

A New Season Opens

Tonight was the opening for the WCCT's first show of the 2009-2010 season. [Over the Tavern](#) tells the story of Rudy, a young Catholic boy who questions his upbringing in the church. The young man finds himself at odds with his teacher, the formidable 'ster Clarissa. Life at home is not much better. I will call it nearly normal. Not quite insane enough to be termed dysfunctional; but nowhere the idyllic lifestyle which Rudy longs for: the world of 50s family series television headed by Robert Young (of *Father Knows Best*). If anyone tells you that their family is the picture of perfection, they are either delusional or pulling your leg. Each member of Pazinski clan (father Chet, mother Ellen, oldest brother Eddie, sister Annie, Rudolph, and little Georgie ... HE HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED) each have life experiences which play into the drama.

Each member of the cast was just great from veterans who have been on stage several times to the young boys who are just beginning to step on stage. Those of us who were raised in a Catholic home were transported back to the classroom in which the fear of God was instilled in you with a ruler cracking your hand. Rudy and Eddie in the bedroom on bunk beds took me back to my childhood when I shared a room with my older brother and the battles therein.

I would feel terrible if I did not mention my friend's return to the stage. Megan was just terrific. Although I have shared the stage with her before, I have never had the pleasure of seeing her on stage. Her facial expressions, timing, entire characterization made everyone believe that she was 16 years old going through her own life's trials and whose hair belongs to her parents until she is 21. Ironically, Carol reminded me that that would be in a few short days. I told Megan that I hope it is not another 2 seasons before she graces the stage.

The whole cast, set, the entire production of Over the Tavern kicked off the new theatre season in hilarious fashion. I arrived a bit early to offer good wishes to all and found myself stuffing programs and running into the frantic director who typically appeared to be quite frazzled for whatever reason.

Another Audition

The last two evenings saw auditions for an upcoming production of The Lion in Winter. The play itself tells a tale set during the waning years of Henry II's reign in England, his relationship with his family (Eleanor of Aquitaine, Geoffrey, Richard, and John) as well as Philip, King of France. I must admit to being a bit overwhelmed. I have never tried out for a period piece, but I think I did my best. I was not sure which role I specifically intended to try for, so I put "Any I Fit" on the audition sheet.

I think my lack of experience with the piece coupled with a cold (not trying to make excuses, just stating facts), hindered my success. I am happy for the gentleman who was cast as Philip as he was instrumental in pushing for the production to take place. The rest of the auditioners did really well, also. The women who read for Eleanor were so good that the decision on casting that role was put on hold. The role of Henry also is also up in the air as well as the part of the King's young whore.

In all actuality, I am not that disappointed this time. I can take a few weeks off and find a song to audition with for Honk and find the music (can anyone help with that?) and familiarize myself with that show. However, I must send a

shout out to Megan who was cast in the theatre's production of Over the Tavern as well as the rest of the cast of Lion in Winter including [justj](#). I was not sure when he would find out that he was cast as Geoffrey and did not want him to learn from anyone else but the director. A hearty congratulations to you, my friend.

On This Night Of A Thousand Stars

Last night was the [theatre's](#) (check out the new and improved website) annual awards night and it was filled with comedy, excitement, and a few tears. The group lost a great asset this year and there was a fine tribute given in her honor by the interim president... very few dry eyes remained after that. Conveniently, our fantastic host chose this moment to have an intermission. I think it was a fantastic touch to honor a lady who along with her husband have added so much to our group.

One of the highlights of the evening was a skit showcasing some of the characters from the past season as well as inserting themes from a 2002 production of A Christmas Carol which I was not a part of but have heard a great deal about. This was also written by the talented MC who also provided a series of Jib-Jab videos on the projection screen for even more hilarity.

Another bit of humor was provided by the adorable couple who entertained with a parody of the song "One Day More" from the musical *Les Miserables*.

Overall, each of the awards were very well received. However, I must say that i am biased when it comes to the special

awards given out. [Justj](#) and Carol each continue to go totally above and beyond. J has been our unofficial videographer for several productions and single-handedly repaired the large, leaky roof which was so prominent during our summer production.

I would say that Carol is one of several ladies who act as honorary mothers to the group. I had the profound honor of working with her backstage during *The Nerd* in September. She was a great help in bringing the food used on stage, cleaning up cottage cheese, and helping keep a certain young boy under control backstage. Both of these honorees exemplify the hard work and dedication necessary to keep a small community theatre afloat.

This brings me to daughter of one of these award winners (and she knows this is coming). The director of the upcoming production of *Over the Tavern* is looking for someone to fill the role of the 16 year-old daughter, Annie. Megan is about to turn 21; however, those around her and especially myself (as she will attest) feel that she would be wonderfully cast. She agreed to read the script but made sure to voice her concern that she has at least one evening class during the week. I proceeded to remind her that she bailed on our trip to Florida in October but the play is right in town and I'm sure the director would work around her if she fit the part. Megan has constantly said that she has wanted to get back on stage and this would be a fine opportunity □ Ok... i think that is enough prodding. Anyone else care to join in? Maybe this will encourage her to comment.

Finally, the evening wrapped up after a group of us again congregated at the host's home. I have not laughed and had such a good time in awhile. i also got to see many friends I have not seen in quite a while including a former co-worker whom I have not seen since last New Years.

Coming Soon To A Community Theatre Near You?

A question mark you see...hmmm. They are coming soon provided the selections we made in our play-reading group meets with the approval of the theatre board. The small group assembled to discuss our selections decided upon the following for the 2009 season:

[Over the Tavern](#)

[Honk](#)

Lion in Winter

Little Shop of Horrors

Miracle on 34th Street

I am greatly familiar with three of the five shows. I had heard of *Over the Tavern* and recently read the play. Someone I used to work with has a nephew who played the young mentally challenged boy in an area production a few years ago. I am not really familiar with *Honk* but know that it is a musical based upon the tale of "The Ugly Duckling."

I adore *Little Shop...* and definitely will audition for that (as well as most of the others, right?). I need to begin re-looking into that Howard Ashman and Alan Menken show. But it will be a fun show to do for the Halloween season. I am told that a frequent reader of this blog might consider venturing this way to audition (but I'm not sure if that would be possible... [D?](#)).

Wrapping up our suggested season is the play *Miracle on 34th Street*. I do not think there is a better show that could bring in huge audiences and put them in the holiday spirit than this timeless classic.

We also began tossing ideas out for 2010 (The Year We Make Contact... according to the sequel to 2001). A few musicals were introduced: [State Fair](#) and [Can-Can](#). *State Fair* is perhaps the least known of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musicals. *Can-Can* is a Cole Porter show (I KNEW IT as soon as I looked it up... there you go, [C](#).)

So, our job is done, it is now in the hands of the theatre board to approve or do better. (and I forgot to mention a suggested special engagement of *Jesus Christ Superstar* that I could post about forever).

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