



# SPOTLIGHT



on

*Pullman Community Theatre*

Vol. II, No. 1

Pullman, Washington

March-May 2001

From the Artistic Director's View:

## *PCT's Future Is Looking Bright!*

by Kari DeMarco

None of us has a crystal ball, but some of us are trying. We get excited about what the future holds for Pullman Community Theatre.

Director John Rich has several parts to his vision. Chiefly he wants to see the various artistic communities in Pullman work together synergistically. He believes we will all be strengthened by working together cooperatively, not competitively, and he wants all of the arts--and their artists--to be incorporated into PCT's season.

"I don't like to limit any area of being creative," he says. "Music, writing, painting, sculpture: they're all equally valuable." To this end he has used Pullman artist Mike Pate's original painting as the backdrop for the season's poster. He has asked local musicians to play in the lobby for upcoming shows. He has asked WSU student Lauren Quock to design a new logo for PCT.

He always has his eye out for more creative people and their input. Sometimes these creative people might be quite young.

"I want the company to be open to new ideas so we can grow--especially to listen to the younger people. Children, teenagers--that's where the arts are going to be handed off to," Rich says. He envisions some day presenting classic children's stories on stage.

However, Rich isn't all pie in the sky. He is currently volunteering to teach Theatre Workshop to students at Pullman High School's alternative program, Eclipse. He has unbridled enthusiasm for passing along his passion for theatre and the arts.

Another leader with an enthusiasm for PCT's future is Board of Directors President Caryl Poshusta.

"I often hear about a theatre or music group that has rejuvenated a small community. I'd like to see PCT do that for Pullman. It won't happen overnight, but, I don't see why it can't happen in the future."

Poshusta pictures people coming from miles around to experience theatre here. She stammers a bit when she says it, but she is convinced we are poised to make

it.

Referring to Rich she says, "What a gem has been dropped in our laps. There's a very bright future for us.

"But to get there takes support from the community. I want people to support us," urged Poshusta. "Not just from their pockets, but to participate. We need people in many areas, not just acting. It's mind boggling all the tasks that need to be done."

If you are willing to become a supporting member, help on stage crew, act, sew costumes, sit on the board or one

of its committees, contribute artistically, usher, or even stuff envelopes, you will enjoy getting involved.

The future looks bright, and Pullman Community Theatre would love to have you on its winning team. Just call the PCT office at 332-8406 to see how you can become involved. ☆

Coming Attraction:

### *Moonlight & Valentino*

by Scott S. Campbell

The cast is set and rehearsals have begun. Pullman Community Theatre's 2001 Season is underway with the **West Coast Premiere** of *Moonlight & Valentino*.

We are proud to announce three newcomers to PCT filling roles in the production. Beth Bennett, a WSU student majoring in Agriculture Education, will play the lead role of Rebecca, an upstate New York woman at the age of 28 who has just lost her husband in a traffic accident. Selene Klaas, a transplanted actress from Oregon, landed the role of Lucy, Rebecca's rebellious younger sister from New York City. And Mikael Kenoyer, a freshman at WSU studying English and Theatre Arts, will be debuting for PCT as Sylvie, the eccentric, yet immensely compassionate best friend.

These three newcomers will be joined by the *Spotlight's* very own Beverley Wolff who will play the role of the no-nonsense ex-stepmother Alberta. Who will play the role of the only male, Valentino? Come and see for yourself!

Set in a small clapboard cottage on the Hudson River, these important women in Rebecca's life converge immediately

**M&V : continued on Page 3, Col. 1**



John Rich works with Selene Klaas at a rehearsal of "Moonlight & Valentino".

## INTRODUCING:

### Caryl Poshusta

by Kari DeMarco

"I don't know what I'm doing. But in spite of my ignorance, it's happening."

These words of humility come from a very accomplished lady, Pullman Community Theater's board president, Caryl Poshusta.

The "it" that is happening is growth. In the past year PCT has "acquired" a retired professional director, pulled off a successful musical, brought many new talents into the fold, and increased ticket sales.

According to available figures, it seems attendance more than doubled from approximately 267 for *STEPPING OUT* to 566 for *MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS*.

"But still," she says, "lots of people here are unaware we even have a community theatre in Pullman, and that's the challenge."

Poshusta seems to like a challenge. From her career as a Realtor to her forays on stage, she seems to handle it all with pizzazz.

She started performing in high school productions, and then again in Colfax's community theatre. Caryl's voice audibly warms when she talks about working with Louise Braun and Arden Johnson 25 years ago. "They had the right ingredients," she says. She remembers most fondly performing *CABARET* at the Wheat-n-Barley, and says that is one role she could reprise again and again.

Once Braun and Johnson quit directing, Poshusta took a hiatus from acting, "but it was just something I couldn't stay away from." So she got involved with PCT.

"I've always wanted to perform. I love to get that rapport, that feedback from the audience... that theatre magic. I wish I had the words to explain the chemistry,

the magnetism..." Anyone who has seen Poshusta perform knows what she is talking about, because you can see it in the sparkle in her eye.

Eventually Poshusta became a member-at-large on the PCT board. One day she had to miss a meeting. Shortly thereafter she attended a performance and read in the program that she was the new board president. "I couldn't believe it!" she laughed. Her three-year term is nearly over, but she is enthusiastic to see things take off.



Caryl Poshusta, actress, spouse, realtor, leader. Our own Jill of all trades!

A gem in this leading lady's life is her husband, Ron Poshusta. For 25 years she has appreciated him taking care of the family and the house a little extra during busy rehearsal schedules.

Ron was always supportive of her acting hobby, although he never professed to understanding it. Then one day this Fall he said, "I'm thinking of

auditioning for your show. Whaddaya think?" He pointed out that he couldn't really sing or dance, and since *MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS* required actors to do both, she figured he would back out. But he didn't, and his wife, fellow company members, and the audiences were quite pleased with his charming "Grandpa."

Attending all the rehearsals gave husband Ron a new appreciation for his bride's hobby. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into," he said. Still, he would consider auditioning again.

As Caryl Poshusta said, "There aren't very many opportunities for the people in this community to get involved in the arts, unless you're a WSU student. Pullman needs that kind of an outlet. If you give them the chance, all the talent comes out of the woodwork."

Whether on the board or on the "boards", Pullman Community Theatre is proud to have just such a talent as Caryl Poshusta.

Thanks for your years of service, and here's to many more wonderful years of working alongside the girl with the sparkle in her eye! ☆

## SpotLight:

[www.pullman-wa.com/pct](http://www.pullman-wa.com/pct)

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**Change of Address:** Membership Dept., Pullman Community Theatre, P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163.

**Mailed** around the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month of publication.

### Pullman Community Theatre Board of Directors:

**President:** Caryl Poshusta, [carylp@pullman.com](mailto:carylp@pullman.com).

**Vice-President:** Scott Campbell, [scott@CustomMadeClubs.com](mailto:scott@CustomMadeClubs.com).

**Secretary:** Beverley Wolff, [bevww@completebbs.com](mailto:bevww@completebbs.com).

**Treasurer (Acting):** Caryl Poshusta, [carylp@pullman.com](mailto:carylp@pullman.com).

**Artistic Director:** John Rich, 509-334-7033.

**Members At-Large:** Barbara Kirschner, Gail Miller, Lillian Rich, Jim Sato, Terri Schmidt, and Howard Uzman.

## Changing Times:

### Changing Names

by Scott S. Campbell

As we mentioned in the December 2000 issue of the *Spotlight*, Pullman Community Theatre had determined that we were *not* registered as a 501(c)3 organization with the IRS. This means that donations made to Pullman Community Theatre during the last calendar year, unfortunately, cannot be declared as charitable deductions on your Federal tax return for 2000.

After much research and considering many issues and options, an entirely new organization (*Pullman Civic Theatre*) has been formed. The new PCT has already applied for 501(c)3 tax-exempt status, and it is expected that this new organization will be prepared by March 15, 2001 to receive your tax-deductible donations.

We will keep our members apprised of the details on a transition as they unfold.

Stay tuned! ☆

**M&V : cont'd from Pg. 1, Col. 3**

following the accident to help Rebecca get through her first week of this change.

Although heart-wrenching at times, the script actually contains many humorous moments to provide a nice balance. As the play evolves it becomes clear that each of the main characters has their own demons to purge--not just Rebecca grappling with the loss of her true love.

By the end of the play, it is clear that humor and taking personal risks (allowing themselves to *fall* a little bit) are essential to these women resolving their own discords.

A little worse for the wear, the four women rally around the sight of the young house painter, Valentino, and seek a piece of their own resolutions in the swipe of his brush.

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Spotlight*, a lot of effort goes into selecting the plays for the Theatre's season. An opportunity to be the first theatre company on the entire west coast to perform a work by well-known playwright Ellen Simon (the daughter of Neil Simon) is not only thrilling, but an honor. ☆

**A Look Back at 2000:**

*All in a Season*

by Beverley Wolff

The year 2000 was a very busy year for all of us involved in Pullman Community Theatre. The year kicked off with a retirement party for our longtime leaders, Ruth and Dean Vanderwall. Ruth acted with PCT for twenty years, from 1949 - 1969, and then directed from 1969 to 1999. Dean was always right by her side, assisting in the production and set design of the plays. As we had expected, it took a lot of growth on our part to fill their shoes! Thanks again, Ruth and Dean. Our goal for the year 2000 was growth in all areas. We saw our audiences grow 110% over the season, from just under 300 for our opening production of "Stepping Out" to almost 600 for our final production of "Meet Me

in St. Louis". We were excited at selling out the final night of "Jackie: An American Life" and thrilled to have waiting lists on several evenings for tickets to our musical, "Meet Me In St. Louis." We added a matinee, but still could barely meet the demand for tickets. After all the hard work that goes into a



Matt Ellison and Terri Schmidt play Jack & Janet Bouvier in last season's production of "Jackie".

production, it is very rewarding to play to full houses. This year we began to sell season tickets before we had sent out our new season mailing! Not only did we

increase our audience size, but we also increased the number of people involved in productions. "Meet Me In St. Louis" had a cast of nineteen, seven musicians involved throughout the shows, and a production crew of nearly twenty. An additional fourteen people helped cashier, usher and serve refreshments. That is over sixty people who were given the opportunity to be involved first hand in a theatre production! Our goal is not only to increase audience size, but to get more people involved in producing theatre for the community.

The year 2000 also saw several firsts for us. We sold out a show. We began producing a quarterly newsletter, 'Spotlight', for members. We produced our first musical in many years. We increased our productions from two to three per year. We added season tickets and memberships. Pullman Community Theatre took an active part in community events, taking part in Pullman's Main Street 'Crazy Days' and 'Lentil Festival and Parade' and becoming Chamber of Commerce members. We are happy to continue our partnership with Gladish. Gladish has provided us with a wonderful home in the Little Theatre, formerly the Band Room of the old High School.

**2000 : continued on Pg. 6, Col. 1**

**TalkBack:**

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Pullman has a wonderful secret!

When I moved here 3 1/2 years ago from a larger metropolitan area, I had no idea there would be opportunities to enjoy theatre in such a small place.

The fall production of *Meet Me in St. Louis* was above all "fun." From start to finish, I thought it was a pure delight, as the effort and enthusiasm of the participants really paid off. The cast, set, and music all came together in a very professional way.

Another wonderful thing is that Pullman Community Theatre (PCT) is just that... a "community" theatre. It receives no government funding! In the true sense of community -- a group coming together to participate voluntarily for a common goal -- art is performed. In addition to the time and energy volunteered by the Board of Directors, activities such as special events, ticket sales, membership drives, and advertisement sales, keep this group going.

**...(PCT) is just that... a "community" theatre. It receives no government funding!**

I'm sure the Pullman community will continue to support PCT in a variety of ways. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this terrific opportunity to enjoy live theatre right here in our home town.

Pam McEachern  
Pullman, WA

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

If you have something that you would like to share with the readers of *SpotLight*, just send a letter to:

SpotLight Editor  
c/o Pullman Community Theatre  
P.O. Box 162  
Pullman, WA 99163

or send e-mail to one of the editors listed in the publication information on Page 2.

## Theatre Appreciation Society: *Champagne & Theatre!*

by Beverley Wolff

Romeo & Juliet

The day started early, with a champagne brunch at the Best Western in Moscow. After a delicious and leisurely meal, the members of the Theatre Appreciation Society (TAS) went to the Hartung Theatre on the University of Idaho Campus. News had already reached us that this was to be a four hour production of Romeo and Juliet, with one ten minute intermission! Not an undertaking for the faint-hearted on either side of the stage!

Technically the show was wonderful. The multi-level set was visually exciting and the lighting was dark and moody. Rarely did it seem to be daylight in Verona. I especially liked the mix of music, everything from modern hip-hop to opera. At times it was like watching a music video on MTV, and then like a steamy scene from an Italian opera. Other audience members described the production as being similar to watching a Fellini flick! Similarly, the costumes added to the timeless feel of the story.

Juliet spent much of her time in shorts and t-shirts, sleep wear and a simple white dress. The men, dressed in suits, looked like they had stepped out of 'The Godfather'. This was especially so for Lord Capulet.

Reaction to the play was very mixed. We loved it, we hated it, it was too long, it was too short! One member of TAS said, "I cried when the parents were mourning the loss of their daughter. That got to me more than Romeo and Juliet losing each other." Another of our group said, "They played the first part for laughs, the second part for melodrama, but the overall effect was very moving."

The nonverbal parts of the production made a lasting impression on me. I was moved by the sight of Lord Capulet carrying the body of Tybalt off an empty, silent and dark stage. Later, seeing Tybalt in the tomb, during the final death scene, was very disturbing. He looked like an avenging angel, and again

brought to mind other things I had seen, this time the movie, "The Crow."

The lasting impression of the production was dark and disturbing. I was delighted. I would have been disappointed to see a watered down, romanticized version of a story that leaves five young people dead and two families devastated.

To find out more about upcoming productions at the University of Idaho, visit the web site at [www.ls.uidaho.edu/thea](http://www.ls.uidaho.edu/thea) or call 208 - 885 - 6465. To find out more about TAS outings leave a message on our answering machine at 332-8406 or contact Terri Schmidt at [aschmidt@turbonet.com](mailto:aschmidt@turbonet.com).

Silver Wings on Blue

A smaller number of TAS members also visited the Lewiston Civic Theatre on February 11 to see a matinee performance of 'Silver Wings on Blue',



*Board members enjoy a casual meal prior to taking up the business of running the theatre.*

written by Ariana Burns, a local writer. The play concerned the tragedies and triumphs of five women pilots during World War II. The costumes, props and excerpts from letters written by female pilots of the time added to the authenticity of the piece. It was very informative. TAS especially enjoyed seeing how the Lewiston Civic Theatre had transformed a beautiful old church, complete with stained glass windows, into a spacious and comfortable theatre. The Lewiston Civic Theatre is situated at 805 Sixth Avenue in Lewiston. Call (208) 746 - 3401.

Our next planned outing is to see 'The Secret Garden' at WSU on April 21. That's all for now, folks.

See you at the theatre! ☆

## General Meeting:

*Join us at the Library!*

by Scott Campbell

As with any member-driven organization, a general meeting is required to conduct business--and *Pullman Community Theatre* is no exception. Our general meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2001 at 7pm in the Neill Public Library in downtown Pullman.

This is actually a great time for the theatre company! We are going through tremendous growth in attendance, and we're seeing more and more support from the community with each passing show. As the lead article of this issue says, the future looks bright, indeed!

At our general meeting, the board of directors will be on hand to report on and answer your questions regarding last year's activities. There will also be discussions regarding what changes and developments might be in our company's future.

This is also an opportunity for interested individual members to become more involved with the company and its future. Members of our Board of Directors each serve for a 3 year term, and the terms rotate so that 3 positions come up for elections every year. This means that 3 Board positions must be filled at this meeting. This year Caryl Poshusta, Beverley Wolff, and Scott Campbell's terms come to an end. At the meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor for individuals interested in joining the Board.

Once the new pool of Board members has been established, the Board itself will decide which members shall hold Board offices for the following year. This will happen at their first Board meeting immediately following the General meeting at the same location. All members are invited to attend the Board meetings.

Come on out and support **YOUR** theatre! ☆

# News Bits:

by Scott S. Campbell

## New Board Member: Howard Utzman

Board of Directors President Caryl Poshusta appointed local attorney Howard Utzman to fill the last vacant seat on the Board. Mr. Utzman, recently returning to the area, has a long history of interest in and support of the Performing Arts. We are very pleased to welcome him aboard!

## Auditions: 84 Charing Cross Road

PCT is pleased to announce auditions for our summer production of the classic tale: *84 Charing Cross Road*. A variety of actors and actresses are needed to fill the 4 female and 5 male roles in the production.

Auditions will be at the Neill Public Library in downtown Pullman, April 17, 18, & 19 at 7pm.

We welcome everyone to audition--whether or not you have any stage experience. Several actors and actresses in the past have even used previous auditions as workshops or training opportunities to gain experience in the casting process.

Pullman Community Theatre is also known for helping several novices onto the stage with great success! Come on out... Give it a try!

PCT Quarterly Calendar						
March 2001						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 PCT Gen. Mtg. 7p @ Library	16	17	18
19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 M&V Preview 7:30p Curtain	29 M&V 7:30p Curtain	30 M&V 7:30p Curtain	31 M&V 7:30p Curtain	
April 2001						
						1 Start Daylight Savings Time
2	3	4	5 M&V 7:30p Curtain	6 M&V 7:30p Curtain	7 M&V 7:30p Curtain	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Easter Sunday
16	17 84 Auditions @ Pullman Lib.	18 84 Auditions @ Pullman Lib.	19 84 Auditions @ Pullman Lib.	20	21 TAS: Secret Garden @ WSU	22
23	24 84 Callbacks @ Gladish	25 PCT Board 7p @ Shermer's	26	27 84 Rehearsals Begin	28	29
30						
May 2001						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mother's Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Memorial Day (Obs.)	29	30 PCT Board 7p @ Shermer's	31			

**Key:** M&V = *Moonlight and Valentino*: All performances will be held in the Gladish Little Theatre of Pullman.  
**PCT Annual General Meeting** = PCT's annual meeting at Neill Public Library 7p - 8p. **Board meeting to follow.**  
**84** = PCT's production of *84 Charing Cross Road*.  
**PCT Board** = PCT's Board meetings are open to all current members of Pullman Community Theatre and are typically held at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Shermer's Restaurant (Dutch dinner at 6:15pm)  
**TAS** = PCT's Theatre Appreciation Society that makes outings to regional theatre. All are welcome. Please contact Terri Schmidt for more information: aschmidt@turbonet.com or 509-332-8406.

## MEMBERS: PCT's Strongest Assets!

### How to become a Member

**STEP ONE:** Select your desired Membership Level

Membership Level	Donation	Membership Level	Donation
<input type="radio"/> Student or Senior	\$10-\$24	<input type="radio"/> Benefactor	\$250-\$499
<input type="radio"/> Sustainer	\$25-\$49	<input type="radio"/> Producer	\$500-\$999
<input type="radio"/> Donor	\$50-\$99	<input type="radio"/> Producer's Circle	\$1,000-\$2,499
<input type="radio"/> Patron	\$100-\$249	<input type="radio"/> Theatre Dev. Guild	\$2,500 +

**STEP TWO:** Tell us how to reach you.

If this newsletter was not mailed to you, please **print** your name and address **clearly** in the address block on the reverse side.

**STEP THREE:** Tell us how you will pay.

- Your check to: **Pullman Community Theatre**, P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163
- Visa -or-  Mastercard (Will appear as **Shermer's Restaurant**)

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature

Today's Date

## Need Tickets For The Show?

**2001 Season Tickets** are on sale **now!** Guarantee yourself a seat **before they sell out!**

The last day for Season Ticket sales is April 7, 2001.

Performance Dates	Number of Tickets	Price per Ticket	Total Price of Performance
3/30, 6/9, 11/8	2	\$24.00	\$ <i>Sample</i>
		\$24.00	\$
		\$24.00	\$
			\$

- Your check payable to: **Pullman Community Theatre**, P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163
- Visa -or-  Mastercard (Will appear as **Shermer's Restaurant**)

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

**2000 : continued from Pg. 3, Col. 2**

For many years, members of Pullman Community Theatre have supported the Arts on the Palouse. Last year we formally organized a group dedicated to supporting the performing arts in our local area. The Theatre Appreciation Society (TAS) went on several outings last year to amateur and professional theatre productions. Each theatre outing involved a play and either lunch or dinner, plus lots of good conversation about the productions. TAS dreams big! Six local outings are planned for this year, but there are talks of trips in the future to Ashland, New York and London. Oh my! Many members of TAS also get together for more frequent trips to the theatre. If you want to meet new friends, go to the theatre, and enjoy great food, then TAS is the organization for you. Call 332 - 8406 to get involved. 2000 was an exciting year for us. Our thanks to everyone who supported us through this transition year. Please call us at 332-8406 if you would like to come on

board for 2001. We're always looking for new blood - actors, musicians, stage crew, set design, cashiers, ushers, refreshments, box office, Board

members, volunteers for our fund raisers . . . the list is endless. What are you waiting for? See you at the theatre! ☆

**Opportunities:**

*Read Any Good Books, Lately?*

by Beverley Wolff

Many thanks to the dozen volunteers who helped with the daunting task of inventory of costumes and props, and also with getting out the season mailing. Many hands made light work!

Thanks to John Rich, our Artistic Director, for providing space and refreshments for the workers.

Looking into the future, we can see opportunities for many volunteers. We are planning a huge book sale to accompany our June production of *84, Charing Cross Road*, (June 7 - 9 & 14 - 16.) This play is based on an American writer's correspondence with a London bookstore.

The book sale will be held in the theatre foyer. Not only will the book sale set the scene for the play, but will also be a fund-raiser for the theatre. We are looking for volunteers to sort and shelve books, and to sell books before the show and during intermission.

Would you like to help for a night or two? How about a volunteer to oversee the whole sale?

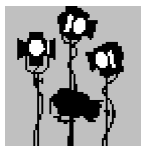
Perhaps you would like to donate books to the theatre for the sale? If so, we would like to hear from you. Give us a call at (509) 332 -8406.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support. ☆

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**Pullman Community Theatre**

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