



Autumn Quarterly 2013



WEB OF MURDER

The first show of the new season for the Stone Arch Players will be WEB OF MURDER by Jonathan Troy. This comedy/murder mystery is directed by Madam Prez Thiry Olbrich and features an all-star cast.

WEB OF MURDER takes place in a remote mansion high on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, owned by eccentric invalid, Minerva Osterman. The rich woman has invited her extended family to the decaying home for a pre-death reading of her will, but the weekend turns out to be anything but ordinary, when, under a hypnotic trance, she predicts the deaths of three of the assembled company. Murderous mayhem ensues.

Starring as Minerva Osterman is Linda Swartz, who has been in many Thiry Olbrich productions, beginning with THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC. Jill Harbst Boulanger (WHO'S IN BED WITH THE BUTLER?) plays the eccentric's stay-at-home daughter, Stephanie, and Barb Stahl (BORN YESTERDAY) is the housekeeper, Nora. A double dose of romance seasons the show, as the old woman's two nieces both arrive with fiancés in tow. Niece One, Mary, is played by newcomer Regina Shawver. Welcome, Regina! Mary's straight-arrow fiancé is favorite action hero Rob Burns (SUITE SURRENDER). Niece Two, Belle, is portrayed by Rachel Jones (THE PSYCHIC) with her fiancé, con-man Pete, played by Zachariah Smith. Smith appeared with us 11 years ago as the grandson in OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS. Bill Daup plays strange hypnotist, Dr. Adler, and Dick Jones is "The Man." Both appeared last year in BORN YESTERDAY.

WEB OF MURDER will premier at the Theatre In The Park on November eighth and continue through November 24th. Patron tickets will go on sale two weeks prior to the opening and for the general public one week prior. Mark your calendars now for the Stone Arch Players' first entry in their upcoming gala "Year of Mystery"!

Scare-A-Palooza!

Don't be alarmed if you hear blood-curdling screams coming from the Ufema property--it's just the first annual Scare-A-Palooza haunted trail! Created to benefit the Stone Arch Players, the trail will be held Friday October 18 & Saturday October 19, from 7-10 pm each night. Spooks and specters, ghosts and ghouls await to frighten and delight. And don't worry, we didn't forget about the kids: On Sunday, October 20, from 1-3 pm, will be the Spook-A-Palooza, with treats and activities for the little goblins. There will be hayrides, face painting, games, crafts, treats & more! Suggested donation is \$5 per person. The trail is in a wooded area, and has uneven terrain, so enter at your own risk! All activities & the trail will be on the Ufema property, next to Rich Coast Coffee, located just off Rt. 522 north, 1 mile east of the Walnut St. exit of Rt. 322.

Our Forty-Sixth Anniversary Season! 1967-2013 at the Theatre In The Park

"SCARE-A-PALOOZA"/"SPOOK-A-PALOOZA"

Our First Halloween Trail!

7-10 p.m. October 18 & 19 • 1-3 p.m. October 20

"WEB OF MURDER"

By Jonathan Troy

Mystery/Comedy, Directed by Thiry Olbrich

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

November 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23

2:00 p.m. Sundays, November 17 & 24

"THE GAME'S AFOOT"

By Ken Ludwig

A Farce/Comedy/Mystery, Directed by Phyllis Johnson

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

February 28, March 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15

2:00 p.m. Sundays, March 9 & 16

"AND EVERMORE SHALL BE SO"

By Norman Robbins

Comedy/Mystery, Directed by Colette Hartzler

Performances: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

May 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31

2:00 p.m. Sundays, May 25 & June 1

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Color versions of the newsletter photos

are available on our web site:

www.stonearchplayers.com

Look for us on



A SEASON OF MYSTERY FOR THE STONE ARCH PLAYERS

The Stone Arch Players' new season will begin in November with the comedy mystery WEB OF MURDER by Jonathan Troy, directed by Thiry Olbrich. The story concerns the machinations of a disturbed woman who invites her family to a secluded mansion for a twisted game of cat and mouse. Murderous mayhem ensues. The show opens November eighth.

Our winter play will be THE GAME'S AFOOT by Ken Ludwig, directed by Phyllis Johnson. William Gillette, an actor famous for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, invites friends to a weekend of revelry at his palatial home. When one of the guests is stabbed to death, things take a turn for the mysterious, and soon everyone is under suspicion. THE GAME'S AFOOT plays in February/March.

AND EVERMORE SHALL BE SO by Norman Robbins is our May production and will be directed by Colette Hartzler. A murder mystery with more than a touch of humor, taking its title from the traditional song "Green Grow the Rushes O," the play explores the events surrounding a murder which took place four years previously and how strangely the song lyrics seem to fit so well with the circumstances.

These three plays directed by our talented and experienced directrixes, ensure another great season at the Theatre In The Park! Don't miss one of these hilariously mysterious murder mysteries!



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NEW BOARD & OFFICERS ELECTED

Reported by Susan Turns

As voted on at the annual spring membership picnic and meeting, the 2013-2014 officers are: **President-** Thiry Olbrich, **Vice-President-** Phyllis Johnson, **Treasurer-** Michael A. Cramer, and **Secretary-** Alan Peoples.

Elected for two-year terms to the board of directors were Colette Hartzler, Julie Ufema, and Susan Turns. Board members Robert Burns and Anita Rishel retain their seats until 2014.

UFEMA'S "THE TRUTH ABOUT DANE"



This past May, Stone Arch Players Board of Directors member Julie Ufema had one of her films premiere at the world famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles, California. "The Truth About Dane" is Julie's inspiring and heart-warming documentary short about her five-year-old son Dane and a daunting series of surgeries he bravely endured. Dane, who has cerebral palsy, attended the Beverly Hills Film Festival screening of the movie, where Julie says he was "treated like a rock star"! You can see "The Truth About Dane" online on YouTube (where it has already accrued over 2,000 views) or at the film's Facebook page, facebook.com/AboutDane.

Congratulations, Julie!

ORIGINAL PLAY PRODUCED

Devin Varner recently had his original play, A DAY WITH EMILY, produced in the Attic of the State Theatre in State College on Wednesday, July 10th. The cast featured Jean Mank, Molly Mank, and Meredith Snook. The show was directed by Susan Riddiford Shedd and was part of the Nittany Valley Shakespeare Company Young Playwrights' Festival.

Congratulations, Devin!



Charlie Wilson was terrific as Francis Nurse in The State College Community Theatre's production of *THE CRUCIBLE* in July.

George Baumer's Big Summer



George Baumer, the most popular man in community theater has had a busy summer. He first appeared as Henry Albertson in *THE FANTASTICS* at the Cresson Lake Playhouse. The photo with cast shows George in Altoona's Mishler Theater's *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*. Congratulations on two more terrific performances, George!

RHIANNON McCLINTOCK UPDATE

Rhiannon McClintock, who began her theatrical career with the Stone Arch Players several years ago, is now living in New York City and working as an executive assistant with the Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre at Columbia University. On Friday nights she is the house manager with the Gallery Players in Brooklyn. In June she appeared in the Center Stage Playhouse's "An Evening of One Acts: 'Post-Its (Notes on a Marriage)' and 'Line'" in Manhattan.

Congratulations, Rhiannon!



TECHNICALLY SOUND

Reported by Susan Turns

Emile Boulanger is stepping up to take over the tech duties for this season's shows, following the retirement of Ron Patterson. If you are interested in helping run lights and sound for a show, please send your contact information to stonearchplayer@yahoo.com. No experience is necessary!

PHOTO BY: MEADOW LANE PHOTOGRAPHY

MIKE KNARR DIRECTS AT MT. NITTANY MIDDLE SCHOOL

A bevy of Stone Archers worked on the award winning drama *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY* for the State College Community Theatre this summer. Our favorite power couple, Melissa and Chris Brannen starred in the dramatic production, directed by Mike Knarr, with Nate Smith as Assistant Director, Chris Whiteford as Stage Manager, and Ryne Knarr as Assistant Stage Manager.



This gut-wrenching drama was the final summer offering of the State College Community Theatre and was presented in their newest venue, the Mt. Nittany Middle School. The show ran in September. Congratulations to six of our favorite Stone Arch Players who worked on this wonderful expose of a dysfunctional family!