

ETC NEWS

Volume 8

Summer, 2006

“Run for Your Wife” Rutabaga Play

Another Rutabaga rolls around, so it's time for another light-hearted comedy. “Run for Your Wife”, by Ray Cooney is this year's zany offering. Those of you who remember “It Runs in the Family” from two years ago will recognize Ray Cooney's madcap humor. A London cabby, played by Bill Burkett has been happily living with his two wives, played by Diane Thorp and Roxy Matthys. In an heroic act, John ends up hospitalized, and miscommunications threaten his cozy situation. Ben Amundson and Mark Wilkinson play detectives Troughton and Porterhouse. Deadbeat tenant Stanley is played by Travis Thorp, Pat Kolstad plays the reporter, and neighbor Bobby is played by Co Walker.

Eva Srubar directs the show. Dan Hoffmann and Hope Lee Vicich are assisting in the production. Show dates are **Thursday- Saturday, August 24-27, at 7PM, and Sunday August 28 at 5 PM.** All admissions are \$7.00 at the door. Take a break from the midway and split your sides laughing in air-conditioned comfort at The Cumberland Arts Center, 1595 2nd Avenue.

Bobby says, "Oh my, it's an orgy!" Characters played by Co Walker, Bill Burkett, Diane Thorp, Mark Wilkinson and Travis Thorp in rehearsal for "Run for Your Wife"

Marta Ljungkull demonstrates at the loom at Celebration of the Arts.

Below is the cast of Island City/ Next Generation from the July 4th weekend.

From your President

Greetings ETC members,

It is hard to believe that the year is half over! We have certainly been an active group so far this year. A movie, fund raiser, Art in the Park, ramp building, dressing room building, new flooring, scholarships, high school play, spring plays directed by our youth and most recently the extraordinary remake of Island City the Musical. And internally, we've hired cleaning services and a theater manager to continue to improve the facility we have responsibility for. The center continues to be used more frequently by more and more groups. Dance classes, Visual arts activities and Stations of the Cross to mention a few. Your board members have been extremely generous with their time and talents and all should be commended on their contributions.

At our most recent board meeting approval was granted to blacktop our parking lot to go along with the new road that is being built behind the center! All of these wonderful improvements are possible by your generous support. We are extremely grateful for your support. Believe me, we do not take it for granted. All of your comments, suggestions, and criticisms are important so we can serve the arts to a high level in Cumberland. In fact, our meetings are every first Sunday evening of the month, 7:00pm in the summer and 6:pm in the winter, and we set aside the first 10 minutes of our meeting for input from anyone on any subject relating to our work. Feel free to visit us, as your comments are welcome!

The ETC has been asked to comment on the proposed Auditorium for the High School. The board's response is printed in the newsletter. I implore all residents to explore fully the proposal and vote in September based on your study. Democracy is a precious gift and the right for citizens to decide their futures and the direction of their city is important to us all. The voters can give clarity and direction to our leaders to help us all define our future in this fast changing world. Thanks again for your support! Ron Ruppel

Christmas Concert Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the 41st Annual Cumberland Christmas concert begin on Monday **October 2nd at 7 PM** at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. We welcome all singers, whether or not you have been part of this group before. The concerts will be on Sunday December 10 at 2 PM and 4 PM.

ETC Hires Arts Center Manager

Mike Clay has acted, directed, built sets, set lights, sold tickets, cleaned up, served refreshments, served on the ETC Board, and generally done everything necessary to keep theater alive ever since the first show of Cumberland Community Theater in 1989. He now takes on a new role as Arts Center Manager. At a special ETC Board meeting in June the Board and Mike worked out a job description, which we will all try out for a year. Mike will serve as a resource for all theater productions and other uses of The Arts Center. His position should make life much less hectic for directors. Tasks that formerly fell on directors either to do or worry about delegating are now in this position description. This position will assure that all is ready to receive guests at each play. Welcome to your new role, Mike, we're happy to have you aboard!

Mike Clay finishing the door trim on the costume room

New Costume Room and Dressing Room

We continue to adapt the Arts Center to our needs and uses. This summer we constructed a dedicated costume room and put real walls and a door on the dressing room. Jim Chuchwar, Gordy Overby and Pete Bergman did the construction, and Mike Clay and Dan Hoffmann did the drywall finish and painting.

We have hundreds of costumes that need to be stored properly to remain usable. The new women's dressing room is smaller than the temporary room, which preceded it, but will be equally usable without storage of props and costumes within.

Mentor Paula Hokanson works with one of the arts students on a clay project

Cumberland Youth Arts Festival October 9 - ETC Center - 6:00

Dozens of students from pre-kindergarten through high school are presently working on their art projects to be presented at the Cumberland Youth Arts Festival in October. The children are participating in various forms – poetry, clay work, creative writing, dance, painting, sculpture, music, photography, drawing along with other art forms.

Any students who would still like to participate are welcome to submit their artwork or performance plans in September. Collected work will be matted and displayed for the community to see. The Cumberland Youth Arts Festival is a non-competitive event aimed at encouraging young artists and expressing the value of art as a community.

A steering committee of Paula Hokanson, Barb Bangsberg, Marta Ljungkull, and Katie Proescholdt is coordinating this event. Cumberland Community Education, Cumberland PTA and Enrichment Through Culture are sponsoring the festival. Participation and attendance are free. The community is encouraged to attend.

Thank you to Cumberland Community Education for providing the materials needed for art projects and for providing mentors for the open sessions held over the summer. Thank you to ETC for providing space for students to work this summer and hosting the festival. Thank you to PTA for generously providing funds to make the upcoming event special.

For more information contact Paula Hokanson at 822-5547.

2006 ETC Calendar

- Run for Your Wife*** (Rutabaga Play) Thur-Sun, Aug 24-27
- Auditions for ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*** Sat, Sep 9 and Mon, Sep 11
(Chris Hopkins-Hile/ Diane Thorp)
- Rehearsals for Christmas Concert Mon Oct 2 and following Mondays
- Youth Festival of the Arts** Mon, Oct 9
- Cabaret Cumberland** Sat, Oct 22
The Rat Pack
- 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

(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_____

Donation_____

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+

We would be honored to accept memorial gifts at any level.

Auditions for “Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

Auditions for “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” will be held at The Cumberland Arts Center on **Saturday, September 9 from 9AM to noon and on Monday, September 11 from 7-8 PM**. This Christmas show features the difficulties of the Sunday School teachers, as they attempt to recreate a traditional Christmas pageant while dealing with the “horrible Herdman” children. There are parts for 17 boys and girls from ages 5 to 13, and also parts for 4 men and 6 women. The show will be performed on November 30- December 3 and December 7-9. Chris Hopkins-Hile (822-3037) and Diane Thorp (822-2021) will be directing.

Cabaret Cumberland Rat Pack Revival

Get ready for a return of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. right here in the Island City! Ron Ruppel, Dale Skerhutt, Norm Yamada and Dan Hoffmann will be putting on the hits from the era when the Rat Pack ruled Hollywood and Vegas and everywhere else. Shows will be Thursday-Saturday, **October 19-21 at 7 PM**, with an added late show on Saturday at **9 PM**. Don your fedora, and be there!

Enrichment Through Culture
P.O.Box 191
Cumberland, WI 54829
www.cumberlandetc.com

An Auditorium in Cumberland?

To All Arts Patrons & ETC Supporters,

The Board of directors of ETC supports the Auditorium referendum in Cumberland.

The ETC Board has been asked if we are concerned that a new auditorium would threaten our organization's existence. We have heard the question asked a number of ways: "Don't you think an auditorium will detract from the ETC?" or "Would ETC survive if they build a new auditorium?"

But we ask a different question. Why would an Arts organization be threatened by a project that would create a major focal point for Arts in our city? We feel two different facilities would enable ETC and the school theater community to have more flexibility to produce shows of differing space and time requirements.

ETC was created in the first place to ensure the existence of Arts projects and facilities for Cumberland. The fact that this project can actually come before the citizenry is a testament to the over 300 people who have supported ETC in the past with their generous donations of time, talent and encouragement of Arts in Cumberland area. This group has avidly supported the educators who are leading our young men and women to incredible accomplishments. Those achievements have lifted our community's pride, restored our faith in great leadership, and have given birth to the ideal that together we can accomplish something that other communities would never dare dream of.

The question "Can I afford an additional tax to pay for an Auditorium?" can only be answered by each individual, but we encourage a vote on the auditorium project. We feel an auditorium would result in the betterment of our school and community, and that it is long overdue.

Very Truly Yours,
The ETC Board of Directors