

Nuttin' For Christmas

Last night... Another Op'nin... Another Show! Have to work at 8 this morning so I saved my post til 7:17AM. This is WHY I LOVE THE STAGE! The first moments of a live production in front of an audience is so exhilarating. So pleased and blessed that nearly all of the evening was a tremendous success! Thursday night, Mare informed us that we had nearly 100 reservations for just this one night. This might not be anywhere near capacity but A HUGE number and they were very receptive. At least 15 of those reservations were for my family and co-workers plus I saw others that I knew during the meet and greet.

The cast was tremendous! Everyone from the “dangerously deranged” Kris Kringle to the smallest elf were in top form. Sitting backstage, one my favorite scenes is when the kiddies sit on Santa's lap telling him their wishes. And if you know the 1947 classic, the little Dutch girl sends an “AWWW...” tingle.

Following the show as I made my way into the house, the bank manager yelled over her shoulder to me. When I made my way to my family members, my mother informed me that I would be getting “nothing for Christmas, this year.” **YES!** “Kris's” 17/18 year old nephew informed him that he wanted to come up on stage and punch me. Another huge compliment. Finally, a Village Player regular elated that in her opinion I was “the star of the show.” (**SHUCKS....** I don't know about that...).

The Huber ghost must have been pleased with the production as he wrecked havoc with the light and sound in a few bits. Nothing like the scene in *Hound of the Baskervilles* in which “Selden” is found lying dead and the spotlight failed to go down so I could rise and exit the stage.

However, following the show Mary had to rush off the stage as

an older gentleman had fallen outside and needed medical attention. Some of the steps at the front of the theater are in great need of repair and apparently the audience member had stumbled over them... BADLY. Praying that the gentleman is not seriously injured. Hopefully, this sends a message to the building owners to repair the steps as I have noticed their condition over the course of the last few years.

One performance down... TWO TO GO!

A Two-Fer

Good news all around! Dad will be home soon (within a few weeks).

Wednesday, the therapist had Dad come to the house for about a half hour to see how he did in old surroundings. While still under guidance, he walked through the main floor... though the front door; to the bedroom, the bathroom, and the kitchen. He sat on his recliner and the couch. Laid on the bed and got into his dresser drawers and closet. Sat on the loo and stepped into and out of the shower. He then sat at the kitchen table and got into the cupboards. All in all, what you and I would consider menial tasks yet important to have him do in order to see where is at in his progress. Before leaving, the therapist stressed the importance of motivation and activity once he is released or he will be right back out.

Today, the siblings and I met to discuss ways in which we all could make life easier for the two of them once he does come home. Thankfully, we collaboratively came up with a plan even determining our holiday gathering schedule. Tonight at

dinner, I was amazed to learn that Dad is prepared to once again go to the school ball games. Until last spring, he and Mom went all over as she drives the bus and keeps the book for volleyball, boys AND girls basketball, and softball. Last spring, he fell off the bank wagon and had no interest at all in attending. His desire to go shows (I believe) that he is indeed ready and willing to return to his old routine.

In other news, I have been offered and accepted the coveted role of Mr. Sawyer in *Miracle on 34th Street*. This afternoon, the full cast and director Mare met to watch the glorious 1947 classic... even if it is only the last day of September.

Throughout the movie, several cast members asked if I would be portraying Kris Kringle, himself. While playing Santa would be a fun opportunity, I think the villainous psychologist will make for an even more fun challenge.

Searching the archives, I noticed that the last performance I was in with a theatre company was October 17, 2010 as Barrymore in *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Last weekend's adventure was something else entirely. However, while watching the movie I see ALOT of opportunity for a memorable character to develop. Time to grab the erasable highlighter that I received in October 2009 after a performance of *You Have the Right to Remain Dead*.

great and beautiful marvelous things are happening!