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***Fiddler on the Roof* Next for Players**

By Bob McLaughlin

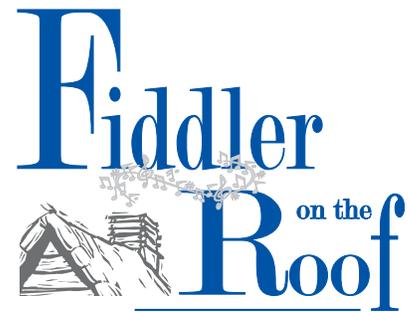
The second show of Community Players 85th season will be the great classic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. With book by Joseph Stein (a 2007 Theater Hall of Fame inductee), music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and original direction and choreography by the great Jerome Robbins, *Fiddler* opened at the Imperial Theater on September 22, 1964, and by the time it closed, eight years later, it had become the longest running play in Broadway history, a distinction it held for more than a decade. The original production won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The play has been revived on Broadway three times, it has been produced around the world (including two previous productions at Players), and in 1971 it was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film.

Fiddler is set in the Jewish community of Anatevka, a small Russian village, at the turn of the last century, and focuses on Tevye, a poor yet devout milkman with a balky horse, a nagging wife, and five dowryless daughters. As his oldest daughters eschew the matchmaker system and choose their own husbands, Tevye struggles to balance the traditions of his community with his own forward-looking sense of the future. He is helped in his struggles by his charmingly personal conversations with God. The community at large faces similar questions about tradition and change amid the political turmoil preceding the Russian Revolution and the social oppression aimed at the Jews.

The score features some of the best and some of the best-known songs written for Broadway, including, "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," and, of course, "Tradition."

To stress the theme of community, director **Phil Shaw** has assembled a cast of 55. Space prevents me from

naming all of them here, but among the principal performers are: **Mark DeVeer** as Tevye; **Karen Clark** as his wife Golde; as his five daughters, **Elizabeth Aronson** (Tzeitel), **Lindsay Brown** (Hodel), **Aleska Barkoviak** (Chava), **Samantha Strupek** (Shprintzke), and **Lauren Jacobs** (Bielke); **Nancy Nickerson** as Yente the Matchmaker; **John Lieder** as Lazar Wolf, who wants to marry Tzeitel; **Brian Artman** as Motel, the tailor who also wants to marry Tzeitel; **Jason Strunk** as Perchik, a radical student; **Charles Maaks** as Fyedka, a gentile Russian who's attracted to Chava; and **Joseph Culpepper** as the Rabbi.



The staff assisting Phil includes **Deb Smith** and **Julie Dawson**, co-producers; **Amanda Walsh**, Assistant to the Producers; **Jennifer Kluchenek**, Music Director; **Jason Strunk**, Choreographer; **Theresa Kerber**, Assistant Director; **Kerry Dixon-Fox**, Scenic Design; **Charles Maaks**, Master Builder; **Opal Virtue**, Costumes; **Carol Plotkin**, Props; **Gary Ploense**, Sound; **Mark Wright**, Lights; **Judy Stroh**, Stage Manager, **Dorothy Mundy**, Assistant Stage Manager/Props; **Kameron Cox**, House Manager; **Kim Snyder**, Accompanist.

Fiddler's pay-what-you-can preview performance is Thursday, Nov. 1. It then runs Nov. 2-4, 8-11, 15-18. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening performances are at 7:30. Sunday matinees are at 2:30.

See page 4 for rehearsal pictures.

November-December
2007

Board Meetings

Nov. 13, 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m.
Community Players Theatre

Fiddler on the Roof

Preview: Nov. 1
Shows: Nov. 2-4, 8-11, 15-18

The Mousetrap

Auditions: Nov. 12-13
Preview: Jan. 10
Shows: Jan. 11-13, 17-20, 24-26

Tickets can be ordered online at
www.communityplayers.org.
Click on "Online Ticket Sales."



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Newsletter Committee

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We are always looking for
writers, artists, designers and
story ideas. Send comments and
suggestions to lieder78@yahoo.com

Curtain Calls is published six
times a year for the voting mem-
bers of Community Players.

For information about joining us,
please contact the membership
chair, Roland Spies at roland.spies.gqt9@statefarm.com.

Back issues of *Curtain Calls*
are available on the Commu-
nity Players web site. Click on
"Newsletter Archive."

Auditions Coming for Christie's *The Mousetrap*

The Mousetrap, by prolific
mystery writer Agatha Christie, is
renowned for having the longest
initial run in theatre history. It has
been performed continuously on
London's West End since October
6, 1952. The action of the play takes place in Monkswell Manor, a hotel run by
the young couple Mollie and Giles Ralston. They and their snowbound guests are
informed by Detective Sergeant Trotter that a murder suspect is in the area. When
one of the guests is killed, they realize that the murderer is already in the hotel, but
who is it?



The cast includes five adult men and three adult women of various ages. Director
Penny Wilson has set a lower age limit of 18. Those auditioning will be asked to
read from the script and will be encouraged, though not required, to affect a British
accent. Some dialect training will be provided to those who get cast. Audition
dates are Monday, November 12 and Tuesday, November 13. Auditions will
begin at 7:00 PM, but auditioners should come 10-15 minutes earlier to complete
the audition form. Questions about auditions may be directed to the producer,
John Lieder, at lieder78@yahoo.com. Those preparing for auditions may want to
reference http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mousetrap for information about the
play, which includes brief character sketches. Be warned, however, the article
contains a plot spoiler!

Performance dates are January 11-13, 17-20 and 24-26.



Board of Governors News

Board President Deb Smith has appoint-
ed **Kameron Cox** as Box Office Chair.
Tom Smith resigned the position this past
summer due to a busy personal sched-
ule. Kameron will serve to the comple-
tion of the term, which ends May 2008.

In recognition of over 25 years of endless
service to Community Players, the Board
of Governors unanimously bestowed the
status of Governor Emeritus on **Bruce
Parrish** at the October board meeting.

Governor Emeritus is a lifetime appoint-
ment. This person attends board meet-
ings (providing wisdom and guidance
to the other board members), completes
other duties as assigned by the president,
and receives a complimentary season
ticket.

Crab Tree Removed

House and Grounds Chair **John Lieder**
and season ticket holder **Ken Con-
lin** (John's father-in-law) removed the
crabapple tree by the stage door on
September 8. The tree had perpetual
disease problems and the leaves were
causing the gutter to clog, leading to
water getting into the Green Room dur-
ing heavy storms. Leaf disposal was also
a problem, since neither the city nor our
garbage collector will receive our land-
scape waste. In the fall, the tree would
drop fruit, which would then be tracked
into the theatre. For these reasons, John
sought and received permission from the
Board of Governors to remove the tree.

John is exploring putting some sort of
statuette or similar object on the remain-
ing tree trunk. If you have ideas, contact
him at lieder78@yahoo.com.

CP Alum Pamela Shandrow Comes to Chicago in Phantom

Bob McLaughlin

Recently in these pages, we reported that Community Players alumna Pamela Shandrow (*How to Succeed*, *Sabrina Fair*, and many others), had been cast in the ensemble of the long-running national tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Here's an update.

Pamela continues to perform in the "Page" line, meaning she plays the Page in the second-act *Don Juan Triumphant* scene, while she also appears in a number of other scenes, including the opening *Hannibal* sequence and the wonderful second-act opener, "Masquerade." What's new is that Pamela has been cast as the understudy for the role of the second female lead, Carlotta, the Paris Opera's prima dona soprano. She is, the producers report, the youngest actress ever to cover this role, and during the company's recent Washington, DC, run, she got to play Carlotta for a week.

Sally Parry and I had the chance to see the *Phantom* tour during its Washington stop (though not, unfortunately, when Pamela was playing Carlotta), and to have dinner with Pamela afterward. The show itself is spectacular, with certainly the largest cast and orchestra I've ever seen for a national tour. Pamela reports that life on the road is alternately exciting and challenging, especially in adjusting to new living accommodations every few weeks. It's also a challenge to do the same show over and over again and keep it fresh. (She says that in each city the cast always searches out local piano bars where, after the show, they can sing non-*Phantom* songs.) Interestingly, one of the things that keep the show interesting is covering for missing actors: when someone is missing, lines and prop responsibilities are shifted among the rest of the cast. When everyone's there, Pamela says, it's less exciting.

Pamela and the *Phantom* tour will be coming to Chicago, where they will be appearing at the Cadillac Palace Theater from October 31 to January 5. Note, however that Pamela will be on vacation the week of November 11. If you plan to go and would like to see Pamela afterward, let me know and I'll pass on her e-mail address.



Pamela Shandrow at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Magic Show a Big Hit!

Community Players was a magical place to be on Saturday, October 6 as Gary Carson and Kelsey played to a sold out audience. The Las Vegas magician and his wife dazzled the audience with their conjuring and humor. The pet panther, Shaya, which appeared out of thin air, stole the lime light for a while as she did her best imitation of a lovable house cat. There was plenty of audience participation and laughs as child and adults alike helped with astounding illusions. As one long-time CP member commented, "This was not only a incredible performance of magic and illusions; it was entertaining for everybody of all age groups. This was one of the best fund raisers I have attended."

After the performance, both Gary and Kelsey signed autographs to their young fans, answered questions and posed for pictures. They were great fun and help Community Players raise over \$1300. Thanks Gary and Kelsey.



Gary and Kelsey Carson with two fans. Not pictured, their pet panther, Shaya.

Fiddler Rehearsal Pictures



The company acts out Tevye's (Mark deVeer) dream as he relates it to wife Golde (Karen Clark).



In "The Dream", Grandma Tzeitel (Christine Wing) lays it on the line for Tevye (Mark deVeer) with help from the Rabbi (Joseph Culpepper).



Chava (Aleska Barkoviak) looks on as Perchik (Jason Strunk) teaches Shprintzke (Samantha Strupek) and Bielke (Lauren Jacobs).

Volunteer Opportunities:

The Grant Committee

Did you know that Community Players receives over 15% of our income from grants? Each year, the Treasurer (Jason Wiggins) is responsible for coordinating the activities of applying for local, state, and corporate grants in an effort to secure funding to support the programs at Community Players. This has become more work than one person can handle, so Jason is looking for some help to create a Grant Committee.

There are five major grants that Community Players applies for on an annual basis, however there are many other grants available. The Grant Committee is looking for individuals who would be interested in searching the web for grants that we would be competitive for. We also need assistance with planning grant applications, composing the requests, and editing the final versions of grants before they are submitted. Once we receive a grant, we are responsible for working with the production teams to make sure the grants are recognized properly in the programs, as well as tracking expenses and attendance in order to develop a summary of the impact the grant has had on the organization and the community.

As you can see there are a number of jobs that make up the grant process. You do not have to be a great writer, just be interested in brainstorming on ways Community Players is making a difference in our community, able to search the web, or willing to learn about the basic financial aspects of the theatre. If any or all of these responsibilities sound like something you would be interested in helping out with, please let Jason know.

The 2008 grant process will start up again in January, so the Grant Committee will officially start their work after the Holidays. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Jason Wiggins (email: Snj10497@hotmail.com) for more information.