

ETC NEWS

Volume 6

Fall 2005__

Fun for All at ETC Evening Extraordinaire Fundraiser

Put on your party clothes and grab your favorite dancing partner and come on out for a fun-filled evening at ETC Evening Extraordinaire! Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 18 at 7:30 to midnight at Das Lach Haus for this first annual ETC fundraising party.

Robert Baca and the University of Wisconsin Jazz Ensemble I with 13 instruments plus vocals will be providing the sound track for your listening and dancing this evening. Scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will keep your energy level up, and if that isn't enough, we'll have a chocolate and espresso bar mid-evening to give you a boost.

You'll be greeted by some of your favorite characters from theater venues. And you'll have a chance to take home many unique and personalized auction items, from both silent and live auctions.

The committee is still working on bigger and better details. If you would like to join the fun of planning this great event, or have or know of a fun, classy auction item please let a board member know about it.

Proceeds will go towards needed improvements at The Cumberland Art Center, including better seating and better utilization of all areas, especially in the kitchen, dance area, storage and dressing rooms. Tickets will be \$40, and we expect we will sell out. You are getting the first chance to reserve your tickets through your membership in ETC. Please contact Dave Evenson at 822-3397 to make your reservations. We'll see you Valentine's weekend!

Annual ETC Meeting and Potluck
Sun Jan 8, 4:00 PM

2006 ETC Calendar

Annual Meeting and potluck	Sun, Jan 8, 4 PM
Bus Tour to Les Miserables	Sun Jan 29, 11:00 AM
ETC Evening Extraordinaire Fundraiser	Sat, Feb 18, 7:30 PM
High School play Grease!	Thu- Sun, Mar 30- April 2
Auditions for Act Three, Scene 5 And The Ledge (D Hile and T Thorp)	Sat, April 8
Act Three, Scene Five and The Ledge David Hile and Travis Thorp	Thur-Sun May 11, 13, 14
Auditions for Island City: Next Generation (Troy Lynch)	Sat June 3
Auditions for Rutabaga play	Sat June 3
Celebration of the Arts	Sat June 10, Tourist Park
Island City: Next Generation Troy Lynch and Dan Hoffmann)	Thur- Sun July
Rutabaga Play	Thur-Sun, August 24-27
Auditions for The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Chris Hopkins-Hile and Diane Thorp)	Sat Sept 9 and Mon Sep 11
Rehearsals for Christmas Concert	Mon, Oct 2 and following Mondays
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever	Thur-Sun Nov 30-Dec 3 Thur-Sat Dec 7-9
Annual Christmas Concert	Sun Dec 10, 2 and 4 PM

Art Sale for Christmas

Are you looking for a gift unlike any other for a friend relative or yourself? Look no further. The Visual Arts group of ETC will be holding an art sale at The Cumberland Arts Center just for you on Thanksgiving weekend and following. Local artists will be displaying practical and decorative items.

Sale dates and times are as follows: Friday, November 25, 1-4 PM, Saturday, November 26, 10 AM- 4PM, Sunday, November 27, 1-4 PM, and the following Saturday, December 3, 10 AM-4 PM. Items also will be available at intermission during the first weekend of It's a Wonderful Life, December 1-4. Come on out, support your local artists and find gifts you won't find anywhere else.

From Your ETC President

My year as president is coming to a close. I can't take credit for anything other than appearing as Rene' Artois in the Rutabaga show. We have a handicap ramp being constructed that is the result of Ron Ruppel's diligent pursuit of the goal to have this theater handicap accessible. We all knew this was the right thing to do and finally we have the go ahead for this project. A great big thank you to Ron for his efforts. I also have to thank Steve Ranallo for his valuable work on the project. It could not have happened without him. It kind of sounds like the project is finished, but as of this newsletter work continues.

I was in the theater just the other day, all by myself. I was looking at the stage floor and recalled that most of the floor is made from the original wood used for our first stage at the Isle Theater. That was quite a while ago, and I remember first looking at this building, our present theater, and knowing that it should never be used for housing, but be the location for future cultural events. I am proud to have been there for our first production and continue to be proud of everything since. Let's all work to make the Cumberland Community Theater and ETC thrive for many years to come. Thanks, Dan Hoffmann

We Have A Web Site!

Thanks to Andy Bangsberg, we now have a web site, www.cumberlandetc.com. It's still a work in progress, but we plan to use it for communications about meetings, rehearsals, events, as well as publicizing public events. So if you're in charge of an ETC event you'd like others to know about, remember to get it on the web as well as your traditional methods of communicating. Thanks Andy!

Christmas Concert Dec 11, 2 and 4 PM, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Directors John Westin, Colleen Warner, Ron Ruppel and Accompanists
Marty Voshell and Laura Lindquist

Behind the Scenes Choir Directors and Accompanists

In the first two Behind the Scenes columns we thanked our costume department and treasurer, true behind the scenes folks. Certainly you do get to see our choir directors and accompanists at our Christmas concerts, but perhaps you are not aware of the amount of work that needs to be done to make those concerts successful.

Colleen Warner directs the Women's Chorus, Ron Ruppel directs the Men's Chorus and John Westin directs the Mixed Chorus. Laura Lindquist accompanies the Women's Chorus and Mixed Chorus, and Marty Voshell accompanies the Men's Chorus.

Planning for next year's concert really begins at the close of the present year's concert. Our directors are looking for new music, and ordering it well ahead of the game, and making arrangements with a local church for a concert venue. Accompanists begin their practice to be able to lead the singers. In September the season really starts with invitations to past and prospective singers. Practice starts early October, and hundreds of hours of directors, accompanists and singers rehearsal time go into the preparation of the tradition of great concerts that we have. Thanks to all who sing, to accompanists and to our directors.

Cabaret Cumberland V features Hack-In

October 22 was a rollicking fun evening at the Cumberland Art Center, featuring jokes off the Internet and our talented young musicians. Ann Ethen and Dan Hoffmann directed this show (although directed may be too strong a word, maybe we should say they steered it!) Diane and Eva enjoyed their time behind the wall, as shown below.

Les Miserables Bus Tour

ETC has booked a block of tickets and chartered a bus to the Ordway production of Les Miserables on January 29, show time 2 PM. (No that's not Super Bowl Sunday!) You will ride in style, pay no gas money, not worry about parking costs or distance, and enjoy excellent seats. Call Jeff Hile at 822-3037 soon if you are interested- seats are going fast. Cost of bus and show is \$65, about what you would pay for a ticket on your own.

Pictures from the Past

When you are in the Cumberland Art Center you will quickly notice a relatively new tradition of making a picture board of each play for its performance. We know that there are pictures out there in your family's collection of many of the past performances, and we'd like to include those in our gallery. If you have pictures, negatives, video or mementos that you could lend for copying please contact Jean Beck at 822-2052. We have done 49 plays in our 16 years of Cumberland Community Theater, so there should be quite a bit of material out there. Thank you.

Pardon Our Dust!

We are making efforts to make the Cumberland Arts Center accessible to all. New doors and an access ramp are in progress. ETC thanks Lamperts Lumber for cooperation on materials, the Ardisam crew of Steve Ranallo, Wayne Woulf and Jake Pecha for their skill and effort in construction, and Eric Muench and Boy Scout Troop 24 for their labor. Ron Ruppel, Building Committee chair for ETC ramrodded this operation.

November 8 was a busy construction day. Ron had arranged for Bob's Concrete to pour the slab for the ramp, and for North Central Insulation to insulate and waterproof the roof next to the bell tower. Four trucks, a skid-steer and an air compressor graced our parking lot, with concrete truck to come. It's good to see progress; now our Green Room won't leak in every rain!

New Logo Identifies Arts Center

When folks have asked how to find the Cumberland Arts Center we have usually used the line "Across from the Elementary School- you can't miss it." But now the ETC logo marks the place. Thanks to Tom Ethen and Mike Clay for this artwork. When you thank Tom, ask him to tell you the tale of non-drying paint!

ETC Membership Changes

Ever since the beginnings of ETC back in 1989, we've been a dues-based non-profit organization. Basic dues have been collected on a hit or miss basis, and often the donations above basic dues have been substantial. These "greater gifts" have, alas, often been unrecognized by ETC leadership. We are growing into a more mature organization, and it is time we acknowledge our members and make giving feel good.

The new dues structure recognizes our annual needs, but it also recognizes support at those "greater gift" levels over and above the limited membership levels of the past. Another new wrinkle for 2006 is that your ETC membership and level will be recognized in the programs for each show in our schedule as well as on a membership board in the theater. You deserve this recognition - we appreciate your support.

Here are the new donation levels. We had a little fun with the titles (straight from NYC theater Playbills), and hope you can too as you step up to being a big shot in the arts! Remember - ETC is a non-profit organization and your membership is crucial to our success.

ETC Angels	\$5000+	ETC Benefactors	\$350+
ETC Founders	\$3500+	ETC Partners	\$250+
ETC Sustainers	\$2500+	ETC Patrons	\$150+
ETC Producers	\$1000+	ETC Sponsors	\$100+
ETC Directors	\$750+	ETC Family	\$50+
ETC Leaders	\$500+	ETC Individual	\$25+

For all of you who have given generously over the years, a heartfelt thank you. In your own mind, you already know what level of membership you have attained, but unfortunately our records aren't complete enough to be retroactive. We will start our new program of recognition in 2006. Thank you for helping to make Cumberland a community enriched through culture!

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 _____
Donation _____

It's A Wonderful Life

ETC is pleased to present the stage version of the Christmas classic It's A Wonderful Life. Evening shows will be at 7 PM on Thursday- Saturday, Dec 1-3 and December 8-10, with a 2 PM matinee on Sunday December 4. Tickets are \$7.00 and available during regular business hours at Cumberland Federal Bank.

George Bailey (Charles Peterson), in a crisis that shakes his soul, is offered a great gift by his guardian angel Clarence (Steve Wickre). He is allowed to review his life and see what an influence he has had on so many people. We meet his wife Mary (Alyssa Tisdell) and children played by Sam Barnaby, Madaline Warner, Abraham Ortiz and Lindsey Bangsberg. Eva Srubar, Val Sutherland, Tim Jergenson, Nick Marinko, Co Walker, play other members of the Bailey family. The money hungry Mr. Potter (Mike Clay) is often seen in company with Bank Inspector Miss Carter (Bethany Barnaby), as well as his goon and secretary played by Thad Barnaby and Laurel Cap. Tom Toftness, Travis Thorp, Elizabeth Brown, Brian Keeler, Marty Voshell, Shawn Warwick, Diane Thorp, Andy Bangsberg, Emily Barnaby, Abby Barnaby and Shanna Warwick play townspeople. Craig Bucher, Dave Evenson and Diane Thorp are directing and producing the show.

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