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19

footlights!



Genesisus Theatre's guide to the Reading stage

April 2009

FREE for theatre lovers!

The LARAMIE Project



Order Genesisus tickets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at genesiustheatre.org

Genesisius Location



153 North 10th Street
(Corner of 10th &
Walnut)
Reading, PA.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6564
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Tickets: 610-373-9500 Office: 610-371-8151

genesisius theatre.org email: genesisius theatre@verizon.net

Our Founders

Founded in 1971 by Jane Simmon Miller and Michael O'Flaherty, Genesisius Theatre is named after Saint Genesisius, Patron Saint of Actors.

Our Vision

The vision of Genesisius Theatre is to be the premier focal point for new and novel experiences in the performing arts.

Our Mission

We believe that the best theater is an experience of living and feeling, changing and growing, challenging and becoming. We trust in the power of this inspiring and dynamic medium to transform the artists who create it, the audiences who enjoy it, and the patrons who support it. We exist to produce and present entertainment in all phases of the performing arts that entertains audiences, educates and trains artists, nurtures emerging art, and enriches the cultural community for people of all ages in Berks County.

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Board Members: Brian Fichthorn & Hope L. O'Pake

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Dance Director: Irving Gonzalez
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Membership: Sheila Harrington
Musical Supervisor: Andrew Cusano
Web Developer: Shannan Denlinger
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Technical Director: Spencer M. Fecho
Technical Consultant: Dave Neel
Footlights Editor: Jamie Howard



...from the Webmaster— Shannan Denlinger

My start with Genesisius was a little bit different from some of the other stories that you most likely will read here. I did not even know that this building existed until 2005 when I came to a rehearsal with my boyfriend, (now husband) Jason for “The Who’s Tommy”. It was an incredible experience meeting such a wonderful group of people. Genesisius became a second home to Jason and I. At curtain call of “Titanic” we got engaged on the Genesisius stage amidst all our friends. A year and a half later we were married in the same spot on the stage.

Up until this time Jason was still the involved one. I mean, I would usher when I could to help out, but that was about it. That would all change when I got an early Christmas gift in November of 2007. Jason had bought me a new camera. I did not know it at the time, but my relationship with the theater was going to change.

Knowing that I had gotten my Christmas gift early, Helene Reeser

had suggested I come and take photos for “The Belsnickel Scrooge”. And I did. It was my first time taking show photos. I kind of surprised myself. The shots turned out great – who knew I had a knack for show photography? But what’s the point of taking pictures if no one gets to see them? My husband mentioned to Abbe Dillon that I knew a bit about making web pages and such...and a week later I was in charge of putting photos on the website and was also the resident photographer. Judy Hennessey had done a wonderful job of starting our Genesisius website, but updating it was quite an undertaking.

Since then the website has seen a complete overhaul. With the help of many other people it’s getting better everyday. Instead of a long wait to get pictures on the site, it’s now three days. I’m just glad that I could find my niche here at Genesisius. It’s truly a special place, and I’m proud to do my part to share it with the rest of the world.

— Shannan Denlinger

2009 Genesis Main Stage Productions

1776 - May 15-25

You'll be on the edge of your seat as our nation's founding fathers fight for our freedom and draft the Declaration of Independence before your very eyes. It's a riveting musical filled with history, humor and, of course, romance.

Hair - July 24-Aug 2

It was the dawning of the Age of Aquarius and Apocalypse. The Flower Power generation takes over the theater in a way no other musical can!

A Chorus Line - September 11-20

17 Broadway Dancers put themselves on the line for their dream, but only 8 of them will make it. A Chorus Line - Do it for the Love!

The Wedding Singer - November 13-22

You are cordially invited to fall in love with one of the funniest romantic comedies of the year! Loads of 1980s nostalgia.

2009 Genesis Off Broadway Series

The Laramie Project - April 17-26

More than a story about the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard, "The Laramie Project" tells the story of the life of the town of Laramie after the murder in 1998.

The Handsomest Man in America - August 7-9

The war-torn United States of the 1860s takes the stage in a thrilling retelling of actor John Wilkes Booth's plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. The debut production of Wilson High School graduate and Genesis alum Sam Lupowitz's original musical.

Catch 22 - October 1-9

Catch 22 is the tale of a small group of flyers in the Mediterranean in 1944. There are winners and losers, opportunists and survivors.

2009 Genesis Special Events

Really Rosie - June 18-21

A musical based on Maurice Sendak's books. Sendak based the story on a demonstrative little girl who used to sing and dance on the stoop of her building.

CHESS: In Concert at the Reading Museum -

August 14, 15, 16

Using as a metaphor the world of international chess, Tim Rice originally conceived to write a musical about how the Cold War affected the lives of all those it touched.

The Belsnickel Scrooge - December 11-19

It's an all new Berks County Holiday Tradition like Christmas Village, The Reading Christmas Parade or Berks Ballet Theatre's rendition of The Nutcracker. Have you and your entire family ring in the holidays with this Christmas classic, with a Pennsylvania Dutch twist!

Genesis Theatre Tickets											
Subscription Orders											
Series	Price	Qty	Subtotal	Series	Price	Qty	Subtotal	Grand Total			
Main Stage Season	\$85			Off Broadway Season	\$40						
Main Stage Musicals											
Performance	Date	Regular Price	Qty	Regular Subtotal	Senior Price	Qty	Senior Subtotal	Student Price	Qty	Student Subtotal	Grand Total
<i>Trailer Park</i>		\$25			\$20			\$15			
1776		\$25			\$20			\$15			
Hair		\$25			\$20			\$15			
Chorus Line		\$25			\$20			\$15			
Wedding Singer		\$25			\$20			\$15			
Off Broadway Series											
Performance	Date	Regular Price	Qty	Regular Subtotal	Senior Price	Qty	Senior Subtotal	Student Price	Qty	Student Subtotal	Grand Total
<i>Beat Goes On</i>		\$15			\$15			\$15			
Laramie Project		\$15			\$15			\$15			
Handsomest		\$15			\$15			\$15			
Catch 22		\$15			\$15			\$15			
Special Events											
Performance	Date	Regular Price	Qty	Regular Subtotal	Senior Price	Qty	Senior Subtotal	Student Price	Qty	Student Subtotal	Grand Total
Really Rosie		\$15			\$15			\$15			
Chess		\$40			\$40			\$40			
Belsnickel		\$25			\$20			\$15			
Name _____								Total Ticket Cost		= \$ _____	
Address _____								Tax-deductible Contribution		+ \$ _____	
City/ST/Zip _____								Name for Footlights listing _____			
Telephone _____								TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		= \$ _____	
E-mail _____								<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check or money order payable to <i>Genesis Theatre</i>			
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Mail order form and check to: Genesis Theatre, P.O. Box 6564, Wyomissing, PA 19610 — or order online at genesiustheatre.org
Price on form reflects discounted cost of remaining season.

Genesisius Theatre Presents



Written by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

Director John Gancar

Stage Manager Seana Benz

Assistants to the Stage Manager Sandra Cimochoowski, Kathy Newville, Donna Robinson

Set Designer Rod Snyder

Lighting Designers LJ Fecho, David Neel, Spencer Fecho

Costume Designer Nate C. Kuhns

Light and Sound Operators Tate DeWalt, Kathy Newville

Special Thanks Amy Stewart-Himes, David Himes, Dr. Robert Copeland, Bill and Tina Angstadt, Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading Civic Theatre

Genesisius Theatre

153 N. 10th Street,
Reading

Tickets:

610-373-9500

Office:

610-371-8151

8:00 p.m. on

April 17, 18, 24, 25

2:00 p.m. on

April 19, 26

7:00 p.m. on

April 22

Cast

Kira Apple - April Silva, Amanda Gronich, Trish Steger, Zubaida Ulu, Kristin Price, Reggie Fluty

Josh Austin - Andy Paris, Baptist Minister, Phil Labrie, Aaron Kreifels, Jeffrey Lockwood, Conrad Miller, Cal Rerucha

Richard Bradbury - Greg Pierotti, Sgt. Hing, Jonas Slonaker, Matt Mickelson, Rulon Stacey, Harry Woods, Kerry Drake, Russell Henderson, Aaron McKinney

Barbara Cimochoowski - Eileen Engen, Marge Murray, Minister's Wife, Mormon Home Teacher

Devon Johnson - Leigh Fondakowski, Romaine Patterson, Tiffany Edwards

Phillipe Levesque - Jedadiah Schultz, Stephen Belber, Stephen Mead Johnson, Matt Galloway, Bailiff

Tama McConnell - Rebecca Hilliker, Alison Mears, Sherry Aanenson, Shannon, Sherry Johnson, Foreperson

Dan Smith - Doc O'Connor, Father Roger Schmit, Shadow, Dr. Cantway, Gil Engen, Dennis Shepard

Susan Sneeringer - Zackie Salmon, Barbara Pitts, Catherine Connolly, Gov. Geringer, Jen, Lucy Thompson

Andrew Usher - Philip DuBois, Moises Kaufman, Jon Peacock, Doug Laws, Judge, Bill McKinney, Rob Debree, Murdock Cooper, Fred Phelps, Andrew Gomez

Time 1998-1999

Place Laramie, Wyoming

The play will be performed in two acts.

Produced by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Romaine Patterson, a Wyoming native, got started in activism when her close friend Matthew Shepard was killed in a brutal hate crime in October of 1998. Immediately following his death, Romaine started speaking at vigils and community events across the country. Due to the massive media coverage Shepard's death garnered, Patterson quickly became a seasoned professional speaker. In April of 1999, Patterson founded the Angel Action, an organization for peaceful demonstration. Angel Action is now in use all over the world as a means of combating hate. Romaine Patterson has asked that the following letter be published and read at every venue performing the Laramie Project as a reminder that we all have a role to play in making this world a better place.

To those here tonight,

Some people think when they sit down to watch The Laramie Project that they are going to see a play about Laramie, Wyoming. In fact, what many people realize is that they are seeing a play about their own hometown. Laramie was a town forever changed by an event, by the choices of a few people. Every time I hear that there is a new production of The Laramie Project I think about how your lives, the lives of the audience members, or cast members will be changed.

So many times people have asked me how I had the courage to do the things I have done in my life. To stand up to the Fred Phelps' and the bigotry. I laugh a little because none of my actions were done out of bravery, but out of a simple truth that I lead my life by. I simply try to do the right thing when given the chance.

Before Matthew died he taught me the most important lesson I have ever learned. And I remember laughing at him as he told me about his dreams to change the world. To make it a better place for all people to live. Thinking how can one person really do all that? He told me that he didn't care what his role in creating that change was as long as he was doing his part. To him that meant taking a homeless man out for lunch, studying political affairs so he may one day grow up to be a diplomat. He was always kind to strangers and left out all judgment when talking to a new person. He knew that he could make a difference. I don't think anyone can argue that Matthew has changed the world. His path led him to a fence and his eventual death.

My friend Matthew created more change in his death than he may have ever achieved in his life. He was one man. One man that knew he could change the world. He serves as a reminder to all of us that as one person we too can create a change in our community and the schools.

As one person I decided that someone needed to stand up against hate and that is why with the help of a few good friends Angel Action was formed. We had no idea that it would affect people in the way that it has. Now Angel Action has been seen across the country and it started with just one person.

Take a moment to thank the people that put together this production of The Laramie Project, because just by doing this show they have caused a change in the hearts and minds of many of you. Each of us has a role, just as Matthew had, and as I have, to make the world a better place. My question to you is, when you leave today what will YOU do to make the world a better place? What is your role?

Thank you,

ROMAINE PATTERSON

Website: <http://www.eatromaine.com>

**Order Genesis tickets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
genesiustheatre.org**

Who's Who in "The Laramie Project"



Kira Apple

Kira Apple has been performing in Berks County theatre since the age of nine, when she was Molly in Fleetwood Community Theatre's production of Annie. Since that time, she has performed with Reading Civic Theatre, Reading Community Players, Alpha/Omega Players, Smager's Dinner Theatre, Oley Valley High School, Wyomissing's Institute of the Arts, Fall Festival of the Arts, and of course Genesisus, in numerous productions. She was seen most recently as Petra in A Little Night Music at the Reading Public Museum. Her favorite roles to date include Martha in The Secret Garden, Meg in Brigadoon, Jo in Little Women, The Witch in Into the Woods, a Stepsister in Cinderella (directed by her father!) and Emily in Our Town. Kira will be graduating in May from Kutztown University with a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature. She intends to pursue graduate studies within the next year. Kira spends what free time she has reading lots of books, as well as volunteering at One by One, a cat shelter in Kutztown. Many thanks to the cast and crew for a fantastic rehearsal process and to John for giving her this opportunity!



Barbara Cimochofski

For forty years, I've been having the time of my life doing local theater. My most recent performance was last Spring. I played Hattie Walker in Follies. It's wonderful working with a talented director such as John Gancar again. John's friendship is one of the best results from my many years of theater. His, and so many others!



Devon Johnson

Devon graduated from Gettysburg College in the spring of '08 with a double degree in Theater Arts and English. While at Gettysburg she participated in over 25 productions including: A Street Car Named Desire (Stella), Measure for Measure (Mariann), Metamorphoses (Myrahba), and Mary MacGregor. Devon has also recently been seen in A Little Night Music (Anne) with Genesisus. Devon is thrilled to be working with the Genesisus family.



Josh Austin

Josh was last seen at Genesisus as Sonny in "Grease!" Before that Josh was also in "Tommy", "Urinetown", and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". Josh also made his directorial debut with Genesisus when he directed the one act, Trifles. Last summer he directed (the acclaimed hit) "BASH" with Reading Community Players. Josh would like to thank his friends and family for their support. And an extra thanks to Amanda and Jenna. To the cast: Break a Leg, you all rock! And thanks to John for this amazing opportunity.



Phillippe Levesque

Phil is happy to be in another play at Genesisus after last being seen as "Juror #5" in 12 Angry men. Other recent Genesisus roles include "Malcolm" in The Full Monty, and a part of the singing choir in Sweeney Todd. He hopes to one day live the life of the professional actor.



Richard Bradbury

Richard is thrilled to be performing such an important piece with such a talented and committed ensemble. Richard was last seen as "Ben" in John Gancar's production of "Follies". Last summer, Richard directed "A Little Night Music" for Genesisus at the Reading Public Museum. Before returning to Reading two years ago Richard worked as an actor, director, and theater educator in Washington, DC (Imagination Stage) and Seattle. Currently Richard serves as the Director of the Arts for the Olivet Boys & Girls Club of Reading. He is a proud member of the Actor's Equity since 1995. Many thanks and much love to John.



Tama McConnell

Tama has been performing in local theater for over 40 years! An educator, she teaches Kindermusik, a music & movement program for newborn to 7 year olds. Recently she has been able to combine her two loves, theater and kids performing with Primary Stages at the Institute of the Arts, Wyo. Favorites roles include Follies, Agnes of God, Crimes of the Heart and The Blonde Bombshell, written by Sue Sneeringer. Tama wants to thank her boys for their love and understanding.



Dan Smith

Dan has been acting and directing in the Reading area for a long, long time (no time quote needed). His favorite roles have been “Marvin” in Falsettos, “John Proctor” in The Crucible, “Atticus” in To Kill A Mockingbird and “John Adams” in 1776. Genesisus is a very special place to him, with very special people.



Susan Sneeringer

Sue is thrilled to be working with this very talented group, especially John Gancar, a friend since they met that day at Berks Campus more years ago now then either of them wish to recall! That’s also the day Sue met Betty Lou McLean and thus began her life in

the theater(thanks, Betty Lou – Miss you every day!). Sue is an accomplished director (5th Of July, Rimers of Elderitch, Anton in Show Business, Independence, to name a few) and a published playwright who recently received her first royalty check! Reading Community Players will workshop two of Sue’s plays this September (see ad!). She recently completed a ten-week playwrighting class with Catherine Rush at the Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia. She would like to dedicate her work in Laramie to all the bull dykes, and drag queens, some of the bravest people in the world!



Andrew Usher

“Laramie” marks Andrew’s third major appearance at Genesisus. He was in “Enchanted April” for the Fall Festival of the Arts, appeared in “A Little Night Music” at the Reading Museum, as well as “Follies”/ He has also been seen locally in “Seussical”,

“Pippin”, and “Miss Saigon”. Special thanks go to John Gancar for another great opportunity and when I say “great opportunity”, I mean “drafting me”. Thanks to the whole Genesisus Family!

John Gancar

(Director) Most recently, John was thrilled to appear in the ensemble of Sweeney Todd. This was his first time on stage in over 20 years. Last season, he directed Follies and stage managed A Little Night Music. John is very proud to be able to bring this very important story to the Genesisus stage.

Where Else To Go To See Great Theatre

Alpha/Omega Players

Alpha/Omega Performing Arts Center

301 E. First Street, Birdsboro, PA

www.alphaomegaplayers.org

Tickets: 610-404-4844

Nine: April 17-26

Seussical, Jr: May 8-10

Footloose: July 31-August 9

The Rocky Horror Show: Dates TBA

Reading Community Players

403 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA

www.rcptheatre.org

Tickets: 610-375-9106

Driving Miss Daisy: April 17-26

Jungle Book: June 13-21

School House Rock: August 1-9

Purgatory and Blonde Bombshell: September 25-Oct. 4

The Heiress: November 6-15

Miracle on 34th Street: December 11-20

Ephrata Performing Arts Center

Located adjacent to the Ephrata American Legion and community swimming pool in Tom Grater Memorial Park

www.ephrataplayhouseinthepark.org

Tickets: 717- 733-7966

Altar Boyz: April 29-May 9

Steel Magnolias: June 4-13

The Producers: July 9-25

The Last Five Years: August 20-29

Company: October 29-November 14

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat: Dec. 3-19

Reading Civic Theatre

Performing at Sovereign Performing Arts Center

136 N. 6th Street, Reading, PA

www.readingcivic.org

Tickets: 610-373-3311

A Christmas Carol: December 4-6

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Show Recap: Two Sold-Out Weeks Of Hilariously Bad Taste From March

The Great American TRAILER PARK Musical

Music and Lyrics by

David Nehls

Book by

Betsy Kelso

Directed by L J Fecho**Assistant Director:**

James Haggerty

Choreographer:

Gabrielle Keuscher (assisted by Irving Gonzalez)

Assistant Choreographer: Meghan Blevins

Musical Director:

Chris Sperat (assisted by Andrew Cusano)

Stage Manager:

Sheila Harrington

Costume Design:

Nate C. Kuhns

Set Design:

Jason Denlinger

❶ Norbert (Mike Kurowski) tries to coax Jeannie (Amy Evans) out of their trailer as the girls add their commentary. ❷ Linoleum (Cathy Miller), Betty (Christine D. Cieplinski) and Pickles (Helene Reeser) sing about life on “This Side of the Tracks.” ❸ Pippi (Jennifer Parker Scott) works hard for the money. ❹ Norbert and Jeannie discuss their upcoming 20th anniversary and their Ice Capades tickets. ❺ Duke (Bryon Smith) threatens Tina (Helene Reeser) at the “House of Flan.” ❻ Jeannie almost makes it out of the trailer park. ❼ “The Great American TV Show.” ❽ Betty warns that a “Storm’s A-Brewin’.”

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Original Off-Broadway Stage Production by Jean Doumanian, Jeffrey Richards and Rick Steiner in association with Janet Paillet.

Originally presented in the 2004 New York Musical Theater Festival.

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We are interested in items from the 1920s through the 1970s

Items may be dropped off at the theatre or you may call:
Nate C. Kuhns – 610.551.5748

Thank you!



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— revamping the wiring

Spencer Fecho
— revamping the wiring

Nate Kuhns
— the new sewing room

Donna Robinson
— new props room

Ron Bair
— 2009 Golf Tournament

Genesis Theatre proudly presents...

The 3rd Annual Ron Bair Commemorative Golf Outing

Monday, July 13, 2009 at the Reading Country Club

Ron Bair knows how to host a great golf tournament. Genesis presents "The class golf act in town," with tons of great prizes capped off by a happy hour with 2 free drinks, a great dinner, silent auction of artwork and sports memorabilia, a show, and a few surprises too!

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Genesis provides a training ground for young people and fabulous entertainment for the public. What better way to enjoy a great day of golf and support the community!

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Upcoming at Genesisus...

"1776"

Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards, Book by Peter Stone,
Directed by Marjory Ewald, Music Directed by Andrew Cusano

May 15th, 16th, 23rd at 8pm • May 17th, 23rd, 24th, 25th at 2pm • May 20th, 21st at 7pm

Setting off a revolution. May 8, 1776

"1776" opens with John Adams railing against the Continental Congress's unwillingness to act on what, to many, was obvious; America was ripe for a breakaway from the British Crown, to become a new nation. This was a sea change of historical proportion. However, as Benjamin Franklin patiently explains to Adams:

"You talk as if independence were the rule! It's never been done before! No colony has ever broken for the parent stem in the history of the world!"

The revolution had in reality begun at Lexington and Concord, at least a year before the events portrayed in "1776". It was leadership of the country that seemed unwilling to take notice that the revolution had begun; or rather, some of the leadership.

A nation divided.

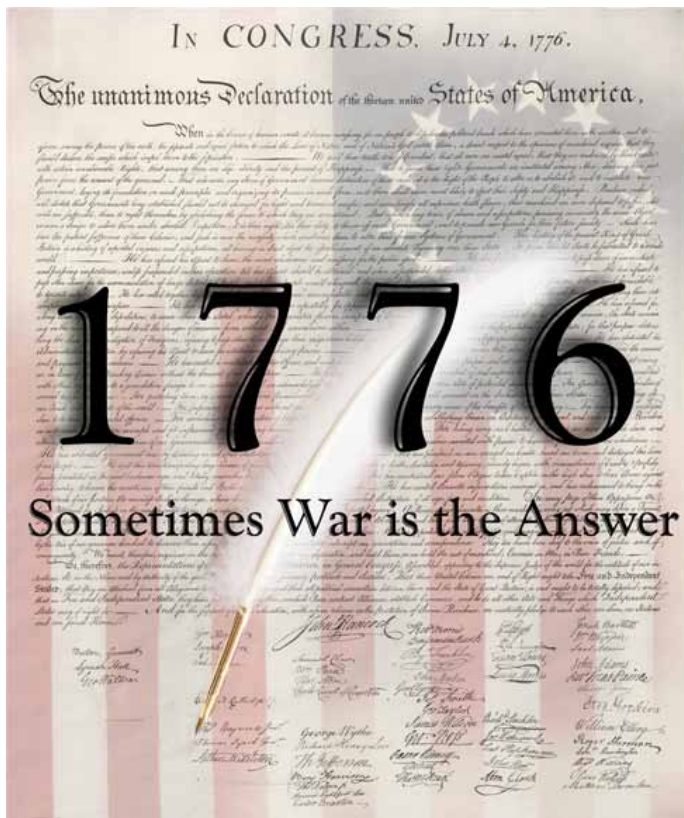
In a not unfamiliar scenario, the Congress was divided. This division was between the safety of the status quo, a hanging on to deep-set, but failing ideas, and the brash idea of a break from tradition, a moving on to a new way of thinking.

A new nation cannot be born of such divided parents; reconciliation is a necessity for progress to occur. Over the two month period which the musical portrays, we see how this reconciliation was managed; sometimes easily, often

with untenable, but necessary, concessions. To again quote Franklin from the musical:

"Revolutions come into this world like bastard children, Mr. Dickenson – half improvised and half compromised."

We can be happy that these men,



not so very long ago, bravely fought for what was needed, what was right; fought for a new nation called America.

This is the third time for "1776" at Genesisus Theatre. First presented in 1972, it was again mounted in 1976 for the Bicentennial. Incidentally, the 1976 production was this writer's first "main stage" production, having only appeared in Genesisus's popular Children's productions prior to my stint as a Leather Apron, "You see'd any fightin'"

in "1776". I am excited, and grateful, to return to this amazing show, this time in the role of John Adams.

Marjory Ewald, who seems to specialize in men-heavy shows, directs the production. She has assembled an amazing cast of many men, and a few women. The cast is made up of many veteran local actors, working over the years with numerous local theater groups. A good number are "1776" pros, having performed in other local productions of the show; all except one, however, will tackle new roles in this outing.

Genesisus Theatre's Artistic Director, and original Genesisus kid, Larry (LJ) Fecho, will return to the front of the footlights for the first time in twenty-five years. He will be tackling the role of Benjamin Franklin, a role that will allow him to use his wit and bawdiness for good, rather than evil.

Other Genesisus veterans in the cast include, Mike Kurowski, Dean Fichtorn, Megan Horst, the father and son team of Evan and Mason Cooper, and Jason Denlinger, in his dream role of Edward Rutledge, just to name a very few.

Nate C. Kuhns, seen as James Wilson in MunOpCo Music Theatre's production, will reprise his role as James Wilson. He will also costume the show, with the assistance of local theater veteran and historical wardrobe master, Robert Moyer.

We hope you will join in our struggle to create a new nation. Laugh, cry, and rage as we vote yea!, for independence. Please join us at Genesisus Theatre for this historical event. An event that changed all our lives forever.

— Kirk Lawrence

Summer Fun For Kids

"Really Rosie"

Book and Lyrics by Maurice Sendak, Music by Carole King

Directed by Kelly Snyder, Hope O'Pake and Teen Student Directors; Sponsored by Olivet

June 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st at 7pm • June 20th at 2pm

On June 18th thru June 21st 17 kids, ages 8-12, from all over Berks County will join forces at Genesisus to perform Maurice Sendak's Really Rosie. The musical (with music by Carole King) follows Rosie and the characters from The Nutshell Library who live on the same block on Avenue P in Brooklyn, New York.

On a hot July Saturday, the children are bored and need something



to do. Rosie imagines herself as a famous and talented star, and decides to produce an imaginary movie musical about her life and in particular the demise of her brother named Chicken Soup.

This musical, sure to entertain audiences of all ages, features Becca Snyder (Rosie), Kathryn Majesky (Kathy), Jessie Haverkamp (Alligator), Kassandra Scheese (Joanie), Jack Haggerty (Pierre), Andy Smith (Chicken Soup), and Eloise Salen (Lion). Be sure to save time this summer and come see this magical tribute to the power of imagination.

— Kelly Snyder

Olivet Boys & Girls Club 2009 Summer Theatre Camp ages 11-16

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June 15-August 8
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Visit
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Summer Theatre
Camps

"Genesisius" A New Musical — Next Stop On Way To NYC: Allentown

"Genesisius" A New Musical – next stop – William Sanders' Civic Theatre of Allentown, opening May 1, 2009, before the show pulls into New York City this summer!

A teacher affects eternity; she can never tell where her influence stops.

–Henry Brooks Adams

Most of us are lucky to have had at least one true mentor in our youth—someone who artfully crafted the rest

of our lives through their example and guidance.

For Civic Artistic Director William Sanders, that person was Jane Simmon Miller, the co-founder of Genesisius Theatre in Reading. Now, just over 30 years since he directed his first-ever show at Genesisius and exactly 20 since he directed his first musical at Civic,

Sanders gets the chance to show his appreciation by bringing Miller's story to the stage in the form of "Genesisius: A New Musical."

"Genesisius" was written by two more of Miller's disciples; LJ Fecho (Book) and Michael O'Flaherty (Music & Lyrics). Their deeply personal experiences with Jane and her theatre have led them to create a powerful musical that brings to life the very significant talents, foresight and ballsy chutzpah of this truly special lady. "She had elegance, wit, charm, sexuality, strength, desire, passion, and she possessed a cosmic spirituality," says Fecho, "but 'Genesisius' is also a deep personal story about the insecurities and the frailties hidden behind her gutsy façade. She struggled with her own personal demons of fear, jealousy, addictive behaviors and loss, but never allowed any of us to know something was wrong."

The darker subplot of "Genesisius" centers around the fact that Jane was stuck in a lovelorn and sexless marriage and longed for something greater to fulfill her empty and boring existence.

An unconventional affair develops between Jane and a much younger protégé, 25 years her junior. Those who come to see "Genesisius" will learn that Jane didn't start Genesisius for purely altruistic reasons. Another motivation was to keep the young man, David, from running off to grad school.

The excitement of what they were building together worked for a time, until Jane's stifling love for David put a



real strain on their one-sided relationship. David admired Jane and cared for her, but he didn't love her. He was consistently unfaithful and anxious to leave Genesisius to pursue his own career in the professional theater. The news of this, coupled with Jane's husband petitioning for a divorce sends her into a deep rage from which she

asks David to be careful, valiant and mostly quick as he makes his exit out of her life.

In the end, however, "Genesisius" is a story of one woman's passion - for love, for theatre and for the opportunity to perform. This musical is also a celebra-

tion of the spirit of community theatre and the true meaning of the word amateur, which is one who engages in a pursuit for the sheer love of it. It is a testament to the power of believing in yourself, in your dreams and those people that help make it all possible. "Genesisius", the story of Jane Simmon Miller, serves the universal themes of reaching out, mentoring and giving back to those whose lives we touch daily.

Showtimes:

May 8,9,14,15,16 @ 8 PM
May 10,16,17 @ 2 PM

Tickets:

\$26 - \$31; call the box office for information and purchases.

Civic Theatre of Allentown

527 North 19th Street
Allentown, PA 18104
Administration: 610-433-8903
Box Office: 610-432-8943
MovieLine: 610-432-0888

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Genesisius Theatre's guide to the Reading stage

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