

The Curtain Is Coming Down

In another sign of the weak economy, I received an email from a dinner theatre in Akron, Ohio which has cancelled its 2009 season, putting 150 people out to work. I attended a production of West Side Story a few years ago and was once again enchanted by the power of live theatre. [The Carousel](#) began in a converted supermarket in 1973 (what a coinkidink) and moved to its current location in 1988). The theatre has created a buzz in New York as it has recruited talent from the Big Apple. Each musical was self-produced using equity performers. Quite a shame to see artistic venues come crashing down during this economic crisis. I also hear that New York theatre is not doing well, either.

The Carousel Dinner Theatre, LLC has cancelled its 2009 season and closed its doors effective January 4, 2009.

For the past year, the economy has materially affected the theatre's attendance and its ability to make cost adjustments to keep pace with the decrease in attendance. The final tipping point became the reversal of certain stakeholders' written or verbal promises that would have had a major impact on the theatre's continuance for the 2009 season and beyond.

Mr. Joseph E. Palmer accepts full responsibility for this action and regrets the impact on one hundred fifty employees and their families and all others affected by this closure.

If you have made any advance purchases on your credit cards, you should should immediately contact your credit card company to process a full refund.

Expect The UNexpected

One of the most beloved stories and movies is about to be presented at one of Ohio's most acclaimed professional dinner theatres. Beginning August 27, you can join the [Carousel Dinner Theatre](#) in Akron as they transport audiences "Over the Rainbow" along the yellow brick road to the land of Oz. This interpretation promises to be faithful in essence to the 1939 cinematic masterpiece but at the same time feature new elements that have never before been seen. One of these is the use of puppets. The press-release also promises an audience interactive as Dorothy enters the Emerald City. As the artistic director, Sean Cercone states:

We (the creative team) have to understand that when the audience comes to see the show, you are entering with a certain expectation of what you are going to see and experience. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN DEVELOPING THIS SHOW FOR THE CAROUSEL STAGE.

Indeed, there have to be very few people with access to television, movie screen, or books who have before never encountered the fantasy created by Lyman Frank Baum and first published in 1900. As with any high profile and well-known work, audience expectations will be enormous.

You can follow the creative team on their quest to create their vision of *The Wizard of Oz* by reading Mr. Cercone's [blog](#). Plus find ticket information on the theatre's website.

