

ETC NEWS

Volume 5

Summer 2005

ETC PRESENTS 'ALLO 'ALLO

Final rehearsals are underway for ETC's hilarious Rutabaga Festival comedy presentation of *'Allo, 'Allo* by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft. The play, based on the hugely popular British television series of the same name, is quite possibly the zaniest play ever to take the ETC stage.

This adult comedy features Rene (Dan Hoffmann), a French café owner during the German occupation of World War II, and his attempts to avoid trouble from both the German officers and the French Resistance who frequent his establishment.

The fact that he is hiding two British airmen make this task more difficult, and his life is further complicated by juggling his considerable affections between his wife, Edith (Eva Srubar) and his two young waitresses (Diane Thorpe and Laura Wickre).

Complicating his life even more is everyone's constant struggle to acquire the priceless painting of the Fallen Madonna with the big boobies. The Captain (Ron Ruppel), the Colonel (Craig Bucher), the gay Lieutenant (Mike Clay), the General (David Hopkins Hile), Herr Flick (Phil Warner) of the Gestapo and his girlfriend/spy (Lindsay Krueger) are all plotting to keep this questionable work of art to ensure their livelihood after the war.

Only one person very close to Rene really knows where the real painting is, and she has it hidden in a very interesting place.

Communication with London is through a radio disguised as a cockatoo, and the radio is operated by pressing its—well, let's just say it provides several embarrassing moments for Rene. (Continued on p.2)

Other characters dropping into the café periodically are the various agents, Leclerc (Steve Wickre), Michelle (Savannah Hogatt), and the worst spy in the world, Crabtree (Travis Thorpe), all accompanied by the piano player, Lindsey Neby.

Things finally come to a head when the Fuhrer shows up, and continues showing up until the café is filled with Hitlers. The conclusion must be seen to be believed.

The play is directed by Jeff and Chris Hopkins-Hile. It will be performed at the ETC Theater across from the elementary school on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, August 25, 26, 27, at 7pm, and a final Sunday, August 28, matinee at 6 PM. Tickets are \$7 and will be available at Touch of Christmas in downtown Cumberland and at the door.

Above, Lt. Gruber and Rene attempt to come to an understanding. Below, Crabtree, Rene, Michelle and Edith are up to some spy business.

A Century Of Progress

Cumberland's Centennial July 3-5 1974

The current form of Cumberland Community Theater and the organization of ETC both date back about 15 years. But before there was ETC, before there was Cumberland Community Theater, there was the Cumberland Music Club. And thirty years ago they put on quite a theatrical production.

Some of you know that I've written a few plays. One of these goes through a contemporary calendar year in Cumberland, but an idea I had kicked around was a chronological story of the history of Cumberland. Thus I read with interest the story of Cumberland Music Club's production of *A Century of Progress*, and realized that story has already been well covered. The story is documented in one of the meticulously kept scrapbooks of the Cumberland Music Club.

The organization of this production was by the Cumberland Music Club, and for this important centennial story, they involved over a hundred cast and crewmembers. It's hard to imagine there were people left in town to fill the seats in the High School gymnasium, but the accounts assure us that they had full houses (at \$1.50 adult admission). Richard Ruppel wrote the entire script in verse, and the production was a bit over two hours long. The entire script was printed in segments in The Advocate and these also were saved in the scrapbook. Perhaps we can pull them out and update them for the Sesquicentennial and do it again!

It's especially interesting to see how the entire community pitched in on this project of civic pride. Many of the younger cast members from that production are now familiar names in our concerts and playbills. But current directors might be able to reach out to some of those players who enjoyed that production, but perhaps fell inactive in the years between then and the formation of ETC.

2005 ETC Calendar

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| 'Allo, 'Allo (Rutabaga Play) | Thur-Sun, Aug 25-28 |
| Auditions for <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> (Craig Bucher and Dave Evenson) | Sat, Sep 10 and Mon, Sep 12 |
| Rehearsals for Christmas Concert | Mon Oct 3 and following Mondays |
| Cabaret Cumberland (Dan Hoffman and Ann Ethen) | Sat, Oct 22 |
| <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> | Thur-Sun Dec 1-4 Thur-Sat, Dec 8-10 |
| Annual Christmas Concert | Sun, Dec 11, 2 and 4 PM |

(Activities for public to attend are in bold. Further information on times will be announced via this newsletter and The Cumberland Advocate)

Enrichment Through Culture

Dedicated to the promotion and support of the arts in our rural setting
P.O. Box 191, Cumberland WI 54829

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____ E-mail_____

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dues | \$10 per adult |
| Family Membership | \$25 |
| Sponsoring Membership | \$100 |
| Sustaining Membership | \$200 |
| Angel Membership | \$5000 |

Your interests, comments or suggestions

Behind the Scenes ETC Treasurer

You see the actors, the singers and musicians. You see the directors and the people who make the Celebration of Arts a reality. But you don't see the treasurer. This is the second in a series on the people behind the scenes, who make ETC a functional part of Cumberland's life.

ETC is much like your family. We have a home, at the Cumberland Arts Center, which means we have utility and maintenance bills. We have bills for insurance and production costs and advertising and music. And we have income in ticket sales, free will offerings, dues and donations, art sales, booth rental and book sales at the Celebration of Arts. All of this

needs to be kept in order. Two people have served as treasurer for ETC, Sally Landstrom in the early years and presently Paulie Toftness since we've been in the Arts Center.

Paulie serves us well; quietly going about our business, making the deposits and paying the bills, keeping the books orderly, and letting the board know where it stands financially. She runs a final accounting for each event or production so that directors can see their outcomes. And thus this newsletter's *Behind the Scenes* salutes Paulie Toftness, Treasurer. Thank you, Paulie!

Silk Dyeing Workshop

Paula Hokanson (far right in photo) along with Katie Proescholdt's help, offered a successful silk dyeing workshop in May. Seven students from Cumberland, Haugen, Shell Lake and Minnesota dyed oblong and square scarves. They had to hurry to finish both in the morning. They had a fun morning, and the scarves turned out beautifully. Thanks, Paula and Katie.

Five Students Earn Camp Scholarships

The Visual Arts Group of ETC awarded five scholarships to middle school students from the proceeds of The Celebration of the Arts. Megan Harding, Cayla Morgan, Sara Peters, Stacia Thompson and Jayna Hulleman attended Writer's Camp at the Teen University at UW- River Falls. They received these scholarships through the CMS Writer's Club for their outstanding writing efforts this year. English teacher Mrs. Hulleman leads this group. The students also received scholarships from Cumberland Women's Club, as well as earning money through sales.

The Visual Arts Group also awarded \$60 in art workshop fees to students attending the felt making and silk dying workshops in recent months at the Cumberland Arts Center. They intend to sponsor more art workshops, and hope to be able to continue to offer reduced workshop fees for these as well.

Auditions for It's a Wonderful Life

It's a Wonderful Life will be our Christmas play this year. Auditions will be held on **Saturday, September 10** from 10-noon, and on **Monday September 12** from 7-8:30 PM. This show has a large cast and there are openings for large and small parts for men and women of all ages. There are a few children's parts as well. The show dates will be December 1-4 and 8-10.

Cabaret Cumberland

Get your act together for the fifth edition of Cabaret Cumberland! This popular show of homegrown talent will be on **October 22** this year. Coordinators Dan Hoffman and Ann Ethen will be announcing format and dates in early fall, so watch The Cumberland Advocate for news.

Christmas Concert Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the 40th Annual Cumberland Christmas concert begin on Monday **October 3rd at 7 PM** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We welcome all singers, whether or not you have been part of this group before. The concerts will be on Sunday December 11 at 2 PM and 4 PM.

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Successful Celebration of the Arts

Another wonderful June Saturday (at least until 3 PM) found a large enthusiastic crowd at The 14th Celebration of the Arts at Cumberland's Tourist Park. Of course the last hour was hectic with buckets of rain and strong winds which accompanied the tornado which touched down south of town. But for the better part of the day vendors and customers had a wonderful time. Over the years we've been blessed with fine weather for this event, as this is only the second time we've had rain on the day.

Many people found their summer reading at the used book sale, and no one went hungry with the Methodist Church and the Cumberland Islanders Hockey Club providing the goodies. This year's *Best of Show*

award went to the booth provided by The Olde Glass Factory, from Greene, Iowa.