



Our 100th Season - February 2020

The Prompter

Players Guild of Leonia Monthly Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a whirlwind of a tech week before opening night of Amadeus but with a lot of hard work on the part of the cast, Stage Manager/AD Olivia Thrasher, Producers Claudia MacDermott and Suzanne Renaud, and Director Kerr Lockhart, it all came together and turned into an incredibly entertaining performance. Kerr's modern dress adaptation is not to be missed and with only one weekend left, you should get your tickets now, or let your friends and family know, before the final shows are sold out! The efforts put forth by everyone to make this show happen was a reminder that one of the most important resources for a community theater organization is its members. That seems like an obvious statement but perhaps sometimes it needs mentioning and we do have some problems in that area. This is not a new revelation to anyone on the Board or any member who has tried to recruit people in recent years. It was at the top of a list handed to me by my predecessor when I first became president. How to fix this problem has been an ongoing topic of discussion for quite some time. While the Board has some ideas as to where to begin to implement changes, they would like to hear from our current membership before doing so. This Thursday's meeting is going to be, in part, about membership. If I could, I would make attendance a requirement for this meeting but I can't, so instead I strongly encourage you to attend and join in on the discussion. I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts on this subject. So, before you are told it is a requirement to stay a member, come to the meeting and voice your opinion. I really do hope to see you there!

Daniel Giordano

UPCOMING DATES:

February 7-23 AMADEUS

February 20 Membership Meeting and Workshop

February 23 Amadeus - closing

March 10 PGL Board Meeting

March 19 Membership Meeting and Workshop



PGL - TECH NEWS

After last Tuesday's Board meeting, board members decided to purchase an inexpensive, brand new Android tablet to replace the use of aging computer desktops and monitors. Because the computer was only needed to connect to Brown Paper Tickets' website via internet connection, the same could be done with a hand-held tablet, which is smaller, less clunky, and takes up practically no room at all. The tablet has a stand and is WiFi compatible. So, no more tangled cords or power cables - other than the one that comes with it. The tablet arrived last Friday, in time for Amadeus' 2nd week run, and was properly set-up so that it can be used for all ticket sales. The board members would also like to thank Chris Thorn for always being helpful and continuously providing us with a computer desktop and monitor throughout these past years.

Photo: Lynne Vitale and Chris Milone using the new WiFi tablet for the very first time.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Journal - Beth Parrillo Mark Watson
Budget/Finance - Ralph Martinez
Building/ Facilities - Dan Giordano
Costumes - Diane Arabella, Laurette Miller, Joanne Livelli
Director/Play Selection - Diane Arabella
Historian - Annette Lenge
Hospitality - Diane Arabella
Membership - Bunny Giordano, Laurette Miller, Chris Thorn
Alison Miller
Music/Sound/Video - Chris Thorn
The Prompter - Ralph Martinez, Alison Miller, Nicole Parente
Props - Art Penque
Publicity - John Garbo, Mark Watson
Set Construction - Steve Moldt
Tickets - Lynne Vitale, Bobbi Weintraub
Website - Ralph Martinez
Workshops - Alison Miller, Chris Watson, Angela Cozzi

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Membership discussed our Centennial season and the various ways in which we need to organize and execute a memorable, celebratory season. We now have 4 committees that are seeking help!

1) HISTORY - Annette Lenge - a.venge@verizon.net.

2) AD JOURNAL - Beth Parrillo (bethparrillo@yahoo.com) and Mark Watson (cwatson1093@gmail.com) - We need help scanning and organizing playbills, memorabilia and photos. Scanning can be done on premise or at home. If interested, please email: a.venge@verizon.net

3) OUTREACH - Alison Miller - yoginizucchi@gmail.com. Help is needed generating fundraising campaigns, drafting letters of sponsorship, and building morale with local businesses and dignitaries.

4) GALA - Joanne & Steve Moldt - moldts@aol.com. End of the year celebration honoring the Guild's history.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

February's workshop will feature long-time member Annette Lenge presenting membership with a living history of PGL. Have you ever wanted to direct at PGL or bring a vision of theater to life? Workshops provide a manageable avenue to tackle new skill sets and foster all aspects of the creative process. We are still seeking submissions from directors to fill our 2020 workshop season. If interested, please contact Alison at: yoginizucchini@gmail.com.

AMADEUS

Don't miss out on Amadeus' last weekend run. Tickets are still available but selling fast. Last performances are February 21, 22 at 8 pm, and February 23rd at 3 pm. For ticket information, call 201-947-9606 or visit: leoniaplayers.org. And spread the word!



Amadeus Cast:

Not in picture: Chris Caira

- Salieri - Larry Brustofski
- Mozart - Harvard Fraser
- Constanze - Ruth Kenote
- Joseph - Mike Seymour
- Orsini-Rosenberg - Sheldon Stone
- Von Strack - John Garbo
- van Swieten/Security - Simcha Willick
- Bonno - Brian Laub
- Chamberlain Alois - Lance Miller
- Venticella 3/Teresa Salieri - Lisa Katzoff
- Venticella 1/Katerina - Jessa Blackthorne
- Venticella 2 - Emma Himmelhoch
- Venticella 4 - Lois Raff Corwin
- Valet/Butler/Waiter/Mysterious Man - Chris Caira

LIGHT BOARD TRAINING

Attention all light board operators and anyone interested in learning how to run theater lights! As previously mentioned, Nikki Parente will be having four light board operator training sessions. The dates and times for these four sessions are: March 21 & 28 and April 18 & 25, from 4-5 pm at the guild. These training sessions are designed to help users understand the basic functions of a light board, manually running switches on command, and what to do in case of unexpected situations that require an immediate response. Whether you are a current operator looking for a refresher, a new operator, or just interested in lighting, then these training days are for you! Anyone interested should attend any of the dates listed. Please bring a notepad, your attention, and your willingness to learn a new skill. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nikki at: nicole.parente9@gmail.com. Otherwise, she looks forward to seeing you there.



PGL GALA EVENT - UPDATE

Reserve your spot for Friday, May 29th to celebrate and commemorate PGL's 100th year! The gala will take place at the Excelsior on Rt. 46. Full program will include DJ, dancing, open bar, and a 30-40 minute musical program. **Cost is \$80 per person** and tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are only 100 tickets available so reserve yours now before they go fast!

**Send checks payable to:
Players Guild of Leonia
P.O. Box 131, Leonia, NJ 07605
Attn: PGL Gala**



HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON

Do you love to have parties, give parties, or just love to party, party, party? Then this job is for you! After 5 years, Diane is retiring and we are looking for someone to fill in as Hospitality Chairperson for opening nights and intermission concession sales for our upcoming 2020-2021 season. For additional information and details, please contact a board member.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday June 14th (Flag Day)

We will be ending PGL's Centennial Season with a special day of events that includes our annual Civil War program directed by Patt Mazzeo. Please save the date and stay tuned for more important details!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER MILONE



At a very early age Christopher, better known as Chris, started his love of theater by taking acting classes at the Leonia Recreation Department with current Guild member Helene Marshall. Chris' adventure with the Players Guild of Leonia started in 1981 when he first performed as an ensemble cast member with the Guild's *The Play in the Park* production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. After this memorable experience, he was hooked with theater and became an active member of the Guild. He was only 16 and has since then acted in numerous productions, which are too many to mention. But some of his favorite shows are *West Side Story*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *A Chorus Line*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *An Actor's Nightmare* and *Working*. Besides being a talented actor, Chris also has served as committee chairperson for hand props, set painting, and ticket sales. Chris has served on the PGL Board for two terms and has also directed several shows including - the most recent 2018 Perry Award nominated hit Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*. The Players Guild of Leonia has been a big part of Christopher Milone's life with many "ups and downs", but mostly positive experiences. He is glad to be part of the Guild's continuous journey and would like to wish them a happy 100th Anniversary as well as positive wishes for another 100 years of continuous success.

Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Prompter? Send your pic and bio via email to Ralph Martinez at: rm70art@gmail.com.