



THE Tree of Life Theatre Troupe NEWSLETTER

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a Tree of Life. ~ Proverbs 13:12

SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES, SO MANY REWARDS

By Joe Shinault

The Troupe has been blessed with another successful and rewarding year. Our accomplishments included two wonderful productions that were a huge hit with the community. The first summer camp showcased an amazing display of talent in its final cabaret show. The success of these events has allowed us to contribute to the community with donations to 'Mission of Mercy' and 'Paws for Freedom'. We were also able to assist the Troupe itself by upgrading some items such as lighting equipment and a larger storage trailer. And we seem to be getting our newsletter out on a regular schedule.

As we go into the new year we have many ideas and plans in store. We have ambitious plans for an expanded Summer Camp in 2006 and we are hoping to also have a musical staged this year. Tony Cimino will once again be directing the camp and will be bringing the joy of theatre and creativeness that his former students are familiar with.

In January, two faces that assisted in the foundation of this Troupe will be leaving the Board. Clydia Koch has worn many hats in the troupe from actor, director, producer to artistic director. She was always here to keep the Troupe focused on its mission to create an environment where all efforts and accomplishments are for God's glory. Margaret Browning has worn one big hat for several years in the Troupe. As Treasurer, she has always kept us in line by staying on top of the finances and the numerous paperwork. She's taught us a lot of legal terms too. Thanks to Clydia and Margaret for their many efforts and dedication to the Troupe over the years.

Participation is the backbone of this Troupe. Many contribute in various ways on a regular basis or intervals throughout the year. It is wonderful when an individual or family steps forward for the first time and shares their talents. The Troupe only continues to thrive and reap benefits due to the support of its members, friends, family and the community at large.

But running a theatre troupe takes much work and involves a variety of functions. It is sometimes awesome and inspiring to see the efforts that many put into this Troupe because they believe in what we are doing and what we have to offer. Some are reluctant at first to step forward because of the uncertainty of what is involved, but come away with a wonderful experience due to the creative young people, the atmosphere of Christian fellowship and the positive impact that we make in the community.

As we begin the new year, I ask that you reflect on what contribution you can make to the Troupe. If you are already involved, what other talents can you offer? There are opportunities of every size from leadership positions to roles in our current and future productions. If your child is involved, it is an excellent opportunity to be involved with them. The rewards are many.

It's been a pleasure serving as President this year and that is due to the support and guidance of the Board and everyone who has assisted the troupe in any way. We can all be proud of what this Troupe represents and the wonderful accomplishments that it continues to make. Please continue to share your support and prayers with the Troupe and each other.

Tree of Life
Theatre Troupe, Inc.
P. O. Box 1425
Eldersburg, MD 21784
www.treeoflifetroupe.org

December, 2005

Inside this issue:

Local ToL Sightings	2
Board Meetings	2
Summer Camp 2006	3
"Cheaper" Donation	4
ToL Shirts	4
Annual Meeting	5
More Storage	5
Support Needed	6
Contest	6
Membership	7



Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.

presents

Two One-Act Plays

THE

SELFISH

GIANT

Oscar Wilde's classic children's story

about a Selfish Giant who wouldn't

share his beautiful garden becomes a

joyous play that touches on

themes of friendship and

heart-changing faith.

&

The Beggar

and the Wolf

Based on the popular 13th century

legend of St. Francis and the wolf of

Gubbio, this comedy is loaded with

outrageous puns, slapstick humor

and quirky characters.

PERFORMANCE DATES

February 10, 11, 17, 18,

24 & 25, 2006

February 10, 11, 17, 18,

24 & 25, 2006

February 10, 11, 17, 18,

24 & 25, 2006





LOCAL ToL SIGHTINGS

(or: THE NUT DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE)

We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our members and anyone who has appeared on the Tree of Life stage. But our 'Sightings Desk' is finding it difficult to track alumni in other productions.

Close to home, Liberty High recently presented The Crucible. ToL veterans Ben Markosky, Brittany Crawl, and Andrew Markosky gave excellent performances as usual.

Up the road at Century High we saw Tom Alberti in the Senior Class One Act play.

Heading north to McDaniel College, a familiar face was seen in A Christmas Carol. Tony Cimino appeared in the cast at Alumni Hall and the Carroll Arts Center. And at the same time he directed a performance of Our Town at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore.

And while we are in Baltimore, Mount Saint Joe just presented an entertaining rendition of Arsenic and Old Lace. The show starred several Mount de Sales students, including ToL's Allison George.

We apologize if we missed anyone. Please notify us of your performances by writing to treeoflifetroupe@yahoo.com. Then the Troupe can come out and show their support.



"THE BOARD" Meetings

You are welcome to join the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings. The meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in the Narthax. Your input, questions, and concerns are welcome at any meeting. At these meetings the Board discusses future plans for ToL, the progress of the current production, and the ToL budget.

Our next meetings will be on:

JANUARY 14th, 10:00 a.m.
ANNUAL MEETING
 at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

FEBRUARY 6st, 7:00 p.m.
 at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

MARCH 6th, 7:00 p.m.
 at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

APRIL 3rd, 7:00 p.m.
 at Faith Lutheran Church (Eldersburg)

The members of the 2005 Board and their contact information:

President Joe Shinault
 410-549-2471 shinault@wans.net

Vice President Lorraine Markosky
 410-795-4175 Lmarkosky@aol.com

Vice President Michael Saltzman
 410-531-8058 michael.saltzman@ssa.gov

Treasurer Margaret Browning
 410-875-5416 mebrowning@adelphia.net

Artistic Director Clydia Koch
 301-829-2836 clydiakoch@aol.com

Recording Secretary Cathy Klimovitz
 410-552-0481 mcklim@aol.com

Admin. Secretary Betty Enselein
 410-795-8843 enselein@aol.com

Ex-Officio Todd Wells
 410-795-8843 wellste@erols.com

Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.

SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS 2006

June 19th – June 30th / July 24th – August 13th

Tree of Life Theatre Troupe's Summer Theatre Programs will:

- ⇒ **Teach** basic or advanced acting skills
- ⇒ **Enrich** the understanding of lighting, set and make-up design
- ⇒ **Build** confidence for auditions, and teach auditioning skills
- ⇒ **Develop** teamwork while preparing for a final production



Theatre Camp – Ages 6–18, June 19–30, 9am–4pm

- Learn how to be calm, yet dynamic, in audition situations
- Develop your body as an instrument through body work, flexibility, and adaptability exercises
- Develop the ability to work successfully in ensemble situations
- Through improvisation, learn to explore your imagination
- Through self-exploration, becoming aware of how you look, think, feel, imagine, move, talk, etc.
- Learn the important elements in costume and set design
- Learn how to use lighting for different effects on a scene
- Assist in preparing scenes to be presented at the end of the camp

Cost of this two week program is \$375. There is a \$50 discount for additional family members.

Classes will be held at **Freedom Optimist Hall**. All students will be included in the final Cabaret on June 30th at 7:00pm

The enrollment of this camp is limited to 20-30 students in order to maximize the opportunities for individualized attention

The Instructor

All classes will be taught by Tony Cimino. Tony appeared in some early ToL productions before becoming very active in theatre at South Carroll High School where he acted and directed. He is currently attending McDaniel College where he majors in Theatre. He returned to ToL in 2004 to direct the successful production of *Anne of Avonlea* and *Cheaper by the Dozen* in 2005. Last year he directed a production of *Godspell* for The Calvary Players. Tony was instructor for the Troupe's first Summer Camp in 2005 and has also taught Theatre Camp in Frederick. Tony recently appeared in McDaniel Colleges *A Christmas Carol* and directed *Our Town* at Cardinal Gibbons High School. Tony will have assistant instructors in all classes.

Musical Theatre Camp – Ages 6–18, July 24–Aug. 13, 9am–4pm

- Incorporate theatrical skills to mount a full length scripted musical!
- Working as a musical theatre ensemble, there will be opportunities for those who are ready to do solo and duet work.
- Students can expect to sing their hearts out, dance their shoes off, act, play and revel in the joyful experience of musical theatre!
- Emphasis is placed on teamwork and the pleasures of creating a show, and all students will have an opportunity to shine when it's time to present their performance!
- At the end of class, strut your stuff for family, friends and the community on stage at Century High School.
- Here's a great opportunity to put your musical theatre skills to work!
- An audition will be held to cast students into roles.

Cost of this three week program is \$550. There is a \$75 discount for additional family members.

Classes will be held at **Freedom Optimist Hall**. The last week of the Musical Theatre Camp will be held at **Century High School** on Ronsdale Rd. where the camp will culminate in a fully staged production on August 11, 12, & 13 at 7:00pm

Directing Camp – Age 16 and older, June 19–30, 4pm–6pm

- Learn Directing techniques
- How to audition & rehearse actors
- How to Prepare, stage and pace scenes
- Through script analysis, learn how to set a stage and place actors

Cost of this two week program is \$200. There is a \$100 discount for students also enrolled in the Theatre Camp.

Classes will be held at **Freedom Optimist Hall**. All participants will prepare and be included in the final Cabaret on June 30th at 7:00pm

The enrollment of this camp is limited to 10 students in order to maximize the opportunities for individualized attention

After a successful Inaugural Summer Camp in 2005, the Tree of Life Theater Troupe is expanding its camp for its second season. All three classes will provide students of all ages with a quality education in the performing arts. Students will develop confidence, communication skills, articulation, imaginative thought and have lots and lots of FUN!

REGISTRATION

Submit the Registration form by May 1, 2006

A \$50 non-refundable deposit must accompany your registration; the deposit will be applied to your total camp fee.

Camp registration will be given out in the order which registrations are received.

Remaining balances are due by May 1, 2006. Registrations after May 1 must pay in full.

The fees for these camps include instructional and operational costs, insurance, camp T-shirt and final production costs.

FACILITIES

The Camps will be held on the Lower Level of the Freedom Optimist Hall located on Route 32 just south of Liberty Road. The Hall is air-conditioned.

The final week of the Musical Camp will take place at Century High School Auditorium on Ronsdale Road in Eldersburg.

The full musical production will also be presented at Century in the evenings.

Campers should wear comfortable clothing and shoes that allow for ease of movement. Jewelry should be left at home.

Bring lunch and drink, snacks will be supplied.

Go to www.treeoflifetroupe.org for more information and registration form

"CHEAPER" DONATION

At the October Board meeting, the Tree of Life Theatre Troupe presented a \$341 check to Mission of Mercy. The Troupe donated a portion of the proceeds from their recent production of "Cheaper by the Dozen". Linda Ryan, Mission of Mercy President, accepted the check from Assistant Director Greta Stetson. Also present were cast members Leanna Webb, Andrew Markosky and Ben Markosky.



Founded in 1994, Mission of Mercy is an independent nonprofit, nonsectarian community-based organization that utilizes active and retired licensed medical professionals to provide free medical and dental services and prescription medications to the uninsured working poor, homeless and economically disadvantaged people of via a mobile medical clinic. Clinics visit Westminster, Mount Airy and Taneytown throughout the month. All services are free and no fees are charged. No one is denied service because of inability to pay.

Mission of Mercy extends its thanks to the entire Troupe for the generous donation and for allowing them time to share with the audiences some information about their mission.

In 2005 donations have been made to the following organizations:

4-Pawed Freedom Club
The Miracle Worker

Mission of Mercy
Cheaper by the Dozen

Official Logo Shirts!

The Official Tree of Life Theatre Troupe shirts have been a great success since being introduced last year. The shirts are being offered to members, cast, crew, families and everyone who would like to support the Troupe. A variety of apparel with the brand new official TOL logos is available to be purchased.

We are offering Golf Shirts with embroidered logos, and Sweatshirts and Tee-Shirts with either the embroidered logo or a large white printed logo. Most shirts are offered in Black, Navy Blue or Maroon.

Complete the bottom form and submit it with payment to ToL. You will be contacted when to pickup at Faith Lutheran.

NAME _____

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

Shirt Description	Size (circle one)	Color (circle one)	Price Each	Embroidery	Screen Print	Total	
Short Sleeve Golf Shirt	ADULT	S M L XL 2X	Black Blue Maroon	\$18	included	N/A	
	CHILD	S M L	Blue ONLY	\$16	included	N/A	
Crewneck Sweatshirt	ADULT	S M L XL 2X	Black Blue Maroon	\$12	+ \$3	included	
	CHILD	S M L	Black Blue Maroon	\$11	+ \$3	included	
Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt	ADULT	S M L XL 2X	Black Blue Maroon	\$17	+ \$3	included	
	CHILD	S M L	Black Blue	\$15	+ \$3	included	
Short Sleeve Tee-Shirt	ADULT	S M L XL 2X	Black Blue Maroon	\$8	+ \$3	included	
	CHILD	S M L	Black Blue Maroon	\$7	+ \$3	included	
TOTAL (tax included)							

Members Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14th, 10:00 a.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, Eldersburg. We encourage anyone who is interested in ToL happenings to attend. Our President, Joe Shinault, will be giving his "State of the Troupe" address in which he will review the events of the past year at ToL and give a preview of future plans. This is an excellent opportunity to see the inner workings of ToL and to ask any questions that you may have. During this meeting you may also join the troupe as a member or renew your membership for the year 2006. This upcoming Annual Meeting is of particular importance because we need to fill several positions on the Board of Directors during this time. The positions that are open are:

1st Vice President

Duties: Presides in absence of president and 1st vice president; oversees publicity (e.g., public relations committee); filing and obtaining government permits as required.

Treasurer

Duties: Care and custody of funds and securities of the Troupe; preparation and filing of all tax returns/forms; prepares annual report.

Administrative Secretary

Duties: Checking mail and distributing as required; tracking new member applications; prepares and edits newsletter.

Two other non-elected positions are open that will be appointed by the President. Those are:

Recording Secretary

Duties: Recording and filing minutes for Board meetings; distributing minutes to attends following meetings.

Artistic Secretary

Duties: Recommends scripts, director, producer, set directors, property manager, etc. for productions.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Joe Shinault. You are also welcome to contact any of the Board members if you have questions about a specific role. Please prayerfully consider taking on one of these jobs. You will have the satisfaction of supporting a great cause, determining the course of ToL, and meeting with a warm group of friends.



More Storage!

After a long search for ways to prevent our storage trailer from bursting at the seams, we have purchased a larger trailer that was put in place last month. We currently have removed all items that were stored in the church, but have yet to move items from the old trailer. We plan on doing that move in a few weeks, weather permitting, and having the old trailer removed. Many thanks to Faith Lutheran Church and those that assisted in placing the trailer. Special thanks to Jan Carter for clearing and preparing the area and overseeing the installation.

A Giant, a Wolf and Lotsa Fun

The cast of The Selfish Giant and The Beggar and the Wolf began rehearsals last month and are eagerly awaiting to hit the stage in February. We hope you come out to see these wonderful tales that are full of humor and have wonderful messages. This is definitely one to bring along your kids, the neighbors kids and children of all ages.

As rehearsals continue, the production is still in need of many talents. There is still a need for assistance with lighting and sound, as well as set and stage construction. Please contact us if you are able to help or if you would like to be involved in any way. You may stop by a rehearsal on contact giantwolftol@yahoo.com.

Soon, we also will begin planning for next winters production. Please share any ideas you might have, or if you would be interested in production roles such as Director or Producer.

Do You Know of a Local Organization or Family That Needs Support?

Tree of Life provides many things; a chance for the community to experience quality family entertainment, a fun learning experience in the many aspects of theatre, a chance to meet new friends. But one of the most rewarding aspects of being involved with the Troupe, is its dedication to honoring God by donating a portion of each productions proceeds to a worthy local cause. That cause could include a local charity, a person or family in need or an organization that is providing a service that the Troupe endorses. We are always looking for suggestions for recipients of these donations. Please contact us if you know of a person, family, organization or cause that we can consider for a future production.

WIN an Authentic Tree of Life Embroidered Sweatshirt!

Here's all that you have to do....

Answer the following 4 questions that can be answered by visiting the Troupe website.

Email your answers along with your name to treeoflifetroupe@yahoo.com

The winner will be drawn from all correct entries at the Annual Troupe Meeting.

One entry per email address. All entries must be submitted by January 10th.

1. What production did ToL present in the Fall of 1998?
2. How many different newsletters can be viewed on the website?
3. What page is the hidden 'key' located?
4. What is the first benefit listed for being a member?

2006 Membership

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor whom you think might enjoy being involved with the Troupe.

What does it mean to be a member of the Tree of Life Theatre Troupe? The following should help clarify what we're all about (if you don't already know). If you're already a member, please use the form below to renew your membership for 2006 or spread the word and have a friend join.

What is the Tree of Life Troupe?

We are a volunteer organization; we have been granted official non-profit status by the State of Maryland. Consequently, we rely on the voluntary contributions of troupe members (in terms of their time and talents) to achieve our goals. We are multi-generational: troupe members include children, as well as adults.

What do you do?

We provide quality family-oriented drama. We desire to produce plays in a way that will glorify God and reveal his love for others. We also strive to honor Him by giving a portion of each production's ticket proceeds to a worthy local cause. We select an appropriate beneficiary prior to each production. We presently produce two productions a year; one in late winter and again in the early fall.

How can I be involved?

Lots of ways! For starters, you can become a member of the troupe. Individual memberships are \$15; family memberships are \$30. Membership is not required for participation in a production, but it helps the troupe for planning purposes, to better keep track of available talents and abilities.

What is the purpose of the membership dues?

Membership dues are used to cover the administrative costs of operating the troupe. They pay for such things as the Post Office box, storage, postage, web page, scripts and printing. At some point we hope to have enough members to support additional services and capabilities.

I've never done this sort of thing before; what could I possibly contribute?

In more ways than you can imagine. In addition to on-stage talent, we can always use people to help with costumes, make-up, props, set design, construction, publicity and the many other aspects of a successful production. There is also a Strong need for leadership talent to work on directing, producing and the Board of Directors. The only real requirement is a willingness to help. Many of the people who assisted with our recent productions were involved in community theatre for the first time.

Are there any other benefits to my membership (or our family membership)?

Yes. We produce a newsletter on a semi-annual basis. We offer a 'members only' audition to give members first crack at the roles. Cast with speaking parts who have an individual membership will receive a script at no cost (family memberships receive two). Additionally, members will have an early opportunity to register for any Troupe Theatre Camps.

Okay, I'm convinced; what do I need to do to join?

Membership Renewal: _____ New Membership: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City/ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Type (Check one): Individual (\$15) _____ Family (\$30) _____



Tree of Life Theatre Troupe, Inc.

P.O. Box 1425

Eldersburg, MD 21784

This newsletter can also be found on the Troupe website along with several past editions. Check it out on www.treeoflifetheatre.org.