

November/December 2006

# STAGE WHISPERS

A newsletter for members and friends of Brunswick ACT

## Christmas Comedy Opens December 8

Rehearsals are in progress for our first major show of the season. We will be presenting Barbara Robinson's classic story, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, on December 8, 9, and 10 at Skyview Lodge.

The show is a delightful and touching holiday comedy that charms both adults and children. In the story, the yearly local Christmas pageant may be headed for disaster when the "worst kids in town" show up at auditions and get parts. Everyone is surprised by what they have to offer to rehearsals and to the show.

ACT presented this production in 1996 and again in 2002. Now we can let a whole new "generation" of kids enjoy this super show. While the title suggests this is a children's show, adults find it to be just as engaging as children in the audience do. The cast is a multi-generational one and is as much fun for the adult cast members as it is for the young people.

The show is being directed by **Stayce Nabors**. **Nancy Sprowls** is the producer, and **Gary Bewley** will be overseeing technical committees. **Ken Chamers** will be the business manager.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 & under, and may be

purchased at those prices by mail with the form in this newsletter. Tickets may also be purchased online through our website at [www.brunswickact.org](http://www.brunswickact.org). Seating is limited so the early purchase of tickets is advised.

### Christmas Pageant "Alumni" News

Our two previous productions of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* delighted



holiday audiences and featured a number of terrific performers. We've received lots of recent news about those who appeared in our past productions of *Christmas Pageant*, and we thought you might be interested in hearing the latest.

**Hanna Laird** has graduated from college, and after performing at Cain Park, the Beck Center and other

Cleveland area theatres, has landed a professional role in *Finding Nemo* at Disney World in Florida.

**Katie League** has graduated from B-W, is working in Cleveland in the City-Year program, and is currently cast in a Cassidy Theatre show. **Jeff League** (the younger) is a freshman at Ohio University, and twin sister **Lissie** is a freshman at Toledo.

**Alissa Bica**, who also graduated from college, is living and auditioning in New York, where she just landed a part in *The One Night Stand Chronicles* in the One Act Festival at the Manhattan Repertory Theatre Company.

BHS student, **Faith Senkar**, who appeared in our 1996 production, and her brothers and mother are all still busy making music. Both Faith and her mother, **Pat Senkar** were in our production of *Oliver*.

**Crystal Boykin**, from our 2002 production, whose name showed up in the newspaper many times for scholastic honors while she was in high school, is now a college student. Also in the 2002 production were **Linda Ingram**, **Denise Daugherty**, **Walter Hay**, **Mike Yonkura**, and **Art Fenton**, who have all performed in ACT shows in the last year.

# A LETTER FROM ACT

Dear  
Theatre Friends  
and Supporters:

We are excited about the 2006-2007 season of Brunswick ACT. It is the 19th season of shows produced in Brunswick by our company. The ACT Board of Directors believes you will be excited and enthusiastic about this season's offerings, too. We have aimed for scheduling shows with a wide appeal and great variety. We are excited, too, about a brand new location for many of our shows - Skyview Lodge - with a stage especially constructed for ACT shows. We know our audiences will love it - and love the special things we will be able to do there.

Our 2006-2007 season is a full one. Earlier this fall, we participated in the 4th Annual Walk with Spirits of the Past, which was presented in cooperation with the Medina County Arts Council and The Brunswick Historical Society, and with the support of Brunswick City. Our next event will be in partnership with OPUS, the organization of parents of high school orchestra members, as we stage a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre at Skyview Lodge on Friday, November 3. Then, our first major production of the year will be *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* on December 8, 9, and 10 followed by Woody Allen's hilarious comedy *Don't Drink the Water* on March 23, 24, 30, and 31, 2007. We will end the season with the beautiful musical production of *The Secret Garden* on July 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2007.

You know that a community theatre occupies a special place in community life. Such theatres are

built upon the premise that a city is more than just a place to sleep and work. It is a place to enjoy life - to be entertained and inspired, to participate in the creative arts, and to share in a social and cultural life with our families, friends, and neighbors. Contributions from colleagues and supporters are essential to supporting a community theatre in our city. Without your help, we cannot create the quality of production that is our goal for Brunswick ACT.

We certainly want you to purchase tickets as audience members, but we need more help than that. Theatre is expensive and ticket sales alone will not cover all the production costs. As past and present participants, as past ticket purchasers, or as financially contributing community friends and businesses, your contribution is an important part of helping our theatre. When you contribute, your name is listed in all of our season programs. We would love to see your name listed as a special theatre patron.

Please join us in helping our growing theatre company celebrate its new season. Your gift may be sent in the form of a check made out to Brunswick Alumni Community Theatre and mailed to Brunswick ACT, P.O. Box 600, Brunswick, OH 44212.

Sincerely,

The Brunswick ACT Financial  
Committee

## ACT's Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Rides Again

There's still time to purchase your tickets for our next Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre night at Skyview Lodge on Friday, November 3 as OPUS (the Orchestra Parents United Support organization at Brunswick High School) stages a fictional dinner meeting of "The Cudham Riding Club."

The mystery will begin when the death of the esteemed Chairwoman, Lady Amanda Cudham, has made the vote on a new leader urgent business even though the members mourn her passing. Murder is suspected, so investigative agents will be present to interview suspects. Meanwhile, the club will be anxiously awaiting the results of a famous local horse race, because many of the club's members own horses running in the contest, and others have bets and "high financial risks" involved. The suspense is heightened by the presence of many very "shady" characters and other members of the club, who may have benefited by the murder.

OPUS, who is being helped with the production by ACT, is providing some of the actors and has issued invitations to interested ticket buyers who would like to play parts. We have been informed that **Mr. Eric Berken**, orchestra director, will play a major role, his first since he acted in an ACT production in our early years.

Tickets are \$25. The evening begins when the doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Penny Carrick, OPUS Chair of the dinner event, at 330-220-0729. Please leave a message on the answering machine if needed, and your call will be returned promptly.

# Chatterbox

## Hall of Famers

One of our former actors, Ted Cieslak, and his brother, Paul, are soon to be inducted into the Brunswick High School Hall of Fame. Ted and Paul, both medical doctors, are to be members of the first group to be inducted on December 2, 2006. Both Ted, a Colonel in the army, and Paul, who works for the Center for Disease Control in Seattle, were active in drama and speech team activities. They appeared in many high school productions while attending BHS. Ted was home in Brunswick one summer long enough to appear in *George Washington Slept Here*, one of ACT's earliest shows. Kudos to both of them. Their sister, Dianne, was also in early ACT productions.

## Who's Doing What And Where?

### Medieval Fun

Shawn Skeabeck and Nancy Sprowls are both working as consultants for a project in the Buckeye School District who will be presenting a *Boar's Head Festival*, with all the medieval trimmings, food, and music, on December 2, 2006. Tickets are \$25. Call 330-725-7530 for more information.



### Wild Christmas

Bob Kenderes will direct *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* at Royalton Players. Production dates are Dec 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16. The play is by Christopher Durang. Bob just played Van Helsing in *Dracula* last month in Strongsville.

**ACT** now gives you *three* easy ways to purchase tickets:  
mail-in reservations (use form below),  
by phone at 330-558-0376,  
or online at [www.brunswickact.org](http://www.brunswickact.org)



## Get Your Tickets Now!

### Brunswick ACT's Holiday Comedy "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

by Barbara Robinson

**Friday and Saturday,  
December 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m.**

**Skyview Lodge  
336 Pearl Road, Brunswick, OH 44212**

Adults \$7, Children (12 & under) \$5  
Call 330-558-0376 for more ticket information.

Make your check payable to:  
Brunswick Alumni Community Theatre

Mail to:  
P.O. Box 600 Brunswick, OH 44212  
Deadline for mail-in reservations: November 24

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check.

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone (very important):		

Date:	Price	Qty.	Amount
Adults	\$7		
Children	\$5		
Total amount enclosed			

# ACT Gets New Home

We are very happy to announce a brand new location for many of our shows, Skyview Lodge, at 336 Pearl Road in Brunswick. We've been using the Lodge for many rehearsals and meetings during the last year when increasing activities at the Rec Center made scheduling rehearsals a major problem, leaving us with constantly shifting locations and schedules that were too confusing for actors and crew.

The Lodge has welcomed us, and there are plans to build a stage for ACT which should be in place for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. As plans proceed, the stage will have special new curtains, lighting, and sound.

We plan to do some performances in a dinner theatre format and some in the murder mystery dinner style, such as our upcoming event on November 3. (Read more on that event elsewhere in this newsletter.)

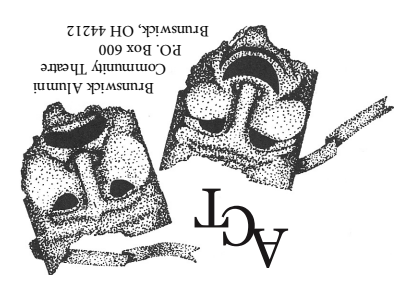
We will still return to the Rec Center from time to time and use the school facilities depending on our schedules and show requirements. Meanwhile, be sure to plan on getting tickets for shows in our new Skyview location.

# Give a Gift to ACT

With the holidays upon us, gift-giving will soon be in the air. Some of you may not have received our annual letter seeking patron donations for the new season. Your gift of \$10 and up will list you in our programs as a "Friend," \$25 or more as "Patron," \$50 and up as "Producer," and brand new this year, \$100 or more will make you an "Angel."

You may also contribute any amount to our sound equipment fund. (We are extremely grateful to last year's performers who let us borrow personal equipment.) If you'd like to give, send a check to Brunswick ACT, print your name as you would like it to appear in our program, and mail to ACT, P.O. Box 600, Brunswick, OH 44212.

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- **ACT Coming Attractions 2006-2007** •
- Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre •
- November 3 •
- *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* •
- December 8, 9 and 10 •
- Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water* •
- March 23, 24, 30, and 31 •
- The Hit Musical, *The Secret Garden* •
- July 13, 14, 20, and 21 •
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