I drove over there instead of waiting for them to come to me. When I got to the restaurant, I saw no sign of the burgundy vehicle I have become so accustomed to. So, thinking that I must have missed them, I drove back to the house. As I was making the short walk from the theatre's parking lot to the house, what should appear but the vehicle I had been hunting.

After the groom and I checked out the reception area, I headed to Wal-Mart to pick up the cake and pick out some flowers for a bouquet as well as pick up some ointment for the little guy. I did not hear any complaints about my choice so I will say I done good.

I have never been to a vow renewal ceremony. But I will say that I don't think that any couple deserved to celebrate their ten years of marriage more. The more I am around these two the more I see how much genuine love, respect, and

admiration there is between them. Their vows were very beautifully written. The entire ceremony was magic.

The reception was a blast. I once again was able to demonstrate my phenomenal dancing ability. I do a mean Hokey Pokey. And dancing beside a nine year old in the Macarena was priceless to say the least.

So... Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of your 10 Year Celebration. May you both live to see your children's children's children and may your love continue to grow even more abundantly every minute, every hour, every day.

A Brother, A Butcher, A Baker, Or Any Old Part?

I have officially decided which show I will be auditioning for this summer. While I loved my experience in the melodrama a few summers ago, I have to go with the big musical extravaganza of [Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat](#). Nothing beats a big, fun, and energetic musical. Plays are fun to do but for the past well... forever, if a musical is being done, I am all for it. Now... which role to try out for...

- the Elvis channeling Pharoah? I am an Elvis fan, but not the best Elvis channeler.
- Potiphar... never cared for the role. I can't recall but I think that he was double cast in another role in productions I have been involved with.
- The baker or butler could be fun, but limited roles... possibility.
- There are a few of the 11 brothers (good men and true) I could see myself as and if anyone knows the show and

myself well enough they should be able to take a stab at at least one of my choices.

- Jacob... well, I did just finish playing Grandpa Prophater.
- Joseph, himself? I dunno... how old was Donnie Osmond when he stepped into the part in the 90s?

Well, I have a few weeks to narrow my choices unless I decide to say give my anything and sing everything from the show.

The Game's Afoot!

What a fun April 1st it has been!!! Tangents was visited once again by the Mad Hacker (sounds like a forgotten villain of comic book stories). Like many of my fellow tangenteers, I too have been doing a bit of light (or not so light reading) in my spare time. I recently checked out a collection of stories featuring the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes (sorry Caped Crusader).

To me, going back and re-reading something you were assigned to read in school is much more entertaining the second time. I am finding myself thoroughly enjoying reading adventures that gave me headaches the first time around and reading many others for the first time. I enjoyed reading one story featuring "the woman" Irene Adler (*A Scandal in Bohemia*).

My favorite, thusfar, has been *The Five Orange Pips* that finds Holmes and Dr. Watson up against members of the Ku Klux Klan. I learned something new in this story: the name for the organization takes its name from the sound a rifle makes as it is being cocked. The story itself fascinated me because Holmes is (in some ways) less than successful in solving the case. The reader sees, through Watson's eyes, the detective's

reaction. A good way to develop character is showing not only triumphs but personal failings as well.