

Presenting live comedy, drama
and musical theatre since 1975

WISCONSIN RAPIDS
**COMMUNITY
THEATRE**
INC.



Winter 2017



From President Michael Barrett

This is my first newsletter article as president, it is with an extremely heavy heart I take this role, succeeding the considerably ethical and so very committed leadership of Andy Gilbert. Andy was taken from us by ALS, and we will always be in his debt for both his time he spent helping produce plays, and his fair-minded treatment of all our hopes and concerns. I hope to continue this kind of leadership, and help volunteers and patrons feel appreciated and excited about our work. As I accepted the President's gavel, I told everyone on our board my personal goal is to get our name in front of more people, and hopefully see more folks watching our shows, and maybe even coming to help. Those who applaud are our most precious resource, and when the actors bow, they are thanking those audiences for being there. Not only that; every actor I know worth their salt often thanks the many volunteers over and over during a show. Through social media, word of mouth, some new technology, and the fine efforts of our experienced staff and some new additions, I am seeing new faces and hoping we see them again and again.

Personally, I have signed up to be involved in some way with almost every production we are doing this year; partly because I want everyone in our group to know how committed I am, partly because this is a favorite thing for my daughter Shannon to do (both on and off stage), and partly because I enjoy it more than anything! Our youth group looks re-invigorated because of Stephanie Hoerth; new people are here courtesy of our new Production Management team of Chris Powers and Mike Treder; and our board is currently small, but extremely committed. We are inviting anyone interested to ask any of us about being involved in the decisions the board makes; openness and energy are a critical part of our work.

I end with Andy Gilbert's last paragraph from his final newsletter: *"Not only do we provide space, but we provide opportunity. Opportunity abounds in the theater with acting, technical theater and backstage work. To those outside the theater, we provide various spaces and technical expertise for group meetings or a performance venue for performances of any kind. I encourage you to take advantage of what WRCT has to offer"*. And please, tell your friends we have great plays to see!



From the Executive Director

The holiday season is a time to reflect upon family and the gifts life has given us throughout the year. Most of us belong to many families, both biological and those close to us in other ways; people who support us, give us strength, and share common experiences our relatives may not even know we have. In the same way, we have many homes – a place to sleep, to work, to play.

Community theatre is a second (or third, or fourth) home to those of us to work and play here, and I am especially thankful to have this extended family as part of my life.

They are a talented bunch, and the gifts they give so generously keep us thriving. Take the latest themed event, for example – *"Does This Show Make My Butt Look Fat?"* This is our annual fundraising event, the only one we do. Certainly the five women on stage committed hours of time to make a show happen, as did Gregory Konz-Krzynski who came up from Milwaukee to direct (and shop, and cook, and all sorts of other things). They had a crew of people helping – Production Manager Chris Powers and his set, lighting, and sound crew to name a few.

Everyone did their part, and did it very well.

They were the tip of the proverbial iceberg. We had 18 raffle donors, food prepared by the staff at Great Expectations and others, and over 20 people each performance working the lobby, kitchen, and backstage to make the event a success. Others put up yard signs, displayed cards and posters, shared information on social media and by word of mouth. Office volunteers helped with gift bags, programs, cutting raffle tickets, etc. Our friends at the City Times and WFHR-WLJY helped to promote the event. All in all, I would say it took about 100 people to make this happen. Not every event needs this much involvement, but to see your family pull together when it is needed is the best gift you can possibly receive.

And – it should go without saying, but I have to say it – without people to buy tickets and see the show, there is no show. You are our support and cheerleaders, and we can't do it without you.

Thank you all. What a blessing it is to be a part of this wonderful family. Thank you for your gifts – of time, talent, appreciation, and support. Happy holidays!

WRCT Holiday Production

The Christmas Angel

By James DeVita

Directed By Lucy Runnells

Performance dates:

Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9

Thurs.-Sun., Dec. 14-17



Family get-togethers over the holidays sure are fun, frustrating, festive, and (with an angel present) fateful. Barbara's family is getting together for the holidays for the first time since "Pop Pop's" passing.

And, things are different, yet not different, this year. Grandma Barbara keeps busy and takes care of everyone. Grandson Peter is missing his fishing buddy and is looking "high and low" for the special gift Pop Pop promised him. Being together brings out the "boys" in sons Russ and Rick, yet they try to be "helpful" for Mom. Very pregnant daughter-in-law Ginny hopes the "little one" arrives soon. Uncle Mike is busy in and out of the kitchen. Aunt Bop visits to bring gifts and console Barbara. Granddaughter Hannah, who "speaks no more to the white man", moves in and around the family activities, gesturing and seeking something or someone.

And, Hannah's prayers are answered (finally) with the entrance of Michele. After several futile attempts to enter the home, Michele appears and "stays" despite the consternation of Russ, Rick and Mike. Michele delivers not only words of wisdom, but also a couple happy events.

Despite the holiday chaos, you will find fun, frustration, festivity, fate and family love in this show. This is a delightful holiday story written by James DeVita, of Spring Green, Wisconsin.

This Performance Sponsored By



Youth Drama Club meets the
second Tuesday of
every month at 6:30pm.

For more information
about the Youth Drama Club,
contact the WRCT Office
715-421-0435.

**Our Christmas Party is Tuesday, Dec. 12
6:30pm-8:30pm in the WRCT Studio.**

HELP!

We are looking for volunteers to help work in the WRCT Office on days when Diane is out or on days when we have an overflow of work. If you might be interested, please call or email Diane at the WRCT office.

715-421-0435



**Mark your
calendars for
ARTi Gras
2018!**

March 8-17, 2018

Multiple events over multiple
days at multiple venues

Watch for the brochure coming
out in early February, and mark
your calendar for ten fabulous
days celebrating the arts in all
their glory.

Visit our web site
www.wrctheatre.org
for all the
latest information!

Ibsen Play Reading Series & "A Doll's House"

You already know that WRCT's winter production will be "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen. But did you know that Ibsen is the second most frequently produced playwright in the world? No bonus points for guessing the most popular playwright. (Shakespeare, of course!) WRCT is joining forces with actors from the Marshfield and Stevens Point community theatres to present a whole play reading series devoted to Norway's favorite son. Six plays in six weeks, every Sunday afternoon at 1 pm. We'll start the series on the WRCT main stage, with "Peer Gynt" on January 7 and move to a new location each week, showing off the many cultural spaces in Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Marshfield, and concluding with WRCT's fully staged production of "A Doll's House" starring Mozelle Stoiber. Together we'll discover the richness of his female characters, the diversity of his plays, and why he has remained relevant for over 150 years.

Join us for the following readings of Ibsen's most famous plays:

JANUARY 7, "Peer Gynt"
at WRCT's main stage

JANUARY 14, "The Wild Duck"
at UWSP's Studio Theatre

JANUARY 21, "An Enemy of the People"
at UW-Marshfield Helen Laird Theatre

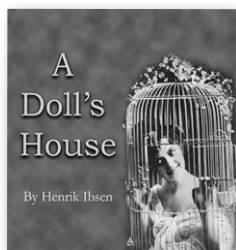
JANUARY 28, "Rosmersholm"
at WRCT Studio Theatre

FEBRUARY 4, "Ghosts"
at Marshfield Chestnut Center for the Arts

FEBRUARY 11, "Hedda Gabler"
at South Wood County Historical Museum

February 9-10 & February 15-18 "A Doll's House"

Check the WRCT website for updates.



Thinking of giving theater a try? The great thing about community theater is that ANYONE can do it, whether they've acted before or not! While we have a wonderful group of veteran actors that we can count on, we are always looking for new actors to add an exciting and fresh perspective to our productions. Give us some of your time and we will help you learn the skills you'll need to perform on our stage! Don't feel ready to jump into a lead role? That's okay! We'd be happy to let you get your feet wet with a smaller part!



This season is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The WRCT Silver Foxes

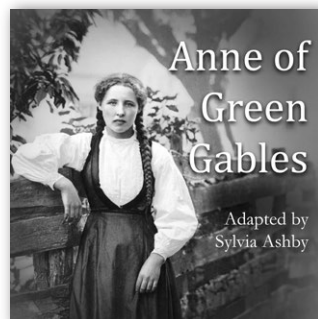
Senior Drama Classes

Tuesdays 10am-11am
Jan. 9-Feb. 13
WRCT Studio Theatre

Learn how drama can be easy, fun, and entertaining. You'll discover how it sparks your creativity and fulfills your life. The class will stimulate your mind, open your heart, and refresh your spirit.

Class size limited - Call to enroll 715-421-0435

Upcoming Auditions:



Adapted By Sylvia Ashby
Directed By Jody Steinke

Audition Dates: Feb. 19 & 20

Performance Dates:

May 11-12, 7:30pm

May 17-19, 7:30pm

May 20, 2:00pm Matinee



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 www.wrctheatre.org

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2017-2018 Season
This is the place for great theatre!

Holiday 2017 Dec. 8-9
The Christmas Angel Dec. 14-17
 By James DeVita 2017

Winter Performance Feb. 9-10
A Doll's House Feb. 15-18
 By Henrik Ibsen 2018

Spring 2018 May 11-12
Anne of Green Gables May 17-20
 Adapted by Sylvia Ashby 2018

Spring 2018 May 24
Silver Foxes Spring Show 2018

WRCT Board of Directors

Michael Barrett *President*

Lucy Runnells *Vice President*

Don Matthews *Secretary*

Mozelle Stoiber *Treasurer*

Bob Kell

Ellen Roeseler *Executive Director*

Diane Wenzel *Administrator*

Christopher Powers *Production Manager*

Michael Treder *Production Manager*

Stephanie Hoerth *Youth Coordinator*

Joan Joseph Silver Foxes *Coordinator*

Cathy Meils *Founder*

Tickets on sale online, through the mail, by phone, or by stopping in to see us!

Tuesday-Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm at
 WRCT office at east end of Rapids Mall
 Call 715-421-0435

You can now order tickets
ONLINE!!!
 www.wrctheatre.org

Tickets will also be sold
 1 hour prior to performance
 at the box office