

SPOTLIGHT

on
Pullman Civic Theatre

Vol. II, No. 3

Pullman, Washington

September-November 2001

"We're Not Afraid"

by Beverley Wolff

During our summer Children's Theatre production of 'Tom Sawyer', Tom and Becky sang, "We're not afraid, because we're not afraid". However, I have to admit that some of us in the Theatre weren't quite so confident. With two productions coming so close together, including the launch of a new venture—the Children's Wing seemed a lot to handle.

Now, with the hard work of both productions behind us, we are proud and excited about the future. We have much to celebrate!

84, *Charing Cross Road* was a great box office success, and rightly so. All of the actors put so much effort into this play, some mastering English or New York dialects as well as a complex script. The effort paid off bringing much



The cast from PCT's premier Children's Wing production: *Tom Sawyer*.

Photo courtesy of: The Boomerang! Connie Newman.

enjoyment to packed houses.

One audience member who had read the script remarked, "I wondered how the actors would breathe life into the letters and characters, but I need not have worried . . . they made it so

interesting. I was drawn into the relationships."

Many audience members commented on the wonderful set. They loved the mix of giant books for walls and floor, with the more realistic atmosphere of an English bookstore.

Diane Gillespie, who came up with the concept for the set, said, "Since books loomed so large in the characters' lives, why not have large books to symbolize that." Dick Domey, her husband and set designer for the show, obviously agreed!

Other audience members enjoyed the preshow book sale and readings by local authors and poets. The setting of the play was brought right out into the foyer. Our sale also netted us five hundred dollars, money plowed right back into the company to help pay for the new lighting board that made its debut for this show.

Interestingly, Dick Domey, on a recent trip to England, ran across a book written by Richard Marks, son of the owner of the '84, *Charing Cross Road* bookstore. In this book there were photos and a portrait of Helene Hanff. Dick remarked, "It was uncanny how much Char Fluster looked like Helene Hanff."

We were all thrilled with Char's portrayal of the character of Helene Hanff, and her debut on the Pullman Civic Theatre stage. She brought such warmth, intelligence and humor to the character.

Our newly formed Children's Wing of PCT swung into action soon after closing

night of 84, *Charing Cross Road*, in preparation for our summer production of the musical *Tom Sawyer*.

Twenty local children, along with adult actors Kari DeMarco and Jim Sato, spent summer afternoons learning songs,



The cast of 84, *Charing Cross Road*: Erin Balch, AnnaSofia Villeneuve, Beverley Wolff, Ron Sloat, Char Fluster, Ron Poshusta, and Kari DeMarco.

dances and lines under the direction of John Rich.

Melissa Pharr (Esther in *Meet Me in St. Louis*), a junior from Moscow High School,

was the musical director. Kari DeMarco, who was the assistant director as well as Aunt Polly, felt "really proud that we got a Children's Wing started. PCT is such an old organization, but still changing and growing. Now we've brought children into it. It's good for the Arts and good for the children."

Not only did the summer production meet the needs of children interested in learning stagecraft, but also the community's need for quality, live, family entertainment.

Our thanks go out to the many people who supported this production with their time and talents, especially Dick Domey who designed and built the set, Scott Campbell who designed and ran the lights and sound, AnnaSofia Villeneuve, stage manager, and Nancy Kent, who made almost all of the costumes for the show.

The Board of Gladish also deserves special thanks for providing us with the auditorium for our performances, and their continuing strong support of the Arts and youth in Pullman.

I can't wait for next summer's production! ☆

INTRODUCING:

Beverley Wolff

by Diane Gillespie

Who's afraid of Beverley Wolff? Her first grade students at St. Mary's in Moscow aren't, although Bev jokingly tells them that Wolff is her nature as well as her name. Perhaps they'd change their minds if they saw her in any of the roles she'd most like to play on stage: Martha in Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth, and that other Woolf herself in Patrick Garland's adaptation of A Room of One's Own.

PCT members and audiences already know Bev Wolff in many roles, both on stage and off. Her favorite recent role is Alberta in Moonlight and Valentino—a complex woman whose hard crust conceals and protects her vulnerability.

Off stage, Bev is incoming president of the PCT Board. As a community conscious citizen, she was once secretary for two PCTs at the same time (Pullman Civic Theatre and Pullman Civic Trust). Her Civic Theatre Board activities have included fund raising, selecting plays, organizing outings, and house managing.

As an Assistant Editor of the newsletter, SpotLight, she is a frequent contributor. The last issue, for instance, includes Bev's candid and encouraging description of what it's like to try out for plays, get a handle on the character, and master the lines and an equally useful description of how to help out behind the scenes.

To most people the old adage, "to keep the wolf from the door," means to ward off hunger. If we are talking about the stage door, though, we'd better be sure this Wolff gets in and stays there!

What Bev values most about community theatre, in fact, is the way it satisfies the hunger for creative outlets. By breaking down the usual barriers between people, and building trust among those working on a play,

community theatre also satisfies the need for strong human relationships. Even the audience, she thinks, feels more involved in a production created with limited financial resources by people a bit like themselves for whom theatre is a passion, not a job.

Where does such passion originate? Bev Wolff traces her own interest in theatre back to her childhood in northern England's mining country.

Maybe she is now both a teacher and an actress because of someone she calls "the best teacher of my life." Every week, at age ten, Bev and her best friend were writing "little moral skits" for class.

The first play she was in was one her teacher wrote; two children go off to find the true meaning of Christmas by giving what they have to people all over the world. The

writing, the acting—"I loved it all," Bev recalls.

Over the years, her favorite roles include Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet at her teacher training college in South London. There was a shortage of men, yes, but Bev also felt sure that a woman could play the role just as well.

Bev put her theatrical interests on hold for a decade or so while her three children were small. When she and her family moved to Pullman four years ago, however, she saw an audition poster and got involved again, both with the WSU theatre and with the PCT.

Dramatic literature is not the only writing Bev loves. Although she is well read in general, she is drawn to D. H.

Lawrence's work, especially to the short stories set in the mining country near where she grew up.

It is no surprise that she has been trying her own hand at short fiction. One story is evolving into a one-act play



Beverley Wolff taking in the theatre while visiting home this summer.

SpotLight:

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Members At-Large: Barbara Kirschner, Gail Miller, Jim Sato, and Terri Schmidt.

about a shoplifter whose culminating heist is going to be a wedding dress. It is not autobiographical!

What is in the future for Bev and the PCT? An evening of one-act plays, including some written by local writers? Other kinds of dramatic productions, like reader's theatre?

Bev does know that she would like to learn more about directing and to encourage PCT members in general to create back-ups for what they do by sharing their more specialized skills, possibly through workshops or

apprenticeships. Pleased with recent art exhibitions in connection with PCT performances, she envisions more involvement with the larger arts community in Pullman and Moscow.

Bev is full of good ideas.

Bev ...satisfies her own creative hunger... [and] gives much of her time, energy, and ideas to encourage and to help others satisfy similar creative needs.

She is a Wolff who not only satisfies her own creative hunger at the PCT stage door but also gives much of her time, energy, and ideas to encourage and to help others satisfy similar creative needs. ☆

Coming Attraction:

BABY

by Scott S. Campbell

What could be more appropriate for the Palouse than a musical production dealing with relationships of undergrads, graduate students and faculty members? That's what you will find in PCT's fall musical *BABY*.

We follow these [3] couples through the next 9 months and see how their impending pregnancies effect their lives and relationships.

Set in a small college town, *BABY* gives us a look into the lives and relationships of three couples: Danny and Lizzy, bright, idealistic undergrads; Nick and Pam graduate students dealing with infertility fears; Alan and Arlene, a faculty member and spouse who have finally gotten their last child out of the house.

What next, you ask? By the end of the opening number we find out that each of the three couples is pregnant! We follow these couples through the next 9 months and see how their impending pregnancies effect their lives and relationships.

The musical score composed by David Shire wonderfully accents the lyrics of Richard Maltby Jr. in this jazz/pop/rock musical, as the tales of their respective pregnancies and their relationships unfolds.

BABY will be performed in the Gladish Little Theatre, November 1-3 and 8-10 at 7:30pm. The box office opens at 7pm each night of the show. However, you might want to avoid the rush and pick up tickets (\$10) now at Neill's Flowers and Gifts in downtown Pullman.

☆

From the Board:

Much to Celebrate!

by Beverley Wolff
& Scott S. Campbell

So, what do we have to celebrate, apart from another two successful productions under our belt? (see *We're Not Afraid* on page 1.)

Well, we have finally completed paperwork to officially change our name from Pullman Community Theatre to Pullman Civic Theatre. This means that from this point on we are unable to accept any checks with the name of Pullman *Community* Theatre. They must now be made out to Pullman *Civic* Theatre—or simply *PCT*.

Pullman Civic Theatre has also been granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service as of February 23, 2001. We can now officially operate as a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable live entertainment, as well as creative outlets and educational opportunities for theatre participants.

To celebrate these events as well as our next season, we will be hosting a champagne reception as an *After Hours* event with the Pullman Chamber of

We invite all of our members and business partners to join us on Tuesday, October 16 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Gladish Little Theatre.

Commerce. There will be door prizes, recognition awards, and perhaps one or two musical numbers from the upcoming musical *BABY*. For refreshments there will be champagne, nonalcoholic beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

We invite all of our members and business partners to join us on Tuesday, October 16 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Gladish Little Theatre.

In short, Pullman Civic Theatre is very proud to be a theatre of, by and for the community.

Without a doubt, we are ready for our future! ☆

On Locations:

A Place for Our Stuff!

by Scott S. Campbell

First, on behalf of us all at Pullman Civic Theatre, let me say a tremendous *Thank You!* to our members who made donations to the Theatre during our summer fundraising drive. The money you raised is going straight to work in the Theatre—to our new Children's Wing, and yes, new office and storage space!

As was mentioned in that letter, we were hot on the trail of a property that had possibilities for either a business office and/or a box office for the Theatre. We can now announce that this space is located in the north end of the Green's Cleaners building at 740 N. Grand Avenue in Pullman, and we currently preparing to move in.

Upon reflection, however, we realized that we did not have the volunteer staffing that would be necessary to provide consistent box office service as we now receive from Neill's Flowers and Gifts. Instead, we have chosen to use this new site as a business office and storage location for many of our costumes and properties.

Over the past few months, in rags to riches fashion, we have also obtained an agreement to use another location in town for storing sets, costumes, and properties. This location is provided privately by an individual on College Hill.

With these new spaces available to us starting on September 1, we are having a *moving party* on September 9 to move our collection of items from Gladish and a few individuals' homes to our new storage locations. If you would like to lend us a hand in moving our stuff, please contact Beverley Wolff through the Theatre at 332-8406.

Once again, thank you all for your support of live Theatre in Pullman. Our curtain could never go up without you!

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Theatre Appreciation Society:

Summer Theatre

by Terri Schmidt
& Barbara Kirschner

PCT's Theatre Appreciation Society (TAS) gathers to attend local theatre productions for enjoyment and education. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Here are reviews of three plays we attended this summer:

Driving Miss Daisy, was a production of Summer Palace. I wondered how the frequent costume and scene changes needed for "Miss Daisy" could be accomplished effectively, but they were hardly noticeable because they were covered with an appropriate song played or sung delightfully by Jamie Miller. Adding lighting emphasis to each area also facilitated the changes. Congratulations to George Caldwell, the director and set designer.

I was also skeptical about the cast. How could someone as young and cute as Teresa Wold-Spencer play the role of the cantankerous Daisy Werthan? Makeup helped, of course. Her stage presence also adequately reflected the increase in age that Daisy goes through. She was able to portray a Jewish woman who finds herself becoming, in spite of herself, more dependent upon her black chauffeur.

Kristofer Barber successfully played Booley, Daisy's often overprotective and boorish son. He projected affection and loyalty for his mother and demonstrated racial concerns of the day.

Hoke, the black chauffeur hired to drive Miss Daisy, is a role that played well can demonstrate the racial conflict of those days and the irony of "Colored" working for a Jew, both minorities and victims of discrimination. Cristofer Davenport had the strength and tenderness in this show to cement the affection and mutual respect these two people had for one another.

Foreigner, was a production of the Idaho Repertory Theatre. The play was set in a small southern town. A guest at the local lodge pretended to be from a

foreign country to avoid making small talk. This ruse allowed him to eaves drop on revealing personal conversations, and provided for some funny exchanges between him and the locals. We enjoyed the antics of the multitalented cast.

The set for *Foreigner* depicted a two-story fishing lodge filled with props, furniture, and a potbelly stove. We were surprised to find such a detailed set since it had to be taken down and replaced often by sets for the other summer plays, in the tradition of repertory theatre.

Most recently we enjoyed seeing *Camelot* produced by the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre at the 1200-seat Boswell theatre on the campus of North Idaho College.

It was fun for us to watch our own local celebrity, Kelly Quinnett, playing the part of the queen, Guinevere.

The play tells the story of the magical time in Camelot when King Arthur creates a more civilized society and sets up the Knights of the Round Table. Within this context is the love triangle between Guinevere, King Arthur, and Lancelot, the knight in shining armor.

One of our favorite scenes showed Guinevere taunting the attending knights with her song "Take Me to the Fair".

We enjoyed the musical numbers performed by the actors and the orchestra, including some familiar songs such as "Camelot" and "If Ever I Would Leave You."

The next TAS outing will be this fall. We are going to Spokane Civic Theatre to see *My Favorite Year*, the story of a writer who is assigned to baby-sit an aging Hollywood washbuckler and the insights he gains that make 1954 his favorite year.

We are going to the 2:00pm Sunday matinee on October 7th. Tickets are \$14 (adults), \$12 (seniors), and \$8 (students).

If you are interested in joining us, please send a check made out to PCT by September 15th so we can reserve your seat. Mail your checks to:

PCT, Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163.

For more information call Terri at (208) 882-3837.

Come sit with PCT members, your friends and neighbors.

Live theatre, it's the best! ☆

2002 Season:

Expanding to 5 Shows!

by Scott S. Campbell

With PCT's highly successful 2001 season nearing its last production, we are busily planning our shows and schedules for the 2002 season—and we are very excited.

Based upon the success we have experienced in our productions over the last 2 seasons, PCT has decided to expand our mainstage production schedule from three to four shows next year. As the schedule is shaping up, it appears that the new performance slot will be in late February 2002.

Along with our mainstage success, the enthusiastic response to the newly

formed Children's Wing production of *Tom Sawyer* (see cover story) has confirmed the need and support for this program in the Pullman community.

In light of the response to *Tom Sawyer*, we fully plan to continue with the Children's Wing productions during the summer. This will mean a total of 5 Pullman Civic Theatre productions for the 2002 season!

"It's going to be a lot of work, but we think it's clear that this is a step we need to take," announced PCT's Artistic Director, John Rich.

The show titles for the 2002 season are still being finalized. The show selection and production schedule should be completed in the near future, and will be announced later this fall.

Hang on tight! It's going to be a great 2002 season at Pullman Civic Theatre! ☆



Jacob Nelson as Tom Sawyer and Erica Newman as Ben in the Children's Wing production of Tom Sawyer.

Photo courtesy of: The Boomerang! Connie Newman.

News Bits:

by Scott S. Campbell

Early Auditions:

Due to our additional mainstage production scheduled for late February 2002, our audition schedule has similarly been moved up. Although we cannot announce the show title at this time, we did want to apprise you of the audition dates for your calendars.

Auditions will be at the Hecht Room of the Neill Public Library, January 9 & 10, 2002 at 7:00pm.

As always, we welcome everyone to audition—whether or not you have any stage experience. Scripts for review may be requested by calling 332-8406.

Come on out... Give it a try!

On the March:

PCT pulled together its talent from the Children's Wing production of *Tom Sawyer* and took to the street at the 2001 National Lentil Festival.

Although there was no whitewashing of fences along the parade route, it was great to have a majority of the kids from the show together again.

Carrying their fishing poles and a string of fish, they marched with style and flair keeping with the Theatre's tradition. ☆

PCT Quarterly Calendar						
September 2001						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4	5 BABY Auditions 7pm	6	7 BABY Auditions 7pm	8 BABY Auditions 1pm
9	10	11	12 BABY Callbacks 7pm	13	14	15 Rummage Sale 1135 SE Spring
16	17 Begin BABY Rehearsals	18	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26 PCT Board Lakey's @7pm	27	28	29
October 2001						
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 TAS @ Spokane Civic	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 CoC After Hours @ 5p-6p	17	18 Volunteer Meeting @ 7pm	19	20
21	22	23	24 PCT Board Lakey's @7pm	25	26	27
28 Daylight Savings Ends	29	30	31 Halloween			
November 2001						
				1 BABY Curtain 7:30pm	2 BABY Curtain 7:30pm	3 BABY Curtain 7:30pm
4	5	6 Election Day	7	8 BABY Curtain 7:30pm	9 BABY Curtain 7:30pm	10 BABY Curtain 7:30pm
11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15 Alt. School Talent Show	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28 PCT Board Lakey's @7pm	29	30	

Key: **BABY** = *BABY* our fall musical. All auditions will be held at the Gladish Auditorium. All performances will be held in the Gladish Little Theatre of Pullman.
Rummage Sale = PCT's annual Rummage Sale will be held on Sept. 15, at 1135 SE Spring St., from 8a-12p with a \$5 brown bag sale from 12p-1p.
CoC After Hours Reception = Campaign reception for the Chamber of Commerce and our members in the Gladish Little Theatre. **All members of the Theatre are welcome!**
PCT Board = PCT's Board meetings are open to all current members of Pullman Civic Theatre and are typically held at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Lakey's Grill. (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.

☺ CUT ME OUT! ☺ CUT ME OUT! ☺ CUT ME OUT! ☺ CUT ME OUT! ☺

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 Civic Theatre**
P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163

Need Tickets For The Show?

Tickets for the *fall musical BABY* are on sale **now!**

Guarantee yourself a seat **before they sell out!!**

Show dates: **November 1, 2, 3 and 8, 9, 10**

Performance Date	Number of Tickets	Price per Ticket	Total Price of Performance
Nov. 1	2	\$10.00	\$ Sample
		\$10.00	\$
		\$10.00	\$
			\$

Your check payable to: **Pullman Civic Theatre**,
P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163

Opportunities:

PCT Has a Role For YOU!!

by Beverley Wolff

Pullman Civic Theatre strives to be a theatre of, by and for the community. We have a role for *everyone* who wants to get involved!

Over the past 2 seasons, all of our shows have been staffed by roughly the same set of volunteers. We need new blood—more people getting involved. More volunteers means a bigger pool of talent and energy to draw on.

So, how can you help? Think of your talents.

Do you see the big picture? Maybe you would like to direct.

Are you a visual person? Maybe you would enjoy working on set design, graphic design, photography, costumes or lighting.

Are you tuned into sound? We need musicians, musical directors, sound

designers and technicians.

Are you a detail person? Maybe you would like to work on props.

Are you an organizer? We need help with box office, serving refreshments and house managing.

Are you practical, good with your hands? We need set builders and costume sewers and fitters.

Over the past 2 seasons, all of our shows have been staffed by roughly the same set of volunteers. We need new blood³/₄more people getting involved.

Basically, we need you! Even if you are unsure of your talents, or only have

an evening or two to spare, we would love to have you join our company. All that is needed is a willingness to get

We're planning a meeting for volunteers on Thursday, October 18, at the Daily Grind, at 7:30pm.

involved, work hard and have fun. We'll provide any training needed.

We're planning a meeting for volunteers on Thursday, October 18, at the Daily Grind (on Main St. in Pullman) at 7:30pm.

Don't wait until then, though! E-mail Bev Wolff at bev@completebbs.com or call 332-8406, if you are even the teeniest bit interested and would like to know more! Production for *BABY* is underway and we can always use more help.

Thank you for your support. ☆

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Pullman Civic Theatre

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