

Just thinking about things...again

Today was the first day I've been to a play tryout where I didn't read for a role. I was just there as a producer. It was kind of fun just sitting there watching others try out. No worries, no trying to figure out a role/persona. I really enjoyed myself. We had some new people trying out for roles, and it is good to get new blood in the theater. We just can't have the same people in shows over and over again. I'm all for the new people getting parts.

I'm currently listening to the Tigers and Indians baseball game. The big difference is I'm listening to it on the Indian's Radio network, instead of the Tiger's Radio Network. I find it strange that the announcers don't seem to know the Tigers. Maybe it is because I don't know the other teams as well, but I don't think the Tiger's announcers are nearly as bad when it comes to the Cleveland games. I have caught them in other games, not knowing players, but you should know your division rivals. Cleveland/Detroit has been a big rivalry for as long as I can remember. I would think the Indians announcers would do better. The only reason I listen the the Indian station, is that I get it on all of the radios in the house. The Tiger station, I need to be in the car, or get my daughters battery powered portable to hear it. Even then, it is very touchy as to location, and direction of the antenna. Tiger's just won!

Need to get some time off work soon. I enjoyed the 3 day weekend, but I would like to get time off to see my family all over the country. I guess I need to talk with the peoples in charge at work.

I'm looking forward to a movie or two with my girls this weekend. I'm going to have some time with both daughters at

home so it is possible.

Suffering from a sore back for the past few days (it seems like weeks). Not much I can do about it other than resting it. Slow walking, moderate stretching, and making sure my back is supported while sitting are all helping. Not sure what I did to pull the muscles, but it was nagging for a while.

I haven't watched much network or cable TV (other than part of a ball game) all summer. Can't say I miss it. I went a few years, while working 2nd shift, without TV, I am guessing I could continue for a long time. Being in the middle of the woods, I don't have cable (to far in the country) or satellite (too many trees). I don't see myself getting those anytime soon. I really think I could live without TV. Owned or rented movies, well that is a different story.

I really guess that is about it. I am thinking of upcoming days that will be happening in July so I will have more to write about at a later date...

waste of time and gas

As a few of my blog readers already know, the meetings I attended this evening were very short. In my opinion they were as waste of my time and gas. I imagine if we were to get compensated for gas on these meetings (ha ha), there would be less of them, and they would accomplish something. That will never happen of course.

If it were not for seeing friends of my during and after the meeting, I would have said something there. I drive over 10 miles to get to the meeting, and I don't make that trip lightly anymore. Any trips I make into town have dual purpose.

I'm going to carefully consider dropping my committee membership. I mean it isn't like we get anything done at these meetings. I've been to more meetings now than in past years, and I only recall one thing getting done at these meetings. The producers and directors of the shows for the season were selected at one of them. I think that was the first. Every other order of business could be done by email, or phone calls. I really don't see the point.

The more I write, the more I feel compelled to leave the committee. I guess I could just stop going. According to the rules, if I miss too many meetings, without letting someone know, I should be kicked off. Hmmm, nah I'll just quit after the end of the year. I don't need to be on it next year at all.

I thought I was done...

One more post about Little Women.

We left a good portion of 'stuff' on stage after the Little Women tear down. It belonged to various people and places that the director, and set designer knew. They came back this morning to load up a truck with these items. I volunteered to help move it.

After figuring out how to get the various large pieces out the door, and moving all the small stuff into the truck the job was finished in under 1/2 hour. The director of the next show (The Phantom Tollbooth – Children's Theater) was there helping, and getting design help for her show. So our theater will be seeing the designs of a very talented person two shows in a row. I think it is too bad that these shows aren't part of our regular season and will not be up for any awards. I

may have to talk to someone on whatever committee decides on that sort of stuff. Maybe we could come up with a special award. This of course depends on what the set looks like for the Children's theater □ . I'm sure it will look great.

In any event, look for more post on the up coming production, I'm in it again doing lights and sound. My complaints, comments and praises will be here.

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...

My life as a play

After watching "Little Women" from the light booth for a about a week now, I was wondering what kind of play my life would make. I know right now, if the author of the play knew me at all, it would not be a musical. Then again, some twisted mind would do that, just to get a reaction from me, or think of me rolling in my grave.

Anyway, would my life make an worthwhile play... That may take some thought. First off a good play needs many different features. A good plot is almost essential (there are a few exceptions to this). Engaging characters are required (my life has that). Some humor, maybe a bit of tragedy helps round everything out.

In my life, you can usually skip everything that happens at my place of employment. Yes, the characters there would be wonderful, but the plot, or day to day happenings are not going to engage an audience. Who in there right mind would want to watch people sit a computers all day. While I've worked in a number of offices, they are not like the sit-coms. To watch would be boring.

Now, on to the rest of my life. For most of it I am a father of 4 daughters. I'm thinking the play could be written around the marriages of each. While only two are married, I think if the weddings progress in any way, there may be a story to tell.

So for this I've developed a cast of characters...

Father

Daughter 1

Daughter 2

Daughter 3

Daughter 4

Son-in-Law 1

Son-in-Law 2

Son-in-Law 3

Son-in-Law 4

GrandMother

GrandFather

Various other family members needed to round out the story (I'll let the writer worry about this, and any directors worry about the huge cast size ☹).

Act 1 – Wedding 1

Widowed father joins rest of males of the wedding party in wearing a Kilt. Is the groom late? Will the bride ever calm down? Will the music play? Will the wind blow and we find exactly what is worn under Kilts? It was an interesting day.

Act 2 – Wedding 2

Widowed father drives across many states to get to second daughter's Florida Wedding, in AUGUST!!! It is hot, and muggy, and the wedding is outside. Will the alligator in the pond climb up on the dock! There is no electricity by the dock for the wedding. The batteries in the boombox are dead. Play the music from a Car? Who will pass out? Who will get a sunburn? Who gets bitten by the gator?

Act 3 – Wedding 3

Not sure on this it hasn't happened yet. Star Wars theme and the Wookie Best man trips on his own fur? Lord of Rings theme and the Orcs attack during service. Take your pick, or it may be something else.

Act 4 – Wedding 4

Let's leave this one in the future. Dream like. It hasn't happened either, but as the father, I can't think of my baby girl getting married just yet...

And then again maybe the play of my life would not be these weddings/future weddings.

Maybe a play about my married life? The fun and warmth of the early years. Kids growing up, the bond between two people growing stronger. Tragic death, grief, and finally growth continuation of life.

May be too much of a downer for some...

And lastly, my life as a member of a community theater. The follies of live performance. Things not working in the light booth, problems of set building. This may not have a wide audience, but any person who ever acted in, directed, helped put on a community theater play may get a kick out of it.

Well, it was fun thinking of this anyway. There may not be a play ever written about my life, but I know that everyone's life is a stage. We perform live everyday. We are the actors, and the audience.

Give it your best, people are watching...

Yes, there is another daughter...

Number 3 out of four. What can I say about this one... The first things that pop in my head are peanut butter, chocolate, frogs and of course Star Wars.

While she still lives at home, I tend to see her only on rare occasions. She is in college and has a boyfriend. Those two things put together seem to negate any family time. For years, I was able to spend a lot of time with this daughter. I was a coach on most of her softball teams. When I wasn't a coach, I was always helping out. Then after she turned 14 she played a couple of years with me on the Church Softball team. And at barely 5 feet even and under 100 lbs, her favorite position was catcher. She was a good one too. Never showed any fear waiting for that ball to come on close plays at the plate. In part I was afraid she'd get run over, but I was also proud of the way she played the game.

My greatest joy were those few times we have been on stage together. I'm hoping that we will be able to do more in future shows, but the few times she has been on stage with me, are very special to me.

And let's not forget the Star Wars. My very first date with my future wife was a dinner at a Chinese restaurant, Star Wars – Return of the Jedi, and then a stop at Dunkin Donuts. This young lady definitely likes Star Wars, and donuts, so 2/3rds of the time she reminds me of a wonderful first date I had with her mother... ☐

Sunday Afternoon

It turned cooler here today, and rather blustery. I spent a good portion of the afternoon at the High School's performance of "Once Upon a Mattress". After the show I spent some time tearing down the set. I don't often help tear down sets I didn't help build or wasn't part of the production in one form or another. In this case I was just a volunteer with an electric drill.

Normally, I get a bit down when tearing down a set. There is a lot of work that goes into making a play ready for an audience. Tearing down the set is the final goodbye for that show. As an actor, there is always that part of you that wants the show to end. On some shows this feeling is stronger than on others. At tear down the feeling that you have of not wanting the show to end shows its head. There are many emotions that go along with this. You can feel relief, sadness, and happiness all at the same time. You feel that it is good that the show is ending, but hating the fact you won't have this same cast again. Yes, I've worked with the same actors more than once, but in 10 years, I've never been with exactly the same cast. Sometimes it is hard to leave that behind.

After getting way off track, I'll try to get back to my point. I had none of those feelings today. It was just a mechanical thing getting the set down, and the stage cleared. Not a big deal at all. When the set was down, it was just time to go. No seating in the theater talking about the show. Where things were messed up, were the audience just didn't get the joke. All the in and outs that make theater fun. We were done, I was tired and hungry, and I just wanted to go. I like the other feelings better. Maybe it was

different for the students in the show. I'll have to ask the one I know.

Voices in the air

I'm sitting downstairs at the [theater](#) while tryouts are going on for "Little Women". My youngest is one of the singers/actors trying out. I'm sitting down here to get out of the way, and to make sure they don't ask me to try out. I don't sing, I don't dance, don't ask. But as I sit here we have some very lovely voices filling the air. I'm not sure who is who, but I think I heard my daughter once or twice. Me, I would hate trying to determine who would be in the show. For a small little theater in rural Ohio, we have a lot of very talented people. I'm sure the director will have a tough time of it, but in the end this will make a better show.

Fun stuff theater. I've been involved in almost every aspect of it. I do stay away from musicals, except to run lights or back stage stuff. I've had lots of fun with all of it. This is sometimes my second home. So check out the [dates of the show](#) and come on by.