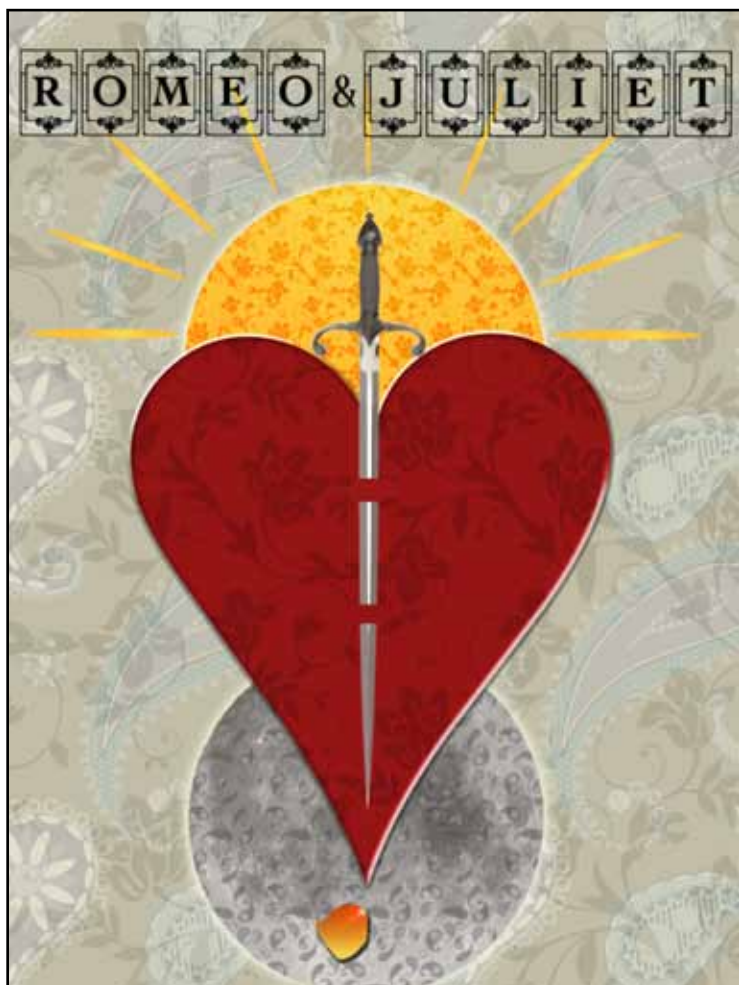


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33

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**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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**Technical Consultant:** Dave Neel

**2011 Season Promotional Videos:** Jordan Baylor

**2011 Season Logos:** Kirk Lawrence

**Footlights Editor:** Jamie Howard

# From The Director

by Kira Apple

SHAKESPEARE IS MEANT to be performed, not read.

Tell this to the hordes currently studying the great Bard at the high school and college level and I imagine you'd have quite the riot on your hands. One half of the crowd would be dancing with joy at the thought of never having to suffer through an archaic "verily" or "forsooth" ever again. The other half (which I would throw myself in with) would be lighting torches and sharpening pitchforks to protest the travesty of future generations never learning the beauty and poetry of a true master of the English language.

Nevertheless, I'll say it again, and let you be the judge as to its truth: Shakespeare is meant to be performed, and not read.

*Romeo and Juliet* is often considered to be one of Shakespeare's more "immature" pieces -- simple, straight-forward, without the fatally flawed heroes and twisted, multi-layered villains that he is infamous for. The young lovers act quickly, think little, and fall in love instantaneously. Written down, their sentiment can seem

rushed and schmaltzy, their passion and affection shallow. But acted -- oh, but acted -- the littlest pause or catch in the throat can speak volumes, the slightest tremble, a sidelong glance, the singular movement of a hand or tilt of the head and suddenly you feel the love that you couldn't when you read the text alone. The letters come alive and leap off the page and all at once, though you barely understood the words before, you are transfixed and transported all at once -- everything finally makes sense. This is the power of theatre -- the power of performance.

Tonight (or this afternoon, as the case may be) we hope to transport and transfix you (all at once) with our rendition of this classic work. We've taken the words off of the page and integrated them for you into an antique, shadowy world filled with nuanced characters, all following the course they think is best. The story is famous, the ending infamous, the characters beloved and, some might say, eternal. Thank you for joining us, and we hope you enjoy our play.

# Genesisus Theatre Presents...*Romeo & Juliet*



## ROMEO AND JULIET

by  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

## Information

Genesisus 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 April 29, 30 and May 6, 7  
3:00 p.m. on May 1, 8  
7:00 p.m. on May 4

## Production

*Director*..... Kira Apple  
*Stage Manager*..... Dallas Mugno  
*Assistant Stage Manager*..... Sheila Harrington  
*Props*..... The Cast, Sheila Harrington  
*Set Building*..... John Gancar, Abbe  
Dillon, Dallas Mugno, Rod Snyder, Jason  
Denlinger, Richard Bradbury, Kathy Newville,  
Chuck Austin, Rob Wickstrom  
*Set Painting*..... Marjory Ewald  
*Set Design*..... Dallas Mugno  
*Lighting Design*..... Joseph Majesky  
*Costumes*..... The Cast, with  
thanks to Kathy Newville for costume creation,  
Ben Ruth for costume donation, and Reading  
Civic Theatre and Kutztown University for the  
loan of certain pieces.  
*Fight Choreography*..... Benjamin Ruth, with  
assistance from Brian Lilley  
*Logo Design*..... Kirk Lawrence  
*Promotional Materials*..... Brian Fichthorn  
*Stage Crew*..... Nate Kurtz, Dallas Mugno,  
Sheila Harrington, Jordan Baylor  
*Lighting Board*..... Joseph Majesky

## Acknowledgements

A special thank you to **The Last Level**, in West Reading, for the use of their space for rehearsals.

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

# Cast

<i>Juliet</i> .....	Becca Snyder
<i>Romeo</i> .....	Brandon Reimer
<i>Lord Capulet, father to Juliet</i> .....	Kirk Lawrence
<i>Lady Capulet, mother to Juliet</i> .....	Jennifer Pors
<i>Nurse, confidante of Juliet</i> .....	Kathy Newville
<i>Friar Lawrence, confessor to Romeo</i> .....	Richard Bradbury
<i>Lord Montague, father to Romeo</i> .....	Chuck Austin
<i>Lady Montague, mother to Romeo</i> .....	Amy Botwright
<i>Mercutio, friend to Romeo</i> .....	Philippe Levesque
<i>Benvolio, cousin to Romeo</i> .....	Danielle Shatto
<i>Tybalt, cousin to Juliet</i> .....	Rob Wickstrom
<i>Sampson, servant to the Capulets</i> .....	Jordan Baylor
<i>Gregory, servant to the Capulets</i> .....	Amanda Hornberger
<i>Abram, servant to the Montagues</i> .....	Benjamin Ruth
<i>Balthasar, page to Romeo</i> .....	Brigid Moser
<i>Prince Escalus, ruler of Verona</i> .....	Jason Denlinger
<i>Paris, suitor to Juliet</i> .....	Benjamin Ruth
<i>First Watch</i> .....	Amanda Hornberger
<i>Second Watch</i> .....	Jordan Baylor
<i>Friar John</i> .....	Chuck Austin
<i>Apothecary</i> .....	Amy Botwright

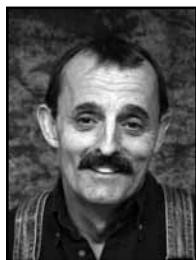
# Scenes

<i>Act 1, Prologue</i> .....	PROLOGUE
<i>Act 1, Scene 1</i> .....	Verona. A public place.
<i>Act 1, Scene 2</i> .....	A hall in Capulet's house.
<i>Act 1, Scene 3</i> .....	Lady Capulet's chamber.
<i>Act 1, Scene 4</i> .....	A street.
<i>Act 1, Scene 5</i> .....	A hall in Capulet's house.
<i>Act 2, Prologue</i> .....	PROLOGUE
<i>Act 2, Scene 1</i> .....	A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.
<i>Act 2, Scene 2</i> .....	Capulet's orchard.
<i>Act 2, Scene 3</i> .....	Friar Lawrence's cell.
<i>Act 2, Scene 4</i> .....	A street.
<i>Act 2, Scene 5</i> .....	Juliet's chamber
<i>Act 2, Scene 6</i> .....	Friar Lawrence's cell.
<i>Act 3, Scene 1</i> .....	A public place.

## INTERMISSION

<i>Act 3, Scene 2</i> .....	Juliet's chamber.
<i>Act 3, Scene 3</i> .....	Friar Lawrence's cell.
<i>Act 3, Scene 4</i> .....	A hall in Capulet's house.
<i>Act 3, Scene 5</i> .....	Juliet's chamber
<i>Act 4, Scene 1</i> .....	Friar Lawrence's cell.
<i>Act 4, Scene 2</i> .....	A hall in Capulet's house.
<i>Act 4, Scene 3</i> .....	Juliet's chamber.
<i>Act 4, Scene 4</i> .....	A hall in Capulet's house.
<i>Act 4, Scene 5</i> .....	Juliet's chamber.
<i>Act 5, Scene 1</i> .....	Mantua. A street.
<i>Act 5, Scene 2</i> .....	Friar Lawrence's cell.
<i>Act 5, Scene 3</i> .....	A churchyard; in it, a tomb belonging to the Capulets.

# Who's Who



Chuck  
Austin



Jordan  
Baylor



Amy  
Botwright



Richard  
Bradbury



Jason  
Denlinger



Amanda  
Hornberger



Kirk  
Lawrence



Phillipe  
Levesque



Brigid  
Moser



Kathy  
Newville



Jennifer  
Pors



Brandon  
Reimer



Benjamin  
Ruth



Danielle  
Shatto



Becca  
Snyder



Rob  
Wickstrom

**Chuck Austin** (*Lord Montague/Friar John*) is no stranger to this stage, having just finished the first show of the season (and the theatre itself) *The Fantasticks*. But...how often do you get the opportunity to do Shakespeare in a community theatre setting? The answer is rarely, if ever. Thank you Kira for bringing this gift to Genesisus. It has been a joy working with this talented cast and crew. Next season perhaps a comedy?

**Jordan Baylor** (*Sampson/Second Watch*) was raised in Danville, Pennsylvania, and born in Geisinger. In Danville, he has directed for the stage *Narnia: The Magician's Nephew*, *Class Action*, and *Grease*. He moved to Reading to attend college, and graduated with an Associates Degree in Graphic Design from BTI. Jordan stays busy doing freelance design and currently works in the art department of a direct mail company called, The Mail Shark, designing, printing, and mailing for pizza companies across the country. Jordan has put his video skills to excellent use by taking on Genesisus' online trailer marketing campaign, which will hopefully continue to be a successful strategy. He has also thoroughly enjoyed learning to sword fight for this show! Here are his most recent roles on stage: Mortimer in *The Fantasticks*; Young Scrooge / Freddy in *A Christmas Carol*; Van (Linus) in *Dog Sees God*; and Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*.

**Amy Botwright** (*Lady Montague/Apothecary*) is thrilled to be part of *Romeo & Juliet* (though a bit disturbed at being old enough to play Romeo's mother...). Mostly seen in the Genesisus box office, or joining the cast of musicals, she is very excited to speak in iambic pentameter. Her previous appearances include *Love, Broadway* and *Music of Hollywood* at the Reading Public Museum, *Follies* at Genesisus, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* with Reading Civic Theatre, and many others. During the day she can be found at KU Presents! as Patron Services

Manager. "Many thanks to Kira for allowing me to be a part of this great show, to Chuck, a great stage partner and "Lieb" for all the support though his first experience as a theatre widower."

**Richard Bradbury** (*Friar Lawrence*) is thrilled to be working on *Romeo & Juliet* with such a terrifically talented cast! Thank you, Kira, for the opportunity! Richard first appeared at Genesisus in 1978 in *Shenandoah*. Since then, he has worked professionally all over the United States as an actor, director, and instructor. Recently you may have seen Richard in *Parade*, *The Laramie Project* and *Follies* at Genesisus. Richard directed *NINE* (1986), *A Little Night Music* (Reading Museum, 2008) and *Carousel* (2010). Some of Richard's favorite Genesisus experiences have been *110 in the Shade*, *Grease*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Boys in the Band*, *Godspell* and *The Glass Menagerie*. But, by far, the BEST Genesisus experience was meeting his partner of 31 years, John Gancar. Richard currently serves as Director of the Arts for Olivet Boys & Girls Club.

**Jason Denlinger** (*Prince Escalus*) is glad to be making his Shakespearean debut in *Romeo & Juliet*. He has performed locally in many roles at Reading Civic Theatre, Reading Community Players, and right here at Genesisus.. He thanks his wife Shannan for always being so supportive."Love you honey!"

**Amanda Hornberger** (*Gregory/First Watch*) is excited to be participating in a play that is close to her heart. Romeo says, "For stony limits cannot hold love out." -- May that be true for all who are watching today. Theatre is one of Amanda's passions, and she can be found performing at many places around the community. She has also written and recorded acoustic guitar music under the name Amanda Lyn. To her family, friends and "men", she sends a big thank you for all their support!

# Who's Who

**Kirk Lawrence** (*Lord Capulet*) is happy to be along for Kira's first directing journey at Genesis. Kirk was recently seen in a marvelous production of *Doubt* at RCP. He will next be seen in Genesis's production of *Bat Boy*, in which he will play a farmer, a preacher, and a distraught mother of three: who'd miss that? He is eternally grateful to his husband, Jamie, for always allowing him to play. Finally, he would like to say, "Live theatre is a precious resource. Thank you for attending; spread the word. Keep local theater alive."

**Philippe Levesque** (*Mercutio*) is very excited to be bringing the Bard's words to the Genesis stage. He has performed in over fifty shows in his lifetime, but this is his first experience acting in one of Shakespeare's plays (besides the occasional scenework in college classes at Muhlenberg). You may have seen him previously on the Genesis stage as Jigger in *Carousel*, Leo Frank in *Parade*, or as any number of interesting characters over the years. Come back later in the season to him play the title role in *Bat Boy*. Philippe hopes to pursue a career in acting. He was previously employed at Borders bookstores until the location closed and is currently looking for a job to support his love of acting! "It's been an amazing experience to work with one of my closest friends as my director. Perhaps one day our roles shall be reversed."

**Brigid Moser** (*Balthasar*) is very happy to be a part of this *Romeo & Juliet* production. She is currently part of the Yocum Institute's Theater Ensemble and has had the opportunity to play many roles in summer library tours, improv shows, and community theater. She has also worked on special projects like *Our Voices*, a collaborative piece with Berks Women in Crisis. She has experienced many different types of theatre, like movement theatre and improvisation, and worked with theatre companies, such as Metamorphosis Performing Company

and Massive Theatre company. She is a sophomore at Wyomissing Area High School. Some past roles include Leslie in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, Mouse in *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, and Swill in *How I Became a Pirate*. Break a Leg!

**Kathy Newville** (*Nurse*) is excited about being a part of this lovely cast and telling this woeful tale of love gone terribly wrong. You might of seen her last year as Mrs. Coffman in *Come Back Little Sheba*, and she has stage-managed many a show within these walls. She also played Sue in *All My Sons* and Mrs. Almond in *The Heiress*, both at Reading Community Players. Recently she had the opportunity to play six different roles in a rendition of *Bill W. And Dr. Bob* at Easy Does It as a fundraiser for that institution in February. Congratulations to Kira and all who worked on this show, what fun we have had. Rob, just a little....

**Jennifer Pors** (*Lady Capulet*) has played many roles on stage and behind the scenes over the last few years. In the past she has worked as an intern at Allentown Civic Theatre, head Scenic Artist at Muhlenberg College and recently directed the Fleetwood Middle School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Some of Jennifer's favorite shows have been: *A Man of No Importance*, *Metamorphosis* and *1776*. Jennifer will be going back to school in fall for her Masters in Art Education. She is excited to be part of yet another Genesis Theatre production, and looks forward to many more.

**Brandon Reimer** (*Romeo*) is a senior at Exeter Township High School. Last season at Genesis, he portrayed Beethoven in *Dog Sees God*. For Exeter, he has played roles such as Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, Michael Barnes in *The Male Animal*, and the Wizard in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Once he graduates this June, he plans to attend school in Pittsburgh for filmmaking.

**Benjamin Ruth** (*Paris/Abram*) is happy to return to Genesisus after his last appearance as Thomas Jefferson in the musical *1776*. Other Genesisus credits include designing the set of *HAIR* and the logo for *Bottoms Up*. Ben has also done mask design and production for RCP's presentation of *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and portrayed Lord Damian MacDonovan (a character he created) at various attractions such as *Terry Hill Water Park presents Terror Hill* and, for the past two years, Dorney Park & Wild Water Kingdom's annual *Halloween Haunt*. A fan of swordplay and swashbuckling films his whole life, this is the first production in which he has choreographed stage combat and would like to thank his friend Brian Lilley for his help in putting it all together.

**Danielle Shatto** (*Benvolio*) is a senior at Schuylkill Valley High School looking forward to a career in the medical field. Although she can not sing, back in middle school she performed in the musical *How To Eat Like A Child*, and *17 Girls and A Boy Who Won't Sing*, a musical written by a teacher. She has done plays in school, landing a role in *The Crucible* and another play written and published by her English teacher. This is her first performance at Genesisus Theatre.

**Becca Snyder** (*Juliet*) is ecstatic to be involved with this production! Some of Becca's favorite shows include; *Carousel* (Louise), *Parade* (Iola Stover), *Guys and Dolls Jr.* (Hot Box Dancer/ Student Director), *Really Rosie* (Rosie), at Genesisus, *Groovy* (Iris), *High School Musical* (Gabriella) at Conrad Weiser Middle School, *The Sound of Music* (Marta) at Reading Civic Theatre, and *Annie* (Annie) at the Fulton Theatre. Becca would like to thank her family for helping her through this process, especially her sister, Emily, who helped her from the start. She would also like to thank Richard and Kathy, who gave her endless advice about

how to tackle the world of Shakespeare. Lastly, Becca would like to thank Kira for believing in her since the beginning of this process, and is honored that she has the chance to work with her role model once again.

**Rob Wickstrom** (*Tybalt*) This is Rob's first appearance in a Genesisus production. His prior Shakespearean credit was as Francis Flute in ESU's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He teaches Language Arts at Exeter High School.

**Kira Apple** (*Director*) studied English Literature (including Shakespeare) at Kutztown University, and received her Bachelor's degree in 2009. Her great love, besides reading, is performing in live theatre, and she thanks the many local performance groups who have allowed her to enjoy that passion year after year: Fleetwood Community Theatre, Reading Community Players, Reading Civic Theatre, Alpha/Omega Players, Oley Valley High School, The Fall Festival of the Arts, and Genesisus. Kira is currently in the process of opening a new & used book shop in the heart of West Reading, The Wise Owl Bookstore. "Shakespeare is only one of the many influential and powerful authors out there -- I encourage all who attend and love his words to seek out new, exciting works to enrich and color your lives!"

## Show Recap: *The Fantasticks*

GENESIUS THEATRE OPENED its 40th season with a look back at its beginnings. *The Fantasticks* was the first show presented by the newly-formed Genesis Theatre in its former home at 711 Penn St. back in 1971.

This 40th anniversary production, a gentle reminder of a simpler time when a charming love story was told via hummable tunes, was helmed by Kirk Lawrence and Chuck Gallagher. Kevin Cooper, Katie Ott, and Brandon Kegerize headed a strong cast.

And what a joy it was for Mr. Lawrence to work with Robert Moyer - in the role of Henry, the old actor. Their history extends back to Kirk's first show at Genesis in 1975, *Peter Pan*, in which Mr. Moyer played Capt. Hook to Mr. Lawrence's Lost Boy.

It was a trip down memory lane for many, and hopefully, fodder for many future memories for all involved. We hope you were a part of the experience.



*The Fantasticks*, directed by Kirk Lawrence and Chuck Gallagher, was presented March 4 - 13.

❶ Henry (Robert Moyer) and Mortimer (Jordan Baylor) ham it up in Mortimer's death scene.

❷ Luisa (Kathryn Ott) dreams of happy times.

*Photos by Shannan Denlinger.*





**1** Fathers Bellomy (Chuck Austin) and Hucklebee (Mike Pardo) “Plant a Radish”.

**2** El Gallo (Kevin J. Cooper) controls Matt (Brandon Kegerize).

**3** The Mute (Nicole Bucks) dazzles El Gallo with a shower of confetti.

*Photos by Shannan Denlinger.*

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BROADWAY AND OFF-BROADWAY musicals have come from many sources. Some are based on books, like *South Pacific* and *Les Miz*. Others have gotten their inspiration from movies, such as *Billy Elliot* and *The Wedding Singer*. *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and *Jersey Boys* are based on the lives of real people and *Follies* (or so the legend goes) was created after Hal Prince saw a picture in *Life* magazine of Gloria Swanson standing in the rubble of a demolished theatre. But the only musical that I can think of that was inspired by an article in the *National Enquirer* is our next production, *Bat Boy The Musical*.

*Bat Boy The Musical* tells the story of a bat child found living in a cave in West Virginia and the effect he has on the residents of the small town of Hope Falls. The show opened Off-Broadway in 2001 and was a huge success. Plans began to form about a move to Broadway but then 9/11 happened and Broadway felt

the effects. *Bat Boy The Musical* never made the move. Fortunately, regional theatres, colleges and community theatres all over the country discovered this zany, hysterical show which has audiences rolling in the aisles. I am thrilled to be able to bring this show to our audiences.

The extremely talented thirteen member cast includes Phil Levesque, Erin Stevens, John Browning, Rachel Himes, Dan Smith, Tama McConnell, Kirk Lawrence, Jordan Baylor, Marisa Hoover, Laura Kruse, Chuck Austin, James Barksdale and Randy Gerber. Many of the actors play multiple characters. We have men playing women; women playing men; and adults playing children. There is even a Greek god and some forest animals just to keep things lively.

Mark your calendars and don't miss this crazy, scary, toe tapping, delightful musical. And remember, "don't deny your beast inside".

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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

*The Me Nobody Knows*: May 13-15

### **Reading Community Players**

403 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA

www.rcptheatre.org

Tickets: 610-375-9106

*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.ephrataplayhouseinthepark.org

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*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

*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 Domino Players**

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

www.alb.edu/centerforthearts

Tickets: 610-921-7547

*Writers Block Party*: April 29 – May 2

### **Penn State Berks**

*Perkins Student Center Theater*  
Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, PA

www.bk.psu.edu/30926.htm

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Genesis is looking for donations  
of the following:

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

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magic!

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# Show Recap: *Love, Broadway*

by Faye Warmkessel

GENESIUS THEATRE WAS HONORED to once again be asked to perform at the Reading Public Museum as part of their Bagels, Bach and Beyond music series. When they asked us to perform on February 13th, the day before Valentines Day, the theme of our production became obvious – Broadway Love Songs.

Our production, *Love, Broadway*, featured a cast of over 30 people who sang show tunes that covered all aspects of love. A wonderful group of tweens and teens imagined a romantic future as they sang “I Can Hear the Bells,” from *Hairspray*. Peter Como, who returned to Genesisius after a 20 year hiatus,

wowed the audience with the romantic *Some Enchanted Evening*. Some of the comedic aspects of love were revealed by Brandon Kegerize and Christian Ferlazzo as they sang “Therapy,” from *Tick Tick Boom*. The production concluded with an amazing 12 minute medley of Broadway love songs arranged by Andy Cusano.

*Love, Broadway* was directed by Faye Warmkessel. Holly Altenderfer was the musical director and Abbe Dillon was the producer of the show. The performance was sold out nearly a week before the show. The entire audience seemed to enjoy Genesisius Theatre’s Musical Valentine.

1



*Love, Broadway*, directed by Faye Warmkessel, was presented February 13 at the Reading Public Museum as part of the “Bagels & Bach” series.

- ❶ Linda Reedy dazzles with her powerful version of “Fifty Percent”.
  - ❶ *Opposite page:* Jenny Parker Scott reflects as Ray Warmkessel performs “I’ll Never Fall In Love Again”.
- Photos by Shannan Denlinger.*



**2** Female cast members harmonize on a lovely Broadway favorite.  
**3** Male performers entertain the Reading Public Museum's guests at "Bagels & Bach".

*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 bridged 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 spoke to our innocence, our hope, our quest for love, and the necessities of reality. This show began 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 is 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 is 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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# Membership Matters

by Brian Fichthorn

...BECAUSE SO MANY of our members over the years have used the Genesis stage to experiment and grow as artists at the beginning of their careers.

Our co-founder Michael O'Flaherty is now musical supervisor of the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut.

Veteran Broadway dancer Michael Kubala stretched his wings on our stage as a young man.

More recently artist manager and former jazz artist Liza Lee was part of many of our children's productions before she went off to

New York to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.

Recent West Chester grad Dan Pardo has directed pit orchestras at Genesis as a high school student and is now assistant to the music director at Goodspeed.

We are proud to turn our stage to Kira Apple to conduct her first experience as a director. Kira, already known as a vocal powerhouse on our stage, is a dedicated student of William Shakespeare and brings to life her vision of *Romeo and Juliet*.

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