



EDITOR'S CORNER

Happy Spring! Or is it Winter? Well, whatever season it happens to be as you read this, I hope this newsletter finds you happy and well. There is some exciting news from the City Circle camp these days. First of all, our fifth season opener, Nunsense II, has been cast, and already is in rehearsal. The cast is: Marsha Hughes (Mother Superior), Barbara Lee (Sister Hubert), Patti McTaggart (Sister Amnesia), Mary Johnson (Sister Robert Anne), and Rachel Hileman (Sister Leo). The show runs the last two weekends in July, so mark your calendars and plan accordingly. The Little Sisters of Hoboken are on the loose again! We'll be riding and throwing candy in the Coralville 4th of July parade, as always, with our traditional roller blader doing the route. Also, City Circle has been given the use of a building near the site of the proposed convention center to use as we see fit. What a prize as this will allow us storage space, and shop space, allowing us to actually be able to build the sets off-site totally. We are really excited about this and are already formulating plans for its use. Everything seems to be falling into place for us, and as we begin our fifth season on the huge success of our last show of the 4th season, we are enthusiastically hopeful that this year will be stupendous! And, we look forward to seeing all of you at our shows. Happy Summer!!!!

Barbara Lee

WORTH REPEATING

Penny Hall, Chairperson of City Circle wrote the following letter to the Editor, Iowa City Press Citizen, March 23, 2002:

CITY CIRCLE THANKS GENEROUS CROWD

"The City Circle Acting Company of Coralville recently presented a production of the musical "1776." The play depicted the foundation of our country's freedoms, which may have been especially relevant as we reflect on issues resulting from Sept. 11.

The audiences seeing the show were generous in many ways. They praised an excellent production. The audiences were also generous in helping City Circle meet the security costs the University required because

the performance space, Oakdale Auditorium, remains a high security area. Due to the very generous donations of our audience members, nearly two-thirds of these security costs were met.

City Circle extends a huge thank you to all who helped with the appeal. This support of the performing arts and of City Circle's programming is deeply appreciated."



A SPECIAL THANKS TO NEW PIONEER CO-OPERATIVE!

I know many of the readers of this Newsletter have enjoyed this season's marvelous Open Night Receptions, all of which were provided by New Pioneer Co-Operative, our very first Commercial Sponsor. We are delighted to have such a tasty relationship! City Circle wants to extend special thanks to Jennifer Masada, New Pioneer Co-Op's Marketing Director, and to Mike Brannin, Food Service Manager, who developed the wonderful menus and prepared the food for each of the Receptions. THANKS, New Pioneer!!

Penny Hall

THANKS TO ALL

For the past two years I have had the privilege of serving as the chairperson of the City Circle Acting Company of Coralville. It has been a rich experience, often punctuated with the unusual. The experience has certainly verified for me that City Circle is composed of a group of stellar volunteers, all working on the incredible number of administrative, financial, house, technical and artistic jobs that are necessary in order for the organization to achieve the goal of excellence in theatre production. I am also grateful to our growing number of audience members who have been so very enthusiastic in embracing City Circle's programming. I extend a heartfelt "THANKS" to each one of you for your help and support during the past two years.

Penny Hall

CITY CIRCLE'S CORALVILLE PARTNERS

Of all the decisions made by the founders of City Circle as the journey began five years ago, perhaps none was as important as the one which brought us into partnership with the City of Coralville and its Recreation Center.

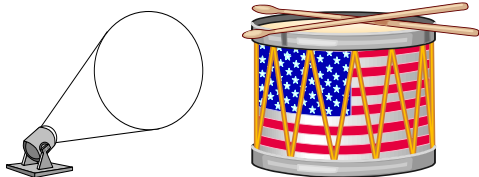
Through our brief history, this relationship has been invaluable to the success our theatre has enjoyed. Early in 1998, the first City Circle officers met with Marie Ware, then Director of Parks and Recreation, and with Sherri Proud, who had just been named as the program's Partnership Coordinator. Out of that meeting came an agreement that the Coralville Rec Center would serve as City Circle's box office facility, and that they would assist us in other ways with publicity, mailings, educational and promotional events.

Since that time, Sherri has become Superintendent of Recreation, and has enthusiastically taken on a role as Coralville's liaison to City Circle. Along with her front desk staff (Rhonda Hay, Kim Lestina, Paula Bakey, and Amy Tallman), Sherri oversees the processes of selling our tickets, providing information on our shows and educational programs, and refers new volunteers to the appropriate City Circle source. She's also always on the lookout for new ways in which City Circle can participate more fully in the cultural life of the community.

City Circle's contribution to this imaginative partnership has included an annual entry in the Coralville 4th of July parade, providing theatre training for kids through the Camp Coralville and Camp Wickham summer programs, this year's new "I'm a Star" summer camp, the fall Harvest Moon festival, and the December Kids Shopping Spree.

Sherri states that Coralville's partnership with City Circle has been "easy and is going wonderfully", and that we are a nice match for the programs which she oversees for the City. For us at City Circle, this partnership has been stimulating, critical to our growth and development, and deeply appreciated. So, to Sherri and her staff, we say a big thank you for five years of wonderful collaboration.

John Harper



CITY CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

I haven't done much performing since moving to Iowa City in 1997. Other obligations were always more pressing, and I seldom felt I could afford to spend the time and energy that shows

demand. When I saw the audition notice for *1776*, however, I knew that I had to make the time. I grew up listening to this musical. Long before I really understood it, I had fallen in love with it; the rhythm, the orchestration, the mysterious *wordiness* of the songs fascinated me. ("Foul, fetid, fuming, foggy, filthy Philadelphia"—what future English graduate student wouldn't love that?) The City Circle production gave me a chance to perform in a show I had wanted to be a part of for a long time.

But playing Edward Rutledge reminded me that it's not any particular script or role, no matter how well written, that makes performing a joy. It's the people. The cast and crew of this show were full of wonderful, dedicated men and women who happily spent long hours building sets and rehearsing lines after even longer days at work, who gave of their time and talent so that, night after night, we could come together and sign the Declaration of Independence one more time. (Incredibly, each time felt momentous, as if we had, if only for a moment, shared some sense of that awesome responsibility taken on so many years ago.) In this production, people who had never sung before, sang; people who had never danced before, danced; people who hadn't shaved for years, did so . . . if perhaps a bit reluctantly. (OK, I admit it!) I am still struck by the overwhelming generosity shown by everyone involved.

So, as I look back on my first show with the City Circle Acting Company (and there is something almost depressing about how quickly all of those weeks of rehearsal become memories!), I recall many things that made *1776* unlike any production I have been a part of: the required photo I.D. certainly comes to mind, as does the strangely macabre spectacle of wigged styrofoam heads littering the conference table in the dressing room. (How many dressing rooms have conference tables, anyway?). What I will remember most, however, is the happiness and excitement found in working with so many new friends to put on such a great show.

If you haven't been a part of a City Circle production before, give it a try. You'll see what I mean.

Martin Buinicki

5TH ANNIVERSARY FACTOIDS

City Circle was the idea of John Harper. In November of 1996, about 20 people met at John's home and after a series of meetings, City Circle was formed July 13, 1997. The first production, *Nunsense*, opened July 17, 1998. The first year was spent on organization issues including by-laws, articles of incorporation and an operations manual. John is back as Chair for 2002-2003.

Our first Chair and guiding force was D.C. Spriestersbach. Sprie continues to be our mentor and

serves on the City Circle Board as the Community Representative.

City Circle was incorporated as a non-profit organization January 5, 1998.

New Song Church, home of our founder Rev. John Harper (man of many talents), regularly provides space for rehearsals and meetings.

Community of Christ Church has been in partnership with City Circle from the first show. Rehearsals, meetings and other City Circle events are regularly held there.

The University of Iowa Oakdale Auditorium presents a unique problem for theatre productions – the stage must be reconstructed for each production with platforms stored at the Coralville water tower.

City Circle became formally affiliated with The City of Coralville in March 1998. September 12 – 20, 1998 was proclaimed City Circle Theatre Week with many scheduled events and ending with Theatre in the Park. Theatre in the Park is now part of the Harvest Moon Festival held in October.

The 4th of July Parade produced one of two unique City Circle traditions. One of the nuns from the cast of the first production of *Nunsense* roller bladed the length of the parade. Who will be the roller-blading Sister this summer from *Nunsense II*? Theme cookies anyone? The idea came from founding member Kit Gerken and maintains what has become a must for every show.

Last year, City Circle distributed 100 pounds of candy and 1000 flyers during the 4th of July parade.

Girl Scout Theatre Badge Day, which has become an annual event, was first presented October 2, 1999. Each year, 40 – 50 Junior Girl Scouts earn their theatre badges after an all-day intensive workshop.

Thanks to Brian Gilbert, City Circle was brought into the computer age. Brian obtained internet access and created and maintained our Website. The “webmaster” reins have been taken over by Tony Hansen. Check out our new look at www.citycircle.org.

After four years at Oakdale Auditorium, the Oakdale Hall staff continues to be very supportive of City Circle. Their assistance has been invaluable.

Theatrical realtors? You bet! Jerry Howe, Sally Cline and Rod McCrea.

City Circle’s production of *Quilt: A Musical Celebration* performed in November, 2000 was the Iowa premiere of the play commissioned by the Smithsonian in 1992. *Quilt* was based on stories from and about Names Project AIDS memorial quilt.

SUPER AUDIENCES AND VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS OF MONEY, TIME AND IN-KIND SERVICES HAVE KEPT CITY CIRCLE IN THE BLACK SINCE ITS INCEPTION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE AUDIENCES AND THE COMMUNITY FOR CITY CIRCLE PROGRAMMING.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2002-2003

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: Tim Barnes
Technical Representative: Brian Gilbert
Community Representative: D.C. Priestersbach

SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE GYM WITH GEORGE

Come one, come all! Help George paint, saw and hammer! Starting May 26, 2002 from 1 – 4 :30 p. m. George Stratton will be hosting a workday to build the *Nunsense II* set in our new facility at the old Gold’s Gym in Coralville. Not only is George the director for *Nunsense II* but he is also the set designer. View the spectacular scale model of the set made by George and see what you are working towards. Everyone is welcome! Come work, socialize and have fun. The address is 213 E. 10th Street, Coralville (9th St. E past Perkins, left on E. 2nd St., right on E 10th). If you have any questions contact George – Phone: 351-1624, E-mail: gwilliam8@mchsi.com.



MANY HATS

The Ronald McDonald House Players and 25 kids from the ages of 8-12 presented *Kids for Kids, a Broadway Revue* at the Children’s Museum in Coral Ridge Mall, April 5, 6, 7. The Players have raised funds for Ronald McDonald House for 17 years. These committed and talented individuals included: June Braverman (Players director, City Circle founding member, Kids show director), D.C. Priestersbach (Player, City Circle founding member, board member) and George Stratton (Player, City Circle actor & director). Also on the production staff were Evie Stanske (co-director for Kids show, Young Footlighters Director & assistant director for City Circle’s *1776*) and Judy Carlson (City Circle founding member) did costuming.

EVENTS

April 20, 2002: City Circle participated in the annual Regina fundraising Gala. City Circle members, dressed as Victorians, included Martin Buinicki, Michael Jorgenson, David Hale, Kit Gerken, Sally Cline, Barb Lee and Penny Hall.

July 4, 2002: Coralville 4th of July parade.

July 29-Aug 2, 2002: City Circle will conduct the theatre camp *I'm a Star*. Register at the Coralville Rec Center for Class #9407.201.

Time: 8:30 –11:30 am

Price: \$50 res. \$62.50 non-res.

Age: entering 4 – 7 grades

Place: NWJH Theater

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Nunsense II, The Second Coming

directed by George Stratton

July 19, 20, 21 (matinee), 25, 26, 27, 28 (matinee)

Rocky Horror Show

directed by Chad Larrabee

October 31 (8 pm), November 1*, 2*, 7 (8 pm), 8*, 9*
(* shows at 7pm & 10 pm)

Shadowlands

directed by Rachel Lindhart

February 28, March 1, 2 (matinee), 7, 8, 9 (matinee)

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

Coralville Recreation Center
1506 8th Street
Coralville, IA 52241

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