



NEWS . . WATERFRONT PLAYERS

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2007

Celebrating our
Tenth Anniversary

We proudly present Ingmar Bergman's

Nora

Based on Ibsen's A Doll's House

*Anyone who's
been married,
lived with a
partner or ever
looked very
closely at
another couple
will respond on
contact to the
dangerous,
thrilling,
sympathetic
shock of what
Nora does.*

Ten years ago Pat and I saw *Nora* in the old Black Swan in Ashland with the amazing Catherine Lynn Davis in the title role. We have never forgotten this remarkable performance.

We were not sure we could ever produce this show because the role of Nora is so extremely demanding and the actress needs to be, not just highly talented, but well-trained and physically capable of the demands of the role.

Recently, we were surprised and pleased when Wavey Shaver auditioned for our last play, *In Juliet's Garden*. Wavey graduated a couple of years ago from the University of Montana with a fine arts degree in theater, and several more years of on-stage experience.

We were delighted when she accepted the role of Nora, and we are happy to say that the remainder of the cast is remarkably experienced and talented as well. In the role of Nora's husband Torvald is Alex Shradel. Family friend Dr. Rank will be played by Darren Dirk. Nora's friend Christine will be played by Hilary Clayton. And finally, the crooked lawyer will be played by Jerry Schneider.

This cast has a combined wealth of experience of more than one hundred and twenty years! How exciting to see this much talent on our little stage.

About the play itself - just imagine the combination of Ingmar Bergman and Henrik Ibsen! Ibsen wrote *A Doll's House* in 1889, and this controversial drama revolutionized the stage by making the quality of a woman's life a matter of her own choos-

ing. *Nora*, the adaptation by Ingmar Bergman is a tight, playable, smartly coherent script.

In its original form, *A Doll's House* has enjoyed ranking in the top ten of all plays performed in the west. In simplest terms, Nora's problem is that she is a woman whose 'issues' seem immediate and desperate enough to engage us now, over a century after it was first produced.



Wavey Shaver is Nora

Bergman's adaptation makes the play even more relevant to contemporary society. He moves the story away from the wordy naturalism of the 19th century and it becomes as stylized as a Bergman film. There are no transitions or scene changes, just quick cinematic cuts, capturing

the cross-currents of conflict that permeate the Helmer household.

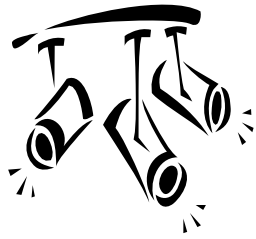
What Bergman so artfully preserves, is the shock and realization that, at the end of the play, nothing in women's lives, nothing in the life of society will ever be quite the same. We think this show will rank with our very best.

PERFORMANCES:

**MARCH 2 THROUGH APRIL 1
FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 7 PM,
SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.**

**TICKETS \$12. Free "Preface" before Fri.
and Sat. shows, 'talk back' following Sun.
matinee. 751-0708 for reservations.**

Steven Winn
Arts and Culture Critic
San Francisco



WELCOME

The Waterfront Players would like to welcome

Paul and Kathleen Rudder, retail property owners from Mammoth Lakes, California, to North Bend. The couple has purchased Pony Village Mall from J Herzog and Sons, a Denver based company that has owned the mall since 1998.

The new owners have said that the local community, as well as the economic potential of the Bay Area, were the main factors in choosing to purchase the Pony Village Mall.

Congratulations and the best of luck to the Rudders.

AND THANKS

The Board of Directors of the Waterfront Players would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **J. Herzog and Company** for seven years of support and encouragement in helping to maintain culture and the arts in the local community.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

It has been some time since we produced a newsletter, so we want to catch you up on some of the interesting things going on at the playhouse.

In lieu of a full-scale fall production the Players sponsored a conference entitled "**Women and Theater in a Post-Feminist World.**" Conference attendees came from Coos Bay, North Bend, Coquille, Port Orford, Eugene, Roseburg, Springfield, and Bandon.

The conference asked the following questions: Are we indeed living in a 'post-feminist' world? What are specific issues facing women today? Is theater a viable instrument for change? How do we reach young audiences? What are the parameters for a production based on these issues?

Conference attendees included: Hilary Clayton, multi-media artist and actor, Coos Bay; Christy Desmereaux, mother, student (pre-law), mill worker, Coquille; Rosalia D'Amato, actor, Bandon; Karen Fowler, 15, sophomore at North Bend High School; Barbara Gabert, Emergency Room physician, practicing for more than thirty years, North Bend; Kira Henderson, 19, Karate Instructor, Coos Bay; Johnna Hickox, owner of Winter River Books, Bandon; Elissa Kobrin, Experiential Education Instructor, Planned Parenthood assistant, Springfield; Judy McDonald, writer, theater director, producer, actor, North Bend; Judy Moody, retired Banker, Director, Women's Safety and Resource Center, Coos Bay; Jo Ann Reiersen, Music teacher, North Bend; Sabrina Rodriguez, News Anchor/Reporter for the South Coast television station KCBY, Coos Bay; Lori Shanks, SMART coordinator, North Bend; Betty Tamm, Executive Director Umpqua Development Corporation, Roseburg; Marla Taylor, Exec. Assistant, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, North Bend; Marian Toepke, nurse, mid-wife and nurse practitioner, Eugene; Georgeanne White, artist, psychologist, teacher living on Elk River near Port Orford; Rosaria Williams, retired educator, Port Orford.

Notes from the conference, and subsequent submissions of ideas and suggestions from the participants have formed the basis for a new play to be written by Judy McDonald with the help of a sub-set of conference attendees.

This new play has the working title of *Pandora's Daughter* and is tentatively scheduled to be produced in the fall of 2007 pending grant funding and completion of a working script.

If you have an interest in this project, or an idea for obtaining grant funds, please contact Judy McDonald at 541-751-0708.

ALSO, in the late fall, the Waterfront Players produced the final version of Judy McDonald's award-winning one-act play *In Juliet's Garden*. The play has become more and more popular outside the area, so this presentation allowed local residents the opportunity to see the production for themselves. The play is next scheduled for production at the prestigious Miss Porter's School, in Farmington, Connecticut, in late spring.

IF you have not visited the theater in the last few months, you will be delighted to sit in our new chairs for your next show. Max Douk of **MAMMA MIA'S Italian Restaurant**, here in the mall, has donated fifty arm chairs which look snazzy and are also extremely comfortable. Here is a photo of our new chairs:



Thank you Max!! By the way, if you are making reservations for a pre-show dinner at Mamma Mia's, please tell them you have a 7:00 curtain and they will do all they can to accommodate your time requirements.

*OUR
TENTH ANNIVERSARY
SEASON*

WATERFRONT PLAYERS WACKY COMEDY TROUPE

It's been a busy fall and winter for the new and even better WP Comedy Troupe. The troupe now has nine members including Johnna Hickox, Nolan Hofferber, Rosalia D'Amato, Dick McMahon, Pat McDonald, Darren Dirk, Judy McDonald Hilary Clayton and Jon Morris.

In October, the troupe presented a command performance for the LISC Rural Advisory Committee, a group of professionals from all over the country who either work to develop affordable housing or promote the same. Some of the members are from major foundations like the Kellogg Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, State Farm Insurance, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and the like. The program for this group included all original work by Jon Morris, Nolan Hofferber, Judy McDonald and Johnna Hickox.

In December, the troupe performed in the playhouse for Pony Village Mall. Mall Christmas shoppers were treated to four free performances of the dizzying *Fifteen Minute Christmas Carol*.

On New Year's Eve, the Troupe was the guest entertainment at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort New Year's Gala where they presented three performances of the latest of Judy McDonald's abbreviated classics, *Macbeth on CNN*, a twenty-five minute version of Shakespeare's classic doled out in sound bites and fast-action scenes.

The comedy troupe performs all new material, and members are invited to perform, sing, write or do all of the above.

AUDITIONS

For the Waterfront Players Comedy Troupe will be held on

Wednesday, March 7 at 7 pm

at the Waterfront Players in the East Wing of Pony Village Mall.

Funny people should have a two-minute memorized comic monologue for this audition.

Anyone over the age of eighteen is welcome to audition.

The Comedy Troupe is planning a debut gala for late April. Please call the Players at 541-751-0708 if you are interested in having the troupe perform.

WATERFRONT ACTORS' CENTER CLASSES TO BE HELD THIS SPRING



For our tenth anniversary, we will once again offer the ever-popular **ACTOR'S BOOT CAMP** which will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, March 17 and 24 from 10 am to 4 pm both days. There are no pre-requisites for this class, and all ages over twelve are invited to attend.

This class is appropriate for many levels of experience. The new actor will find it useful to learn the basics of theatre, while the experienced actor will find the class an exciting refresher. All students under the age of eighteen must have a parental permission form filled out and brought to the first class.

Fee for the twelve-hour class is \$45 per student. Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by calling the Players at 751-0708, or can be picked up at the display in front of the playhouse in Pony Village Mall.

NEW CLASS

By popular request, a new class is being added to the education schedule at the Waterfront Players Actor's Center. Actors with experience will be interested in **ACTING PURE AND SIMPLE** which will be offered beginning in April. Classes will be held on five consecutive Thursday evenings, from 6:30 to 9 pm starting on April 5 and ending on May 3.

Special emphasis is placed on encouraging the actor to focus their intelligence and imagination on making dramatically effective choices by playing provocative actions, discovering the event within the scene and finding creative obstacles.

This class is an advanced study of the preparation and performance of monologues and scenes from the works of multiple twentieth century playwrights, plus Moliere, Sheridan, Shakespeare and others. It is coached by Waterfront Players founder and artistic director Judy Elliot McDonald.

Participants will be chosen through an application and audition process. Fee for this course is \$60. Applications can be obtained by calling the WP at 751-0708.

MUCH THANKS!

The Waterfront Players have received an unrestricted grant in the amount of \$2500 from the Mr. And Mrs. Michael J. Keiser Fund of the Oregon Community Fund for the year 2007.

Visa and MasterCard

Available for will-call tickets

Waterfront Players

- Celebrating 10 YEARS

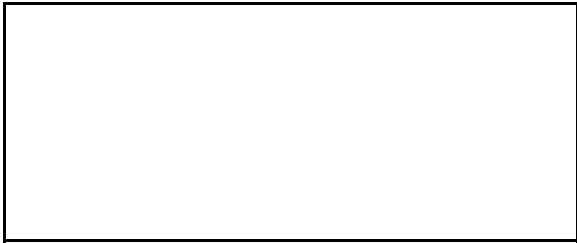
- Teaching and Producing theater



Waterfront Players

Phone: 541-751-0708
Email: wprc@uci.net
www.waterfrontplayers.org
Editor: Judy McDonald

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Non-Profit
Organization
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Notes . . . From the Board

The Waterfront Players have elected officers for the 2007-2009 biennium. Officers include Pat McDonald as president, Marla Taylor as Treasurer, Judy McDonald as Recording Secretary/VP.

Additional board members beginning their new term include: Darren Dirk, Jo Ann Reiersen, and Linda Stanley on the Advisory Board. New board members are Johnna Hickox, Hilary Clayton and Nolan Hofferber



Hilary Clayton



Nolan Hofferber

Nolan has been the sound and light technician for our last three shows.

Johnna Hickox came on to the board in September and has been a prolific writer/performer for the Comedy Troupe.



Johnna Hickox

Notes . . . From the President

I am proud to serve, once again, as president of the board of the Waterfront Players. It is exciting to bring this group into its second decade of high quality theatrical performances of both classical and new work written by Oregon authors. .

It is a great pleasure to work with some wonderful new board members who are exhibiting talent, commitment and exuberance for the company's future.

- My goals for the next biennium are:*
- *Helping to insure the growth and expansion of our new Comedy Troupe;*
 - *As Technical Director of the theater, I continue to be dedicated to our ever-expanding efforts to maintaining a state of the art technical plant, for the enjoyment of both staff and audience;*
 - *I am also excited about the company's plans to purchase a new Yamaha electronic keyboard, which will receive a variety of uses including new music composition, regular use by the comedy troupe.*

Thank you for your support in our first decade and your anticipated continued support in our future.

Pat McDonald

The
Waterfront
Players
are
sponsored
by
**Pony
Village
Mall
and
Modern
Floors**

