

# THE TATTOOED EWES

rochester's  
**Black Sheep**  
theatre  
coalition

**COMPLIMENTARY COPY**  
**april 2007**

## **Welcome ...!**

**Hello friends** and welcome to the very first of many newsletters for Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre Coalition! Inside you'll find news of what we've been doing, what we're currently doing, and what we'll be doing soon. If you're interested in attending one of our events, auditioning for one of our shows or helping our organization grow in some other way, all the information you need is right here! Since this is our first issue, we invite your comments about how we can improve *The Tattooed Ewe!* Please, let us know what you think!

## **First Annual Wine Tasting a Big Hit!**

March 2006 - The Rochester Contemporary Art Gallery was host to RBSTC's first annual "Wild and Woolly Wine Tasting" fund raiser! About 40 guests were in attendance to sample the wines from Clubhouse Liquors and indulge in the scrumptious appetizers and desserts prepared by Barb Sadowski of Tastefully Simple and Wegman's food stores. The Woolytes were on hand to perform a few Irish favorites, and Spot Coffee graciously donated alternative libations. Said one wine-goer, "I've never had so much fun standing up!"



**Get your commemorative Black Sheep Theatre wine glasses!** Just \$8 each or a set of FOUR for \$30. Call 585-746-7616 for details.

## **Black Sheep Stages Two Great Play Readings**

### ***Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All For You***

Two staged readings will be held on April 27 & 28 at 8:00 pm at the RoCo Art Gallery, 137 East Avenue. *Sister Mary Ignatius* is one of Christopher Durang's best known and well loved plays. Starring local diva Diane Chevron as Sister Mary, this play explores the nature of religious beliefs and their effect on the human condition, especially when those beliefs are fanatical. While giving a lecture on Catholicism, Sister Mary is visited by four former students with a hidden agenda and unforeseeable results. Now "in life" rather than school, her students have found things aren't always as black and white as Sister Mary made them out to be. Witty, intelligent, sad, with a surprise ending, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All For You* is not one to be missed. Directed by Meredith Powell. Starring Diane Chevron, Vince Dalba, Anthony Gerardi, Amanda Kellogg, Louie Podlaski and Beth Winslow.

### ***Miss Julie***

Two more readings will be held on May 11 & 12 at 8:00 pm at the RoCo Art Gallery, 137 East Avenue. August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* is a classic story about an independent, single, upper-class woman – Miss Julie – carrying on a torrid affair with her valet, Jean. Written in a day when it was unacceptable for the upper class to marry the lower class, never mind having affairs with them, and unthinkable for women to control their own sexuality, *Miss Julie* caused a sensation in its first staging, and was banned in many European countries until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Intense and gripping, this one-act play examines the strange love-hate relationship between Miss Julie and Jean, and the ultimate humiliation and tragic consequences of their liaison. Directed by Gina Menzer-Kunz. Starring Kara Infantolino, Rick Staropoli, Christine Wade and Christopher Woods.

The ticket price for each staged reading is pay-what-you-like, with a suggested donation of \$5-\$10. Reservations are strongly recommended, as seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling Diane Mashia at 585-746-7616.

## Calling All Actor-Types!

Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre Coalition announces **AUDITIONS** for *The Water Engine* by David Mamet

April 30 & May 1 at 7:00 pm at the RoCo Art Gallery, 137 East Avenue, Rochester

A dark thriller set in 1930's Chicago, the show revolves around Charles Lang and his attempts to get a patent for an engine he's invented - an engine that runs on water. When the lawyer whom the inventor approaches brings in a colleague with questionable motives, Charles and his sister, Rita, find themselves wondering who they're actually dealing with, and to what lengths these people will go to gain control of the water engine. By the time Charles contacts a reporter from the Chicago Daily News to tell his story, the police are after him - as well as the "lawyers" - and he is beyond saving. Soon the Lang siblings are caught in a dangerous web that leads to the destruction of the engine, kidnapping, blackmail, and ultimately murder.

Directed by Meredith Powell, this show has a large cast with parts for: 7 men, aged 30s-60s; 1 man, teens-20s; 1 boy, under 15; 3 women, aged 20s-40s; 1 woman, aged 40s-60s; and 1 girl, under 15. Monologues are optional, though if you haven't auditioned for us before, please prepare a one to two minute monologue. There will be heavy doubling of all roles.

Rehearsals will begin in early May with performance dates of July 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14. Contact Meredith Powell at 585-755-5988 to obtain a copy of the script.

## Who are **The Woolytes**, anyway?

Glad you asked! The Woolytes are Black Sheep Theatre's very own "a cappella" singing group (that means they sing without accompanying music). The group has been singing together since



*Meredith Powell and Vince Dalba perform with The Woolytes.*

October of 2006, when they did their first live concert for the Pittsford-Mendon High School Girls' and Boys' Varsity Basketball Teams in November, down at Beaver Hollow Conference Center in Java Center, NY. The campfire program, entitled, "The Woolyte's Hoary, Gory, Story Hour" was a hit with students and coaches alike.

The Woolytes would love to have you sing with them! If you are interested in auditioning for the group (and you don't need to read music!), please contact Artistic Director, Meredith Powell at 585-755-5988 for more information.

### **How to Pick a (Good) Audition Monologue**

*By Meredith Powell, Artistic Director*

Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre Coalition

A lot of actors dread preparing a monologue for auditions. Where can you find one without buying 100 books? How do you pick one that your director hasn't heard 100 times? And how can you make sure it's the right one for you?

**Read the play.** You must decide if you're right for the play and the part before you audition. Not everyone is cut out for tragedy and not everyone has the timing for comedy - that's just the truth of things.

**Know your strengths.** Look for monologues that show them off. If you're not sure whether a monologue is right for you, "audition" for friends or family and get their feedback. If they don't like your comedic monologues, you may not be right for *Plaza Suite*. Wait for auditions for *Equus*.

**Exhaust your resources.** There are lots of places to find monologues these days: the Internet, the library, the bookstore. So if you can't find one, you're not looking hard enough. Every actor should have a repertoire of good monologues to turn to at a moment's notice, but you want to keep learning new material so you aren't using the same piece for every play. Look, look and look some more. Don't settle for a piece that's just "okay." Find something that really knocks your socks off. You'll have a better chance of knocking *their* socks off. This is the director's first impression of you; make it a good one!

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
BLACK SHEEP'S

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

YARD SALE AND CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE

FRI., JUNE 15 AND SAT. JUNE 16

26 KERRY PARK, PITTSFORD

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

CALL 585-746-7616

## Pay it Forward

*Conserving Earth's Natural Resources*

March 2006 - RBSTC strives to be a theatre "with a conscience." To that end, our Mission and Charter Values have been drafted to include efforts to raise awareness and call others to action on a variety of local and global issues. As part of our March 15 "Wild and Woolly Wine Tasting," The Woolytes performed a version of Lorena McKennett's "Bonny Portmore." A portion of the proceeds from our sale of wine glasses also went to benefit Ireland's Native Woodland Trust.

### The Great Oak of Portmore

This magnificent ornamental stood on the property of Portmore Castle on the shore of Lough Beg, in the northeast corner of Ireland, and most of it has been destroyed and lost forever. Old Growth trees like the Great Oak of Portmore are being harvested from rain forests and deciduous woodlands all over the world, including the Amazon Basin in South America, the Congo Basin in Africa and the Pacific Northwest of North America.

The destruction of old growth forests has become an important conservation issue in recent years, but it is not a new phenomenon. Over the centuries many of Ireland's old oak forests were leveled for military and shipbuilding purposes. Only recently has there been an effort to reestablish these great hardwoods.

You can help protect the Earth's natural resources including Old Growth Forests by contacting one or more of the following:

- For world conservation efforts, including the Democratic of the Congo, please visit: [www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/forests](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/forests)
- For conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest of America and British Columbia, please visit: [www.conservationnw.org](http://www.conservationnw.org)
- For Ireland's Native Woodland Trust: <http://www.nativewoodtrust.ie/>

## Black Sheep "In the Wings"

*Sister Mary Ignatius  
Explains it All For You*  
by Christopher Durang  
April 27 & 28

*Miss Julie*  
by August Strindberg  
May 11 & 12

RoCo Auction  
June 22

*The Water Engine*  
by David Mamet  
July 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, & 14

## YOUR AD HERE

ASK ABOUT OUR  
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585.746.7616  
[info@blacksheeptheatre.org](mailto:info@blacksheeptheatre.org)

BE "SCENE"  
WITH BLACK SHEEP!

## Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre Coalition Board of Directors

Artistic Director – Meredith Powell  
Secretary/Treasurer – Kathy Clay  
Membership Directors – Troy Sullivan and Amanda Kellogg  
Education Director – open

John Clay  
Vince Dalba  
Jennifer Rybak  
Jim Toepper

Managing Director – Diane Mashia  
Technical Kahuna – Kevin Swift  
Publicity Director – Liz Novak  
Community Responsibility Liaison – open

### And for RoCo

Elizabeth Switzer – Programming Director  
Robin Jaeckel – Operations Director

*Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre is a coalition of performing and visual artists promoting education and community service through the fine arts. We are in residence at the Rochester Contemporary Art Gallery (RoCo) on East Avenue in the City of Rochester. [www.rochestercontemporary.org](http://www.rochestercontemporary.org). For more information, please call 585-746-7616 or [info@blacksheeptheatre.org](mailto:info@blacksheeptheatre.org)*

## What Have We Been Up To?

*Black Sheep actors Meredith Powell, Diane Mashia and Jonathan Ntheketha entertain guests at the YMCA's Red Carpet "Mission Possible" Celebration at the Doubletree Hotel.*



November 2006 – Black Sheep Theatre's improv actors, "Some Assembly Required" provided entertainment and a bit of "hero worship" at the YMCA's Gala Awards Dinner Celebrating Their "Mission Possible" fund raising campaign. The actors mixed it up with "celebrity" guests as they walked the Red Carpet in style, took photos and begged for autographs. Taking part were Meredith Powell, Jonathan Ntheketha, Stephanie Paredes, Ed Scutt, Ellen Sands, Kevin Swift, Diane Mashia, Jim Toepper, Meredith Graham, Tony Gerardi and Jillian Christiansen. Colleen Fien of the YMCA said, "We really appreciate the opportunity to make our volunteers and staff feel special. Black Sheep Theatre did a fantastic job!" "Some Assembly Required" is available for private parties and corporate events for fun and education, too!

## YOUR AD HERE!

BE "SCENE" BY OUR LOYAL FOLLOWING OF AVID READERS

*ASK ABOUT OUR REASONABLE ADVERTISING RATES*

585.746.7616

[info@blacksheeptheatre.org](mailto:info@blacksheeptheatre.org)

## IMHO

*(In My Humble Opinion)*

*Theatre Review by John Clay*

Alive and well since 1983 and currently residing in three separate cozy venues in beautiful downtown Rochester is the Downstairs Cabaret Theater. Under the guidance of its producing director, Christopher Kowalski, DCT has staged many musicals, comedies, dramas and new works for the enjoyment of area audiences. The DCT's newest production, "Self Help: the Comedy," stars two very talented and funny women. Debbie Kasper has written for *Roseanne* and *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*. Sheila Kay is two time American Comedy Award nominee. Together they form a dynamite team known as Marge Middlebury and Barb Biedelmeyer who, with tongue in cheek, guide the audience through "Venus Goldfarb's Love Goddess Workshop." Each woman plays multiple outrageous characters who attempt to give us the secrets to success. The whole evening is a good-natured spoof of currently popular self-help seminars. The Marge and Barb seminar is aimed primarily at the women in the audience, but it has plenty of chuckles for the husbands and significant others. So bring them along and they too can be a goddess (or god) in training.

## Black Sheep Membership

**Theatre ain't cheap!** Did you know one script for one actor can cost as much as \$21? Or that rights and royalties to perform a playwright's work can be anywhere from \$50 to \$200 *per performance*? That costumes must be made or rented (and dry-cleaned!) and can run in the thousands of dollars for one production?

You can help! Every dollar counts and your generous (tax-deductible) contribution becomes part of our legacy to provide quality theatre, service and educational programs. Please consider becoming a Black Sheep member and becoming part of a "Theatre with a Conscience."

**Studio Head - \$1000**

**Producer - \$500**

**Director - \$200**

**Playwright - \$100**

**Wandering Minstrel - \$50**

**Crew Member - \$20**

*Receive a variety of gifts and benefits with every donation!*

To give of your time, treasure or talent, please contact Troy or Amanda at [info@blacksheeptheatre.org](mailto:info@blacksheeptheatre.org).  
*Your gift is PRICELESS.*