

Light at the end of the tunnel

There usually is a point during show rehearsals when the cast and directors know they have a show. Sometimes that point doesn't come until the last dress rehearsal, and there are times it never comes. The show I'm in now had that point twice. Because of our extensive scene changes (they are getting better, and we got more help), we split the show into two nights to work on both acts. Both acts came together this week.

On Sunday, I wasn't sure if the show was going to be there. There was a problem or two that just had things feeling wrong. The hows and the whys are unimportant, but that was a bad feeling for the show. I'm glad things came together this week. Since our show starts in a little over a week, it is nice to feel good about the whole thing.

I'm actually looking forward to our double tech Sunday. For those not in the know, it is the day we work out most of the last kinks. Technical kinks, wardrobe kinks, and even the acting kinks. We run through the complete show twice. It makes for a very long day, but when the show is going well, it goes by quickly.

First audience will be Wednesday (some school kids I think), and Opening next week Friday. All signs are pointing to an enjoyable show. I hope some of my readers can make it to a show. Check the side bars for the link to the playhouse.

It's THAT Time Of Year!

Shortly after this blog post is published, the countdown timer on my site will change – but that's a great thing. It used to count down until the [Chicago Cubs](#)' first game of 2009 Spring Training, but since that game is TODAY (!) that countdown timer will soon be edited to count down until the first real SEASON Cubs game of 2009 – YIPPEE! So here's to hoping the Cubs win today (and every day!), even though it's just spring training!

Now I have to go see if I can find the first game of spring training on a tv channel in the rural expanse of Northwest Ohio! GO CUBBIES!!!

Here I Go Again

I dunno... the past day or two I have just had this burst of creativity or energy or excitement as the days count down. Tonight, we actually went through the entire show start to finish for the first time without stopping only for notes between the acts. All in all, it went pretty well. We started at 7 and got done around 9.30. To me in my vast experience, two and a half hours for the first full run through is very good. The director was impressed. The last time we did ACT I alone, it ran an hour and a half. Tonight, it went an hour and ten minutes. Another run through awaits Thursday night with the dreaded tech rehearsal Sunday and then the adrenaline-filled, excitement of dress rehearsals and finally the THREE performance run will soon be upon us!!!

Grandpa's notes were decent. My energy for the opening title song were great. Full of energy, perfect characterization. A

round of applause from the cast. I'm not sure how many shows this makes me on my resume. I will check that out in just a second. Only my twelfth since 2002 and my first since last summer... MUCH TOO LONG A BREAK FROM THE STAGE!!!

Not to sound (not sure what the word is but really negative), but I really hope that some of my best [friends](#) will be able to come and Meet Me in St. Louis but I know that if [C](#) is doing well every effort will be made. Hope you get well soon, pal. And once again, to [J](#) and the rest of the cast of *Lion in Winter*... Break a Leg!

Too Punny!

I received an email forward full of "Creative Puns for Educated Minds". Some of them are really cute, so I decided to publish them here on the blog. While reading these, you **will** groan at least once, but if you don't smile or even laugh out loud, you might be a little bit crabby and should probably take a nap instead of reading the rest of the 22 puns below.

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for

littering.

8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

18. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

19. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

20. A backward poet writes inverse.

21. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

22. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

It Takes A Village... Well

Almost

Although there is just as much excitement and hard work involved in producing a non-musical, there is simply nothing like the thrill I personally get when involved with a BIG musical. Not only is there lines to memorize, character to establish, blocking to perfect, and everything else involved there is the added excitement of song (ok... and dance... there I SAID IT... I don't have to like it, but have to ACT like I like it). The cast of *Meet Me in St. Louis* is composed of stage veterans but also a lot of stage newcomers even in the major roles. The young man playing John Truitt (the male lead) has never before stepped on stage. The head of the Smith family also has had no previous stage experience. Perhaps one of the youngest actresses (age 12) has SOME of the most experience behind her. "Agnes" has had roles in *The Music Man*, *Aladdin*, *Schoolhouse Rock, Jr.*, and *Hicksville, the Musical*. The gentleman playing Lon stated that his favorite role has been as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* (hmm...) plus he has directed *M*A*S*H* and [Murder by Poe](#) (sounds interesting... right up [j's](#) alley).

Tonight, before rehearsal began, we were shown a copy of The East Allen Courier (a small-town publication of Northeast Indiana) with the first press release from the show. Here is what my portion included:

JS(Grandpa Prophater) has done a lot of shows with the Williams County Community Theatre, but this is his first production with the Village Players. He majored in theatre at BGSU. His favorite roles have been Rooster in Annie and Morat Notborat Nichkor (honestly, I wrote the name out for her when I was interviewed and she still didn't get it correct) in Idol Night at the Karaoke Place. He is enjoying playing a character much older than himself and looks forward to the makeup that will surely be used to age him. He will be heard singing in the title song (and its many reprises), "Whenever

I'm with You," and "A Day in New York."

Actually, with a cast full of newcomers as well as many stage veterans, we have come a long way since the middle of January. I'm sure that within the next week and a half we will have a fabulous musical in a gorgeous theatre. But after coming to see this production, be sure to check out WCCT's production of [Lion in Winter](#).

Cold weather and a fire

Yesterday was a long and tiring rehearsal. New scene changes, missing actor, multiple acts run again. It was not the best rehearsal.

I was due to be with friends watching the Academy Awards last night. I wasn't in the mood for any sort of gathering. All I wanted was food, relaxation and then sleep. I was grumpy, crabby, tired and hungry by the end of rehearsal. I was sure I wouldn't have been the best company while watching an award show. It was actually hard skipping the party, but my body almost demanded it.

After a quick bite to eat with my daughter, we went home and I started a fire in the fireplace. For just a bit I sat down near the fire, and stared at the flames. It had a very calming influence. I went to bed early and actually missed the award show.

Today, I felt a bit bad about not showing up. My grumpy, crabby self was well relaxed and ready to go. I'm sure I would have had fun at the gathering, but I'm also sure I would have paid for it today. Sometimes, I guess, I just need to listen

to what my body is telling me. Food, rest and then sleep was definitely called for.

I hope everyone had fun at the party. I had a relaxing evening after a trying afternoon.

Nice Try, Santa

Apparently there is no clause protecting Santa Claus from being ticketed just like every other joe in the world. Back in November, 60 year-old Chip Cafiero was given a citation for being double-parked on a Brooklyn street. His horse-drawn carriage full of treats for good little boys and girls was parked near his SUV. Mr. Cafiero recently had his day in court to contest the ticket by claiming he was illegally parked to protect the children and carriage from traffic. However, the Jolly Elf paid the \$155 fine but said that the grinchies would not take away his Christmas spirit.

*By Caitlin Millat
NBCNewYork.com*

The NYPD just landed on the naughty list.

Kris Kringle will have to pay a \$115 double-parking ticket he received last Christmas while handing out toys to kids in Brooklyn, the Daily News reported.

Chip Cafiero, 60, parked his horse-drawn carriage – ahem, sleigh – in Bay Ridge last year as he delivered goodies to bright-eyed area kids.

Grinchy cops promptly slapped Cafiero's carriage and the Chevy Suburban next to it with fines for occupying more than one space.

“The agent saw me handing out toys to kids and walked over and slapped me with a fine anyways,” St. Nick told the Daily News. “Has this city lost its heart?”

St. Nick tried to appeal to the Department of Finance but lost his battle with the city today despite public outcry that the ticket be overturned.

“Obviously not even Santa is exempt from traffic enforcement here in New York City,” state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) said.

The Fifth Avenue Merchants Association told the Daily News it would pick up Cafiero’s tab.

Cafiero said the ticket wouldn’t zap him of holiday cheer.

“The city can take my money,” Santa said, “but they can’t take my Christmas spirit.”

Oscar’s New Style

In an apparent move to tighten the length of the ceremony, certain things were absent from this season’s Academy Award ceremony. The thing I noticed most was the absence of the clips shown periodically throughout the night showcasing the nominees for the big award: Best Picture. Also gone was the full performance of Best Original Song nominees by the artists who either originally performed or wrote the song.

One new addition to the show was the way in which the acting awards were presented. Normally, the winner of the previous year’s award presents. This year, groups of past winners stood on stage and announced each nominee in turn. I thought

this was a nice touch to pass the torch.

As always, we had the somewhat needless montages centering on various film genres of the past year: Love, Comedy, and Action to name a few. They seriously do get old.

I really enjoyed the showmanship of Hugh Jackman as host. Anyone who knows him only as Wolverine or from his other cinematic roles got a treat as he performed in two very cool musical numbers. He even poked fun at his own flop at the box office, *Australia*.

Laundry, Origami-Style

I received an interesting email forward the other day; it's a Japanese video that shows a woman folding a shirt perfectly in a *matter of seconds* using an origami technique. I haven't tried it out yet; I've been too busy blogging instead of folding my laundry ☐

With A Little Bit O' Luck

One of my best [friends](#) posted on his blog that readers would get "bored" with his posts about his family and his love of it. However, I think it would be highly entertaining. I hope I don't bore anyone with my occasional posts about my awesome friends. Tonight, a bunch of us met at their house for an Oscar party. I must say that I was shocked after the final tally in which I was the winner. I usually don't do too badly at these things... I am pleased if I get a quarter of the categories correct. I do have a system that mainly involves paying attention to the news a week or two before the awards and I go from there. Luckily, *Slumdog Millionaire* did not let me down for the most part. In fact, I think I went against the movie a few times and lost.

There were a few sure things. I honestly thought that Heath Ledger MADE the Joker his own. An interesting point was made tonight. Does anyone recall the villain falling to his death in the theatrical release? If so, it was apparently edited out of the DVD release. Definitely a bittersweet victory. The Clown Prince of Crime was the best part of *The Dark Knight*.

Also, who would not vote for *Wall-E*? While I am a fan of two-d animation of old, I think studios like Pixar create very fun, noteworthy work.

I have often thought that costume pieces are the way to go when choosing which Costume Design movie to pick. Thank goodness *The Duchess* kept that belief alive.

As for the rest, many of them were pure pull them out of the hat guesses... some good... others not so good. Guess I was just

lucky.