

# The Minotaur



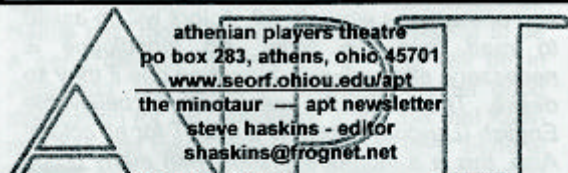
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ATHENIAN PLAYERS THEATRE Newsletter

Volume X, Issue 2

-June 2002-

Steve Haskins, editor



## APT Officers

president - joe balding      vice-president - christine neumann  
secretary - linda watkins      treasurer - sylvia abbott

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## TENTH SEASON ENDS

Athenian Players Theatre ended its tenth season with "Crimes of the Heart", the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Beth Henley. The script was wonderful, the cast was exceptional, and the performances did us proud.

In some ways it's hard to believe that we've completed ten full seasons; thirty-six plays in all! From our humble beginnings in 1992 with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" we've enlisted the talents and hard work of hundreds of community members as actors, singers, musicians, designers, directors and crew, who have donated thousands of hours of their time to make APT a viable and respected community theatre. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the many area businesses who have generously given goods, services and money to help APT in its endeavor to provide quality community theatre to Athens County.

It is our sincere hope and intention to continue to grow and improve as we prepare to enter our eleventh season this autumn, opening with our November offering of "Sherlock's Last Case" by Charles Marowitz, directed by Ted Alexander (see page 2). As has been the case since 1997, we are fortunate to continue to perform our plays at the beautiful Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville, Ohio.



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June 1st, 2002, was the date of the SE Regional Ohio Community Theatre Association festival (OCTAfest) hosted by the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia, Ohio. APT took Act III from "Crimes of the Heart" as an entry into the excerpt competition. In all, five of the ten member theatres from the SE region participated with an excerpt. The APT contingent was ten strong, including cast and crew members from "Crimes", as well as some family and friends who went along to lend support and have fun doing so.

Excerpts were offered by five SE Region theatres: the host theatre went first with a very funny and lively excerpt from STEPPING OUT, ending with an exceptional tap dance finale. They were followed by the Coshocton Footlight Players with another comedy, BEAU JEST. Next was Mid Ohio Valley Players with the third comedy of the morning, RADIO TBS - TRAILER PARK BROADCASTING SCANDALS. After lunch we were treated to Excalibur Players' THE LAST TOUCHY FEELY DRAMA ON THE AMERICAN STAGE, yet another comedy. After enjoying all these comedies, APT was last to take the stage with our drama (considered by some a black comedy) CRIMES OF THE HEART.

Comedies ruled the day as the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County won top honors and was chosen to represent the SE Region at the State OCTAfest in September. Also picked to go to State was Excalibur Players. The alternate group will be Mid Ohio Valley Players. All these groups did a fine job and will do us proud in September. Although we feel that Athenian Players Theatre had a good show in CRIMES OF THE HEART, the responders apparently felt less enthusiastic, allowing us just one award for Merit in Costumes (!!!).

A group of us will be going to the State OCTAfest over Labor Day weekend, and we can't overstate how much fun it is to be there. The theme for this year's convention is "Fun in the Sun - OCTAfest 2002". There will be a riot of color and excitement as the tropical South Sea Islands find their way to the Hilton Hotel in Beechwood (near Cleveland). It's a weekend of excellent excerpts, wonderful workshops, a banquet, a ball and more! Be there!!!



## 2002-2003 SEASON

We have a terrific season lined up for 2002-2003: a mystery melodrama, a musical and a comic adventure for the whole family.

Opening the season on November 8th, 2002, will be **Sherlock's Last Case** by Charles Marowitz. Here's what director Ted Alexander has to say about it: *"...The plot...well, that's tricky. We can't give away too much, because that will spoil the fun, but we can tell you that this play takes place during the latter years of Holmes and Watson, and after all of their previously published adventures. Someone is trying to murder Holmes, and it looks like they might actually succeed! Will they? You may be surprised. This show is a must-see for fans of comedy and mystery alike."*

Next on the roster, opening on March 7th, 2003, we have **Is There Life After High School?** by Jeffrey Kindley and Craig Carnelia. Director Norman Cohn tells us, *"'Is There Life After High School' is a musical with more than usual depth. Not only is it funny, but anyone who has ever been near or in a high school, or who has ever known or had a high school kid nearby will be able to relate to the people in this show. Feelings, actions, nonactions; fears, tears, frustrations, worries; all these are portrayed with honesty and compassion. The music is supported with lyrics of uncommon good sense and joy. So many miseries of living during high school are accompanied by the dangers and even the fun of growing up as well..."*

Finally, the season will end with John Fuller's comic stage adaptation of Mark Twain's classic tale **A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court**, directed by Steve Haskins. *"This play has something for everyone. This authorized version begins with the Yankee fresh out of college with an engineering degree. Knocked out by one of his own experiments, he awakens to find himself in King Arthur's court, where his adventures begin and continue with hilarious results. Comedy, adventure and a bit of chivalric melodrama make 'A Connecticut Yankee' a sure hit for the whole family to enjoy."*

Mark your calendars now with these play

dates: **Sherlock's Last Case** -- November 8-17, **Is There Life After High School?** -- March 7-16 and **A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court** -- May 9-18. Ted Alexander will hold auditions for **Sherlock's Last Case** in mid or late September, with exact dates to be announced. *"There are roles available for three men who can play ages 40 and up, one woman aged 18-30, and one woman aged 40-60. Actors will be asked to read from the script. No monologue is necessary, although they may read one if they so desire. The ability to speak with a believable English (London) accent is a MUST for all actors! Also, this is a tech-heavy show with many props and (gasp) TWO sets, so any who wish to sign on as techs are strongly encouraged!"*

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

We will continue our participation in the war on litter with a June 9 pick-up. All APT members are encouraged to join us as we meet at 3pm at State Route 50 and Athens County Road 24A. I am trying a pick-up time and day that's different from our usual schedule in an effort to get more participation. If you are willing to help, but prefer some other day or time, let me know. We only do this four times a year, but it's very hard to determine the best schedule. I'm certainly open to suggestions on this. -Steve

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW...?

In case you're wondering, "What ever became of So-and-So", this column will endeavor to enlighten you. In each upcoming issue of The Minotaur we will print an update on those past APT members who have moved onward and (we hope) upward and who have answered the call for news.

**Denise Fitzpatrick** (*Into The Woods*, *Cahoots*) is settling into her new home in Pensacola, Florida. Her husband Joe is now Doctor Joe, having graduated from medical school on June 1st. Congratulations, Doc! Along with daughter Alli, they are just five minutes from



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW...? (cont.)

the beach. Denise hopes to get APT visitors, so if you plan to be in the neighborhood, be sure to look her up.

Meanwhile, we've heard from another former APT denizen, **Neil Olcott** (*Working*, *Death of the Old Man*, *Black Comedy*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *Baby*, *Squabbles*). Along with his wife Kuei-mei, Neil is also moving to Florida (there seems to be a trend developing here...), but they will be in Poinciana, just south of Orlando. Another good destination for APT travelers, if you ask me! Kuei-mei has just taken early retirement from General Motors, and they are looking forward to becoming Florida folks. Neil will quickly check out the local theatre scene for auditions. Break a leg, Neil!

If any of you have a scoop on any former APT members, please contact the editor. And here's a fair warning to those who have left Athens behind: If we don't hear from/about you soon, we're going to make something up, and there's no guarantee that it will resemble the truth....!

## PARTY!

I knew this article would get your attention! The next scheduled party is also our monthly meeting. Wait a minute, now stop whining! The meeting will be short. Honest. We just need to elect (or re-elect, as the case may be) officers for next season. Then if anybody can withstand the glare of those ready for a cold one, we can quickly discuss any other pertinent business. Then we adjourn and turn into the party animals we know we are. What? You want to know *where* this will happen? Oh, yeah. I guess that information would help. Well, it won't be at the library, that's for sure! Actually, our illustrious Madam Vice-President has rolled out the gravel driveway for us to gather at her home at 7pm on Friday, June 14th. The address is 11290 Rosewood Lane, The Plains. Chris (*hello*, that's our VP) says that food will be provided, but Rich (that's her better half) says to bring your own beverage. 'cause you ain't touchin' his! And please let them know if you'll attend, so they'll have the right amount of food. They can be reached via Chris'

e-mail at [christineneumann2000@yahoo.com](mailto:christineneumann2000@yahoo.com) or by calling 740-797-2885.

## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Let's hear it for **Heidi Wilhelm** (*Bedroom Farce*) and her husband Guy Riefler on the recent birth of Zachary Samuel, their second child. (Any relationship between this birth and her show is pure conjecture!) Now a proud daughter Kate has a bouncing little brother. Congratulations!

And give it up for **Tawna Rogers** (*Death of the Old Man*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *Baby*, *Nunsense*, *Funny Girl*, *Present Laughter*, *Night of January Sixteenth*, *Into the Woods*, *All Because of Agatha*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*) who is celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary this month with husband Kim. Way to go, you two!

## -B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N-

Athenian Players Theatre past Treasurer **Jim Balding** is in the intensive care unit at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster. About two weeks ago Jim suffered chest pains and was admitted to O'Bleness Hospital in Athens. Last week he was transferred to FMC where heart and lung specialists have determined that, though his heart did experience some trouble, Jim's main problem is pneumonia, which they are treating first. He seems to be in capable, caring hands and we hope to see him home by Father's Day.

## BREAD & BUTTER

Lest we forget which side our bread is buttered on, we can never be too grateful to those who have supported Athenian Players Theatre above and beyond the call of duty. Special thanks for contributions received this past season must be given to Leslie & J Palumbo, the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit #21, Blackburn Home Furnishings, Van Meter Decorating, Athens Mini Storage, Kevin Morgan Studio, and the Coffee Cup Restaurant.

