

THE THESPIAN

Portland Civic Players

Spring 2016
Ruth Ann Frederick, Editor



A Continuing History of the Portland Civic Players...

by Ruth Ann Peake



Winding up 1962, the play *Girls in 509* was presented as the next possible play. They had other plays in mind too, but that was the top selection (we finally did do the show, as the first one on the stage that we built after we bought the Sun Theatre in 1971 and did it again in 2001 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of buying the theatre).

They finally decided that *Life With Father* would probably be easier to stage, and they did that show in spring of 1963.

It continued to be a problem to find a place suitable to perform the plays, thinking they could ask about using the Sun Theatre (which they didn't realize didn't even have a stage) and the Portland High School for future plays.

John Kortess, who owned the Sun Theatre, did say they could rent the theatre, but they would have to build a stage. St. Patrick's School would be the stage used for *Life With*, and they were very glad to have the space rented ahead of starting rehearsals.

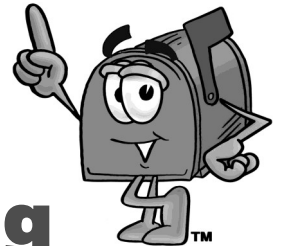
One thing that was decided to help promote *Life With Father* - any red-headed children under 12 would be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Don't know how many came in, but it was inventive.

They decided to present a melodrama *No, No, A Million Times No* at the Ionia Reform School and also might visit the Ionia Prison with the same play. Everyone was anxious to take a show on the road. Talk started about doing a big musical *Finnian's Rainbow*, and the preparation and casting for that show would start in order to do the show by fall of 1964.

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Sign Up and WIN Email Subscription Drawing



The Portland Civic Players would like to improve our communication with you, so we're holding a subscription drive to build our email distribution list. You'll know when auditions are held and get updates on special events, but we promise you won't be inundated with emails.

To encourage folks to subscribe, we're asking you to email portlandcivicplayers@gmail.com to be entered into a drawing* for a **\$25 VISA gift card** to spend at the store or restaurant of your choice.

It's so easy . . .

♦Type **SIGN ME UP!** in the subject line.



Theater Manager's Report

Events at the Theater:

- *Soap Dish* played in March 2015
- Friends of Red Mill Comedy Night played to a full house in April 2016
- Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe with Liam and the Giant Leprechaun also packed the house in April 2016

Needs This Spring:

- Marquee touch up and cleaning
- Exterior power wash, tuck pointing and paint
- Front doors sanded and resealed

All repair work from last June's tornado has been completed. This included re-blocking the rear west corner, adding eaves trough and flashing, fixing roof holes, cleaning carpet backstage, resetting the AC units, repairing electrical conduit, and fixing the marquee drain. We have been blessed with individuals in need of public service hours asking to do minor maintenance projects under the supervision of the manager.

Coming soon...

Summer Theater

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Registration will start at the beginning of May. Subscribe to our email list to get the latest news.
- Summer Theater this year will run from June 13-July 24.

Director Spotlight



Devann started Summer Theatre when she was nine year old, so she's pretty lucky no one has kicked her out yet. She was a participant from 2002-2010 and says the productions she was in during Summer Theatre as some of her favorites of all time. From a maid in "The Secret Garden" to the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz" (with more than a few sassy secretaries in various productions throughout), Devann counts this program as one of the most beneficial in making her the enthusiastic and positive adult she is today. After graduating from Portland High School in 2011, Devann took a year off from theatre before realizing that was the worst decision she had ever made and coming back to direct for Summer Theatre in 2012. She most recently directed "James and the Giant Peach", though her favorite production she's directed with Summer Theatre so far would have to be "Charlotte's Web". Having just graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in teaching Middle School English, Devann is excited to come back for another amazing summer working with the talented young people of our community and continuing to spread the ever-infectious theatre bug she had the grace of being bitten by 14 years ago.



The Portland Civic Players Production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater, book by Doug Wright, is based on Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker & Ron Clements, originally produced by Disney Theatrical Productions. DISNEY'S LITTLE MERMAID is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIshows.com

Big News!! The Portland Civic Players will be producing Disney's *The Little Mermaid* this fall! We are super excited to bring this amazing show to our community! Keep an eye on our page and share far and wide. Information will be coming all summer long. Here is the latest: Auditions have been scheduled for August 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. at the theater (231 Maple St. Portland). For ages 13 and up. Bring a prepared piece of music with a backing track (required). There are multiple roles for various ages. ALSO we will be holding a separate dance audition on August 27 at 10 a.m. There are several dance numbers in the show. More information on that separately later. The show dates are November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13. Any questions please email Mary Teachout at theatrerat01@gmail.com or Anne Eddy at eddyanne1@gmail.com

Sponsorships Available

VIP—\$500 sponsor gets a full-page ad in the play program and 4 complimentary tickets. Sponsor's logo will be displayed prominently at the shows and featured on the cast T-shirts or sweatshirts.

Gold—\$100 sponsor gets a full-page add in the play program and 4 complimentary tickets.

Silver—\$50 sponsor gets half-page ad in the play program and 2 complimentary tickets.

Bronze—\$25 sponsor gets a business card sized ad in the play program.

The cast and crew of the Portland Civic Players' spring production performed *Soap Dish* in March. Written by Robert Harling and adapted for the stage by Dr. Roger Miller, *Soap Dish* is a comedy that tells the backstage story of a cast and crew of a popular fictional television soap opera.

Celeste Talbert (Sara Pohl) has been the queen of the soaps for over twenty years. Her ambitious costar Montana Moorehead (Becki Stopczynski-Mariage) connives with the show's director David Barnes (Josh Arleth) to sidetrack Celeste's career and move herself into the spotlight. They conspire to bring back Jeffery Anderson (Clay Ramsey), an old love interest of Celeste's, and introduce a new, cute, young actress named Lori Craven (Jazlyn Sweet). Things, however, do not go quite as planned both on and off the set.

Rounding out the cast are Maci Baker, CJ Day, Quincy Griffes, Sophie Griffes, Deb Hattis, Bobbie Hoskins, Ray Hoskins, Bryson Krieger, Roger Miller, Chris Peake, Eric Proctor, and Donna Sines. The play was directed by Dr. Roger Miller, assisted by Eric Proctor and Clay Ramsey.

PORTLAND CIVIC PLAYERS

Soap Dish

by Robert Harling
Adapted for the stage & directed by Dr. Roger Miller
Assistant Directors: Eric Proctor & Clay Ramsey

March 11, 12, 18 & 19 7:30pm
March 13 3:00pm
(517) 647-4041
PortlandCivicPlayers.com

Meet the PCP Board



- President, John Tannery



- Vice President, Roger Miller

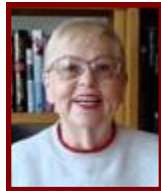


- Secretary, Ruth Ann Frederick

- Co-Treasurers, Ruth Ann Peake & Louise Hill

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- Rick Bengel
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Contact Us

www.portlandcivicplayers.com

Portland Civic Players

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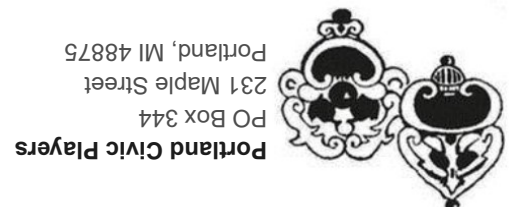
Theater Manager:

Shelley Perry (616) 558-5863



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