



### Company News:

## This Day and Age... "Warm & Satisfying!"

by Beverley Wolff

PCT's production of *This Day and Age* by Nagle Jackson was just like a good dessert -- warm and satisfying.

Like all of the best comedies, it made us laugh, think, and feel touched by the characters and their situations. With grown children of my own who occasionally rotate back into the family home, I am impressed by PCT's ability to pick comedies so relevant to our day and age!

The lighting design for this show was very impressive. The effect of light reflecting on water was wonderfully captured and received many "Oohs and aahs" from the audience. AnaSofia Villanueva, under the mentoring of John Rich, shone as lighting designer.

All of the actors seemed very comfortable in their roles and were well cast; and, I especially enjoyed the performance of Troy Sprenke, as the mother Marjorie -- particularly in Scene III, set in the early evening. Troy, with a sweater draped around her shoulders, really captured the elegance of the 1950's. Although the play was not set in the fifties, this seemed to have been Marjorie's heyday. I



Photo: Dan Lawrence

Troy Sprenke and Ron Poshusta share a thoughtful moment in *This Day and Age*.

wanted to cheer when Marjorie decided to make her move to Manhattan!

Matt Ellison, as Brian, had a "topper" British accent, the sort we are used to hearing on PBS. Nagle Jackson's reference to the "bishop and the chorus girl" was wonderfully apropos. The more common expression, used in England as a punch line to many a joke, is "As the actress said to the bishop", or vice-versa.

Ron Sloat captured the little boy nature of Tony very well. Mated with the performances of Tracie Brelsford, Lori Batina and Ron Poshusta, John Rich put together an excellent ensemble cast! ☆

### Holiday Gift Ideas

Treat your family and friends to the gift of theatre by saying "Happy Holidays" with PCT 2004 season tickets. Show your dear ones how much you care about them with a gift that lasts all year long. Order forms are on page 4 of this *SpotLight* issue for your convenience.

### Last Chance for 2003 Tax Deduction!

Do you need an extra tax deduction for 2003? As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation we can help you out. Please avail yourself of the inserted donation form and to a nice 2003 last minute tax deduction.

Thanks to those of you who have already donated to Pullman Civic Theatre for the 2004 season. Your support enables us to sign rent and royalty contracts for 2004 with that tiny measure of optimism we need to get the year off to a good financial start.

### Coming Attractions:

## The Miracle Worker

by Carolea Webb

While lounging in the little waiting room of my favorite hair stylist, I happened to pick up a book entitled *The 100 Most Influential People of the 20th Century*. With a mere flick of a thumb I found myself reading about one of the main characters of Pullman Civic Theatre's next production, *The Miracle Worker*. There was Helen Keller -- an old woman at the time the photo was taken -- smiling brightly and holding the hand of a young actress named Patty Duke who had brought Helen's younger life to the big screen in 1962.

I had to ask myself -- what did Helen Keller do to deserve such recognition? (And, of course, I had to answer myself with my head hanging backwards in my hairdresser's sink.)

Helen Keller was born a perfectly healthy baby in the late 1800's. An

**Attractions: Cont'd on Pg. 3, Col. 1**

## INTRODUCING:

# Corianna Moffatt

by Carolea Webb

I didn't feel the least bit shy interviewing Corianna Moffatt. She and I played mother and daughter in *Years Ago*, and sometimes it felt so real, I had the urge to take her home and cook up her favorite meal!

Corianna is only fifteen, but she's an old hand when it comes to the theatre. "I got started when I went to a private school in Nashville," she told me. "They used to bring in professional directors for student productions. When they put on *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the director told me I'd make a good Titania, so I said okay, and I got the part. There wasn't even an audition!"

That little twist of fate made a big impact on Corianna's life. Soon she was acting with a professional theatre in Nashville called "Shakespeare in the Park". "I got to play Olivia's servant girl in *Twelfth Night*," she explained. "That was very exciting for me because I got to be around all those professionals."

When she moved with her family to Pullman, Corianna saw an audition notice for Moscow Community Theatre. She was given a part in the chorus line of *Carousel*, and since that time has worked on several productions. "I had more costume changes than anyone else in *The Wizard of Oz*," she said with a laugh.

Corianna's first involvement in Pullman Civic Theatre came in 2002, when she played a naïve waitress in *Bus Stop*. Then, she helped backstage during *Annie, Jr.* I asked her to describe her specific duties, and she threw up her hands. "Oh just anything that needed doing. I got to decorate a Christmas Tree."

Then came *Years Ago* in February and March of 2003. Director John Rich chose Corianna to play the young Ruth Gordon, who insists on becoming an actress despite her parents' worries and

the social prejudices of the day. It was a pivotal role for Corianna, requiring her to be on stage for most of the play. She had to squeeze her homework between a heavy rehearsal and performance schedule.

"I really had fun with *Years Ago*," she said. "One of my best days ever was the day we took the play up to Tekoa."



Corianna Moffatt, a very versatile member of the PCT family.

I asked Corianna what she found most challenging about acting, and she answered without hesitation, "Memorizing all those lines." I also asked what was challenging about backstage work. She said, "The most challenging thing is also the best thing. You have to learn

something new, which can be incredibly stressful, but you also get a lot out of it." She described working the spotlight during Pullman Civic Theatre's production of *Peter Pan*. "I never did anything so hard, but I loved it."

I asked her whether she had any future plans regarding theatre, and her face lit up. "I do! I want to play Marge in *Picnic*. So I guess I've got to get somebody to put it on soon, because she's a young character."

I enjoyed the comment, because I too have characters I would love to play, but

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## Theatre Trivia:

Until the 1960s, The Lord Chamberlain's office in England

had the power of censorship over plays performed in commercial theatres.

When Anita Loos and John Emerson submitted *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* for licensing in 1927, for example, objections were raised over "His Late Majesty, King Edward" telling stories and drinking aboard the royal yacht and to the Prince of Wales "making a living playing the ukulele if he had a little more practice."

Dorothy's comment, "You've got to be the Queen of England to get away with a

## SpotLight:

www.pullmancivictheatre.com

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### Pullman Civic Theatre Board of Directors:

**President:** Char Fluster, cfluster@turbonet.com

**Vice-President:** Kristine Zakarison, kristine@pullman.com.

**Secretary:** Diane Gillespie, domey@completebbs.com.

**Treasurer:** Nancy Kent, nekent@ontologos.org.

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

**Members At-Large:** Betty Adams, Barbara Kirschner, Gail Miller, Pam McEachern, Jim Sato, and Rosemary Waldrop.

what I really wanted to know was whether she wanted to pursue the theatre as a career. When I pressed her, she said, "I don't know. The feeling that I get after doing a good job in a play is the best feeling I've ever had, so of course I want to do more. But, I'm not sure about the practical side of a theatre career. I don't think I'll worry about it. I'm only fifteen, after all." ☆

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## That's a No-No!

by Diane Gillespie

hat like that!" is blue-penciled. A joke is cut: Connie tells Dorothy about a sentence

she learned in French to get good treatment from everyone. She says "Juh sweeze onciente" and doesn't realize that she's saying that she's pregnant until she scares off a date with it. References to "risky" French postcards also were not allowed.

No wonder plays by Shaw, Ibsen, Pirandello, O'Neill, Strindberg, and others were performed privately to evade the censor. ☆

**Attractions: Cont'd from Pg. 1, Col. 3**

infectious disease left her blind and deaf while still a baby. Her parents had no idea how to help her until they hired a fearless young teacher, Annie Sullivan.

These events paved the way for Helen to make a priceless contribution to the more enlightened treatment of disabled individuals throughout the world.

But, how were sight or hearing impaired people treated before Helen's time, and how was Annie able to make a difference?

Come to Pullman Civic Theatre's own production of *The Miracle Worker* and find out. The show runs February 26, 27 and 28 and March 4, 5 and 6 in the Gladish Little Theatre.

If you'd like to audition for the play, please come to the Gladish Little Theatre on January 7 and/or January 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Male parts include three men ages 30 to 70+, one young man, and one young boy. Female parts include eight young girls, two young women and three women ages 25 to 70+.



*Helen Keller as a child, who blossomed from her cocoon of darkness and silence by The Miracle Worker, Annie Sullivan.*

We need actors and actresses of course, but just as importantly, we need help behind the scenes. You can "play the part" of an usher, a box-office volunteer, a set-builder, a set-designer, or someone who distributes posters. No show could go on without a team of volunteers!

And, if you wonder how my hair cut turned out – I'd say just fine. ☆

**From the President:**

**Welcome to My Soapbox!**

**by Char Fluster**

With a ceremonious "TA-DAH!" we welcome you to the debut appearance of a President's column in *SpotLight*, the inception of which is due entirely to the patient efforts of our editor, **Scott Campbell**.

Although it is important for the president of an organization to speak directly with it's members, I had not been willing to part with my time. I procrastinated writing a column as long as I could.

I grimaced at the thought of readers having a glimpse at my mug shot in every edition. Scott has assured me we can be creative in this picture area, possibly using stick figure neo-cubist representations if necessary. Talk about a motivation to donate and to continue receiving *SpotLight*!

In any event... Welcome to my soapbox!

**I want to thank everyone for a successful 2003 season and invite you to fully partake in the upcoming 2004 season.** As 2003 itself winds to a close, I look back with gratitude and pride on a year filled with astounding growth in audience attendance. To what do I attribute this steady climb in attendance?

First, I think the quality of our performances, good for some time, has finally been recognized by the community at large and advertised through word-of-mouth. Our creative teams, under the leadership of Artistic Director **John Rich**, have simply spoiled us with their array of talents. They have, in essence, raised the bar in arts expectations and accordingly raised the interest and support of the community.

Second, we have had a number of logistical changes that resulted in higher attendance than usual. Local **PEO**

**Chapter FZ** purchased Sunday matinee performances of two shows, *Years Ago* and *This Day and Age*, as a fundraiser for their chapter and as a means to support Pullman Civic Theatre.

We also took a show on the road for the first time ever, to the welcoming embrace of the Tekoa Empire Theatre. Tekoa Board president **Cheryl Morgan** and other board members provided this new venue for us in which to perform and to reach a larger



*PCT President, Char Fluster.*

audience.

Finally, **Dick Domey** spearheaded the move of our first drama on the Gladish Auditorium's main stage. By affording a great increase in seats, the production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, (which Dick also directed), was seen by far more patrons than could have otherwise been accommodated.

**Many of these opportunities are available to you to take advantage of for our 2004 season.**

Would you like to buy out a performance for your club, business or church? It could be simply to reward everyone with a special theatre outing just for fun, or it could be in conjunction with a conference or some other occasion you have going on. Please contact us at 509-332-8406 to make arrangements. A preview of the 2004 season is highlighted here on page 4.

The 2004 season promises to be a delightful celebration of extraordinary women, both real and fictional. We look forward to **spoiling you** with yet another year of quality theatre! ☆

## Give the Gift of Live Theatre!

### With a 2004 Membership

#### How to become a member:

By Phone: (509) 332-8406

By Mail: Pullman Civic Theatre, Attn.: Membership,  
P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163

| Membership Level | Donation      | Membership Level   | Donation          |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Student/Senior   | \$10 - \$24   | Benefactor         | \$250 - \$499     |
| Sustainer        | \$25 - \$49   | Producer           | \$500 - \$999     |
| Donor            | \$50 - \$99   | Producer's Circle  | \$1,000 - \$2,499 |
| Patron           | \$100 - \$249 | Theatre Dev. Guild | 2,500             |

Total Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

## Give the Gift of Live Theatre!

### With 2004 Season Tickets

| <i>The Miracle Worker</i> by William Gibson           |           |              |           |              |           |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| # of Tickets  | Show Date | # of Tickets | Show Date | # of Tickets | Show Date |
|   | Feb. 26   |              | Feb. 27   |              | Feb. 28   |
|   | Mar. 4    |              | Mar. 5    |              | Mar. 6    |
| <i>Auntie Mame</i> by Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee |           |              |           |              |           |
|   | Apr. 29   |              | Apr. 30   |              | May 1     |
|   | May 6     |              | May 7     |              | May 8     |
| <i>Cinderella</i> by Rogers & Hammerstein             |           |              |           |              |           |
|   | Jul. 29   |              | Jul. 30   |              | Jul. 31   |
| <i>Pride's Crossing</i> by Tina Howe                  |           |              |           |              |           |
|   | Nov. 4    |              | Nov. 5    |              | Nov. 6    |
|   | Nov. 11   |              | Nov. 12   |              | Nov. 13   |

# Tickets per show: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$32 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Community Support:

### Royalties in Our Midst!

by Char Fluster and Pam McEachern

**Diligent, Inc.**, a local Pullman business, will be the first sponsor of the royalties' payments for a Pullman Civic Theatre play. Gene Apperson and Clint Cole, founders and owners of Diligent Inc., are pleased to cover the royalties to produce our first 2004 season show, *The Miracle Worker*, by William Gibson. They hope that his action will set a

competitive standard for others to follow for the remaining shows of the 2004 season.

Many patrons may not realize that we have to pay the publishers of plays in order to perform the works they have published. The publisher Samuel French, Inc. holds the rights to two shows this year, both *The Miracle Worker* and

*Pride's Crossing*. Publishers are compensated based on the available number of seats in an auditorium and on the number of shows a troupe performs.

Other publishers we are able to use works from this coming year include Dramatists Play Service, Inc. for *Auntie Mame* and the Rogers and Hammerstein Theatre Library for *Cinderella*.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring the royalties for *Auntie Mame*, *Cinderella*, or *Pride's Crossing*, please contact our treasurer, Nancy E. Kent, at 509-332-1809 or e-mail her at [nekent@ontologos.org](mailto:nekent@ontologos.org). ☆

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#### Thank You:

### Community Support Means So Much!

by Scott S. Campbell

As the curtain comes down on another season for Pullman Civic Theatre, we want to acknowledge the terrific businesses and organizations in our community that have supported our efforts through the year. In your preparations for the holidays, and any other times, please let these people know how much you appreciate their contributions to the Theatre.

**KZFN-FM (Zfun 106), DABCO Management, Dairy Queen, For Art's Sake, Radio Shack (Pullman), Pullman Chamber of Commerce, Brian's Body Shop, Triticum Press,**

**Denny's of Pullman, Bank of Whitman, Campbell Piano Service, WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Pullman Heating and Electric, Safeway of Pullman, Champion Electric & Lighting, First Step Internet, Realtor: Caryl Poshusta, Aging with Grace Inc., Pullman Ford-Mercury, Video Quest, Green's Cleaners, Now & Then, Baskin Robbins of Pullman, Camas Winery, Rosauer's, Whitman County Humane Society Thrift Store, Swilley's Cafe & Catering, Graham Academy of Classical and Contemporary Ballet, After Dark Lingerie & Gifts, Basilio's**

**Italian Cafe - Pullman, Curves for Women, SAGE Baking Company, Eleanor's Corner Saloon, Rico's Pub, Brused Books, Gamers' Paradise, Ken Vogel Clothing, Neill's Flowers & Gifts, Helene's Property Place, Gladish Community & Cultural Center, Dissmore's, Moscow Food Co-op, Ric-O-Shay, Churchyard Inn, DigitalEntryway.com, KQQQ/KHTR Radio, Associated Brokers, Cotton Sears, A Moment in Time Photography, Pullman Kiwanis Club, Pullman Child Welfare, St. James Episcopal Church, First Bank Northwest, Washington Mutual Bank, McGregor Company, WSECU, Tri-State, Devlin & Huberty, P.S., Daily Grind and J&H Printing. ☆**

# News Bits:

by Scott S. Campbell

## Is THIS your LAST Spotlight ?

The *SpotLight* is produced for the enjoyment of the members, donors, business partners, and volunteers of Pullman Civic Theatre.

We are thrilled to bring you articles and pictures on the action behind-the-scenes as well as center stage.

However, as with all things, this comes at a cost. Unfortunately, we cannot send our newsletter out to all 1,300 interested parties in the region as the newsletter budget would quickly outstrip our resources -- no matter how much we would like to!

Therefore, we must occasionally pare down our newsletter mailing list to current supporters of the Theatre.

If your mailing label (on this issue) has a green stripe on it, our records indicate that your membership or involvement in the Theatre has lapsed. If our records are in error, please contact us immediately at 509-332-8406 to correct our information.

Should you need to reinstate your membership, feel free to use the form at the top of page 4.

We look forward to bringing you many more issues of the *PCT SpotLight!*

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| PCT Quarterly Calendar |                            |         |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| December 2003          |                            |         |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday                 | Monday                     | Tuesday | Wednesday                                  | Thursday                                     | Friday                                       | Saturday                                     |
|                        | 1                          | 2       | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7<br>Pear Harbor Day   | 8                          | 9       | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   |
| 14                     | 15<br>PCT Board<br>12 noon | 16      | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20<br>First Day of Hanukkah                  |
| 21                     | 22<br>First Day of Winter  | 23      | 24<br>Christmas Eve                        | 25<br>Christmas Day                          | 26   | 27   |
| 28                     | 29                         | 30      | 31<br>New Year's Eve                       |  |  |  |
| January 2004           |                            |         |  |  |  |  |
|                        |                            |         |  | 1<br>New Year's Day                          | 2  | 3  |
| 4                      | 5                          | 6       | 7<br><i>Miracle Worker</i><br>Auds 7p - 9p | 8<br><i>Miracle Worker</i><br>Auds 7p - 9p   | 9  | 10   |
| 11                     | 12                         | 13      | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   |
| 18                     | 19<br>MLK, Jr. Day         | 20      | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   |
| 25                     | 26                         | 27      | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31   |
| February 2004          |                            |         |  |  |  |  |
| 1                      | 2<br>Groundhog Day         | 3       | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8                      | 9                          | 10      | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14<br>Valentine's Day                        |
| 15                     | 16<br>Presidents' Day      | 17      | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   |
| 22                     | 23                         | 24      | 25<br>Ash Wednesday                        | 26<br><i>Miracle Worker</i><br>Curtain 7:30p | 27<br><i>Miracle Worker</i><br>Curtain 7:30p | 28<br><i>Miracle Worker</i><br>Curtain 7:30p |
| 29                     |                            |         |  |  |  |  |

**Key:** Auds. = All *mainstage auditions* listed on this newsletter calendar will be held in the Gladish Little Theatre, Pullman. All members of the community are invited to audition for roles in our upcoming productions or to get involved behind the scenes.

**Miracle Worker** = Our winter production of the 2004 season: *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson.

**Board Mtg.** = PCT's Board meetings are open to all current members of Pullman Civic Theatre. Call 332-8406 for location.

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



**Salutes Extraordinary Women:**

## 2004 Season

**Next Up: ★ *The Miracle Worker* ★**

*Auntie Mame*

*Cinderella*

*Pride's Crossing*

## Auditions:

# *The Miracle Worker*

*By William Gibson*

### Male Roles

3 Men, ages 30 - 70+

1 young boy

1 young man

### Female Roles

8 young girls

2 young women

3 women, ages 25 - 70+

**January 7th & 8th from 7 to 9 p.m.**

**In the Gladish Little Theatre**

For additional information, call director John Rich 334-7033

## ***In This Issue:***

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P.O. Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163

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## **Opportunities:**

# **Public Relations, Volunteer/Membership Coordinator**

**By Char Fluster and Pam McEachern**

Pullman Civic Theatre is seeking 2 new volunteers in the areas of:

- Public Relations
- Volunteer/Membership Coordination

Not to worry!! Training and support systems are already in place for both positions; we just need them to be staffed. Predecessors have moved on to other positions but are eager and willing to train *you!*

Public relations involves working with other members of PCT to collect necessary event details and pass these on to the regional media on a schedule. There is an existing timeline in place -- with specific media members and addresses listed -- for distributing our event information.

Occasionally, this position requires

writing a brief article (usually smaller than this article) to appear in local or regional newspapers and newsletters.

Of course, many PCT volunteers are available to assist in either proof-reading or providing ideas and details for these articles.



*Photo: Dan Lawrence*

*Lori Batina and Ron Sloat stir things up in This Day and Age.*

For more information on public relations at the Theatre, please call Char Fluster at 509-334-1503 and she will gladly answer your questions.

The volunteer/membership coordinator position involves keeping track of the people who donate their time, items and/or their money to our organization.

As you can imagine, these people and organizations are crucial to the continuing success of our Theatre. Fortunately, keeping track of them is very straightforward.

Volunteer information is kept up-to-date in a simple database. Member and donor information is maintained in a simple spreadsheet.

One time-sensitive part of the position is sending out timely acknowledgments to donors for their gifts.

To find out more about the volunteer/membership coordinator position, please contact Pam McEachern through our office phone at 332-8406. ☆