



Company News:

Record Setting Start to 2003!

by Beverley Wolff

The 2003 season got off to a great start, with the warmhearted comedy *Years Ago* by Ruth Gordon, directed by John Rich, our Artistic Director.

This show set records for us. With seven performances in the Little Theatre including a special matinee performance and reception for PEO, over 500 people came to see *Years Ago*. This was our highest box office number for a nonmusical production in the Little Theatre so far.

Even more people got the chance to see the show when the cast and crew traveled to Tekoa, Washington, for a special, one night performance at the Tekoa Empire Theatre.

Years Ago added two firsts for Pullman Civic Theatre – the first time a group bought the house for a performance, and the first time we took a show on the road. We hope to repeat both ventures again!

The second show of the season was Tennessee Williams' stunning Pulitzer Prize winning drama, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, directed by Dick Domey. This was a wonderful, tension packed performance, produced by a fine ensemble of actors and a dedicated crew.

In the Gladish Auditorium, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* set another record for our company, with 157 people attending the final performance, the most people we have ever had at a single performance of a drama.



Maggie the Cat (Char Fluster) and Brick (Chris Burton) share a rare tender moment in Tennessee Williams' Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Staging *Cat* in the larger Gladish Auditorium was an exciting experiment for PCT. The set was stunning, especially the white doors and columns silhouetted



against the blue of the night sky. Even though the set was stylized, rather than realistic, it was still so believable. I was there on that hot, sweaty night! I even felt the air get cooler as the storm broke!

Dick Domey, who first proposed staging *Cat* on the larger Gladish stage, said earlier about this choice, "I think the audience needs a little more distance from Williams' *mendacious* Pollitt family." My daughter, sitting in the very back row of the audience, agreed. "You wouldn't want to be in the same room as them!"

I'd like to thank all of the actors involved in this production for giving so much heat, passion and energy to these larger than life characters. I was awed.

☆

Coming Attractions:

Peter Pan

by Scott S. Campbell

Remember when you wished you could fly? Or, perhaps you still do! Pullman Civic Theatre's Children's Wing is taking on the company's most ambitious show to-date: *Peter Pan*.

This tale of youth, magic, and daring, which has delighted audiences for ages, will soon be live on the Gladish Auditorium stage.

As in previous years, auditions brought in a wide range of talented children and adults from all over the Palouse and beyond.

Making casting decisions are always difficult, and the directors were very pleased with the following cast: Peter Pan: Melissa Pharr, Captain Hook/Mr. Darling: Michael Snyder, Mrs. Darling: Kristine Zakarison, Wendy: Danielle

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

INTRODUCING:

Scott Campbell

by Kari DeMarco

Scott Campbell moved from the "Big Apple" to the "Big Lentil" several years ago. In New York he was involved in Apple Corps. Productions. He played Mr. Webb in *Our Town* and Dr. Zubritsky in *Fools*.

I have known Scott since we were in *Jackie: An American Life* together, and it has always been my opinion that he wanted to bring some of his Apple Corps. experiences to Pullman Civic Theatre.

Since arriving on the Palouse, Scott has thrown himself into volunteering for PCT. If something needed to be done, he would either dive right in and do it... or take a class and then do it!

Behind the scenes, Scott has designed sound, run the sound board, or trained his wife Bonnie to do so for many, many shows. He has been part of the technical direction crew for the past two summers of Children's Wing productions as well, bringing microphones to our auditorium production of *Annie, Jr.*

Scott also has served on the PCT Board of Directors and helped augment the business side of our community theatre.

"He attended nine nonprofit seminars in Spokane over as many months and brought back much worthwhile information for our theatre board," said Terri Schmidt. "With his direction and participation we increased the number of advertisers in our play programs. He worked with Green's Cleaners to provide extra storage space for our props and costumes," Schmidt also noted.

This very newsletter was also his idea, and he attended a conference to give him the necessary skills to design it. This has paid off with our recent award (see related article). He is the newsletter editor, as well as a frequent contributor.

"Adding to his list of

accomplishments," Schmidt finished up, "Scott also demonstrated his expertise as a hamburger flipper at our volunteer picnic last summer!" Talk about Jack of all trades!

Which is exactly what he is. Listen to this list of accomplishments: vocalist, golfer, marksman, professor, computer networking specialist, piano tuner and repairman, audio technician, chef, golf club designer... and actor.



Photo by: A Moment in Time

Scott Campbell in the role of Reverend Tooker in PCT's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

It almost seems no matter what role he might be cast in, he has been that person in real life! Only playing a Reverend in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* was any real stretch.

On-stage at PCT, Scott has been a major contributor

since his arrival. He played numerous characters in *Jackie*, Clinton Badger in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, numerous characters in *BABY*, Ludie Watts in *The Trip to Bountiful*, enthusiastic eater (despite the props being cold food) David Oslow in *The Art of Dining*, and now, Reverend Tooker in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

In all seriousness, he has deftly portrayed real, believable characters, from the silly to the serious. Each script has received a thorough study from our volunteer extraordinaire, and his performances show it.

With voice-overs for PCT and Copper Basin Construction, and an extra role on the feature film *Dandelion*, we can only hope to not lose Scott back to the Big Apple.

As I move to an apple capital myself in June, I will have fond memories of working with a teddy bear of a friend who always gives it his all... and does so with a wink and a smile for his fellow volunteers.

Thanks for all you do Scott. You really make our community, and our community theatre, a better place. ☆

SpotLight:

www.pullmancivictheatre.com

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Box 162, Pullman, WA 99163.

509-332-8406.

Editor: Scott S. Campbell,
scott@CustomMadeClubs.com.

Assistant Editors: Beverley Wolff,
bevww@completebbs.com & Kari
DeMarco, ademarco@pullman.com.

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

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, Bonnie Jo Lincoln,
Gail Miller, Pam McEachern, Jim Sato,

Theatre Trivia:

Nouvelle Cuisine

by Diane Gillespie

During a production in Birmingham, Hugh Manning "found himself stuck on stage alone with a piano and a bunch of daffodils. He had given the cue line and the actor due to come on stage failed to appear. Manning repeated the cue and still nothing happened. Returning to the piano, which he was supposed to be able to play, but couldn't, he idly picked up one of the daffodils. He admired it, savoured its bouquet and at last, in desperation, ate it. This brought the house down. The inspired piece of business was such a success that for the rest of the run he had to eat a daffodil nightly."

(Gyles Brandreth, *Great Theatrical Disasters*, 1982) ☆

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

Pals, John: Nate Stoneman, Michael: Levi Connors, Tiger Lily: Tina McClure, Nana: Cyndi Kimmel, Jane: Alyssa Kent, Liza: Kristen Lobdell. Other cast member names were unavailable at press time.

Behind the scenes the Director will be John Rich, Musical Director: Melissa Pharr Musical Conductor: Chris Eisele, and Technical Director: Dick Domey.

Performances will be July 31 & August 1 at 7:00pm and August 2 at 3:00pm in the Gladish Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, and are available now at 2 outlets: *Dissmore's Service Desk & Neill's Flowers & Gifts* in Pullman.

You may also download and print an order form from our website at www.pullmancivictheatre.com and mail it in with a check. You may also buy tickets at the door (if still available) or reserve them at 509-332-8406 but you must pick them up 20 minutes before curtain time.

Join us for the Children's Wing performance of Peter Pan and see if Tinkerbell has some pixie dust for you, too. ☆



Big Daddy (Jim Sato) receives a playful embrace from Big Mama (Gail Miller) in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

Company News:

Good News: Good Newsletter!

by Diane Gillespie

Congratulations to Scott Campbell, editor; Beverley Wolff and Kari DeMarco, assistant editors; and all the writers contributing to Pullman Civic Theatre's *SpotLight!* Our newsletter recently was named First Runner Up for the 2003 Betty Wills Award for Newsletter Excellence presented by the Washington State Community Theatre Association (WSCTA).

The adjudicator, Steve Dunkelberger, theatre critic and editor of the South Sound Business Examiner, described *SpotLight* as "clean and sharp with a simple and readable design that provides a good breakdown of the events at the theatre. Its bulk is also a testament to its activities, since much of the content is not fluff, but good information at least for

a segment of the readership. This is a good newsletter to copy if theaters are looking for examples of how to do it."

SpotLight would have won the award hands down, we were told, except for its quarterly publication schedule. "My advice," wrote Dunkelberger, "would be to increase its frequency to once a month or every other month to keep the theatre in the minds of its patrons more effectively."

The award was presented at the WSCTA Kaleidoscope Festival held in March at Spokane Civic Theatre. Representatives at the Festival from Pullman Civic Theatre were John Rich, Jim Sato, Dick Domey, Diane Gillespie. Also present were Ruth and Dean Vanderwall. ☆

Company News:

"Follow a Rising Star!"

by Kristine Zakarison

PCT is launching a new program to help talented youth within our community realize their dreams of being on stage, and the Pullman Kiwanis Club is doing their part to make those dreams a reality. The "Sponsored Youth" Committee of the Pullman Kiwanis Club has graciously come forward with a donation, offering a scholarship that will be used for youth participating in the upcoming production of "Peter Pan."

"Follow A Rising Star" is a new program in which members of the community have the opportunity to "sponsor" children who are acting in PCT productions. For \$200.00, an individual or community group can sponsor one of our "rising stars." This scholarship covers summer tuition in a PCT production, the cost of a costume, rehearsal and performance shoes (which

can be amazingly expensive!), props for their role, and production costs.

Scholarships will eventually be offered based upon merit as well as need.

In addition to an exciting performance, the Children's Wing offers area children and youth an educational opportunity to gain a fuller sense of all aspects of theatre, from singing, dancing, and acting to the "back stage details" of lights, sounds, and stage management.

The "Follow A Rising Star" program is a tangible way for those interested in the arts to invest in the future of local theatre by helping area youth have an enriching experience of participating in a major production. PCT hopes that this program will provide encouragement and training for our talented local youth as this "next generation" finds a home in the life of the theatre.

If you would like more information on how to participate in the "Follow A Rising Star" program, please contact Kristine Zakarison, Vice-President of PCT, at 332-3617. ☆

Company News:

Flying by Foy

by Char Fluster

How will we have our actors fly in the upcoming production of Peter Pan? Why, by a company that has set the standard in stage flying, of course.

"Flying by Foy" has provided theatrical flying effects for thousands of stage productions, musicals, operas, ballets, rock concerts, film, and television shows worldwide. The company flew the Broadway productions of Peter Pan, with Mary Martin in 1954, Sandy Duncan in 1979 and Cathy Rigby in 1990 and originated the flying for Angels in America, Tommy, and The Lion King.

"Flying by Foy" has provided theatrical flying effects for thousands of stage productions, musicals, operas, ballets, rock concerts, film, and television shows worldwide.

In 1990 the Health and Safety Codes Commission of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology presented to Peter Foy the International Entertainment Safety Award.

We look forward to entertaining you at our production of Peter Pan on July 31st, August 1st & 2nd to experience the thrill of J.M. Barrie's story, the magic of flight, and a pinch of pixie dust on the side. See you at the theatre! ☆



PCT takes Ruth Gordon's *Years Ago* on the road to Tekoa, Washington.

Member News:

She Will Always Be Our Jackie!

by Scott S. Campbell

As happens from time to time, things change and people move on -- especially in a college town. Unfortunately, such is the case with our assistant newsletter editor Kari DeMarco.

However, Kari is much more than just an assistant editor and the regular contributor of our *Introducing* column. As with many volunteers to PCT, she has immersed herself in several different ways that have touched all of us.

For example, Kari was at the forefront of the establishment of PCT's Children's Wing. Long hours were spent working out plans for the program with Artistic Director John Rich. She had a starring role in their first production of the

musical *Tom Sawyer* as Aunt Polly, and went on to direct PCT's best attended show, *Annie, Jr.*

Of course, my recollections go back to our mutual first taste of the PCT stage... *Jackie: An American Life*. In this life story of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Kari was easily believable as the beloved Jackie. The laughter from rehearsals is still fresh on my mind -- whether Jackie was kissing a pig or tasting head cheese on the campaign trail.

Kari DeMarco, as life takes you on to new experiences, you will be missed... And on your travels remember:

You will always be our Jackie! ☆

Theatre History:

All the World's a Stage

by Diane Gillespie

The local Pullman Auditorium Company's April 1894 production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, caused serious examination in Pullman of the possibility of hidden evil personalities, and not just on stage!

The Pullman Herald published a synopsis of the play on April 13, 1894. A student of the occult, Dr. Jekyll, finds a potion that can change him into Mr. Hyde, "a monster of depravity." The moral and physical transformation enables him to indulge all his buried "vile passion and cruel impulses without fear of detection." Eventually, Jekyll becomes trapped in the malign personality of Hyde, and can only escape by death.

The April 27th issue of the Pullman Herald contains a commentary on the play's moral implications. "Dr. Jekyll' has living counterparts in every community," reads an unsigned article. "That man, who, under cover of a calm, peacable [sic] and law-abiding demeanor, carries on the nefarious practice of Mr. Hyde is more dangerous to a community than is the man who, when his moral nature is changed, gives evidence of the change by physical transformation." In an adjacent column is a short comment that reads, "Mr. Hyde' was found out in his efforts to break up the agricultural college. His mask as 'Dr. Jekyll' failed to work." The editorial page duly denounces a "Band of Conspirators" who wished not only to disrupt the administration of the college, but also supported unregulated gambling and liquor in town, and tried to gain control of the Pullman Herald itself. Presumably Herald readers then knew who these unmasked, but unnamed Mr. Hydes were, as do students of WSU history! ☆

News Bits:

by Scott S. Campbell

Board of Directors:

PCT's Annual General Meeting was held on March 26, 2003. At that meeting, several new Board members were elected to fill vacated seats: Nancy Kent, Bonnie Jo Lincoln, Pamela McEachern, Rosemary Waldrop, and Kristine Zakarison. The Officers for 2003 are President, Char Fluster; Vice President, Kristine Zakarison; Treasurer, Nancy Kent; Secretary, Diane Gillespie; and Artistic Director, John Rich. ☆

Auditions:

Coming in September are auditions for PCT's fall show *This Day and Age* by Jack Nagle. A comedy of the times as adult children return home to roost, this is sure to be a fun production.

Auditions will be held on September 10th & 12th at 7pm tentatively scheduled for the Hecht Room in the Neill Public Library, Pullman.

If you have questions about the show or would like a review copy of the script, please contact John Rich 334-7033. ☆

Raffle Winner:

The winner of the raffle for a dinner for two at the Hilltop Restaurant and a cake from Safeway was Bernette Barry.

PCT Quarterly Calendar						
June 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Fathers' Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer
22	23 Board Mtg. 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
July 2003						
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Peter Perform. 7:00 pm Curtain		
August 2003						
					1 Peter Perform. 7:00 pm Curtain	2 Peter Perform. 3:00 pm Curtain
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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.
Peter = Our Children's Wing production of the 2003 season: The children's classic tale, *Peter Pan*.
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! ☺



PULLMAN CIVIC THEATRE
Presents:

2003 Season

Years Ago

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Next Up: ★ Peter Pan ★

This Day and Age

(Show titles are subject to change)

Peter Pan

is our most financially ambitious project to date, complete with a flying director and flying equipment.

Please support the magic with an additional donation:

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

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Opportunities:

Come Into the SpotLight!

By Beverley Wolff

After being with us from the very first issue of Spotlight, sadly, Kari DeMarco will soon be leaving our editorial staff.

Congratulations to Kari's husband Andy on his graduation from WSU

College of Veterinarian Medicine, and good luck to the whole family as you begin new jobs and schools. Pullman Civic Theatre will miss you all.

So, now we have an opening for an assistant editor of the newsletter.

The editorial staff gets together a little more than a month before the deadline for a new issue of *SpotLight*. We bounce around ideas for articles and photos, suggest people to contact to write articles, and generally agree to write an article or two.

Our meetings last about an hour, followed by a couple of hours on our own writing and following up on article ideas.

Another position that Kari leaves is that of author for the monthly *Introducing* article. Someone who is interested in writing specifically



Dick Domey, in one of his many "roles" in the Theatre adds a coat of paint to his set of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.



Big Daddy and Brick have a real conversation in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

about the people and their involvement in the Theatre would be an ideal candidate.

Overall, working on the newsletter is not a huge time commitment. If you have the time and a desire to write about three articles a year, we would love to hear from you.

Come into the *SpotLight* and be part of our award-winning newsletter staff of volunteers. For more information, please contact Scott Campbell, editor, at 332-7623. ☆