

Live! at *Gussies...* 1088 Newmark Ave, Empire
 at the *Egyptian...* 229 S. Broadway, Coos Bay

Center Stage

OBT Hotline
 (541) 269-2501

ON BROADWAY THESPIANS, INC. NEWSLETTER

Mar/April
 2008



OBT's Claim to Fame

Nearly a year later after the OBT production of "Much Ado About Nothing," a cast photo appeared in a special article in OREGON COAST MAGAZINE highlighting various community theaters along the Oregon coast and their struggle to survive. OBT is proud to be a part of that 6 page feature in the April 2008 back issue.



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There's no shortage of rousing musicals, side-splitting comedies, and thought-provoking dramas at these coastal playhouses.

STORY BY EMILY KOLKEMO

HE LATE ACTOR Sir Laurence Olivier once said, "I believe that in a great city, or even a small city or a

village, a great theater is the outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture." If that statement is correct, then the Oregon Coast is a bastion of flourishing communities, based on the number of theaters that inhabit the many towns and cities along the coastline. The coast is home to more than a dozen playhouses, thanks in part to the volunteers, contributors, and theater-goers that support them.

Broadway producers, musicals, original plays, and classic tales all make their way to the coast. Some annual productions,

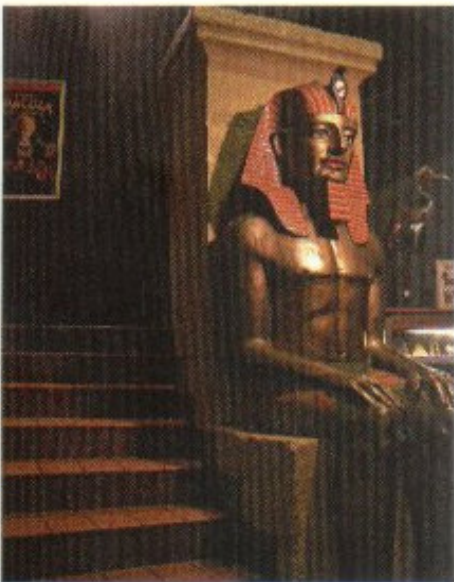
like North Bend's Little Theater on the Bay's *Little Ole Opry* and *Country Christmas*, celebrate the season with music, dance, and comedy while others like Astor Street Opry Company's *Shanghaied in Astoria*, portray Oregon Coast history.

"Theater allows us to see ourselves in each other. Telling stories allows us to remember who we are," says Nancy Montgomery from Astoria's River Theater. "Theater isn't something that's separate from reality. On the contrary, it mirrors reality back to us so we can rage, laugh, cry, identify with ourselves, with each other."

Theater is the expression of these individual communities, and they offer it with true artistic style that is pure entertainment.

(continued from Cover page, Oregon Coast magazine April 2008 issue)

"It's the only game in town where people from all ages, colors, creeds, and walks of life work on one project together, where the only expectation is to have fun." —Tommy Jones, Chetco Playhouse



Courtesy On Broadway Thespians

year they showcased the talents of children and professional, semi-professional, and community actors with the U.S. premiere of *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*, by Astrid Lindgren, who also wrote *Pippi Longstocking*. Their 39th original

COOS BAY **On Broadway Thespians**

The On Broadway Thespians recently moved from the On Broadway Theater into their new digs—the historic Egyptian Theatre and Gussies Dinner Theater.

Dramas, comedy, musicals, and children's theater are all fair game for the Thespians, and they perform with extraordinary professionalism. They plan on offering seven shows this year.

The classic Egyptian Revival style of the 83-year-old Egyptian Theatre is reason alone to see a play there. Eight-foot tall pharaohs stand guard at the stairways, wrought-iron ceiling lights in the form of hooded cobras stand ready to strike, and columns at the stage contain hieroglyphic writing.

"We were told that the last performance of a live play at the Egyptian was over 80 years ago, and we had the unique fortune to be able to use the painted drops for our background for three of our four shows," says Leatha Lewison Gonzalez, president of On Broadway Thespians. "At Gussies we will be able to focus on being a group that works well in a smaller, cozier, more intimate setting." (Egyptian Event Hotline 541-269-8650; www.onbroadwaytheater.com)

BANDON **Sprague Theater**

Since its opening production of *South Pacific* in 2000, the Sprague Theater has hosted a variety of events. The Sprague is the venue for local groups such as the Bandon

2008 Play Schedule

"An Evening of Dinner Theatre,"
Local talent showcase - Feb 1, 2, 3
@ Gussies Restaurant

"The Magician's Nephew"
Youth Theatre, March 28 - April 13
@ Gussies Restaurant

"2 Weekends @ Gussies"
OneActs/Storybook Theater
May 16 - June 1 @ Gussies

"Same Time Next Year"
Romantic Comedy, Jun 13 - 29
@ Gussies Restaurant

"King Arthur"
Dark Epic Drama, Aug 15 -31
@ Pony Village Mall

"NunSense A-Men!"
Musical Comedy, Oct 11 - 26
@ Gussies Restaurant

(NEW mailing address)
On Broadway Thespians, Inc.
845 S. Broadway, #107
Coos Bay OR 97420

(on stage at):
Gussies Restaurant
1088 Newmark Ave.
Coos Bay OR 97420

(on stage at):
The Egyptian Theatre
229 S. Broadway
Coos Bay OR 97420

OBT Event Hotline: (541) 269-2501
email: obthespian@yahoo.com
www.onbroadwaytheater.com

(across from Empire 7-11)

(across from TJ Shaws diner)
Egyptian Event Hotline: (541) 269-8650
www.egyptian-theatre.com

Letters From Readers... Q&A

from Ralf M.M. Stultiens, via the Internet:

"I live in The Netherlands and am a huge admirer of the life and works of Agatha Christie. At the moment, I already own over 4,400 books (in 32 languages), autographs, coins, stamps, tons of movie and theatre memorabilia, clothes and books from Mrs Christie's private collection et cetera et cetera. Of course I would like to add some material from your theatre's Agatha Christie productions from past. Posters, flyers, programme booklets, newspaper cuttings, used tickets, pictures, recordings on DVD... everything will be more than welcome. I had my own Christie exposition in The Netherlands in 2007 and in September 2008 I will donate some rare items to the famous Torquay Museum in Torquay, the English town where Agatha Christie was born and has lived for several years. As a journalist, I'm writing a lot on and about Agatha Christie and even made a special website about my collection: www.queenofcrime.com. I hope you will reply and send some material. Of course I will mention your kind cooperation on my website. Thank you!"

(Editor responds: "Hi, thanks for writing. Unfortunately we are unable to comply with your request. Any AC show that was performed by our theater was years ago, and any memorabilia from that time is long gone. We are a small non-profit community theater with actors and directors made up from our small local community, so our resources are rather small and humbling. Sorry we could not be of more help to you at this time.")

from Dallas of Winniepeg, Canada:

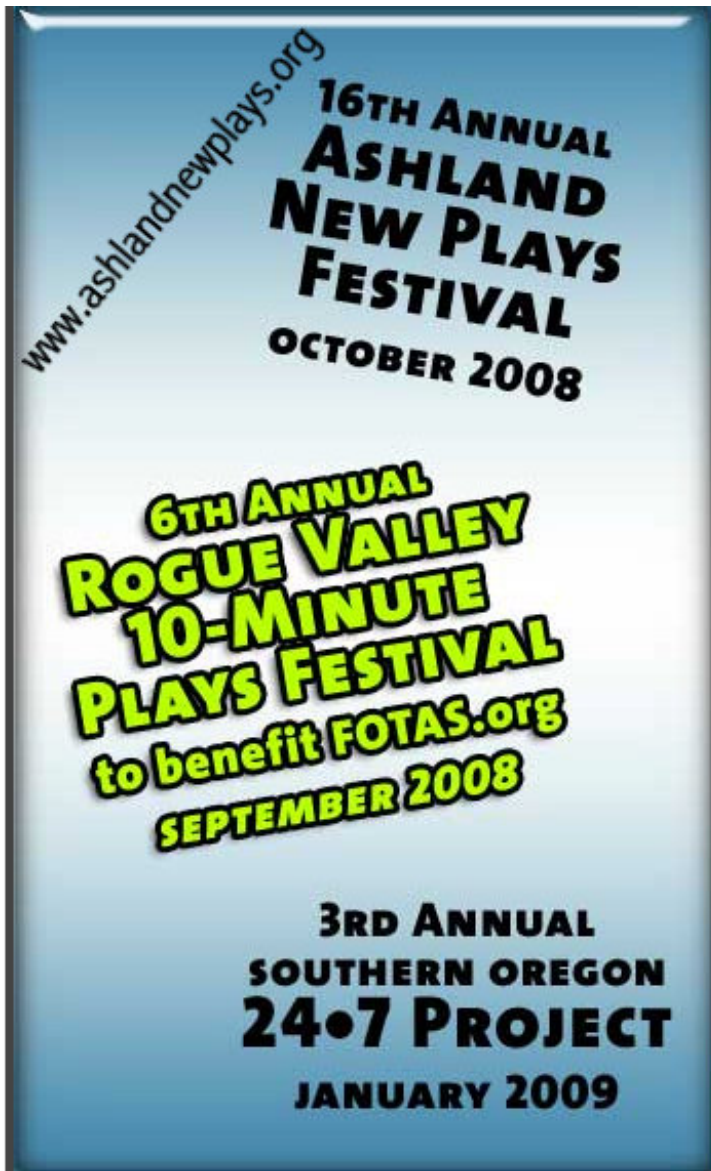
"I have to wear a mask in an upcoming school play, and it's so hot and uncomfortable, I really don't know if I can do it. So I was wondering if you had any tips or advice?"

(Editor responds: "There's a certain amount of discomfort you just can't get around. Masks should be lightweight with flexible so they can move a bit with your face. They should also have padding cut to fit the mask inside. If the mask is impeding your speech, try putting a bit of foam padding on the cheeks to push it away from your face. If you're having trouble blinking or it's pressing down on you, add 1/4 inch of foam padding and glue it into the mask to lift it off your face. Don't forget to apply a bit of anti-perspirant to the face if sweating becomes an issue. Padded masks help with sweat absorption. Other than that, you'll just have to grin and bear it. Good luck!")

from Alice, Coos Bay, OR:

"Just wanted to tell you how much my son and I enjoyed the recent production of "The Magician's Nephew." As a parent of a young child, I'm grateful that your group still offers Children's Theatre in an area where other local theater troupes do not. Keep up the great work!"

"When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us." -Alexander Graham Bell





Children's Theater

As you may already know, Children's Theater is a subject near & dear to our hearts. It builds trust, confidence, and poise. It teaches tolerance and empathy, discipline, and how to work together as a team. It challenges perceptions, and provides kids an outlet for emotions, thoughts, and dreams they might not otherwise be able to express. So many of our wonderful local veteran actors got their start right here on our stage and we're rather proud of that fact as many will continue the tradition started by founder Tosca Means years ago by coming to watch their own kids & granddads on our stage. Simply put, children's theater creates the audiences of tomorrow.

That said, there are some really great children's theater links online worth checking out:

OVER THE RAINBOW, INC.
www.potr.org

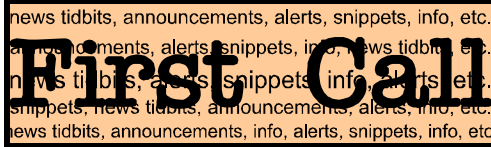
CHILDREN'S THEATER LINKS: <http://childrenstheaterlinks.org/>

OPEN DIRECTORY: KIDS & TEENS:
www.dmoz.org/Kids_and_Teens/Arts/Theater_and_Drama/



TYA/USA

The United States chapter of ASSITEJ, the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THEATRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, and THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES/USA (TYA/USA) is the national service organization promoting the power of professional theatre for young audiences through excellence, col-



laboration and innovation across cultural and international boundaries.

Founded in 1965, TYA/USA (as ASSITEJ/USA) is the only theater organization in the U.S. which has the development of professional theater for young audiences and international exchange as its primary mandates.

This site is a resource for member theaters and individual artists, as well as for anyone needing information about theater for young audiences. Here you will find a directory of member organizations, the latest national and international TYA news, information about upcoming events and links to theater publications and members' Websites. www.assitej-usa.org



Thinking Outside the Bard

A culture war is being waged in American theatre today: New play developments vs. the old Classic standbys.

"New unproven plays are considered risky," says Polly Carl, producing artistic director of Minneapolis's The Playwrights' Center, "and getting Theatres to dive into that risk with new experimental material as opposed to the old familiar Classics in which audiences are already comfortable with and have already developed a

taste for, is the greatest challenge currently facing the American theatre."

According to Stage-Directions.com, an popular online theatre magazine, royalties can eat up quite a bit of your budget. Disney production royalties are incredibly high. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST for example, takes 15 percent of gross receipts and that is huge when compared to other older plays, like INHERIT THE WIND at 8 percent or royalty-free works like Shakespeare, Shaw and Wilde.

"We try to offer our audience a full range," says Ethan McSweeney of CHAUTAUQUA THEATER COMPANY. "We try to do one classic American play, a 20th century classic, and also something more contemporary, which usually ends up being a comedy. We're aware that we often bring in an audience not accustomed to going to the theatre, and so the hope is that after the show we send them back out wanting to come back."

OBT Board of Directors

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Juanita Snyder	- Website & Newsletter Editor
Leatha Gonzalez	- Dinner Theatre Coordinator



New Works of Merit Playwriting Contest 2008

NEW WORKS OF MERIT PLAYWRITING CONTEST is looking for powerful, heart-felt new works that not only entertain, but also educate, enlighten and uplift humanity in the following ways:

- 1) Enhances self-realization
- 2) Supports peace and social justice
- 3) Fosters understanding of minority issues that focus on racial, ethnic, gender discrimination in the USA and abroad
- 4) Empowers youth to build healthy inner foundations
- 5) Educates to gain further insight into healthy social/emotional living
- 6) Sheds new light on religious, spiritual, and cultural differences and issues
- 7) Builds respect for cultural expression and identity in a world that is experiencing rapid globalization
- 8) Explores widening gap between values this country was founded on and values we present to the world today

AWARDS: 1st Place is \$300 and a public reading. 2nd and 3rd Place Awards will be readings. In addition, special Certificates of Honorable Mentions will be given for noteworthy scripts of merit. All readings will be presented at theatre venues in Manhattan, among them **THIRTEENTH STREET REPERTORY THEATRE**, within 10 months of the contest's winning announcement. Venue, directors and actors for the readings will be chosen at our discretion.

SCRIPT EVALUATORS: to include published and produced writers, theatrical producers, artistic directors, individuals in the Graduate and Masters Theatre Programs of universities including New York University, the New School University, and Vassar. Each script will receive up to four evaluations before 3 - 5 finalists are selected. Director of Literary Services and Founder of the New Works of Merit Playwriting Contest, **SANDRA NORDGREN** will oversee all script evaluations. Since January 2002, Nordgren has been responsible for the offering of over 150 readings, 35 productions, 16 development workshops, and two theater playwriting residencies, all in New York City at no cost to the playwright.

Guidelines and Application Form: **www.PlaywritingContest.cjb.net**

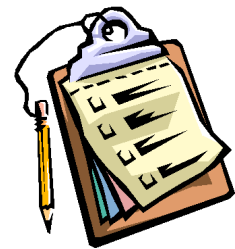
Submission post-mark deadline is June 30, 2008. Target date to announce winners is December 31, 2008. Winners will be notified by mail. Contest results will be posted on the above website.

ELIGIBLE SCRIPTS: Original full-length (no longer than 2 hours or 100 pages U.S. Standard Format) and one-act stage plays including children's plays. Please note: scripts having received a workshop, staged reading, or non-professional production are also eligible. Plays submitted must be the original work of the author and meet mission statement criteria.

INELIGIBLE SCRIPTS: Musicals, published scripts, scripts that have received a professional production, adaptations, collections and scripts that do not meet mission statement criteria.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Application form: **<http://hometown.aol.com/sandranord/myhomepage/travel.html>**
- 2) Prefer U.S. Standard Format, though this format is not required.
- 3) Script should be securely bound (no clips).
- 4) Full contact information on the cover/title page.
- 5) Brief synopsis of the play, no longer than half a page, bound into script. **
- 6) Brief character descriptions, bound into script. **
- 7) Script pages must be numbered.
- 8) If the play has accompanying film sequences, please submit a video or DVD of them.
- 9) To verify script receipt, submit a SASP. Please write the name of the play on the postcard. We will return this postcard to you with the play's Roster Intake #.
- 10) If you want the play returned, submit a SASE. The play, with it's jacket, must fit into the envelope. Otherwise we will not be able to return it. Scripts will be returned or discarded when the evaluation process for the script is over.
- 11) Include a small SASE for script evaluations.
- 12) Send a **CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER** (payable to **NEW WORKS OF MERIT PLAYWRITING CONTEST**) for \$25.00 submission fee. Fees will be used to pay stipends to play evaluators and administrative personnel.



**Be sure to include a bound synopsis & character description. Any paperwork NOT bound into the script will be filed with the Application form and will not be considered in the evaluation process. You may staple them to the back of the cover page if you do not have another way to fasten them.

MAIL TO: NEW WORKS OF MERIT PLAYWRITING CONTEST
511 Avenue of the Americas - #2000
New York City, NY 10011-8436 U.S.A.



CONTACT INFORMATION:
NewWorksOfMerit@aol.com
Sandra Nordgren: (917) 363-2369

Auditions

King Arthur and the Lords of Avalon

Auditions held in March @ the Pony Village Mall incomplete. A few parts still needing filled. Contact director Mike Gonzalez: 756-7238 or email: free2protest@yahoo.com

Same Time, Next Year

This romantic comedy is pre-cast. Thanks for your interest in this play.

We hope you will continue to support us through tryouts, business sponsorships, and ticket sales. We deeply appreciate the past support shown us by this community!

GENERAL AUDITION INFO:

Auditions are generally held 2 months prior to a Play's opening (3 months for musicals). You will be asked to fill out an official Audition Form listing contact info, special skills, experience, and other pertinent info. Dress comfortably but appropriately, be punctual, and come prepared to read, dance, or sing (depending on the script). Generally seek enthusiastic people who look and feel comfortable on stage, listen well and follow directions easily, and are open-minded enough to try new & different roles than originally intended auditioning for. If you sing or can play an instrument, let your talent be known! We're always looking for House musicians & singers for our musicals!

Now Playing

On Broadway Theaters in Conjunction with Gussies Bar and Grill Presents
Dinner and a Show

The Chronicles of Narnia
C.S. Lewis
**THE MAGICIAN'S
NEPHEW**
Dramatization by Aurand Harris
Music by William Penn

Mar 28 - Apr 13th
Fri and Sat 6pm
Sunday Matinee 1pm

Directed by Joseph Vos

Dinner Starts at 6pm Show at 7pm Fri and Sat
Luncheon at 1pm Show starts at 2pm Sun

Prices are as follows:
Just a Show \$10 Adult \$7 Child Friday and Saturday
\$8 Adult \$7 Child Sundays Add \$9.95 Adult for a meal \$5 Children

Produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois
On Broadway Theaters, Inc.
(on stage at Gussies Restaurant)
1088 Newmark, Coos Bay 888-4353
www.onbroadwaytheater.com

Always a need for Light & Sound Techs, Stage Managers, Stagehands, Choreographers, Vocal Coaches, Costumers, Makeup Artists, Poster & Programs designers, Set Construction, Graphic Artists, Directors & Assistants, Producers. If you have free time or would like to break into theatre in this way, please call 269-2501 or email or come to one of our open auditions and talk with a Director.



Coming Soon

2 WKENDS @ GUSSIES
May 16 - June 1

SAME TIME NEXT YR
Jun 13 - 29

Ticket Info

Tickets are available at the door one hour before curtain, or through online vendor, **Ticket Alternative: 1-877-725-8849** (You must specify you want tickets for: "On Broadway Theaters, Inc.") <http://www.ticketalternative.com/VenueDetail.aspx?FacilityKey=17>

Credit Card orders must be made online. In addition to vendor service charges, phone orders are subject to additional \$1 surcharge.

Live At the Egyptian:

Fri & Sat Eves 8 pm, Sun Matinee 2 pm

SENIORS/ADULTS/STUDENTS:

Friday & Saturday Eves - \$10.00

Sunday Matinees - \$8.00

CHILDREN (TO AGE 12):

all shows - \$7.00

Gussies Dinner Theater:

**** includes meal (dinner or luncheon)**

Fri & Sat Eves: Dinner 6 pm / Show 7 pm

Sun Matinee: Lunch 1 pm / Show 2 pm

SENIORS/ADULTS/STUDENTS:

Fri & Sat Eves - \$10.00 or \$19.95**

Sunday Matinees - \$8.00 or \$17.95**

CHILDREN (TO AGE 12):

all shows - \$7.00 or \$16.95**

alternate kid's meal - \$12.00**