



EDITOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year! It is difficult to believe that another year has snuck up on us. With all that has occurred in the past few months, I wish for all a wonderful year. Reaffirmation of what is important in life has been the ribbon of sentiment that has seemed to resurface, and enjoyment and fun are two areas where City Circle can certainly assist. Indeed, the last show of our fourth season is in rehearsal, and our fifth season has been set. So as you plan your outings, please put City Circle on your list of places to go, and come out and join us for fun.

Barbara Lee

1776



MARCH 1, 2, 3 (2:30 p.m. matinee), 7, 8, 9, 10 (2:30 matinee).

Performances are at Oakdale Hall at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

You are invited to join the cast and crew after the show on March 1st for an Opening night reception, sponsored by New Pioneer Coop.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors and students.

CITY CIRCLE'S FIFTH SEASON HAS BEEN SET!

The members of the season selection committee have completed their deliberation over the 2002/2003 slate of shows and directors. The task began in May with appointing members for this year's committee. An excellent panel was put together consisting of George Stratton, Cathie Berglund, Chris Okiishi and Patti McTaggart. George hosted our first meeting in early June. Patti hosted our last meeting in mid-January. Between the two, we collectively read through hundreds of scripts and touched on nearly a thousand shows. There was a lot of good debate and discussion on what would be the ideal season for all of us. However, we all know about the best-laid plans. At the 11th hour, we found out that two of the shows, on which we were all in agreement, would not be available to us. So we went back to the drawing board, pulled out a few old ideas (and a couple of new ones), and came up with, what we think is a fantastic and exciting season. We're really looking forward to seeing some of our favorite "nuns" reprise their roles in ***Nunsense II***, ***The Second Coming*** (directed by George Stratton). We anticipate a stellar run for ***The Rocky Horror Show*** (directed by Chad Larrabee). The quiet beauty and depth of ***Shadowlands*** (directed by Rachel Lindhart) should fill audiences with that wonderful combination of joy and sadness.

Thanks to an incredible committee for putting together an exciting season that has something for everyone.

Tim Barnes, Committee Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At our last membership meeting (1/8), the Nominating Committee was chosen to put together the slate of officers for next year. This year's committee consists of Barbara Lee (chair), Cathie Berglund, and Jerry Howe. The slate has been set, and following are the nominees. They will be presented to the Membership for vote at the March 12th meeting. The Board nominees are: Chair--John Harper; Vice Chair--Sally Cline; Treasurer--Jerry Howe; Secretary--Barbara Lee; Producer--Rod McCrea; Artistic Representative--Tim Barnes; Technical Representative--Brian Gilbert; Member-At-Large--Bob Goodfellow. *Barbara Lee*



OAKDALE SECURITY

City Circle can probably claim to have had the best-protected audiences in the country during our November run of ***Cat On A Hot Tin Roof***. This, of course, was due to the presence of the National Guard, and later, a private security company, guarding the State Hygienic Lab which is housed on the Oakdale campus. The show went on as scheduled, and we're grateful to our loyal audience members who brought photo I.D.s, signed in and out of the building, and shared the hallways with uniformed young persons carrying M-16s. In retrospect, it was all a bit of an adventure, wasn't it? Eventually, it may also provide an interesting footnote in the history of City Circle. *Penny Hall*

SANTA SHOPPING DAY

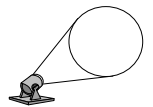
On Saturday, December 1, City Circle participated in the Santa Shopping Day at the Coralville Rec. Center with ***Mother Goose Is On The Loose***, with a bit of a spin. This day, the kids did their own production of some of

Mother Goose Is On The Loose. We rehearsed the rhyme and dressed up some of the kids as the characters. The remainder of the kids chanted the "fractured" fairy tale. A FUN time was had by all. *Sally Cline*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

City Circle is going strong, but any organization such as this is only as strong as the people holding it together. While we have a very good group of supporters, you can never have too many, and the search for new blood continues. The beauty of theatre is that the entire family can become involved. We especially need talent in the areas of set construction, and sheer strength to help with the physical aspects of bringing a show into the Oakdale Auditorium. As you know, the more bodies, the easier, and faster a project can be completed. Suggestions are always welcome, so if anyone has brilliant ideas for volunteer recruitment, please come forward!



CITY CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

Walk into Oakdale Auditorium at any time during the set up for one of our shows, and you will most likely have to walk over the miles of blue extension cords, and step around the ladders that make up the world of our "light", Brian Gilbert. It is amazing to watch him shimmy up a ladder to hang a light, only to take it down and hang it again because it just wasn't right. He has taken the impossible and made it possible. Regardless of the seemingly insane ideas of directors, his temperament is that of a gentle giant. He will deftly and adroitly steer the director to realize what will and will not work, and the lighting is perfect. From a school gymnasium to a southern antebellum mansion, Brian makes our shows come alive. Brian has hung lights for every one of our 15 shows. Our

good fortune is thanks to Sue, Brian's wife. She introduced him to theatre, when he worked lighting for *Hello, Dolly*, in 1988. By later that season he was designing lights for shows, and has never stopped. A founding member of City Circle, Brian has been content to remain behind the scenes, working his magic. We are all very excited to finally experience his acting abilities. He plays John Hancock in our last show of the 2001-2002 season, *1776*. Brian has thrown himself into this role just as he does with lighting. He has one of the major roles of the show; I am told that he probably has the most spoken lines. Not only that, he was off book and in character from the first night of rehearsals, much to the amazement of even seasoned actors in the show. Putting on a show would be almost impossible without Brian's expertise not only at lighting, but all aspects of the physical staging, hanging the black curtains, and making the back stage area. Brian, there are just not enough words to thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to transform a bare room into a full-fledged lighting extravaganza. *Barbara Lee*



ACTING CLASS

City Circle Acting Company's fall acting class was a resounding success. So rewarding, in fact, that a second semester has been added to the schedule. Acting II will have a prerequisite of Acting I. In addition, there has been discussion to offer a second year of classes. In the fall, Acting I will be offered again, and next spring, anyone who has taken any fall course will be eligible to return for more instruction and experience. It is hoped that this arrangement will become an on-going cycle with City Circle. I thought we had a great time with the first semester. We began by working on poems from *Spoon River Anthology* and continued with duet acting selections from early *Realism*. Class members performed in scenes from *Golden Boy*, *Waiting for Lefty*, *The Seagull* and *The Time of Your Life*. While the course is structured to address only the basics of creating a character, each participant exceeded my expectations. Everybody moved forward at his or her own

pace and they all achieved a degree of characterization richer than the goals I had originally set. I'm already looking forward to the next semester. *George Stratton*

As one of the participants in the acting class offered by City Circle, and taught by George Stratton, I can tell you that anyone and everyone who ever has an interest in theatre should take this class. George did a superb job of bringing to his students the essence of theatre, breaking it down into facets that could easily be digested, and making us all realize just how much a role can affect our everyday lives. George brought to life the concept of "living a role" and challenged us with readings from *Spoon River Anthology*. As someone who does not have a theatre degree, I am confident that the information presented in the course will help me to prepare for future theatre endeavors. From all of us in the class, a great debt of gratitude and thanks to George for sharing his knowledge, and his time. I encourage anyone who has aspired to learn more about acting and what goes into building a character and associating that character with the show, to sign up for this course.

Barbara Lee



GIRL SCOUT BADGE DAY

October 13 marked Girl Scout Theatre Badge Day III, with 50 Junior Girl Scouts earning the badge. This was accomplished by each girl completing four workshops, including improvisation, make-up, and theatre design. Each group also performed a short play for the entire group that they had prepared during the acting and blocking workshop. Thanks go to the excellent City Circle volunteers who made it possible---Judy Carlson, Michael Stokes, Tim Budd, Susan Short Gilbert, Heather Carmichael, Sandy Irvine, Sally Cline, Barbara Lee, June Braverman, and Jerry Howe!

Special thanks goes to Ted Carpenter of Coralville Fruit Market for providing snacks for the girls and to Cub Foods for their continued support. *Penny Hall, Badge Day Coordinator*

THEATRE IN THE PARK IV

The Fourth Annual Theatre in the Park was held Sunday, October 7, 2001. This is the fourth year the program was held in conjunction with Coralville's Harvest Moon Festival. We have been very fortunate to have beautiful weather for the three previous Festivals, and this year was no exception. Area theatres presented snippets from shows for the 2001-2002 season. Participants included Dreamwell Theater of Iowa City, Moon Garden Acting Company, Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Citizen Literary Program Readers, Iowa City Community Theatre and City Circle. Special thanks go to Jim Hall of J. Hall Keyboards for the loan of an electronic piano and to Sherri Proud and the Coralville Recreation Center. A resounding THANKS to all those theatre groups in the area for their participation in this event.

Judy Carlson

Coralville Recreation Center
1506 8th Street
Coralville, IA 52241



CALL TO ARMS (AND LEGS AND VOICES, ETC).

Women of the Circle unite! With many of our menfolk committed to **1776**, it is up to us womenfolk (and those men not involved with 1776) to pick up the slack. While we do not need to worry about the backbreaking task of toting and lifting platforms (God forbid we break a nail!), and indeed assistance will still be appreciated when the show moves into Oakdale, ushers and box office personnel will be needed for all performances. Please contact Sally Cline (338-1515) with your willingness to help end our season with a rousing cheer of unity. *Barbara Lee*

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