



Curtain Call

Volume 3, Issue 10, June 2005

Official State Theater of West Virginia

Coming Soon . . .

A Theater Near You!



Kanawha Players move toward dream

East End property to become new theater home!

Imagine a space with enough room to hold auditions, classes and rehearsals all at the same time, a space with a commercial kitchen for dinner theater and after theater receptions. Imagine a beautiful climate- controlled historic space with ample room for costume and props storage, dressing rooms and a green room. With KP's decision to purchase the former First Christian Church property at 309 Beaugard Street these dreams and others are coming to fruition.

Not only will this new space offer many new opportunities to Kanawha Players and its membership, but the conversion of this beautiful historic structure will add to the East End revitalization and help move the arts corridor concept forward while maintaining a pivotal structure as a family based activity center. The move to the East End also places KP in the center of much activity and opportunity for outreach and community involvement.

**FUND
for the
arts**

*Kanawha Players, Inc
309 Beaugard Street
P.O. Box 3956
Charleston, WV 25339
304-343-PLAY
Kplayersdirector@aol.com*

If angels are part of our dreams, then two angels were very prominent in making KP dreams come true. Through generous support from both the Maier Foundation (\$100,000) and the Lyle B. and Patricia Clay Foundation (\$100,000), the KP board was able to see that the building could be a reality. Through additional support from Ed and Susan Maier, and loans from CURA and the First Christian Church the closing was completed on June 8th.

Plans for the new space are already underway. A programming brainstorming committee is being formed, input from our new East End neighbors is being sought. Visionaries, architects and engineers are meeting and developing sketches and plans for our theater. The excitement is electric, and we want YOU to be part of it. How can you be part of the KP move? Contact Debbie Rainey Haught at kplayersdirector@aol.com or Tina Vance at voiceonhi@aol.com. We will be glad to talk to you about how you can help make a difference.

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If you would
like to be
removed from
this mailing list,
please email
Kplayersdirector
@aol.com

Three-woman *Haiku* is KP's Entry for FestivALL One Act Festival

Kanawha Players, along with Charleston Stage Company, is co-hosting the FestivALL one acts at the Clay Center Walker Theater on Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th.

Kanawha Players' entry perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening.

Haiku, the 1988 Heideman Award-Winning One-Act Play, is a gentle and poetic play about the possibility of miracles. Can a door open even for an autistic daughter so that her brilliance can shine through? In Katherine Snodgrass's much anthologized play this question is asked and answered. It also explores the faith a mother can provide to collaborate on these miracles. Memories and words are the conduit to reconnect Louise briefly to her life and her family.

Nell (**Kelly Strom**) takes dictation from her autistic child, Louise (**Brittany Sowards**), and publishes her poetry. Another daughter, Billie (**Angie Baker**), doubts her sister's improvement, fears the possibility and suspects the mother of denial.

Two other one-acts are scheduled for Saturday evening. At 7 p.m. Act II Theater Company from Fairmont will present an excerpt from *The Lion in Winter* by James Goldman. Backyard Theater Company, also from Fairmont, will present *Talking With* by Jane Martin at 9 p.m.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. Charleston Stage Company presents *Alice in Wonderland* by the Manhattan Project; at 3 p.m. Treehouse Arts Ensemble (Beckley) presents *Constantinople Smith* by Charles Mee Jr., and at 4 p.m. Free Spirit Productions (Huntington) presents *The Boor* by Anton Chekhov.

Tickets to the one-act play festival on Saturday and Sunday will be sold at \$10 per day. Tickets to the Charleston Light Opera Guild's production of *I Love You You're Perfect, Now Change*, will be \$14. Audiences members may purchase a special "Theatre Festival Pass" for \$30, which will admit them to all one-acts as well as the Guild show.

KP Membership Meeting offers Fun, Food, and Tour of New Theater Space

Kanawha Players annual general membership meeting will offer all the food, fun and friendship of past meetings, but with a new enticement for this year. All of the festivities will take place in KP's newly purchased space at 309 Beaugard Street. On the schedule for the meeting is a vision of the future presentation by the artistic directors; celebration of our successes of this year; a photo montage of candid photos for the 2004-2005 season; election of board members; awards ceremony; lots of food AND a tour of the new building!

So be sure to join us Saturday, July 9th at 4 p.m. for the first membership meeting to be held in our new theater. New season brochures and a special treat for each participant will be available. Bring the family for a fun and informative day/evening.

Production Does Pitch and Pack

You've probably heard the exciting news by now—we're moving to a new home! But you know what that means...packing, cleaning, boxes, sorting, and all of the work that goes into a successful move.

But work is always easier (and can be fun!) with friends to help, so KP is having a series of "Pitch and Pack" parties. The production committee will meet over several Saturday mornings to pack items, pitch the old, worn-out stuff, and have fun.

So come on down, lend a hand, and share some pizza and a lot of memories. Be a part of KP history! Our first "Pitch and Pack" will be on June 11th and again June 18th, from 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Look for more dates coming in July!

2004-2005 "I Was There" Survey Awards Sought

Kanawha Player's history is rich and includes stories of many generations of our community. As we look back over the last year with Kanawha Players, many wonderful memories come to mind—And some REALLY FUNNY experiences, some planned and some serendipitous. Help us prepare for a special awards at our July 9th General Membership meeting by sending back some of your most memorable moments.

Reply to one or all categories. Email or mail back your comments, a few words about the experience and those folks involved (if appropriate). **By June 30th**, send all comments to kplayersdirector@aol.com or Debbie Haught, 1407 Quarrier Street, Charleston WV 25301. We will compile your comments for the best stories in each category. Thanks for participating!

Nancy Odekirk Coordinates Program Ad Sales

Nancy Odekirk is the new KP Program Ad Sales Coordinator for the 2005-2006 Season, *From Silver Screen to Center Stage*.

Nancy and her family have been valued KP volunteers this year, with daughter Lily playing the lead role in *A Miracle on 34th Street*. Husband Steve and son Connor also had roles in *Miracle*. The family helped make another wonderful memory on *Honk!* where Lily played an adorable froglet and rest of the family were stunning in backstage black!

Nancy is making contact with our family of advertisers from last season's program and would love to find room for your business ad in the upcoming season program.

Your ad not only reaches theater audiences and potential customers but it helps offset costs of program printing for our season. Contact Nancy early for best placement of your advertising. Email nodekirk@charter.net or phone 345-3331 to get more information and an advertising contract. Support the Arts in the Kanawha Valley!

"I Was There" Survey

- ☆ "I can't believe I did THAT" audition/rehearsal story:
- ☆ The BEST Costume Crisis:
- ☆ Prop PURGATORY:
- ☆ The BEST onstage "save":
- ☆ "Techies to the Rescue" -
- ☆ The BIGGEST opening night drama:
- ☆ The BEST Teamwork story:
- ☆ The MOST memorable moment onstage:
- ☆ The BEST Box Office Story:
- ☆ The BEST "Demon" Set Story:
- ☆ "Keep It Brief" – best Briefs & Shorts Story:
- ☆ The OOOOOOOPS Award: Tell who and why!

Got a category that just cries out to be included? Don't be shy, add it and tell us your story. THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

New Building, New Leaders

As Kanawha Players begins the next chapter in its 83-year history, we are looking for people who are interested in this artistic journey and are willing to work to make things happen in our community. Would you like to be part of this exciting new adventure? We have a spot for you! We will pair you with a more experienced volunteer if you need a transition period, or if you are ready to make things happen just email kplayersdirector@aol.com or call Tina Vance at 342-1819. Tell us what you like to do and we will find a spot for you!

Like to be on the front lines of leadership? Join our board of directors and be where there is lots of action. Or serve on a committee that peaks your creative urges. Current committees include:

Public Relations: Good with words, love to talk to people? Be one of our prime communicators as we move into our next exciting phase.

Production: All the creativity you could want here! Help find, create or locate all of the many props, costumes and set pieces necessary for our season of productions.

Finance: Great with numbers? Help organize box office, ticket sales and assist with financial reporting.

Development: Know how to get what you want? Help KP find the resources necessary to finalize our dreams and serve our public!

People Connection: Good with people, love to entertain? Help organize and communicate with our wonderful volunteer base. This is a real feel-good job!

Home Base: Got some free time to help maintain and beautify our new space? This committee makes sure our doors can stay open and our space is welcoming!

Come Play With Us

"Whatever your background if acting decides to embrace you and take you to its heart, it will hurl you up there among the gods. It will change your wooden clogs overnight and replace them with glass slippers."

Laurence Olivier



Kanawha Players, Inc
309 Beauregard Street
P.O. 3956
Charleston, WV
25339-3956
304-343-PLAY

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Mark Your Calendar

MEETINGS:

1st Thursday, 6:30 pm - KP Board meeting, Tina Vance, Pres. voiceonhi@aol.com

2nd Monday, 7:15 pm - Public Relations Committee, Tina Vance, Chair

3rd Monday, 7 pm - Production Committee Doug Moffitt, Chair: fdmofitt@aol.com

June 7th 6 pm - Artistic Development, Janet Victorson, wvgator18@charter.net

2nd Tuesday, 7 pm - Finance Committee, Sue Vasale, Chair: vasale@wvhumanities.org

3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. - People Connection, Chris Braschler, Chair: cbraschler@southridge.org

Thank YOU!

Ed Maier, Chuck Avampato, Pat Brown, Mark Sadd, United Disciples of Christ and countless others for providing KP with wings to FLY!

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