

*City Circle* ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ *Acting Company*  
★ ★ ★ ★ *of Coralville*

# AROUND THE CIRCLE

August 2003

## CCACC Tickets On Line

Tickets for our productions can now be purchased on line at [www.coralville.org/parksandrec.asp](http://www.coralville.org/parksandrec.asp). A flashing icon is posted for the current show about 3 weeks in advance of opening night. By clicking on the icon, it will take you to a page describing our on line service and by clicking on the On Line Registration link, you will be taken to our on line service providers site. Scroll to the name of the show to find the date/time you would like to purchase.

Coralville Parks and Recreation has contracted their on line registration with Active.com. We chose an outside provider due the security and firewall needs. When registering for tickets on line, a 6.5% fee + 50 cents is added to the total by Active.com. Active.com sends an e-mail to Coralville Parks and Recreation and tickets are ready for pick up at the auditorium door. If you have any questions, contact Sherri Proud or Rhonda Hay at 248-1750.

## Coralville Library Theatre

### Mother Goose on the Loose

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Coralville library hosted "Acting Out with City Circle Acting Co. of Coralville" was such fun for all involved. Rod McCrea and Sally Cline warmed up the audience of about 40 kids with knock-knock jokes, and riddles. The kids had many of their own, that stumped the grown-ups (nothing new there.) Rod explained the difference between props and costumes while Sally arranged the groupings for Mother Goose on The Loose. The Children were able to chant the "real" Mother Goose Rhyme, and we gave them the new ending. Once costumes were on and the kids were transformed into the characters, the fun began. All who wanted to and some who didn't want to were able to take part in the variety of skits. Thank you to Linda Parker and her staff for letting us have such fun with the kids.

*Sally Cline*

## ANNOUNCING CITY CIRCLE'S 2003-2004 PRODUCTIONS – A SEASON OF LOVE STORIES: FROM THE ROMANTIC TO THE RIDICULOUS

### RUMORS

by Neil Simon

directed by Michael Jorgensen November 7-16

Charley and Myra are celebrating their 10th anniversary with an elegant dinner party. But the guests arrive to find that Myra has disappeared and Charley has apparently attempted suicide. The ensuing cover-ups dreamed up by the guests keep getting funnier and more bizarre. One of Simon's best comedies --- two hours of non-stop, fast-paced laughter.

**Tryouts** will be Sept. 11 & 12 at 7:00 p.m at Community of Christ Church, 2121 S. Ridge Dr, Coralville. Callbacks will be on Sept. 13 at 1:00 p.m. Cast includes 4-6 men and 4-6 women of varying ages. Questions? Contact Mike Jorgensen at 532-7927.

### ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

by Mary Rodgers and Marshall Barer

directed by Michael Stokes March 5-14, 2004

One of the great enduring fairy tale musicals of all time, this one will be a treat for the whole family. The story of the Princess and the Pea, carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic. This is a rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship.



For the first time this year, City Circle had a formidable presence at the Pride Day celebration in College Green Park on June 21st. Rod McCrea and John Harper assembled a display table, from which they distributed flyers, sold FANTASTICKS show tickets, and signed new people up for our email list throughout the afternoon.

FANTASTICKS director Dave Evans was joined on stage by cast members Luis Sierra and Kate Thompson, along with accompanist Sheila Benson. The group performed several songs from the show with accompanying narrative about it, to an appreciative crowd of several hundred.

Thanks especially for coordination and facilitation goes to Tony Hansen, who was this year's Pride Committee chair. Tony is also a City Circle board member.

*John Harper*

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



Don't Rain on my parade and it didn't. City Circle helped to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with its sixth consecutive appearance in the Coralville parade. And it once again was a wonderful time and a smashing success.

The two and one half mile route is full of kids of all ages and the attendance this year seemed better than normal. We were a big hit not only with the candy that we handed out but with left over beads, whistles and flashlights that we had from Rocky Horror being handed out as well. Once again we steadily have moved up the list to be closer to the beginning of the festivities this year with our entry number being 32.

Once again we were fortunate to be furnished with convertibles from our friends at Carousel Motors. If you have the opportunity, be sure to stop in and thank them especially Tor Nicklaus. They furnished us with a brand new VW Beetle convertible and a brand new Audi TT Roadster. Both of the cars were hits with the drivers and the pre-parade crowd.

This year thanks should go to David Evans, Rod Mc Crea, and Howard Meadows and grandson for walking the route and handing out fliers. This is not an easy task and it was another hot and humid day. Also thanks to Luis Sierra and Kate Thompson for dressing in costume and greeting the crowd. A special thanks to Barb Lee for helping me with the early morning car retrieval and for helping with the decorating of them when we got to the staging area. Also thanks to Dorla Hill for being an expert candy tosser and to Judy Carlson for getting banners ready for the cars.

I'll look forward to seeing you all next year for the Fourth of July parade. It is a great time to celebrate the freedoms we have in this country for theater and the community that we are part of. *Jerry Howe*

## AACT/Fest '03

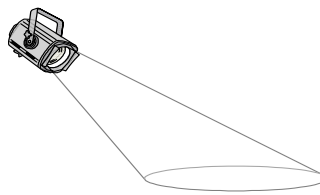
The 2003 play competition cycle of the American Association of Community Theatre concluded at the national finals held in Torrington, Connecticut in late June. John Harper and I attended the event, seeing 11 plays during a 4-day time span. Each competing play was the winner of its AACT Regional Festival, including the group from Germany who represented the worldwide Region of the U.S. Military Forces. The Festival was held in the renovated Warner Theatre, originally built in 1931 and recently revived to its original, magnificent arts deco décor.

The adjudicators gave the top award to the Spokane (Washington) Theatrical Group for their production of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly", a play based on the stories of the Jewish children imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II. Interestingly, the winning theatre group was founded in 1997, the same year that City Circle was founded. The second place honors, and our personal favorite, went to "Three Viewings" presented by the Bas Bleu Theatre Company of Ft. Collins, Colorado. An audience favorite, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", presented by the Elkhart (Indiana) Civic Theatre, placed third.

Sadly, the world situation is severely restricting the number of international theatre festivals in which AACT will be represented. John and I both remember the festivals held 8-10 years ago in which all competing companies at the national level received an invitation to travel and compete internationally. During the business meeting of the Association held during this AACT/Fest, it was announced that many well-established international competitions would not be held in the foreseeable future. This, as well as the significant travel restrictions placed on U.S. citizens, will allow AACT to sponsor very few international entries during the next two years.

While it is unfortunate that the excellent theatre we experienced during the AACT/Fest '03 finals can not be shared with the world, it was gratifying to see that American theatre is very much alive and well! Many accolades need to be extended to the companies from across the country who traveled to Torrington and shared their talent and skills with us. And, a huge "Thank you" needs to go to the Warner Theatre staff and volunteer corps for an amazingly well run Festival!

*Penny Hall*



## CITY CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

For two years I'd been studying music theatre in a small Midwestern university program that shall remain nameless, and after all the competitiveness and complacency I'd seen in college started to wonder: where was the creative and adventurous spirit I thought necessary for acting and directing? Where was the community spirit and passion needed for theatre to come alive?

It could have been years until I'd want to participate again, but fortunately City Circle entered the picture. Just three days after moving to Iowa City, I was scanning the want ads for a job when I came across an audition notice for one of my favorite musicals, "Pippin," a show I thought I'd never get the chance to do. Despite being burned out on acting and extremely burned out on dance, I couldn't resist giving it a try.

From the moment I walked into the audition, I was greeted with friendly and encouraging faces. I am pleased to say that since that show I have been involved in each of the following City Circle seasons, and that warmth and support has never stopped. These are people, I thought, who are excited about making theatre together.

This summer's production of *The Fantasticks* was no exception. Under the direction of David Evans, whose fondness for the material was inspiring, the cast and crew produced a magical show, and I don't just mean the performance. As David reminded us at the first rehearsal, "The process is what's important, the time we spend together. The performance - that's just the icing." He was right, and the memories I treasure from this show are of spending time and sharing ideas with a talented and enthusiastic group of actors.

If there is a message to our production of *The Fantasticks*, it's this: simplify. The material things we lack: fancy sets, big production numbers, even a real wall - are less important than the intangibles: our kindness, our generosity and our enthusiasm for making meaningful theatre together. This is the message that lies at the heart of City Circle Acting Company, and I'd like to thank the production staff, cast and crew members that I've worked with over the years for helping me remember it.

*Kate Thompson*



Coralville Recreation Center  
1506 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Coralville, IA 52241

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**PAID**  
Iowa City, IA  
Permit No. 61

**All performances: 8:00 pm except  
Sunday matinees: 2:30 pm  
Oakdale Auditorium, Oakdale Campus**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2003-2004**

Chair:	John Harper
Vice-Chair:	Sally Cline
Secretary:	Barb Lee
Treasurer:	Jerry Howe
Past-Chair:	Penny Hall
Producer:	Rod McCrea
Member-at-large:	Bob Goodfellow
Artistic Representative:	Chris Okiishi
Technical Representative:	Brian Gilbert
Community Representative:	D.C. Priestersbach



**'I'm A STAR'**

The Summer Camp production of "Cinder Riley" finished with applause on Friday Aug. 1,2003. This was the story of Cinder Riley falling in love with a Kitchen boy, much to the dissatisfaction of her stepmother. This production was pulled off in only 5 days. Many thanks for the help of Shana Rae Greazel our Director, Sherri Proud, Recreation Superintendent and sound technician, and of course, the children. All the kids had memorized their lines, and the acting was delightful.

A play never comes together until the costumes transform the actors, and that was the case for this production. The kids became transformed into their parts with thanks to Judy Carlson. This is such a fun activity for the kids and for City Circle to get involved with. Hope to see more of you there next summer!

*Sally Cline, City Circle, Assistant Director*