



Our 100th Season - November 2019

THE PROMPTER

Players Guild of Leonia Monthly Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Damn Yankees for a successful four-weekend run of the musical comedy that opened our Centennial Season. Michael Larson directed another great production but also performed in several dance numbers and both he and Marc Leland (choreographer) filled in for cast members during the run. Special thanks to Mike Boris, and Diane Arabella, all of whom pulled double-duty to make this show come together smoothly and successfully. Thank you Brian Laub for stepping in as hospitality host for November. Alison Miller was also putting in overtime and didn't have much in the way of rest as she began rehearsals for Free to Be You and Me the very next day, which is now coming along and shaping up to be a great production.

As the holidays approach, I am reminded that it is a time to be thankful and express our gratitude for all that we have and are blessed with in our lives. I am thankful for my family, of course, for their love and support, and I'm thankful for the friends I have made through theater and the Guild over the years. Theater is a world in which friendships can sometimes be forged by unlikely partners in a short period of time. It gives us the benefit of seeing the world through another person's eyes, not unlike acting itself, and can help us to, perhaps, be more compassionate or empathetic in our own lives. I had a non-actor friend ask how I feel after a performance, taking interest in the feeling of exhilaration they imagined I got from performing. I replied that of course that was part of it but that the best part of my experience in theater is the people I've met and friendships I have made before and long after the performances were over.

Happy Thanksgiving! **Dan Giordano**

UPCOMING DATES:

November 21 - Membership Meeting + Workshop @ 8p

November 23 - Evening American Legion Gala

December 7-15 - Free to Be You and Me

December 10 - Board Meeting @ 7:30pm

December 20 - Holiday Party (PGL)

January 7 - Board Meeting

January 16 - Membership Meeting and
Workshop (Honoring C. Watson)

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.lenme@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.lenme@verizon.net

3) OUTREACH - Alison Miller -yoginiczucchi@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.

WORKSHOPS

November Workshop. This Thursday you are invited to participate in a poetry jam. Bring your favorite poem and take the spotlight to share your favorite poem. Be bold! If you are interested in directing a workshop, please notify Alison Miller at: yoginizucchini@gmail.com

DIRECTOR/PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Ever wonder how the Players Guild of Leonia chooses which shows to produce? There are many considerations that make up the selection process, which usually begins in early January. The committee consists of members of the Board of Directors and other interested volunteers who agree to read multiple scripts and meet regularly to discuss the material. We are looking for volunteers to help with the review process for our following 2020-2021 season. Please contact Diane Arabella for more information at: sunsetwntr@aol.com.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the Date for Friday, December 20, 2019!

Join us for holiday music, dinner, & dancing at the PGL. Cost \$25 per person. Doors open at 6:30 pm for cocktail hour and appetizers followed by workshop at 7:30 pm directed by Chris Watson. 8:15 - 10:45 dinner, dancing and entertainment by the Steve Teti Quartet. Formal invitation and additional details to follow soon.

TEA RECEPTION - UPDATE

Our Legacy Tea afternoon brought members, family members and friends together who joined in a joyful celebration of our honored members, Helene Marshall, Robert Meyer, Rowena Wangenheim and Christine Watson several Sunday's ago here at the Drill Hall. The afternoon was enhanced by Diane Arabella's decorations and "high tea" refreshments which would have made the Royals envious! Many thanks to Diane and Eric Blood for making all the delicious sandwiches as well as providing the delectable desserts. Speakers Annette Lenge, Diane Arabella, Dori Persson and Bunny Giordano delighted us with personal, touching and humorous stories of their relationships with our honorees over the years. Mark Leland put together a lovely montage of videos showcasing scenes from plays that our honorees acted in or directed for the Guild. Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes especially Alison Miller and Mark Watson who helped bring the event into fruition. Many, many thank yous to all who helped set up, serve as well as clean up. You are very appreciated! *Angela Cozzi*



FREE TO BE YOU AND ME



FREE TO BE YOU AND ME is in full somersault with a cast of all children and adults celebrating in a unique co-creative process honoring the child in us all. Audiences of all ages will be treated to a theatrical experience overflowing with energy, color, music, movement, and storytelling. Cast includes Bill Benedict, Matthew Blum, Nicole Henry, Marisa Dolkart Herling, Lisa Katzoff, Sarah Medcalf,

Katrina Michalewski with Srechko Filipovich, Sasha Garcia, Anaya Hamid, Alex Meyer, Thomas Frank Oberle, Avaleigh Quinton, and Paula Zapateiro. Special thanks to our creative team that includes Catherine Watson (music director), Laurette Miller and Eunice Chae (Producers), Michael Wurl Larson (Technical Director), Steve Teti (Accompanist), Alice Garcia (Assistant Director) and Helene Marshall (Consultant Director). We are always looking for volunteers. To Help with Tickets, Ushering, and House Managing, please contact Laurette Miller laurette.miller@gmail.com. To help with Lights, Set and Technical production, please contact Michael Wurl Larson malarson6300@gmail.com. We look forward to sharing FREE TO BE YOU AND ME this December 7-15th.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The T-Bird (Chris Thorn) has been an active PGLer for a dozen seasons or so. He caught the theater bug when his sons were in the Teaneck schools, where he and his wife Joan Verdon helped out with publicity and programs. For our group, he's been a producer, director, actor, singer, writer, designer, Board Member (and a puppet, a pauper, a pirate, a poet...) T-Bird's been our primary sound designer for the past decade (SummerStage sound, too) and installed our computers and SFX program. He's worked on lights and projections as well as our network. If its got wires coming out of it, he's interested! Now that we're thinking more about using projections, he hopes fellow members will join him in our "A-V Club." He's usually the voice on our answering machine and is often heard in the pre-show recordings telling audiences where the bathrooms are. Presently he's working on our annual membership "Directory" with Bunny, Laurette, and Alison. The T-Bird always says, "All the cool kids run sound (and video!)" So if you're interested in any of these tech topics (or want to play "Drill Hall Trivia") please send e-mail to: Chris.Thorn.1@gmail.com



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.