

Too Much To Expect?

This is going to have to be a very brief post... We've been SO busy lately, and I would love to make a post or two about all the fun things we've done this weekend, but my 20-month-old is quickly approaching her terrible two's and is constantly spilling things and needing attention; therefore, I cannot sit long enough these days to make any kind of worthwhile post. My 8-year-old is off school for the summer, and started off as a really big help with her little sister, but since it's almost July, her enthusiasm for helping around the house is waning. Part of me feels badly expecting her to help out and babysit so I can get some rest and her father can catch up on work, but then I also feel somewhat irritated that we went to all these fun places all weekend, even spending extra money for her to be able to bring a friend along, with no chance for me to recuperate. I can't help but think maybe we overdid it this weekend... How is she going to learn any appreciation when we're constantly doing fun stuff and she doesn't have to contribute (much) to the work load around the house? On the other hand, being the youngest child when I was growing up, I was never expected to watch over a younger sibling, and I have no idea how much to expect from her – I don't want to use her or take her for granted as a built-in-babysitter...

All I know is, it would be wonderful if I could catch a break around here and have a good week or maybe even a few days to rest before my body must endure the huge ordeal of giving birth – I'm not sleeping at night very much and today the Dr. confirmed my suspicions that the baby has dropped, leaving me feeling constant pain and pressure down below which is exhausting in itself... Time to get off my rear end to make lunch, more later, I hope!

4.5 hours

In 4.5 hours I need to be up and getting ready for work. For some reason I just couldn't sleep. Not much new in this, but it is new that I was asleep and then woke up after an hour or so, and I was wide awake. No strange noises in the house, just the usual late night sounds. Dog is softly snoring. No sounds from the girls' room. Frogs, crickets, and other night time animals are making their voices heard. But I'm used to all this.

I got on the web, hoping that reading the news and such of the day would be boring enough to put me to sleep. No such luck. It was boring, just not enough to make me tired. So maybe I have something in my head that needs to be written. But since I'm writing about not sleeping, could that really be it?

So I'm just going to re-hash some of the news I read this evening. I'm not even going to supply links, you'll have to look it up yourself...

Experts predicting gas at \$7.00 by the end of the summer, this after an announcement that Saudi Arabia found a new oil site. IMHO, panic is driving the current price of gas through the roof. Some of these so called experts should think before they open their mouths.

The Detroit Tigers won today putting them over .500 for the first time this year. The White Sox beat the Cubs, so Detroit didn't advance any... I had such high hopes at the beginning of the season. Oh well, I survived 2003 as a Tiger fan, I can survive this year too

Spain wins the European Football (Soccer) Championship. I find soccer very boring, why didn't this put me to sleep?

Wildfires are still burning in California, flooding still happening along the Mississippi. (I can still spell Mississippi without adding too many "S's" or "P's" or "I's". Not bad from a non-speller, just don't ask me to spell bananananana ☐

Buffalo are roaming again in Minnesota. And we have some not so far from here in Fremont IN.

The Pixar movie WALL-E made 62.5 million over the weekend. It is a cute little movie.

On a somewhat sad note, Southwick Mall in Toledo Oh closed its doors. Once a wonderful shopping area in South Toledo, this 36 year old mall has been going down hill for years. I remember taking dates to what was called "Old-Towne" where there were a lot of small frontier style shops and novelty stores. This later became a movie theater, that added to the theaters already there. It was a very open mall that at one time held a wide variety of stores. One by one the Anchor stores left, and this area became an eyesore. Not sure what will become of it, but I really wonder what they did or will do with the wonderful Carousel they had in the mall.

Uga VI, the University of Georgia Bulldog mascot, died of heart failure. He was only 9 years old... He started as the mascot at the age of 1.

There was a lot of other news that I don't think needs repeating. Politics as usual, and other nasty headlines were prevalent.

Down to 4 hours until I need to get ready for work... I'm still not tired, but I guess I should try to relax a bit.

Life lessons at the theater...

I'm not going to write about how good the show was (again). I'm just going to write a little bit about some life lessons I've learned over the years at our little theater.

Many hands make light work. After the shows we usually need to tear down the set to make room and clean up for the next production coming in. This is much easier with a large cast. Many people working on various parts of the set will bring it down quickly. Smaller shows, we beg and plead for people to come and help.

Help others when needed. At times people will forget their lines, or forget to enter when needed. It is up to the rest of the cast to keep the show going. Ad-lib lines here and there, line prompting during a hug, someone else saying the line (if this works), or just smoothly skipping by the flub, are ways we help each other on stage.

Not everyone is a Star. You can't always have top billing. Sometimes you need to support the front people. It is part of theater, it is part of life.

Even the Star needs support. Even in shows with only one actor on stage, usually has many people behind the scenes. From lighting to props there is always somebody looking out for you.

All jobs are important. That backstage manager that never shows up on stage is sometimes seen as unneeded, until the day they can't make the show. Then the props aren't on stage where they should be, and the flow of the show just goes down.

Satisfy the customer. If you don't do a good job, and leave the customer satisfied, they won't be back. Repeat business is essential.

Relax, have fun! One of the most important things I've learned. If you are relaxed and having fun on stage everything flows more smoothly. It works in the real world as well. You can't always have fun in theater or real life (some jobs are just the pits), but you can try relax and make the best of the situation.

Be ready for the unexpected. In live performances almost anything can happen. Be prepared for it. You may never need to know what to do when something on stage breaks, but you have to go with the flow. In life, this makes very good sense too.

Do your best. No matter what job/part you have do your best, it makes it easier for you and for those around you.

Do your job. If your job is telling people what to do, do that. If that isn't in your job/part description, refrain from doing it. Sometimes it is nice for new actors to get a helpful hint from other actors, sometimes not. Make sure that your helpful hints are just that. They should not sound like directives, those should come from the director.

But then again, Share your knowledge. An additional note about the above. Telling someone what you do to help remember lines, or stage directions is a good thing. Helping someone get over a bit of stage fright, also good. Knowledge of any field (except secret stuff) is best shared.

Goodbyes can be hard. We all need to say goodbye to someone every so often. Sometimes you know you may never see the person again. Make the best of the time you have with people, it will show benefits in your life.

Life is a stage, where we are the actors and the audience...

Goodnight Little Womans

Well... here is my final post on the great experience that began back in late March. New director, new cast members, new atmosphere, but still great fun. It is rather strange how intimate I have become with the stage in our little corner of Ohio. Twice I have been in shows where I end up lying downstage center. Whether it be sleeping and being pulled into my television or being stabbed in a duel and killed. During our final performance this afternoon, Marmee suggested that I combine Braxton Prendergast with my favorite character (of course many of you who read my blog know who that is). As thrilling as that would be, I decided that I better not although it may have drawn an even larger reaction than normal. The director could not understand why Braxton's death always drew chuckles from the audience. As our lighting tech so kindly observed, he does not know me very well, does he. Actually, I was quite impressed at the amount of time it took to strike the set. It took less than an hour and a half. Everyone really pitched in and helped. So, after that most of the cast and crew went for a final wrap gathering at an area pizza shop and said our final farewells amidst the sadness and joy. Once again, my sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in this marvelous production. I found many ways in which to deliver the line "Who are you?" so it would be different each time I said it. I think I found as many as Jo found to deliver "Christopher Columbus." Plus, my goals for the show were met. I believe that the cast worked hard but still enjoyed themselves, and I got to wear pumpkin pants (tights as well, but that was definitely not on my list).



Chris for President?

You guys have to see this...

<https://www.news3online.com/index.php?code=71ovE14FDX74r7XW12U9> (click link)

Late night theatrics

I was privileged to work the light booth for another wonderful show. The time is drawing near when the last curtain will be dropped. In most cases, this is a mixture of joy and sorrow. Happy that the show is finally over, but sadness of a cast breaking up.

It is our custom in this theater for some sort of gifts to be exchanged during the run of the show. Gifts from cast to director and/or director to cast. This show was no exception, except for the type of gift. Most gifts tend to be 'gag' gifts or little reminders of the show. This plays gift from the director was a CD full of pictures taken during a dress rehearsal. So we get to see the costumes and actions on the set. The other gift was a well framed cast/crew picture. It is a treasure.

As the light booth guy, I'm preparing my gift for the cast. A little something I hope everyone will like. As there is a cast member or two that read this blog, I can't give too much information. It's just a little something that can be added to the programs most actors keep.

It has been a good run, and I will miss seeing it every night. From the guy who has seen the show for a week longer than its run, that is saying something. From the light booth, I'm generally tired of the show after the opening night. It is a wonderful show, and some what of a challenge to set the lighting just right.

And next week, I can write about different things, and not pay so much attention to "Little Women"

Something Wonderful

The end of the run of a show brings mixed feelings. For most, it is a feeling of relief that a show has completed its run and it is time to move on and get back to their normal lives. I do not know how many feel as I, but a run of six shows just does not seem enough. Sure we are not paid professionals but honestly, our little theatre does wonderful work and deserves every bit of the applause it receives every night. Not just the applause, but the acquaintances made during the 6 weeks it takes to stage a show is marvelous. Each production is different, the cast, the set, the crew, nothing is ever the same. You may get a mixture of cast members in subsequent shows, but each time I am part of a show I let each cast member become a part of me. Sharing each others triumphs as well as those times we are "pushed" in order to accomplish what the director as well as ourselves know we are capable of. It is just difficult to leave something that starts with an empty stage and grows into "Something Wonderful..." (a little tune from *The King and I*). Tonight, while waiting in the orchestra pit for my set change, I began to feel my closing depression set in (a day early but nonetheless there). I would not say that this happens every show, but definitely

with the best of them. But, with the closing of one show usually comes auditions (at least) for the next show. So, tomorrow will be the final performance of *Little Women*, but looking ahead to July 7th I see auditions for *The Nerd*.



Finished

I have been finished with babysitting since Wednesday. I left and spent the night at my boyfriend's grandma's house for two nights. Let me tell you, these children really drain you. With the first child to arrive at 5:30 in the morning and the last two children to leave is between 8:00 and 10:00 at night, it is a long and tiring day, but to do so for an entire month almost, it was so tiring, especially since I do not really sleep that well anyway. Sometimes I feel like I was not really helping my friend, but she insists that I did a lot to help her out, and she did not know what she would have done if I had not agreed to help her out. I had to take about three classes so I was qualified to help, but apparently my friend really appreciated my help, and I am glad that I was such a help to her. That is why I went over there anyway. She wanted my help and after I met some of those kids, I could not leave her by herself, they really start gettin on one's nerves and just grate them against themselves. I really do not know how my friend's mom can handle it, but this is what she said she wanted to do, and that is what she is doing now. I love kids, but after helping my friend babysit these five kids, I am really wondering if I want any of my own. There was one little girl that was a sweetheart, but I know that not all children are like she is. Maybe I will want some of my own, but of course not until I am married and even then, not until at

least a year into the marriage so I can have that time to work on making my marriage stable and steady to be able to put children into the mix.

Books as Movies

I've been writing a lot about all of the comic book movies I've seen, but not too often about books that became movies. This may be a on going series in books that eventually became movies. I was talking with [one of the other bloggers around here](#), and something brought this up. (Old age is creeping up on me, so I can't remember what it was.)

Anyway, I started complaining about good books and stories that became rotten movies. I understand the reasoning behind the changes script writers make when converting a book/story to a movie. Some things flow better in words, than they do on screen. Somethings needed for a good movie are missing from the book. Two different media, so it makes sense that some changes would be made.

The first on my list is a story by one of my favorite authors, Isaac Asimov. The story was "Nightfall". A classic science fiction tale about a planet that never had night. With many suns in its skies, true darkness came on very rare occasions. The story was how the people reacted to the up coming event, and the effect it had on them. It was a very gripping story, that I thought would make a good movie. I didn't get to see it when it was in the theaters, and only saw it many years later on video. Let's put it this way I wasted money renting it from a library.

They forgot to change the names to protect the innocent. I can understand why it took years before another Asimov story

became a movie.

Now it has been years since I've seen that movie, and I'm not sure if anything could cause me to see it again, but here are a few things I remember.

1) Terrible acting. David Birney was the lead character, and he as stiff and boring. The rest of the cast made no impression on me at all. I remember the lead because he was sooo.. bad.

2) Constant looking at the Suns/Sky with freaky music and video effects. Once would have done enough, but over and over again???

3)They advertised this as "Isaac Asimov's Nightfall" I think he gave permission, and the used the character names and book title. Everything else had nothing to do with the original story.

4)The sets and locations for the movie just bit dust.

5) It was 83 minutes too long.

6) I kept thinking it would get better, it never did...

If you want some real fun, read the reviews on [IMDB](#). I've spent too much time on this already.

A little bit older

I went to dinner before going to the theater for another night in the light booth. It was a special dinner with Grandparents, Sisters and an Aunt and Cousin. It was in celebration of my youngest 17th birthday. This is her last year as a child. By law next year she will be an adult in society. My youngest is almost an adult. When did she grow up?

A very dear friend was saying something about her birthday

coming up, and found it a bit overwhelming. Me, I've never had any problems with any of my birthdays, after all it is just a number. I do find I'm having a bit of trouble with other days. Daughters' weddings, graduations, and their birthdays. Funny, I don't feel old when I have my birthdays, I do on the other days mentioned. Today I saw the 17 year old that is my daughter. Talk about feeling old.

I guess that comes with being a parent. There are children who now call me Grandpa. Hmm when did all this happen? Yesterday, I wasn't even sure what I wanted to do when I grew up!

I'll have to go find my cane, glasses and hearing aid and hobble over to the rocker... Today I feel old..