

THE TATTOOED SHEEP

rochester's
Black Sheep
theatre
coalition

COMPLIMENTARY COPY
may 2007

“Sister Mary Ignatius” Saves the World! from sin and happiness ...

If you can laugh at yourself and look at extreme beliefs gone mad, Sister Mary would have had you howling. The play takes a satiric look at the Catholic faith, but can easily be about almost any form of religious fanaticism.

Set in the early 80's, Sister Mary (brilliantly played by Diane Chevron) is a teaching nun who begins by giving a lecture about her faith, the world and



Amanda Kellogg, Tony Gerardi, Beth Winslow, Diane Chevron, Meredith Powell, Louie Podlaski, and Vince Dalba starred in the reading.

her version of the way it works. Meanwhile, four former students, disillusioned by real life, return to seek revenge and embarrass her



for so callously treating them so early in childhood. Mayhem and violence ensue, and in the process, the poignant truth is told. Not for the faint-hearted or those who cannot separate fact from fiction, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it all For You* delivers some devilishly delicious food for thought ...

Ramblings from the A.D

by Meredith Powell, Artistic Director, RBSTC



To Be or Not To Be ... a Director

Ah, the director's chair! The shining wooden sides and canvas back with your name on it. The coveted master script and complete control over the “world” in which your actors will exist. Many actors toy for years with the idea of sitting in the fabled chair, waiting for the “right” script to come along. But is it all that it's cracked up to be? (Continued, p. 2)

Miss Julie: “Worlds Apart ... Bound by Desire”

Midsummer night, 1894, northern Sweden: The complex strictures of class bind a man and a woman. Miss Julie, the inexperienced but imperious daughter of the manor, deigns to dance at the servant's party. She's also drawn to Jean, a footman who is well-traveled, well-spoken, and doesn't behave obsequiously in the least. He is engaged to Christine, a servant, and while she sleeps, Jean and Miss Julie talk through the night in the kitchen. Part of the interlude is a power struggle; part is the bearing of souls. By dawn, Miss Julie and Jean long to break the chains of class and leave Sweden together. When Christine wakes and goes off to church, Jean and Miss Julie have some wrenching decisions to make.

Black Sheep's stage version of this modern classic stars Kara Infantolino as “Miss Julie,” Rick Staropoli as “Jean,” Christine Wade as “Christine” and Christopher Woods Marlin as the Narrator, and is deftly directed by Gina Menzer-Kunz. (Continued on p. 3)

Black Sheep Hosts Yard Sale

June 15 and 16, 2007: Black Sheep will hold it's first “Black Sheep: White Elephant” Sale, a yard sale and can and bottle drive to raise funds for our summer project, *The Water Engine*, by David Mamet, directed by Meredith Powell (see page 2 for a cast list).

“It should be a lot of fun,” said Diane Mashia, Black Sheep's Managing Director who is organizing the event. “We are looking for anything you don't want – you know what they say, ‘someone's junk is another one's treasure!’” Donations can be dropped off anytime the week of June 11, at **26 Kerry Park, Pittsford** (one block East of Pinnacle Road at Lehigh Station Road). The sale will be held at the same address. There will be lemonade and baked goods for sale as well. Items that fail to sell will be given to charity.

Announcing the Cast of *The Water Engine*

Black Sheep Theatre's summer production of David Mamet's *The Water Engine* has been cast and rehearsals have already begun!

Originally written as a radio play, the script presents unique challenges



(Not in order) Louie Podlaski – as Charles Lang; Gina Menzer-Kunz – as Rita ; Kim Niles-White – as Mrs. Wallace; JP Simpson – as Dave Murray; David Spiro – as Lawrence Oberman ; Christopher Woods – as Morton Gross; Chris Quinn – as Bernie; with Troy Sullivan, Christine Wade, Vince Dalba, Margaret Folwell, and Katherine Mueller each playing various roles.

for Director, Meredith Powell. She and Assistant Director, Beth Floro (pictured above)



will use pools of light and sound effects to enhance the action and stimulate the audience's imagination.

Sponsorships of *The Water Engine* are available starting at \$20, by calling (585) 746-7616. Tickets will be available starting in early June.



YOUR AD HERE!

BE "SCENE" BY OUR LOYAL FOLLOWING OF AVID READERS

Just \$44 for the entire year! (Prorated)

585.746.7616

info@blacksheeptheatre.org

Ramblings from the A.D (cont'd)

(from p.1) I'm about to head into directing my third show with more than a dozen people, where multiple actors are playing multiple characters. I just finished directing a staged reading and only gave myself one day to recover before jumping head first into our summer production, *The Water Engine*, so I can provide a very definite answer to that question: it depends. Directing is more work than you will ever do as an actor. When you're an actor, you have a few jobs – to learn your lines, blocking, and create the fullest, most believable character you can. When you're a director, you have a few more jobs than that – to make sure your actors know where they're walking, what their motivation is, what those lines they can't make sense of are referring to, what they're wearing, where the doors will be, how the set will look, when the lights will go on, what music will be playing in the background, how to keep everyone from ending up in a line or a traffic jam trying to get on and off stage ... **And** you have to be able to communicate your vision of the play effectively to everyone in the cast (who, by the way, you also have to select).

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Well, before you throw your hat into the ring to direct a show, keep in mind that directors can spend months studying a script before auditions even take place, so when the dreaded, "I don't understand what I mean when I'm saying this" finally comes up, we can work with the actors to figure out the answer. We have to schedule and hold auditions, then juggle the conflicts of who knows how many actors and come up with a rehearsal schedule. If we have friends in the cast, the lines between "friend/friend" and "director/actor" can blur. We have to hold production meetings so the costumer knows what our vision of the costumes are, the set designer knows what we want the sets to be, and the lighting and sound designers understand when we need those vital light and sound cues to occur. And if we're short staffed, the balance of the load can very easily fall on our shoulders. Oh yes, and we **have** to attend every rehearsal. At the end of the day, the actor/director might find they're so consumed with directing that acting quickly falls by the wayside. So if you think being Director sounds like something you want to try, start small. Begin with a staged reading, or a one act with a small cast. Unless you have a real need to be the top dog in a production that will consume your life (and possibly your living room) for two-plus months, you may just want to stay in front of the curtain, not behind it.

(If you think you've got what it takes and you want your big break as Director, contact Black Sheep Theatre at info@blacksheeptheatre.org to discuss the possibilities.)

Miss Julie (continued)

(from p. 1) The show is a staged reading, with two performances only, Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12. Show time is 8:00 p.m., at the Rochester Contemporary Art Gallery, 137 East Avenue, Rochester.

The ticket price is pay-what-you-can, 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.

Pay it Forward

The conflict in Darfur

From Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia

The **Darfur conflict** is an ongoing armed conflict which began in 2003 in the Darfur region of western Sudan, mainly between the Janjaweed, a militia group recruited from the tribes of the Abbala Rizeigat and the non-Baggara people of the region. The Sudanese government, while publicly denying that it supports the Janjaweed, has provided money and assistance and has participated in joint attacks with the group, systematically targeting the Fur, Zaghawa, and Massaleit ethnic groups in Darfur. The mass media and the U.S. government have described the conflict as both "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide," but The U.N. has declined to do so.

There are various estimates as to how many deaths have occurred in Darfur; however all sources concur that the range is within the hundreds of thousands. The U.N. estimates that the conflict has left as many as 450,000 dead from violence and disease, but Sudan's government claims that only 9,000 people have been killed. As many as 2.5 million are thought to have been displaced as of October 2006. In March 2007 the U.N. mission accused Sudan's government of orchestrating and taking part in "gross violations" in Darfur and called for urgent international action to protect civilians there.

You can help Black Sheep Theatre in their call to end the violence in Darfur. For more information, please visit www.darfur.org, an alliance of over 100 faith-based humanitarian and human rights organizations.

Black Sheep

In the Wings

Miss Julie
by August Strindberg
May 11 & 12

*Black Sheep's White
Elephant Sales*
June 15 & 16

RoCo Auction
June 22

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



**ROCHESTER
CONTEMPORARY**

**Absence / Excess / Loss
Now through May 20, 200**



"A stunning and interactive exhibit."

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*

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

Members at Large

John Clay Vince Dalba
Jennifer Rybak Jim Toepper

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. For more information, please call 585-746-7616 or info@blacksheeptheatre.org

AUDITION NOTICE

May 30, 2007: Black Sheep Theatre will hold open auditions for its September production of Philip Barry's ***The Philadelphia Story***. The cast calls for 9 men and 6 women of various ages, including a 14-year-old girl.

The story revolves around Tracy Lord (of the Philadelphia Lords), engaged to a successful young snob. A gossip weekly sends a reporter and photographer to report on the wedding arrangements. The two are then injected into the house by Tracy's brother, who hopes to divert attention from his (and Tracy's) father's romance with a Broadway dancer. When Tracy's ex-husband shows up, the emotional entanglements become even more complex, leading to too much wine at the pre-wedding party and a moonlight swim that leads to hilarity.

Auditions will be one night only, **Wednesday, May 30, 7:00 p.m.** at the Rochester Contemporary Art Gallery, 137 East Avenue, Rochester. Those who would like to audition but are unable to make it that night are *strongly encouraged* to call the **director, Diane Mashia**, at (585) 746-7616, to make other arrangements (*no monologue necessary; cold readings from the script only*).

This date is subject to change; watch your email for changes in schedule, if any.

IMHO

(In My Humble Opinion)

Theatre Review by John Clay, RBSTC Board of Directors

If you are in the midst of a love affair with live theater but want something different, it's not too late to head towards the Town of Penfield to see the Penfield Players' annual production of a melodrama: *Holder Posey the Felonious Photographer or Step into my Dark Room and We'll See what Develops* (at the Penfield Community Center; sponsored by the Penfield Parks & Recreation; for dates and show times call 585-340-8655).

As is normal, this melodrama focuses on the big three: the villain, "Holder Posey" (Jonathon Lewit); heroine (Brittany Gagen); and hero (Charles Green), who are appropriately and delightfully dastardly, demure and dapper, respectively. They are straight from central casting, mere "stock" characters dependent entirely on the actors' interpretations. Fortunately, they all come realistically to life, each having unique traits of their own and making the ridiculous plot almost believable.

An unusual (for a melodrama) but very effective technique is the use of two special characters, played by Maureen McHugh & Leslie Shroyer, who perform very much like a Greek chorus. They introduce the show and some of its characters, while commenting on the action and running an "off again-on again" feud, which remains an integral part of the humor in the show.

The rest of the cast deserves multiple plaudits. The stage time of each role varies, but the actors make their characters come to life and make the show very enjoyable. Kudos to everyone (from the playwright, Billy St. John to the Director, Nic Hambas)!

Black Sheep Recruitment Drive

We need your help! Rochester's Black Sheep Theatre Coalition is currently seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with our next two productions. We need help with costumes, set pieces, lighting and sound, hospitality and Stage Management. If you have experience and desire – or just plain enthusiasm, we'd love to hear from you!

Working in theatre can be fun and rewarding. Meet new people; enhance your creativity; build your communication and leadership skills; and see the show for free! We offer generous recognition and appreciation packages, and can provide references for job interviews. Students may even be able to receive course credit. You can volunteer for an hour or two, or help us with the entire production.

And of course, we can always use financial support! Theatre ain't cheap! One script for one actor can cost between \$7 and \$21. Performance rights and royalties run between \$40 and \$200 per performance. Costumes must be made, rented and dry-cleaned and that can cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars. And our rent and utilities bill is about \$1200 per production.

What are you waiting for? Membership donation packages start at just \$20 at the Crew level. All donors receive many exciting incentives and gifts in return. And your gift is tax deductible!

To give of your time, treasure or talent, please contact Troy or Amanda at info@blacksheeptheatre.org.

Your gift is PRICELESS.