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32

footlights!

Genesis Theatre's guide to the Reading stage



March 2011

FREE for theatre lovers!

Sponsored
by the
Scheiner Family

the
Fantasticks
Genesis Theatre's
40th Anniversary
Production

40th Anniversary Season • Tickets at genesiustheatre.org

The Fantasticks • Romeo & Juliet • Bat Boy: The Musical • High School Musical • Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl • Aspects of Love
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change • The Little Dog Laughed • The Sound of Music



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

genesiustheatre.org email: genesiustheatre@verizon.net

Our Founders

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

Our Vision

The vision of Genesius 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.

Board of Directors

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Musical Supervisor: Andrew Cusano

Web Developer: Shannan Denlinger

Readers Theatre: Marjory Ewald (Chair), Abbe Dillon

Technical Consultant: Dave Neel

2011 Season Logos: Kirk Lawrence

Footlights Editor: Jamie Howard

From The Director

by Chuck Gallagher

You wonder how these things begin...

Well, my affair with *Les Fantastiques*, based on Rostand's "Les Romantiques", began late one summer evening in 1967 while tending bar at a restaurant outside of Kutztown. The director of the summer theater at Kutztown State College hurried into the bar and begged me to help with the show she was producing. She had just fired her lead and asked if I would do the role. I acquiesced, and ten days later I was singing "Try to Remember" on opening night.

That whirlwind courtship with this marvelous confection surprisingly led to a paid opportunity to reprise the role at Lafayette College. Let me clarify "paid"—\$75 for gas money. During the Lafayette rehearsals I met a lovely stage crew member who a few months later became my wife. That was 43 years ago. During those years I've been able to produce and direct *The Fantasticks* in different venues. I've also had the opportunity to portray Henry, the Old Actor, a delicious, over-the-top

From The Director

It was never my intent to be directing *The Fantasticks*. I had asked Chuck Gallagher to take up that task, and he happily agreed. I was content acting as his producer, as I was already acting in *Doubt*, down the street at Community Players. But, much like the best-planned machinations of the *Fantasticks* fathers, things were not to be as we had wanted them to be. When Chuck fell, metaphorically and not, I came on to carry his banner. And with the great assistance of Ken Blekicki, I think we've come up with a production of which Chuck would be mightily proud. But on to the piece...

Like a romantic version of Mr. Dark's carnival in *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, a troop of actors comes to town to offer a universal tale of love. Romantic, yet cautionary, *The Fantasticks* holds a mirror to our own illusions and foibles. *The Fantasticks* inhabits the realm of dream.

We go to sleep one night, and the next morning find a stage, set and ready to entertain, perhaps instruct. The actors of the troop (played by actors of our troop) appear, harried, unready;

chance to prove that even small roles can produce big actors (see Bob Moyer).

Unfortunately I have been unable to carry through with the director's duties, but this commemoration of Genesius's 40th anniversary has gone on without me. It has done so because of a dedicated and talented cast and staff who have taken all these years of celebration and rolled them into this bright, simple, warm, and delightful musical. I especially need to thank my dear friend Ken Blekicki with whom I have had the pleasure to work on several productions in the past. He is a man in whose blood musical theatre flows and surges. This production owes much to our multi-talented producer, Kirk Lawrence, and the superior support of John Gancar and the Genesius family.

My deepest wish is that this production will help you escape the tyranny of time and recall those moments when love was warmer and sweeter than honey, despite the stinging taste of mint.

by Kirk Lawrence

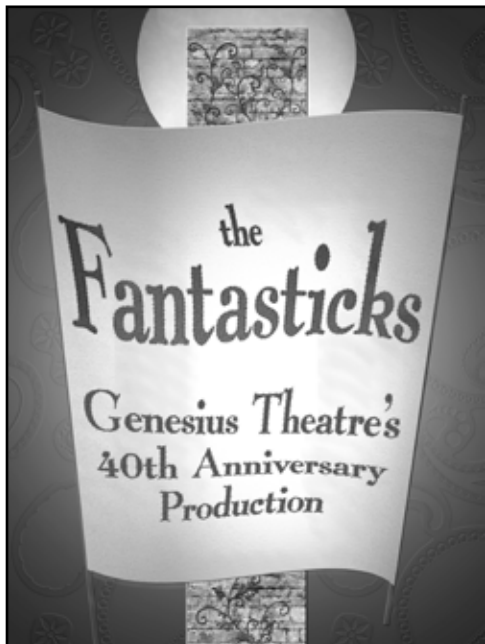
pulled by the music, and thus are transformed into the characters of the piece. They are calmed. They are focused. They are us. And we sit and share a simple tale.

Who among us cannot find bits of ourselves in this timeless piece? The Girl: in love with the adventure, the newness of love, a love destined not to withstand the realities of time. The Boy: in love with a figure on a pedestal, his love destined to be revealed as imperfect in the harsh light of reality. The fathers, well-meaning schemers believing their ploys can influence the natural running of events. El Gallo, ever the manipulator, manipulated by a false sense of power, narrating what was meant to be regardless of his intervention. Henry and Mortimer, the clowns, trying to move from day to day in a world that has left them behind. And the Mute, observing, steady and at the ready.

With El Gallo's caution at the end of the play, we are reminded that we should move into this life with eyes smiling, but wide open.

(continued on page 27)

Genesis Theatre Presents...*The Fantasticks*



THE FANTASTICKS

Book and Lyrics by TOM JONES
Music by HARVEY SCHMIDT

Since its opening in May, 1960, at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York, and its subsequent revival at the Snapple Theatre Center, *The Fantasticks* has become the longest running production of any kind in the history of American theatre. Continuing its run in New York City, please visit www.FantasticksOnBroadway.com.

THE FANTASTICKS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Sponsored by the Scheiner Family

Information

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 March 4, 5, 11, 12
3:00 p.m. on March 6, 13
7:00 p.m. on March 9, 10

Production

Director *Kirk Lawrence and Chuck Gallagher*
Musical Director *Ken Blekicki*
Choreographer *Erin Stevens*
Conductor *Joe Smith*
Stage Manager

Kathy Newville and John Gancar
Set Design... *Chuck Gallagher & Kirk Lawrence*
Lighting Design..... *Joseph Majesky*
Costumes..... *Robert Moyer and the cast*
Set Construction.....
Jordan Baylor, Brandon Kegerize, Kirk Lawrence,
Rod Snyder

Set Painter *Marjory Ewald*
Fantasticks and Glen curtain painting and construction.....*Kathy Newville*
Props.....*Kathy Newville and the cast*
Master Electrician/Light Operator

Joseph Majesky
Spot Operator *Rubiel Vargas,*
Christina Ferlazzo, Sheila Harrington
Photography..... *Shannan Denlinger and Kirk Lawrence*
Rehearsal Pianist..... *Dan Pardo*

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the cast, and everyone else, who, in the face of weather, injury, and other disruptions, made this show a success. You know who you are: Give yourselves a huge pat on the back.

Thanks to *Reading Civic Theatre* for the use of their rehearsal space, set pieces, costumes and properties. We appreciate your support!

Cast

El Gallo.....	<i>Kevin J. Cooper</i>
Matt	<i>Brandon Kegerize</i>
Luisa.....	<i>Kathryn Ott</i>
Hucklebee	<i>Mike Pardo</i>
Bellomy	<i>Chuck Austin</i>
Henry	<i>Robert Moyer</i>
Mortimer.....	<i>Jordan Baylor</i>
The Mute.....	<i>Nicole Bucks</i>

Musical Numbers

Place: A Stage

Time: Then, Now, When

Act I — The soft of night

“Overture”	
“Try To Remember”	<i>El Gallo, Luisa, Matt, Hucklebee, Bellomy</i>
“Much More”	<i>Luisa</i>
“Metaphor”	<i>Matt, Luisa</i>
“Never Say No”	<i>Hucklebee, Bellomy</i>
“It Depends On What You Pay”	<i>El Gallo, Hucklebee, Bellomy</i>
“Soon It’s Gonna Rain”	<i>Matt, Luisa</i>
“Rape Ballet”	<i>The Company</i>
“Happy Ending”	<i>The Company</i>

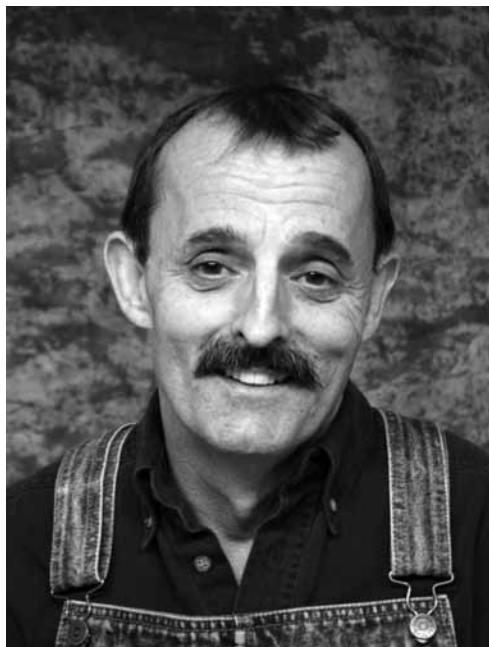
Act II — The harsh of day

“This Plum Is Too Ripe”	<i>Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, Bellomy</i>
“I Can See It”	<i>Matt, El Gallo</i>
“Plant A Radish”	<i>Hucklebee, Bellomy</i>
“Round And Round”	<i>El Gallo, Luisa, The Company</i>
“They Were You”	<i>Matt, Luisa</i>
“Try To Remember”	<i>El Gallo</i>

Musicians

Piano/Conductor	<i>Joe Smith</i>
Keyboard	<i>Andrew Cusano</i>

Who's Who



←**Chuck Austin (Bellomy)** - More than a year has passed since Chuck was seen on stage at Genesis in *Catch 22*. "Yet I always drift back." This intimate, haunting building has been like a home to him since 1994. The audience might recall seeing Chuck in *Urinetown*, *Promises*, *Promises*, *Cuckoo's Nest*, or viewing more of him than thought possible in *The Full Monty*. These are but a few of the many productions Chuck has been involved in at this theatre. "Genesis is lucky enough to have, at its core, a dedicated group of people who plainly speaking, just love this theatre." The talent of this cast, as with so many others, enables one to pull away from our hectic lives and pause a moment; to cherish that overwhelming "suspension of reality". Chuck would like to dedicate this role to his namesake, Chuck Gallagher. And thank God his replacement has no less vision than the original director.

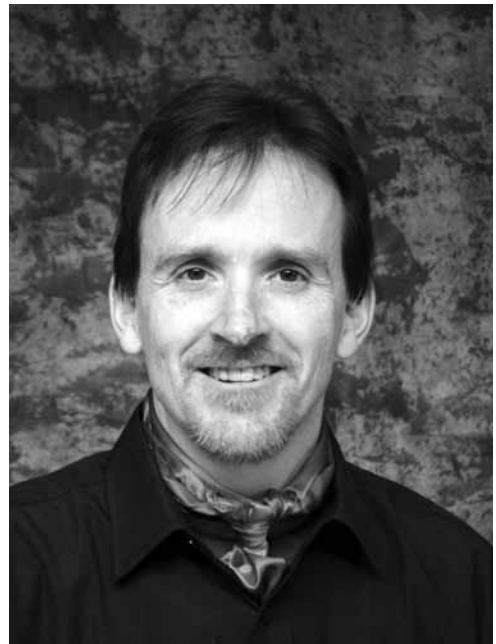
→**Jordan Baylor (Mortimer)** - Jordan was raised in (and around) Danville, Pennsylvania, born in Geisinger. He moved to Reading to attend college, and graduated with an Associates in Graphic Design from BTI. Jordan has been spending time doing freelance artwork, is responsible for Genesis Theatre's online trailer marketing campaign, and is on the career path working in the art department of a direct mail company called, The Mail Shark. In Danville, he has directed *Narnia: The Magician's Nephew*, *Class Action*, and *Grease*. He also performed in *Dog Sees God* as Van (Linus), *Beauty and the Beast* as Gaston, and *The Secret Garden* as an ensemble member. Jordan also enjoys tech! He ran a spotlight for *Striking 12* and *Carousel*. He helped build a lot of the set in front of you tonight for *Fantasticks*, as well as *Dog Sees God*. Jordan says, "If I don't get cast, I'll still be doing something here."





←**Nicole Bucks** (*Mute*) - Nicole has a BA in Dance from Point Park University and has studied at the Boston Conservatory. She is certified in Kripalu Yoga and YogaDance, and has studied holistic health at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, NYC. She has been teaching, acting, dancing and choreographing in the Reading area for the last nine years. She has performed with the Reading Theater Project, Primary Stages and Apparatus Collective Aerial Dance Co. She currently performs with Metamorphosis Performing Co as well as REV9 Dance Co, which was recently featured in the Philly Fringe Festival with their original production of *Factory* about the life and art of Andy Warhol. She teaches dance, preschool movement, and yoga at the Yocum Institute for Arts Education. She was last seen on the Genesis stage in *Tommy* and *Urinetown* and is happy to return with *The Fantasticks*.

→**Kevin J. Cooper** (*El Gallo*) - Kevin began his love affair with musical theater at a very early age. He has been singing songs from this show since before he could tie his shoes, because his father, Robert J. Cooper, played *El Gallo* in the 60s. Kevin's first production of *The Fantasticks* occurred in the mid-1980s and he passes the reins of "the boy" to an amazingly talented Reading High School show alumnus, Brandon Kegerize. Our *El Gallo* envies Brandon's opportunity to perform with such a beautiful and talented Luisa (Katie Ott). Kevin teaches music in the Reading School District, and sings in the Worship Team and Senior Choir at First Presbyterian Church. Kevin and his wife Ellen are the parents of two daughters, Elizabeth, 18 and Cecilia, 15. Mr. Cooper expresses deep appreciation for the chance to play this role of a lifetime. Thanks Kirk, for stepping "into the breach!"



Who's Who



←**Brandon Kegerize (*Matt*)** - Brandon is very happy to be back on the Genesis stage after closing *Striking 12*. Previous theatre credits include Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, Zeke in *High School Musical*; Kenicke in *Grease*, Scott in *Evil Dead: The Musical*; and the ensemble in *Rent*. During the day Brandon is a student at Alvernia University majoring in Elementary Education. Brandon would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support.

→**Robert Moyer (*Henry Albertson*)** - This will mark the ninth production of *The Fantasticks* in which he has participated. It is said that Robert has portrayed every role but Luisa. His debut role was the title role in *Dracula* for Reading Community Players in 1973. Robert has participated in every local theatre company in Berks County and has even appeared at Ephrata Playhouse in the Park. He is a life member of both Genesis and Reading Community Players. His list of favorite roles includes Gus, in *Cats*, Pontius Pilate in *Superstar*, Harry Rote in *Wait Until Dark*, *Dracula* and of course, Henry Albertson. Off the boards he frequents BCTV, The Children's Home of Reading, St. John's Church of Faith and the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. He is working on his ordination at St. John's for this spring. Please watch "Tuning In" on BCTV which airs every second Tuesday of the month. Thanks Chuck. I know you're with us!!

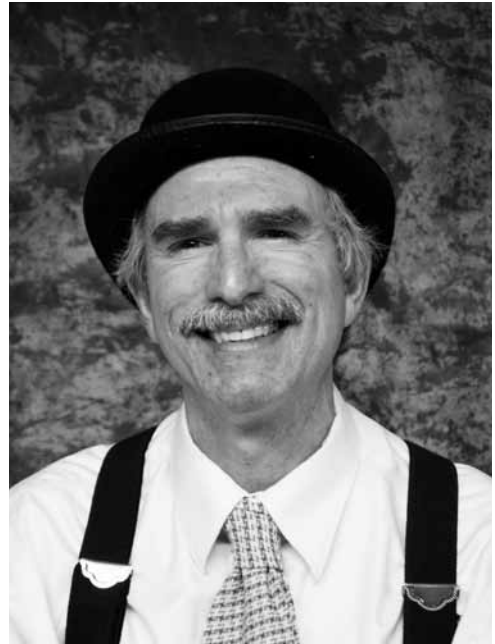




←**Kathryn Ott (*Luisa*)** - Kathryn has been in over 25 theatrical productions throughout Berks County, performing with Genesisus, Reading Civic Theatre, Central Catholic and Holy Name High Schools, Berks Ballet Theatre, Hope Theatre, and Berks Opera Theatre. Her favorite roles to date are Rosemary Pilkington (*H2\$*) and the Mistress (*Evita*). She attends Holy Name and studies voice with Francine and Tamara Black. Kathryn sings in her church, school, and diocesan choir and plays the flute, piano, and guitar. She has performed as a vocal soloist at Westminster Choir College and throughout Pennsylvania. She is a member of Simmon Miller Acting Company and plans on pursuing majors in engineering and vocal performance. She would like to thank the directors, the cast, especially Brandon and her favorite bandit, Kevin, and crew for making this an absolutely fantastick show. Break a leg!

→**Mike Pardo (*Hucklebee*)** - Mike is thrilled be singing and dancing on the Genesisus stage again after taking a musical break to appear in the dramas *Catch-22* and *12 Angry Men*. Previous musical roles include “Dr. Dreyfuss” in *Promises, Promises* and “Senator Fipp” in *Urinetown* — both at Genesisus. Mike spent several years hamming it up in RCP’s children’s shows—most notably as “Grandpa Joe” in *Willy Wonka* and Belle’s father in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is also proud to have been one of the “Storytellers” in Alpha/Omega’s American premiere production of the musical *Children of Eden*.

Mike would like to thank his son, “Dan the Piano Man,” for the extensive private lessons that were needed to help guide his music illiterate dad through the complicated harmonies of *The Fantasticks*. Thanks also to the entire cast and crew for making this show such an incredible experience.



Show Recap: *Carousel*



Carousel, directed by Richard Bradbury, was presented Nov. 5-14.

- ❶ The cast shows why “June Is Bustin’ Out All Over”.
- ❷ The ensemble displays captivating dancing skills in “Ballet”.
- ❸ Carrie (Marisa Hoover) and Julie (Devon Johnson) share an unexpected moment.

Photos by Shannan Denlinger.

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Best Wishes for a great 2011 season,
from the Conrad Weiser Musical Cast and Crew
to our friends at Genesis Theatre!

Membership Matters

by Brian Fichthorn

.... more than ever as Genesis celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Our 40th season fittingly begins with *The Fantasticks*, the very first Genesis show, performed at 711 Penn Street. What follows is a year of diversity. Shakespeare comes to our stage in the form of *Romeo and Juliet*, with Kira Apple's directorial debut and presenting her own concept of the Bard's famous work. *Bat Boy*, *The Musical* swoops into our space in June, with a wonderfully edgy story that both entertains and explores the concept of prejudice. *High School Musical* is the big teen happening of the summer, and not to be left out, the Genesis Kids present their annual show with *Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl* in August.

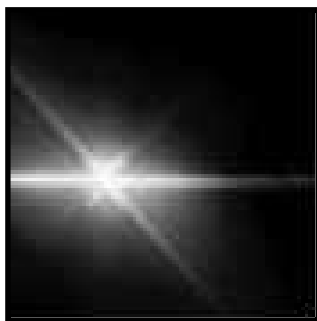
Genesis then celebrates its 4th year at the Reading Public Museum, with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love, In Concert*. The atrium of the museum is the perfect set-

ting for a classic musical in concert, under the stars and with a glass of champagne. We return to the term "edgy" with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a small little contemporary musical that is truly hilarious.

The Little Dog Laughed is a thrill to open on the Genesis stage, because playwright and Reading native Douglas Carter Beane himself called Genesis home. The season closes the same way it opened, with a classical musical, *The Sound of Music*. All created by Genesis members.

And by the way, you too can become a member of Genesis and be part of our theatre community. All you have to do is join and pay your dues! Performing is not required, but should you get the bug you are welcome to audition, help build sets for shows, help us market, run a spot light, or just simply pay us the greatest honor by coming to see your theatre's shows!

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or call 610.777.7107

Show Preview: *Romeo and Juliet*

by Kira Apple

This spring, we invite you to join us in re-discovering the world of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. This timeless piece resonates with audiences both young and old, the true standard by which all other "star-crossed" romances are measured. Our production will take place in a time-out-of-time -- antique in atmosphere and dress, but with images and lighting that suggest another fantastical world.

In the play, the inhabitants of Shakespeare's stylized and romanticized Verona, Italy have long since forgotten why the Montagues and Capulets are mortal enemies -- but this hasn't stopped the families from fighting openly in the streets, acting out senseless battles of wit and will.

The enmity has reached a boiling point at the start of the story, and the contrasts that once vividly colored the city become suddenly, starkly, black and white: wealthy and poor, educated and ignorant, well-meaning and ill-intentioned.

But young people in love rarely care about the grand scheme of things; they see only the present moment, and each other. Fate and ancient hatred conspire to keep the world's most famous lovers apart, but the intimacy and simplicity of their story keeps them together forever.

Romeo & Juliet, opening April 29th and running through May 8th, stars Brandon Reimer and Becca Snyder as the titular couple, and showcases the talents of Richard Bradbury, Kirk Lawrence, Chuck Austin, Jennifer Pors, Amy Botwright, Jason Denlinger, Philippe Levesque, Danielle Shatto, Rob Wickstrom, Benjamin Ruth, Kathy Newville, Amanda Hornberger, Brigid Moser, Jordan Baylor, and James Barksdale. 8PM curtain on April 29th & 30th, May 6th & 7th. 3PM matinees on May 1st and May 8th. Tickets are \$15, with special rates offered for schools and other groups. On Wednesday May 4th, a special 7pm week-night performance, all tickets will be \$10.

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Instruments In-house:
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Our Wish List

- Video camera and tripod
- DeWalt air compressor model # D55168
- Bostitch air stapler model # SB150SX
- Bostitch air nailer model # 1855K
- DeWalt Rt. angle drill model # DW960
- Alarm system for the doors of the building: most of the wiring is already there
- Cleaning products/supplies
- Paper products for bathrooms
- Condoms (used to keep microphones dry)
- Batteries
- Copy paper
- Cases of soda, water, and/or candy
- Ink for printer
- Primer, paint
- Gift cards such as Home Depot or Lowes
- Outside lighting
- Storage space

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

Songs for a New World: March 18-26

Reading Community Players

403 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA

www.rcptheatre.org

Tickets: 610-375-9106

Doubt: March 11-20

Dutch Blue: May 6-15

A Little Princess: June 17-26

Fame: July 29 - August 7

To Kill a Mockingbird: Sept. 23 - October 2

House of Yes: November 11-20

Ephrata Performing Arts Center

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www.ephraplayhouseinthepark.org

Tickets: 717- 733-7966

Of Mice and Men: Feb. 24th - March 5th

13: March 24 - April 2

Into the Woods: April 28 - May 14

Lost in Yonkers: June 2-11

Chicago: July 7-23

Equus: August 8 - September 17

Evil Dead, The Musical: October 20 - Nov. 5

Cats: December 8-17

Reading Civic Theatre

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136 N. 6th Street, Reading, PA

www.readingcivic.org

Tickets: 610-373-3311

"Ragtime 2" In Concert: May 1 at the Miller Center

R&H "Some Enchanted Evening": July 9 at Albright College Chapel

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee: August 11-21 at Genesis Theatre

"The Music Man" In Concert: December 31 with the Reading Symphony Orchestra

The Domino Players

Albright College Center for the Arts
13th & Bern Streets, Reading, PA

www.alb.edu/centerforthearts

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Random Acts of Karma: April 14-17

Writers Block Party: April 29 - May 2

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Genesis is looking for donations
of the following:

- Stain removers (Oxyclean)
- Clothing
- Hats
- Accessories
- Crafting supplies

...and, consider helping out in the
Costume Department. It's a great
place to learn, laugh, and create
magic!

If you can help, please contact

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or

genesiustheatre@verizon.net

Thank you!



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Whether it's helping your business make a lasting impression, organizing your community fundraiser or turning a personal event into an occasion, Sweet Street Desserts will always complete the moment. Contact us for your fundraising and gifting needs online at www.sweetstreet.com.

Also, visit us at our newly remodeled Café Sweet Street on Hiesters Lane for lunch or dessert.

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Cathy Miller

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Robert & Lorraine Bell
Larry Fecho
Stephen & Michelle Fecho
Barry Groebel
Barbara Jeffries *in honor of*
Nancy Snyder
Barry and Elaine Levan
Bonnie & Michael Shuman
Dan Smith

Dress Circle

Sandy Barber
John & Kay Bonslaver
Lucille Born
Shannan Denlinger
Runette Gabriel
Austra Gaige
Rose Gushanas
J Randall Hawk
Karen & Roger Levesque
John O'Connor
Barbara & Dana Potts
Bill Sanders
Chris & Karen Miller Sterner
Donna Welk
Sharon Westley

Show Recap: *Striking 12*

by L J Fecho

This past December I had the privilege of directing this wonderfully haunting sleeper musical called *Striking 12* by the New Age group - GrooveLily - What an incredible experience it was for all of us, including the audience! The music, is some of the best music ever offered up for a theatrical piece, with really unique methods of telling the story! This show never won a Tony, but, had it been eligible, it would have! The band GrooveLily outdid themselves on this one!

We were very pleased with our presentation of this very special piece mingling the frustration of a modern day man and the classic tale of "The Little Match Girl" by Hans Christian Anderson! We had the perfect blend of talents in the Genesis production and even though we only had four

weeks to mount the production everybody involved gelled and we presented a very strong version of this adult retelling! Special thanks to all of the great talents involved with creating our production of *Striking 12*.

One interesting side note from Michael O'Flaherty, Genesis co-founder, and my collaborator on *Genesis: A New Musical*, who is the Resident Music Director at the acclaimed Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut.

Just after we closed our show at Genesis, the band GrooveLily were artists in residence at Goodspeed! Michael got to work with them, see them perform and he also told them about the Genesis production of their excellent musical! Small world... isn't it?



***Striking 12*, directed by L J Fecho, was presented December 29 - January 2.**

① Jenny Parker Scott, Jonathan Browning, James Haggerty, Yvonne Newton, Jason Denlinger, Erin Stevens, Brandon Kegerise, Seana Benz, Christina Ferlazzo.

Photo by Shannan Denlinger.

① *Opposite page:* Jenny Parker Scott, Krystin Moll, Jason Denlinger, Erin Stevens, Brandon Kegerise.

Photo by Shannan Denlinger.



② Andrew Cusano on drums provided the backbeat for a rocking show.

③ Seana Benz, Erin Stevens, Christina Ferlazzo, James Haggerty, Jonathan Browning, Yvonne Newton, Jenny Parker Scott, Brandon Kegerise.

Photos by Shannan Denlinger.



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2011 Season Announced!

by Kirk Lawrence

The November production of *Carousel* closed our 2010 season. Hopefully, you enjoyed our 2010 offerings as much as we enjoyed presenting them to you.

And what a special year 2011 will be: (drum roll, please) Genesis Theatre turns 40!

To mark this milestone, we have planned a season of old and new, familiar and not-so, all based on the theme: **Love and Betrayal**.

Our first 2011 production bridges the years 1971 and 2011. *The Fantasticks*, by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, was the very first show that Genesis presented 40 years ago at 711 Penn Street. Featuring the timeless hit, Try to Remember, this show still speaks to our innocence, our hope, our quest for love, and the necessities of reality. This show begins our season with a loving reminder of where we started, how far we've come, and how much, after all these years, still remains the same.

In April, we visit the 16th Century (long before Genesis Founder Jane Simmon Miller had been conceived, let alone had conceived this theatre). Our second offering of the season will be William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is a tale of love and betrayal done to a fare-thee-well, in Iambic Pentameter! Directed by Kira Apple, this magical adaptation will be sure to please, and to remind us all of that one special love who changed our world forever and completely.

June brings us a show ripped right out of the headlines!...of the Weekly World News: *Bat Boy: The Musical*, with book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming, and music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe. Discovered in a West Virginia cave, Edgar, the bat boy of the title, is a deformed cast-away. Left to die in the wilderness, he is nurtured to health by a group of bats. This is the musical story of Edgar, the family that takes him in, the town that fears him, and the girl who teaches him to love. This is a tale that entertains, but also holds up a mirror to our own prejudice and fear of the "other". Directed by John Gancar, this tragic, yet hopeful, musical is not to be missed.

In July, we present the blockbuster hit, *High School Musical*. Highlighting our teen performers, with some participation by us older folk, in a Mainstage production, this is the story of East High, and the cliques who learn there. This is the show that started the Glee phenomenon, with Drama Divas, Singing Wallflowers, and Conflicted Jocks, longing for a chance to musically shine. Will peer pressure win out? Will Sharpay, heir apparent to the High School Musical crown, connive her way to victory? Will Troy manage to get to musical call-backs, and still lead the Wildcats to a victory in the championship game? All these questions and more will be answered in July when Kelly Snyder leads our winning team of young and old to performance victory!

August brings two special events. First up is *Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl*. This musical will be directed by Christine Cieplinski, and will exclusively feature our younger Genesisians - ages 6 - 14. This is the story of a beautiful young girl... with a pouch! One day, Marsupial Girl (MG) finds that this pouch has magical properties. If people are mean (which they often are) MG discovers she can steal their voice and put it in her pouch. She soon discovers she can steal anything and hide it in there. When that treasure trove of other people's things, thoughts, and voices, becomes too heavy to handle, Marsupial Girl learns that you need to face the bad stuff in life, not just hide it away. And those around her learn that being different is not the bad thing they perceived it to be. A young person's mirror to our adult production, *Bat Boy*, this show is good for all ages.

Also in August, Genesis returns to the Reading Public Museum for another In Concert production. Christopher Sperat directs Andrew Lloyd Webber's, *Aspects of Love*. Spanning a period of 17 years, the show focuses on five people, all related by blood, circumstance, or passion. Join us again, or for the first time, in the RPM Atrium for the musical that many call Sir Andrew's greatest score to date. Featuring the song, "Love Changes Everything" this show proves that it certainly does, often in the most unexpected of ways. Get your tickets early, this event has sold out for the last two years. We would hate to turn you away.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, by Joe Dipietro and Jimmy Roberts, storms our stage in September. We can't put it any better than the show's official tag line: "Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws, but were afraid to admit."

Hope O'Pake directs the Genesisus version of the show that had audiences laughing and cheering for 12 years Off-Broadway. You'll only have two weeks to join the laughter; get your tickets now!

October reunites us with one of our own. We are happy to announce the regional premiere of Genesisus Kid, Douglas Carter Beane's, *The Little Dog Laughed*. Always a current theme, this show focuses on the compromises one has to make, the lies one has to tell, to get ahead in that mythical land called Hollywood. Will Mitchell's agent Diane convince him to choose film stardom over love? Will Mitchell play gay on film, or in real life? Will Alex wind up with the man, or hit the road? And what about Ellen and the... well, we wouldn't want to give that away. Directed by Kirk Lawrence, you won't want to miss this edgy and hilarious play.

December sings. From the hills of Austria to the stage of Genesisus comes one of America's most beloved musicals, *The Sound of Music*. Featuring the timeless songs, "Climb Every Mountain", "I Am Sixteen", and the title song, this is a don't-miss event. This familiar and heartwarming story is the perfect holiday present from us to you.

Also check our website in the new year for information about our *40th Anniversary Concert Gala!* An event not to be missed, it will feature songs and performers from our shining 40 year career!

So, ladies and gentlemen, get your pens ready to mark up your 2011 Season form. We've got a lot of great entertainment coming your way and we wouldn't want you to miss a moment of it!

Sponsorship Opportunities and Special Events

Season Sponsor – \$5,000 – associate your name or your organization with every audition, every show, every special event, every advertisement, every program, every marketing and communication initiative undertaken by Genesisus.

Show Sponsor – \$500 or \$1,000 – help bring a single production to life through your generous donation. Your name will be associated with the production of your choice and mentioned in all advertising/marketing for that production. At the \$500 level, you receive an ad in the program for your production... at the \$1,000 level you may take an ad in the program for the entire season.

Patron – Take a look through your program and be sure to extend your thanks to our patrons listed there. Ticket sales pay for less than 40% of the Theatre's operating expenses. We depend on your generosity to keep our doors open and to continue to bring the magic of live theatre to our stage. All patrons giving at the \$250+ level are also recognized on the Albert Boscov & Sandy Solmon Thank You Plaque on the lobby wall.

Advertising – Still another way to support Genesisus is to advertise in our program. This helps Genesisus while helping you. Advertising rates range from \$25 for a business card ad in a single issue to \$150 for a full page in a single issue. If you are interested in advertising, please call 610-371-8151 and leave a message. Or, ask to talk to a board member during intermission or after the show. We would love to discuss your options with you.

Children – Do you know that Genesisus does a camp just for kids every summer? Do you know that Genesisus does a children's production every year where children not only perform on the stage but are mentored in every role from audition to performance. Help support these kids through your generous donation. Sponsor a kid for camp; fund a guest speaker; underwrite a field trip; the possibilities are limited only by our own imagination.

The Reading Public Museum – The Reading Public Museum – 2011 will be the fourth year in a row that Genesisus will perform at The Reading Public Museum. 2008 saw A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC performed in the Atrium during Genesisus' Season of a Celebration of Sondheim. In its 2009 Season of America at War, CHESS in Concert was performed to a sold out crowd at each of its three performances. This year – EVITA In Concert was performed 3 times on August 20, 21 and 22 to sold out crowds once again. 2011 will bring Andrew Lloyd Webber's ASPECTS OF LOVE to life on August 19, 20 and 21. There are multiple sponsorship opportunities that will help ensure this outstanding series continues for years to come.

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Joe Smith

Special Thanks
Kathy Newville & Robert Seabourne

From The Director

(continued from page 3)

We are happy to give this tale to you, this tale that started Genesis Theatre on its own road, albeit often bumpy, 40 years ago. Thank you for being a part of our company.

A note on rape.

It was decided early on, that for this 40th Anniversary production, we would eschew the new, PC, version of the show, and revert to the original text. As used in *The Fantasticks*, “rape”, from the Latin “rapere” meaning to seize, carry off by force, plunder, carries little of its modern, sexual connotation. Its context in this piece, and referenced several times throughout the play, is the Rape (or abduction) of the Sabine Women. We hope we do not offend.

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