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24



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Genesisus Theatre's guide to the Reading stage

December 2009

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Genesis 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

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

Our Founders

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

Our Vision

The vision of Genesis 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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2009 Season Logos: Kirk Lawrence

Footlights Editor: Jamie Howard



...from the Composer/Lyricist – Michael O'Flaherty

When Charles Dickens started working on *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas* in 1842, I doubt he considered the possibility that it in the ensuing 167 years there would be 28 films, numerous musicals, ballets, operas, and a mime version by Marcel Marceau. (I also doubt whether he predicted that in the year 2009 his characters would be speaking with Pennsylvania Dutch accents – but more about that later.) His only concern at the time was to bring back the long-abandoned, nostalgic English Christmas and thereby restore a social harmony and well-being lost in the modern world – his world of the 1840's. The enormous critical success of the book can best be summed up by one of the critics of the day who wrote, "If Christmas, with its ancient and hospitable customs, its social and charitable observances, were ever in danger of decay, this is the book that would give them a new lease."

As an indictment of the greed and power of the rich, and their lack of compassion for the poor, this work stands above all others. So, it seemed only fitting that we should find a time and place that would equal Dickens' own – and what could be more appropri-

ate than Berks County during the Great Depression. We also felt that book-ending our story with scenes from 2009 would give it further resonance, since no time in history has seen a larger discrepancy between rich and poor – "haves" and "have-nots".

But why "The Belsnickel"? This dark legend, transplanted to America by European immigrants, was a very potent part of the Christmas of the Depression era. Weaving it together with Scrooge's narrative serves to illuminate not only why he has become the way he is, but toward the end of the story when he is actually likened to The Belsnickel, he is horrified by the comparison. His eventual reformation and salvation is made even more palpable.

But mostly, setting the story in the richly colorful world of the Pennsylvania Dutch affords us the opportunity for an exciting new way to tell this classic tale. By bringing it home to Berks County, with all the charm and naivete of the 1930's, we're able to make this story of hope, kindness, generosity and mankind's basic goodness even more telling.

Plus, as a lyricist, I get to rhyme "fresserai" with "shoo-fly pie", and when will that opportunity ever come up again?

2010 Season Announced!

DEBBIE DOES DALLAS – Opens March 5, 2010

A 2002 hit off-Broadway musical, *Debbie Does Dallas* is a tongue-in-cheek show based on the hugely successful 1978 adult film. The show follows Debbie Benton, who wins a place on the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Squad – if only she can find the money to get there. What follows is a coming-of-age story of small-town, mid-American high school teenagers.

COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA – Opens April 23, 2010

Poignant and haunting, William Inge's story of loneliness, unrealized longings and hypocrisy present perceptive portraits of people struggling to make the best of sad and limited lives, drawn with compassion and a kind of realistic and subtle humor.

PARADE – Opens June 4, 2010

Winning Tony Awards for best book and best score, along with six Drama Desk Awards, *Parade* presents the real life 1913 trial of Jewish factory manager Leo Frank, who was accused of raping and murdering a thirteen-year-old employee, Mary Phagan. The Anti-Defamation League was formed partly in response to the Leo Frank's trial and lynching.

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS – Opens July 16, 2010

Two fraudsters living on the French Riviera - one a cultivated and suave gentleman who cons rich ladies out of their money and the other an American thief who cons women into giving him money by telling made up stories about his sick grandmother. One day they meet on the train; the battle between them then starts, with many twists and laughs along the way.

EVITA In Concert At The Reading Public Museum – Opens August 20, 21, 22

The New York Times Review said that *Evita* is about media manipulation, the power of "hype", the gullibility of the masses and, perhaps most of all, the arbitrariness of stardom. Don't miss this Andrew Lloyd Webber (music) - Tim Rice (lyrics) mega-hit.

DOG SEES GOD – Opens September 16

Comics. Stripped. Catch up with your childhood friends, C.B. and the rest of the gang, as they traverse the perils of their high school years. Opening with C.B.'s search for meaning after the untimely death of his beloved beagle, he soon finds himself back in familiar territory: questioning everything. The years have changed them all. Drugs, alcohol, approaching adulthood, and issues of sexuality, have all left their marks, but they all remain as universal, and treasured, as they always have been.

CAROUSEL – Opens November 5

Revolutionary for its time, Time Magazine named *Carousel* the Best Musical of the 20th Century and Rodgers, in his autobiography, called it "his favorite musical." The show includes the hit musical numbers "If I Loved You", "June Is Bustin' Out All Over", and "You'll Never Walk Alone" and was brilliantly innovative: one of the first musicals to contain a tragic plot.

Special Events

Thursday, January 14, 6:30pm: A TASTE OF READERS THEATER. Join us for wine and cheese and a sampling of our 2010 Readers Theater Repertoire. RSVP 610-371-8151.

Sunday, March 21, 10am - 12: Genesis Theatre presents *THE MUSIC OF HOLLYWOOD* at The Reading Public Museum
Fri-Sun, April 9-11: THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES - benefitting victims of sexual and spousal abuse

Genesis Theatre 2010 Main Stage Season Subscribe Today!

Debbie Does Dallas Come Back Little Sheba Parade	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels Dog Sees God Carousel
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Subscription	Qty	Price	Total
Full Main Stage Season		\$100	
Pick Three Shows		\$50	
2010 Genesis Membership		\$25	

Tax-deductible Contribution **+ \$**

Genesis Theatre
PO Box 6564
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-371-8151
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Name for program listing

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE **= \$**

Name _____

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**THE
BELSNICKEL
SCROOGE**

**Directed and
Produced by**
L J Fecho

Music and Lyrics by
Michael O'Flaherty

Book by
L J Fecho

Stage Manager
Sheila Harrington

Music Director
Andrew Cusano

Orchestration - Finale
Dan Pardo

Choreography
Jennifer Parker Scott

Costume Design
F. B. Spector

Costume Assistant
Yvonne Newton

Set Design
L J Fecho
G R Snyder

Lighting Design
L J Fecho
David Neel
Spencer M. Fecho

Sound Design
L J Fecho
Spencer M. Fecho

Projections
Abbe Dillon
L J Fecho

Genesis Theatre
153 N. 10th Street
(Corner of 10th and
Walnut)
Reading, PA

Tickets:
610-373-9500

Office:
610-371-8151

Performances:

8:00 p.m. on
Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19

2:00 p.m. on
Dec. 13, 19

7:00 p.m. on
Dec. 16

3:00 p.m. on
Dec. 12

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act I: *The Belsnickel Scrooge*

– Prologue –

Time: *The Present*

Christmas Eve Dinner at a home in Leesport, PA

"Favorite Time of Year" Ensemble

"Gift Wrap" Dad, Mom, Young Girl & Young Teen Girl

"The Legend of the Belsnickel" Grand Pop

– Scene 1 –

Time: *Christmas Eve 1934, The Depression*

Leesport - Cratchit Family House & Dometown, Reading, PA

"Favorite Time of Year (Reprise)" The Farmers

"Favorite Time of Year (Reprise 2)" Reading Shoppers

– Scene 2 –

Scrooge's Office in Dometown, Reading

– Scene 3 –

Penn Street, Court Street, Cherry Street between 2nd & 11th Streets in Dometown Reading

"Out and About" Scrooge, Cratchit, & Vendors

"The Legend of the Belsnickel (Reprise)" Scrooge

"Carry On" Bob, Tim and Kathy Cratchit

– Scene 4 –

Outside Scrooge's House in Centre Park

"The Legend of the Belsnickel (Reprise 2)" Street Kids

Into Scrooge's Bedroom – Visit from the Spirit of Jacob Harley

– Scene 5 –

Scrooge's Bedroom - The Ghost of Christmas Past

A Schoolhouse in Leesport – Christmas Eve - 1868

"Forgive and Forget" Young Ebby & Jen

– Scene 6 –

Fenstermacher's Barn – Christmas Eve 1878

"Fresserei/All the Abundance" Mr. & Mrs. Fenstermacher, Ensemble, Isabel,

Young Scrooge, Young Harley

"Forgive and Forget, Reprise" Jen

– Scene 7 –

Scrooge's bedroom – Chistmas Eve - 1934 – The Ghost of Christmas Present

"Everyone But You" The Ghost of Christmas Present, Scrooge & The Minions

INTERMISSION

Act II: *The Belsnickel Scrooge*

– Scene 1 –

Time: *The Present*

Christmas Eve, after dinner at a home in Leesport, PA

– Scene 2 –

Time – *Christmas Eve 1934: A cornfield in Leesport and the Cratchit Home*

"Favorite Time of Year – Reprise 3" Martha, Bob, Kathy & Tim

"God Bless Us Everyone" Tim & Kathy

– Scene 3 –

Christmas Eve – A party at Harry & Helen's House in Wyomissing

– Scene 4 –

Scrooge's bedroom – Christmas Eve – 1934 – The Ghost of Christmas Future

"What Have I Become" Scrooge

– Scene 5 –

Penn Square – Christmas Eve 1936

– Scene 6 –

The Peanut Bar – Christmas Eve 1936

"Eulogies – Let Us Now Give Thanks" Mourners, Townsfolk

– Scene 7 –

The Cemetery – Christmas Eve 1936

– Scene 8 –

Scrooge's Bedroom – Christmas Day 1934

Streets of Dometown Reading, Cratchit House, Harry & Helen's House

Modern Day House in Leesport – Christmas Day 2008

"Behold" Scrooge & the Company

THE END

Musicians

Piano

Melody Pierce

Keyboards

Ann Cusano

Bass

Michael Harbach

Drums and Percussion

Andrew Cusano

Crew

Lights

Spencer M. Fecho

Lighting Execution

Chelsea Pagan, Ed Wenrich

Sound

Marjory Ewald

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by

Charles Dickens

1843

I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour

with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me.

May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant,

C. D.

December, 1843

Who's Who in *The Belsnickel Scrooge*



Amanda
Ackerman



Carl
Altenderfer



Luis Pagan
Anderson



Lacey E.
Boyer



Jon
Browning



Marissa
Bubbenmoyer



Wendy S.
Caldwell



Cecilia
Cooper



Evan
Cooper



Kevin
Cooper



Mason
Cooper



Jason
Denlinger



Shannan
Denlinger



Kenneth
Dreistadt



Spencer
Erb



Helene Reeser
Fecho



Dean
Fichthorn



Lorna C.
Graham



James
Haggerty



Hannah
Jones



John
Kershner



Rose
Kershner



Annie
Knabb



Katie
Kolva



Nate C.
Kuhns



Kirk
Lawrence



Becca A.
Malanios



Ruth
Martelli



Devon
Moll



Krystin
Moll



Yvonne
Newton



Kathleen
Newville



J. Nathan
Oswell



Pat
Rehr



Luda
Ronky



Marty
Salen



Stuart
Salen



Diane K.
Smith

Amanda Ackerman (*Jen Scrooge*) Amanda is pleased to be a part of bells for the third year in a row. Amanda is a criminal justice major at Kutztown University. Her favorite roles (so far!) are: Marta (KU's production of *Company*), Johanna (Genesisius Theatre's *Sweeney Todd*), and Dainty June (Genesisius Theatre's *Gypsy*). Amanda has also worked on and performed in several other productions. Future plans include a career in law enforcement. Thanks to everyone involved and have a wonderful holiday!

Carl Altenderfer (*Lambert Sternberg*) Carl is pleased to be able to reprise the role of Lambert Sternberg for the third time in this year's production of *Belsnickel*. This is Carl's fourth Genesisius production. He has also performed in *1776*, *Evita*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Scarlet Pimpernel* at RCOS. Carl would like to thank Larry for bringing his favorite holiday story to life. To my fellow cast members and you the audience: may God bless you and your family during this holiday season and through the coming year.

Luis Pagan Anderson (*Ensemble*) Luis is overjoyed to be finishing out the wonderful Genesisius season. He was last seen on the Genesisius stage in *The Wedding Singer* just a few weeks ago. When not at the theater, you can find Luis serving tables at Red Robin or collecting dorm furniture for his move to Temple in January, where he is majoring in theatre and writing.

Lacey E. Boyer (*Mamie*) Lacey is new to Genesisius Theatre. Due to convincing from her best friend Helene and other close friends here she is on stage for the first time ever. Lacey grew up in the Reading area and holds Berks County close to her heart. She is involved in the Greater Reading Young professionals group and is employed at Boscov's Travel. She would like to say thank you to her family, friends, and the love of her life Matt for all their support. Hopefully we will see her on stage again!!

Jon Browning (*Sammy Boscov, Mr. Katcher, John*) This is Jon's second show at Genesisius and he is glad to be part of this wonderful holiday musical. Jon recently was in *The Wedding Singer*, in which he played Glenn Guglia under the direction of Chris Sperat. Jon is glad to have met more new friends at Genesisius and looks forward to more in the future. Jon would like to thank his family, friends, Baxter and God for their continued love and support.

Marissa Bubbenmoyer (*Isabelle*) Marissa is 15 years old and has been with Genesisius for over a year now! She has been recently seen in *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), *Isn't it Romantic* (Many roles), *Belsnickel Scrooge* (Ensemble), and most recently seen in *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble). Marissa is very exciting to be playing her first role ever as Isabelle and would love to thank Larry for giving her confidence and making her addicted to theatre!

Wendy S. Caldwell (*Martha Cratchit*) A Lancaster County native, Wendy is making her second appearance this year on the Genesisius Theatre stage. She was last seen in September as Judy Turner in *A Chorus Line*. She has performed in more than 30 stage productions over the past 12 years. Among her favorite roles are: Mrs. Van Daan (*The Diary of Anne Frank*); Gwendolyn Pigeon (*The Odd Couple*); Mayor Maggie (*Bat Boy: The Musical*); and Olga (*The Women*) all at the Ephrata Performing Arts Center. Off-stage, Wendy works as college essay writing tutor, and as a features reporter for the Lancaster Newspapers.

Cecilia Cooper (*Young Teen, Kathy Cratchit*) Cecilia is a freshman at Governor Mifflin High School. She plays violin, piano and also sings and dances. She enjoys several musical groups at school, including Governors and First Ladies, orchestra

and chorus. Cecilia is very happy to be performing along side her father in her first Genesisius show. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support with a special thanks to Zoe, the original Kathy Cratchit.

Evan Cooper (*Ghost of Christmas Future*) Evan is a newly-minted worn-out fixture here at Genesisius, having already hammed-up the stage this year in, *1776* and *Catch-22*, he is back torturing audiences again with his wooden acting here in *Belsnickel*. You may have also seen him awkwardly treading the boards in other recent shows like *Sweeney Todd* and *Twelve Angry Men*. Heck, you may have even seen him foul-up the Ghost of Christmas Future last year, and the year before that. Who knows why he was asked to do it again? Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Kevin Cooper (*Dad, Bob Cratchit*) Kevin delights in reprising the role of Bob Cratchet. He suggests that Cratchet embodies the kind of person we all wish to emulate. Kevin's involvement in the theater has spanned most of his life. Recent music directing projects include RCT's productions of *Miss Saigon*, *Joseph*, *The Producers*, *Christmas Carol*, and the Genesisius presentation of *A Little Night Music* at the Reading Museum. Some memorable stage credits include: *Promises, Promises*, *Urinetown*, several Gala Events, *Annie*, and *City of Angels*. Family provides this veteran thespian great fulfillment and support. In fact his youngest daughter Cecilia portrays his eldest daughter in this production of *Belsnickel*. Kevin would like to express his gratitude and warmest affection to his wife Ellen, and children; Elizabeth and Cecilia. To Hope, Zoe and Becka; "thanks for the many blessings that we shared."

Mason Cooper (*Young Scrooge, Belsnickel*) Mason is very excited to be in *Belsnickel*, which he greatly enjoyed when he first saw it when it first opened. He joins his father in the musical, as he has done for other musicals such as *1776* and *Sweeney Todd* at Genesisius, and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *1776* and *Miss Saigon* at Reading Civic Theater. He would like to thank his father Evan Cooper and his mother Leah Soloff for encouraging his love of musical theater and he hopes for many shows in the future!

Jason Denlinger (*Young Jacob Harley, Tom*) Jason is happy to be making his third appearance in *Belsnickel* and is even more happy to be sharing that experience with his family Shannan, Devon, and Krystin. He would like wish Happy Holidays to all in the cast and crew and all those who come out to share in this joyous holiday show.

Shannan Denlinger (*Ensemble*) Shannan is glad to be making her Genesisius debut with her family. She can usually be found up on her little platform taking photos as their staff photographer. She is also a unit clerk at the hospital, wife, mom, and Genesisius Theatre's web developer! She sends her love to her husband, Jason, and her kids, Krystin & Devon. She also sends love to her amazing Genesisius family and lots of thanks to Lar.

Kenneth Dreistadt (*Chic Runkle/Marty Marcks*) Kenneth is making his second appearance at Genesisius Theater. He was last seen in the ensemble of *Wedding Singer*. He wishes to thank Larry for giving him a part in *Belsnickel*. He also wishes to thank his terrific wife, Ruth Ann, for putting up with all the hours away from home at rehearsals, and for all of her encouragement.

Spencer Erb (*Ensemble*) This is the 9th Genesisius appearance for this 10 year old aspiring thespian. His previous shows include *Tommy* (as the 4 year old Tommy), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Oliver*, *Really Rosie*, a solo to his one and only true love Amanda in the Benefit, and now his 3rd time in *Bels*. He considers

himself truly blessed to have been taken under wing by Larry and so many other talented people here at Genesisius. When asked if he would like to audition at another theater, his response was a quite offended, "WHY? I LOVE IT HERE." He wishes to thank everyone for making it possible!

Helene Reeser Fecho (*Ghost of Christmas Present*) Helene's musical and play credits include Linda in *The Wedding Singer*, Pickles in *Great American Trailer Park*, The Acid Queen in *The Who's Tommy*, Terry and the Radical Woman in *Purgatory*, Little Sally (*Urinetown*), Mary Magdalene - *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Rizzo - *Grease*, Mazzeppa - *Gypsy*, Margie - *Follies*, Scrooge 2007 & 2008, Fran - *Promises Promises*, Deb in *Genesisius the Musical* and Anita in *West Side Story*, Suzanne in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Maxine - *Just Another Illegitimate Child of John Lennon*, Genesisius and Philadelphia Fringe Festival, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* as Candy Star and Katrina - *Tom, Dick and Harry*. *Crossing Delancey* as Isabella Grossman with Entourage Entertainment, Interactive dinner theatre - Bitsy Balboa in *Finnegan's Wake* at the Showboat Casino in Atlantic City. Roxie - *Peggy Sue Got Buried* at Harrah's Casino in North Carolina. Thanks to Dad and Rosie for all the wonderful Christmas Eve open houses. Helene dedicates this performance to Her Grandmom and Grampop Reeser. They are both her inspiration for her role and her love for hot bacon dressing, fasnachts and Grammy cookies. Happy Holidays to all!

Dean Fichthorn (*Amos Fenstermacher, Apple Seller*) Dean just appeared in *Catch 22* playing 4 characters. He was McNair in *1776*; Doc & Cigar in *Gypsy*; Sgt. Krupke in *West Side Story*; Boris in *Tom, Dick and Harry*; Juror 6 in *12 Angry Men*; Dr. Grimwig in *Oliver*; Edgar Beane in *Titanic*; plus he played a number of other parts in other musicals. This is his third year in *Belsnickel*. He also is on the production committee at the theater.

Lorna C. Graham (*Tiffany*) Lorna is glad to be back on stage after performing in this summers performance of *Hair* as the "little hippy". Lorna is a 4th grade student at Robeson Elementary School and has caught her mothers theatre bug. Lorna is the perpetual "little sister" of the theatre and thanks all of her big brothers and sisters for their love and support. Lorna dedicates this performance to her Mom for helping her get a start in the theatre.

James Haggerty (*Young Ebenezer*) James Haggerty is glad to be back for yet another show at Genesisius! He was last seen on stage as Woof in the summer production of *Hair*. He is excited to taking up the role of Young Ebenezer after understudying for it last year. "Happy Holidays too all! May peace and love find you!"

Hannah Jones (*Ensemble*) Hannah is thrilled to be doing her second show at Genesisius. She performed in *Hair* this summer, as well as many productions at Daniel Boone High School, where she currently is a senior. Hannah has enjoyed her experience with *Belsnickel Scrooge*. She is planning on majoring in theater in college next year.

John Kershner (*Ensemble*) John is a 6th grade student in Exeter. He has previously worked the lights for Missoula's *Princess and the Pea*. He is involved in school orchestra and band and plays soccer. He is very excited about being on stage for the first time in *Belsnickel*!

Rose Kershner (*Ensemble*) Rose is a 4th grade student in Exeter. She played the role of Rosie's mom in Genesisius' *Really Rosie* this past summer and had lots of fun at Camp Genesisius. In addition to acting Rose, enjoys playing soccer and softball. She is really excited to be in her second play!

Annie Knabb (*Ensemble*) Annie Knabb is in

Who's Who in *The Belsnickel Scrooge* (continued)

6th grade at Reiffton School. Annie performed in CCHS production of *Oliver* as a pick-pocket/orphan, and in Genesisus' production of *Really Rosie*, as Lily. Annie takes private voice lessons and guitar.

Katie Kolva (*Beggar Woman's Child*) Katie Kolva is a 4th grader at Wyomissing Hills Elementary. She thoroughly enjoyed her first community theatre experience as a cast member in the 2007 production of *The Tales of Peter Rabbit* at RCP and is thrilled to be a part of this special Christmas performance.

Nate C. Kuhns (*Harry*) Nate is thrilled to be reprising his role as Harry after being seen in last year's production of *The Belsnickel Scrooge*. His other Genesisus credits include: *The Wedding Singer*, *Hair*, *1776*, *And The Beat Goes On*, *Isn't It Romantic?*, *Sweeney Todd*, *West Side Story* and *Gypsy* as well as being the '09 Costume Director. Elsewhere, his theatrical endeavors include numerous productions with various theatres throughout Eastern Pennsylvania for the past 13 years. Special thanks to Larry, for this great opportunity, to Genesisus for being like another family and to his partner, John for putting up with his crazy addiction to theatre. "God, bless us everyone!"

Kirk Lawrence (*Ebenezer Scrooge*) Kirk is happy to revisit *Belsnickel*. He is, also, honored and daunted to move into the role so amazingly played previously by Sandra Cimochoowski. Kirk is proud of the work of our wonderful local theatres, and is grateful to be a part of that work. You can also catch him Saturday mornings at 10 - through 12/19 - in *Peter and the Wolf* at the Yocum Institute. Kirk sends thanks and love to Jamie, who patiently deals with his wacky schedule, making Kirk a virtual ghost in his own home. "Support local theatre, we can't live without it."

Becka A. Malanios (*Helen*) Becka is happy to be back on the stage after performing in this summer's sold out performance of *Hair*. She wears many hats here at Genesisus including, actor, sound technician and serves on the Executive Marketing Committee. She is glad to be sharing the stage yet again with her daughter Lorna (Tiffany) and is looking forward to sharing this wonderful holiday tradition with her theatre family. Words cannot say how much she loves you all. Thanks to Larry and MOF for such a wonderful show. She sends love to her husband Chris who puts up with her addiction and finally, she dedicates this show to her father "Dutch" who taught me more in 26 years than some people learn in a lifetime. Merry Christmas to all!!

Ruth Martelli (*Ghost of Christmas Past*) Ruth is Vice President of Reading Community Players. She has appeared in RCP productions of *Waiting in the Wings*, *Twilight of the Golds*, *The Shadow Box*, *The Replacement*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, and *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. She also directed *A Thousand Cranes* for RCP and builds and decorates sets. Before *Waiting in the Wings* in 2001, her last performance had been the Senior Class Play at Ephrata High School in 1963. Ruth also serves as a Judge of Elections and is a Program Committee member of Berks Community Television. Love and thanks to my family, on stage and off for their support. And to Liz, thanks for bringing me back to the stage.

Devon Moll (*Ensemble*) Devon just turned 5 a few days ago (Dec 2nd) and is very happy to be in his first show. He likes to dance. He loves eating bananas and watching Thomas the Tank Engine.

Krystin Moll (*Ensemble*) Krystin is 7 years old

and in 2nd grade. She is happy to be in her first show. She likes to draw and paint and wants to be an artist or a librarian.

Yvonne Newton (*Ensemble*) Yvonne is a senior at Reading High School. In the fall, she will be attending Bloomsburg University with a double major in theatre and pre-law studies. She is a member of the ensemble at the Yocum Institute of the Arts. Her latest production was *Hair* at Genesisus in the summer of 2009. She is extremely happy to be back on stage and with the wonderful family she has here at Genesisus. She would like to thank the cast, directors and everyone else who made this all possible.

Kathleen Newville (*Elaine*, *Beggar Woman*) This is the first Genesisus Production for Kathleen, although she has been on this stage for Fall Festival of the Arts' *Enchanted April* as Rose. She's recently been seen at Reading Community Players in various roles, including "Kess" in *Independence*, and Mrs. Almond in *The Heiress*. This production reunites Kathy with some old friends and some new, all of which have been a joy to work with! Thank you Larry. Kathy would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her second life as an actor, and Katie for doing this with me. Rob, just a little..

J. Nathan Oswell (*Grand Pop*) Jim was last seen on the Genesisus stage as Hubert in *Hair* and before that as Stephen Hopkins in the Genesisus production of *1776*. Jim was Grand Pop in the 2008 production of *The Belsnickel Scrooge*. Director Larry Fecho says that he must keep doing it till he gets it right!

Pat Rehr (*Ensemble*)

Luda Ronky (*Mary*) Luda is a 9th grader at Central Catholic High School. She is thrilled to be performing in *Belsnickel Scrooge*. This will be her first performance at Genesisus. She has been seen in a few other shows at RCT such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. Luda in her spare time likes to play lacrosse and tennis. She would like to wish all her friends and family a very Merry Christmas!

Marty Salen (*Young Boy*, *Tiny Tim*) Martin is thrilled to return to *Belsnickel Scrooge* this year! He is one of nine children, and a third-grader at Oley Elementary. Martin loves acting and has appeared in Alpha/Omega's *Seussical*, and *Nine*; Reading Community Players' *A Christmas Carol*, *Jungle Book*, and *Schoolhouse Rock*; and Genesisus Theater's *Into the Woods Jr*. Martin has also done commercial TV work and can be seen on billboards throughout SE PA! Martin enjoys rock and fossil collecting, playing guitar, and watching Monty Python.

Stuart Salen (*Ghost of Jacob Harley*) Stuart Salen is making his debut on the Genesisus Stage. This father of nine has previously appeared, along with son Martin, in Reading Community Players' *Jungle Book*.

Diane K. Smith (*Mary Muldoon*, *Mrs. Fenstermacher*) Di to her close friends, she has been performing all her life. She is a lifetime member of RCP and has been active in local theatre for many years. Diane and her late husband Ray Fager opened Smagers Theatre & Supper Club in the mid 1990's and some of her happiest theatrical memories were at Smagers. She currently works for her dear friends entertainment company Entourage. Di would like to wish everyone a joyous love filled Christmas. Merry Christmas Ray!

Michael O'Flaherty (*Music, Lyrics*) was the co-founder, with Jane Simmon Miller, of Genesisus

Theatre, in Reading PA Between 1971 and 1980, he produced, directed, music-directed, designed sets, lights and costumes, and performed in nearly one hundred musicals and plays there, in addition to running the day-to-day business of the theater and handled all the publicity and public relations. He was a jack-of-all-trades and a master of most of them. This training gave him the foundation he needed to launch his professional career in Broadway and regional theater.

Since 1980, Mr. O'Flaherty has done just that. He is in his 18th season as the Resident Music Director of the highly acclaimed Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut, which generated such Broadway hits as *Annie*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *By Jeeves*, *Whoopie*, *Very Good Eddy* and *Shenandoah*. In New York City he has worked extensively as a producer, director, performer, arranger, music director, pianist, and orchestrator. O'Flaherty has been privileged to work and perform with hundreds of celebrities, actors, writers and directors from stage, television and screen.

On Broadway, he music-directed *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* for Tony Randall's National Theatre Company, and was the music director for Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *By Jeeves*, which ran on Broadway, and in Washington DC, Los Angeles and London's West End. Off-Broadway, he was musical supervisor, musical director, vocal arranger, musical stager and also performed in Carol Hall's *To Whom It May Concern*, directed by Geraldine Fitzgerald.

He has worked at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto, Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C, North Shore Music Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, The Whole Theatre, The Acting Company, The Smithsonian Institution, The Chelsea Theatre Center, The Phoenix Theatre, and Columbia Pictures. He produced, created and directed a 60's revue, *And The Beat Goes On*, which ran at The Silver Lining in New York City. He served as conductor for a national tour of *George M*, and was assistant conductor of *The Gershwin Gala* at The Brooklyn Academy of Music and The Kennedy Center.

Mr. O'Flaherty has also performed a great deal throughout his career. At the acclaimed Williamstown Theatre Festival, where he was the musical supervisor and cabaret director for eleven years, he sang at many of the performances, including all of their New York Cabaret Benefits. In addition, Michael performed in the New York City debut of his musical revue, *And The Beat Goes On*, at the Silver Lining. At Genesisus, Michael played many roles throughout those early years, including the boy in *The Fantasticks*, Tony in *West Side Story*, Mack in *Mack and Mabel*, Ben in *Follies*, Marat in *Marat/Sade*, Cocky in *The Roar Of The Greasepaint The Smell Of The Crowd*, and Little Chap in *Stop The World I Want To Get Off*, to name a few. He was seen performing on the Joanne Woodward tribute to The Group Theatre, which aired on PBS in 1989.

On Broadway, he composed the score for Nikos Psacharopoulos' production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Circle In The Square. He has written songs for Kidsports International and Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals, and has composed scores for productions of *Summer and Smoke*, *Peer Gynt*, and *The Greeks*. In addition to *Belsnickel*, he has also collaborated with L J Fecho on a new musical entitled, *Genesisus* which made its debut at Genesisus in 2007, then had a Workshop Production at The Goodspeed Opera House in 2008, a fully staged production at

Who's Who in *The Belsnickel Scrooge* (cont.)

Civic Theatre of Allentown in Spring of 2009, and, then most recently, a critically acclaimed professionally presented Actors Equity Approved Showcase production in New York City, this past August/September. Currently he is teaming up again with Mr. Fecho on a new musical entitled, *The Evidence of Things Not Seen* (working title), a black comedy about the American Bund, which was a group of Nazi sympathizers in the USA, dating back to 1939, just before World War II broke out.

L J Fecho (Book, Producer, Director) most recently was the Artistic Director of Genesis Theatre, in Reading, PA., where he began his theatrical career at the age of twelve. By the time he graduated from high school, he had been involved in over 65 plays and musicals. Soon after that, he was hired as a staff associate for the late Broadway producer, Alexander H. Cohen. During that season he assisted on *Hellzapoppin'*, starring Jerry Lewis and Lynn Redgrave, *Comedians*, directed by Mike Nichols, and *Anna Christie*, starring John Lithgow, as well as the 1977 Antoinette Perry "Tony" Awards telecast on ABC.

Mr. Fecho has been Special Events and Cabaret Manager at the acclaimed Williamstown Theatre Festival in Williamstown, MA., and produced WTF's Annual *New York Cabaret Benefit* (1985/86) at Studio 54 and The Palladium, featuring such notables as Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Dick Cavett, Christopher Reeve, Betty Buckley and Patti Lupone, to name a few. He was the Marketing Director and Assistant Producer at Off-Broadway's Hudson Guild Theatre, and assisted the producer of Carol (*The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*) Hall's Off-Broadway hit, *To Whom It May Concern*, directed by the legendary screen star, Geraldine Fitzgerald. Mr. Fecho freelanced as a production assistant for The Manhattan Theatre Club, La Mamma, The Watery Star Theatre and The New York Theatre Workshop, and was the Director of Promotions at the Fulton Opera House, in Lancaster, PA. He was known as the guy "who could get almost anything for free"!

Upon returning to his hometown, he was hired by the City of Reading, PA to promote arts, entertainment and special events in the downtown central business district, and later, to consult on the first phase of a planned restoration of the Astor Theatre, an art deco movie palace. In addition, he produced a season of musical theatre at Shepherd Hills Dinner Theatre in Allentown, PA. Since then he has independently produced productions of *To Whom It May Concern*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Hair*, *I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road* in Reading, Allentown and Philadelphia.. He has also directed productions of *Proof*, *Urinetown*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *How To Succeed In Business*, *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Scrooge - The Musical*, *Gypsy*, *Dames at Sea*, and *Godspell*, *West Side Story*, *Tom, Dick and Harry*, *Genesis A New Musical*, *The Full Monty*, and *The Belsnickel Scrooge*.

In 1990 he shaped the entire marketing strategy and advertising image for Kidsports International, Inc., a worldwide chain of children's activity centers. He produced the Kidsports jingle as well as the Kidsports Cabaret Industrial for their convention. He has also consulted for the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT, and was selected to take part in the Commercial Theater Institute's 14-week intensive study program on producing for the theatre. Currently, as President of his company,

Entourage Entertainment, he produces, writes and directs themed corporate parties, murder mystery events and corporate games for companies and associations.

In addition, to writing twelve comedic murder mystery events, he has written a full-length play, *Just Another Illegitimate Child Of John Lennon*, which made its debut at Genesis Theatre in 2003 and then moved to the 2003 Philadelphia Fringe Festival, where it had four sold-out performances at the Adrien Theatre. In addition to *Belsnickel*, he has also collaborated with Michael O'Flaherty on a new musical entitled, *Genesis*, which made its debut at Genesis in 2007, then had a Workshop Production at The Goodspeed Opera House in 2008, a fully staged production at Civic Theatre of Allentown in Spring of 2009, and, most recently, a critically acclaimed professionally presented Actors Equity Approved Showcase production in New York City, this past August/September. Currently he is teaming up again with Mr. O'Flaherty on a new musical entitled, *The Evidence of Things Not Seen* (working title), a black comedy, about the American Bund, which was a group of Nazi sympathizers in the USA, dating back to 1939, just before World War II broke out.

Andrew Cusano (*Music Director*) Andrew has been the music supervisor at Genesis for the past two years. This is the 7th musical he has music directed at Genesis. In addition to his supervisory duties, Andy can be found playing drums and percussion in pit orchestras at Genesis and Reading Civic Theater. Outside the theater, he can be found teaching percussion at the Yocum Institute for Arts Education and Holy Name High School. Andy would like to thank Larry and Sheila for all their hard work, and a big thanks to the cast for all their hard work. Break many legs!!

Dave Neel (*Lighting Design*) Dave has been involved in hundreds of productions over the last 30 years in capacities as sound designer, lighting designer, technical director, musical director, orchestra conductor, set designer, and producer. Companies include Reading Civic Opera, Governor Mifflin Summer Theatre, Berks Grand Opera, Berks Ballet Theatre, Albright College Domino Players, Genesis Theatre, Shepherd Hills Dinner Theatre, Reading Community Players, and Vagabond Productions, to name a few. Has served as gaffer or lighting programmer on several special event television productions.

F.B. Spector (*Costume Director*) F.B.'s focus is on period correct costuming and she has many years of experience in just that area. As a result of working in the film industry as a costuming consultant, her attention to detail is phenomenal. F.B. Brings her background as a software engineer to the theater as well in a software package that will help the theatre catalog the costume collection and manage all the details of running a costume shop properly.

G R Snyder Jr. (*Master Carpenter*) Rod is usually found behind the scenes as Genesis' Master Carpenter. He occasionally makes his way on to the stage. He has been seen in: *The Full Monty*, *Belsnickel Scrooge*, *Gypsy*, *West Side Story* and *1776*. *Belsnickel 2009* will be Rod's 40th set. During the day he is a contractor. He lives in Robesonia with wife Kelly, and daughters Emily and Becca. He looks forward to working with L J Fecho (NP) on the third Genesis production of *Belsnickel Scrooge*.

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- Air brush and air brush paints
- Any craft supplies
- Any sewing supplies

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The Belsnickel Scrooge: A Pennsylvania Dutch Vocabulary Primer

Belsnickel (or Belschnickel) is a Pennsylvania Dutch mythical being who visits children at Christmas time. If they have not been good, they will find coal and/or switches in their stockings. The Belsnickel was a scary creature not well loved except by parents wanting to keep their children in line. He's been around since the eighteenth century and he'd be quick to tell you that Santa is a post-Civil War phenomenon. If you attempt to translate his name, you get "Nicholas in Furs." St. Nicholas has been around since the sixth century, but Belsnickel is a morphed Pennsylvania German character who dresses in furs, paints his face or wears a mask, and attaches bells to his costume. In one hand he carries a sack or burlap bag filled with goodies such as cookies, candies, nuts, and the like for good children. The other hand grasps a switch or whip, and we all know who that's for. In order of appearance...

Conniption Fit – Angry Outburst
Griestlich – Grumpy
Ich Liebe Dich – I Love You
Dunnervetter – Thunder Weather – PA Dutch Cursing
Fergesslich – Forgetful
Dummkup – Dumb
Farrichterlicken – Frightened
Schpuk of Christkindl Vergangenheit – The Ghost of Christmas Past
Dunnerhead – Dumbkopf or Dumb Head
Umpbritch – Anger
Ach Du Lieber – Oh My Goodness
Hummy – Baby Calf
Weisenheimer – Wise Guy
Wunnerfitzich – Wanting To Know Everything
Verschnap – Correct
Blabbermaul – Talker
Fersummling – A Dutch-ified gathering with a meal, song, and story telling.
Fresserei – Party/Cookout
Fress – Eat Heartily
Schnitz un knepp, often spelled *schnitz un gnepp* – A staple in the cuisine of the Pennsylvania Dutch. It translates roughly to "(apple) slices and dumplings".

Schmeercase un Latvar – Apple Butter and Cottage Cheese
Snot Brats – Spoiled Brats
Ferhoodled – Mixed Up
Ormsalich – Poor Pitiful Soul
Schnoop-Douch – Hanky
Verunzeled – Confused
Schmutz – Kiss
Wos Gebt's Duo? – What's Going On?
The Schpuk of Christkindl Gegenwart – The Ghost of Christmas Present
Kerflommixed – Excited
Bodderation – Bother
Rutschin' – Moving Around
Roontzeled – Wrinkled
Kaputzed – Messed Up or Mixed Up
Strubble Cup – A Disheveled Head
Wunnerfitz – Busy Body
Alles Iss Darrich Onera – Everything is through each other
Discumbuperated – Upset/Confused
Bookieman – Boogieman
Schpritz – Cry or Spray Something
Brutz – Cry

From the Genesisius Costume Department

With a background in designing costumes for film, I am blessed with the magical province of a designer of seeing and dreaming. Oddly enough, I enjoy the quintessential challenge of a technician who is the organizer who can make those dreams take form. As a dreamer and creator of images, I inhabit a world of fantasy that transcends time, space and practical consideration; however, I must ultimately come down to earth to share my vision with others and consider how we will create it all!

My world is filled with disparate and wildly wonderful media; from fabric to feathers, painted silks to molded plastics, beads and trims and anything in between. What a mish mash of wild and wonderful things we make! From a ghost or specter [Jacob Harley in Belsnickel] to appropriate body padding for

an actor falling from a building, the job can be ours.

Dreams and reality do indeed come together in a costume shop. This is where hard work and the right technique can actually imbue a humble piece of wool into something that transcends its weavers and in inspired hands is worthy of the artisans of old Hollywood's costume departments.

My goals for the Genesisius costume shop are to begin focusing on more period correct details of costumes for each show and develop an inventory of quality and beautiful costumes that will become a resource for other theaters in the area.

In addition, I plan to begin offering sewing classes. The classes will build on sewing basics and evolve into period correct sewing tech-

niques, corset building and then even a series on prop making.

In a small community theater, the costume shop serves many purposes. We are often called upon to help with hair and make-up, upholster furniture, create props, and many other details that in larger organizations could have a complete department behind the title. That is some of the magic of a small theater. You get the opportunity to do SO MANY different things and try new ideas and art mediums. Your imagination is stretched and you truly can live in a fantasy land.

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— F.B. Spector, Costume Director

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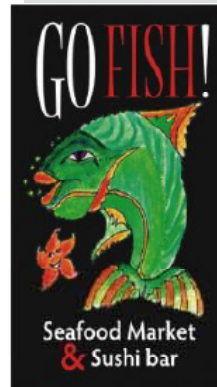
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Show Recap: *The Wedding Singer* Delights Genesis Audiences

For 9 performances last month, Geneius Theatre partied like it was 1985 with our Reading Area Premiere Production of *The Wedding Singer*!

With great musical direction by Andy Cusano, exuberant choreography by Hope L. O'Pake and spot on Costume Design by Nate Kuhns, *The Wedding Singer* beautifully captured all the big hair and power ballad goodness that was the mid 1980s.

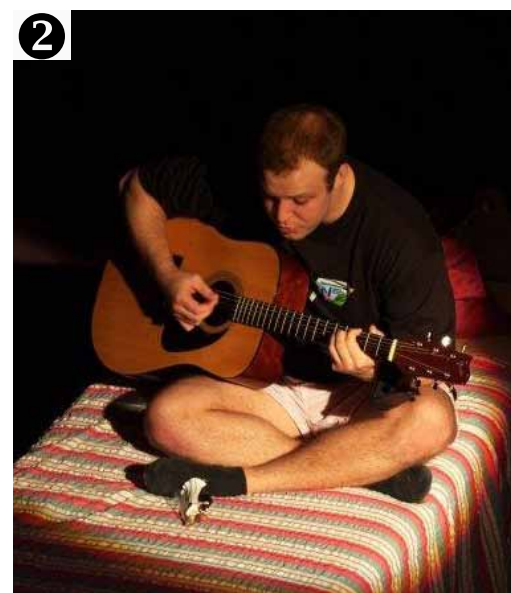
Bobby Checchia led our marvelous cast of 28! He brought wonderful

amounts of charisma and charm to the leading role of "Robbie Hart". Caitlin Apple was simply adorable as "Julia" with a set of pipes to match her beauty. Christina Ferlazzo was sexy and scintillating as "Holly". Nick Schwenk was a revelation as "Sammy". Phil Levesque channeled Boy George in his heyday as "George". Helene Fecho was a delicious mix of Lita Ford and Bonnie Tyler as "Linda". Jon Browning exuded smug-ness and oily-ness as "Glenn". Jeannette DeAngelo walked

away with the show every night as "Rosie", Robbie's over-sexed Grandma. Throw in an all-singing, all-dancing Ensemble, and it all added up to a great evening of theater.

Thanks to the audiences who came out in droves to laugh and have a great time! We truly appreciate your patronage and your support in helping make *The Wedding Singer* simply "Awesome!!"


— Christopher Sperat, Director



The Wedding Singer, directed by Christopher Sperat, was presented Nov. 13 - 22. ❶ The cast celebrates the wedding of Robbie (Bobby Checchia) and Julia (Caitlin Apple). ❷ Robbie puts his feelings on paper. ❸ Sammy (Nick Schwenk), Robbie, and George (Philippe Levesque) confer over strategy. *Photos by Shannan Denlinger.*

★ Come watch the Reading stars SHINE!

footlights!



Genesis Theatre's guide to the Reading stage

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