



STAGE DOOR NEWS

The Ritz Players Publication
March 2010

Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Sue Cook - Editor

A Letter From the President...

It is hard to believe that we are almost through another exciting season of community theater performances! Hats off and much thanks to all who have participated in the 2009-10 productions. Our final production will be *Doing Time at the Alamo*, April 30, May 1, 8, and 9. Auditions will be March 7 and 8, with direction by Dianne Pytel. It takes many people with differing talents to maintain quality productions and keep our organization moving forward. With that in mind, please consider getting involved with our final show this season, either on stage or behind the scenes. If you, or someone you know, would like to help, please contact the director or a Ritz Players Board Member.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Thursday, March 11**. We will be meeting at the Ritz (TNT) at 7:00 PM for a **general meeting**. Light refreshments will be served and you will enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Players!

As always, any questions or ideas you may have are always welcome and may be addressed to myself or to any board member. The Ritz Players Board meets at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the Ritz Theater.

Hope to see you at the Ritz!

Michael Steyer



General Meeting

March 11th

7:00

TNT

Refreshments!

Friends!

Good Times!

Don't miss it!!!



2008-2009 Ritz Players Board

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**GIRL SCOUTS TO GATHER AT
THE RITZ
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010**

For the second straight year, the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio, which includes counties from the Pennsylvania line to Toledo, will come to the theatre for a special day set aside to help them earn their Performing Arts 'badges.' In collaboration with the Girl Scout headquarters in Lorain, OH, age-appropriate workshops in make-up, costumes, oral interpretation, movement, stage craft and an opportunity to present a skit on the Mainstage are all designed to introduce the girls to live theatre. About 80 Brownies, Juniors and Cadets will be in attendance. Any Ritz Player interested in helping with a workshop should contact Dianne Pytel at the theatre, 419.448.8544 x28 or at home, 419.448.0707.

Princess Tea Party

On Feb. 21, the cast and crew of Cinderella, along with several Ritz Players board members, created a life long memory for a sold out crowd of moms, grandmas and little princesses. We hosted our first Princess Tea Party in the National Theatre. The little girls were first escorted to the stage where they were photographed with Cinderella in her pumpkin coach. They were then lifted to the studio which was transformed into the prettiest tea room. After being announced by the Royal Steward (Mike Pinkston), they were introduced to the King (Seth Innis) and Queen (Amy Berger). They were seated at their table and were given a tiara and wand to commemorate their day. Everyone was served tea, scones, finger sandwiches, cookies and a small cupcake for dessert. The little princesses were then entertained with enchanted musical selections sung by Cinderella (Lizzie Cornicelli), Fairy Godmother (Shelia Fryson), Prince Christopher (Alan Lortz), the Stepsisters (Mandy Bour and Erin O'Donnell), and the entire chorus of Cinderella. The girls were then led downstairs and were able to watch the Disney movie "Cinderella". This event has made the Players over \$700. Many people have spoken to me and several other cast members, commenting on what a fabulous time they had and when are we going to do it again.

I want to personally thank each and every person who helped make this dream of mine come true. I am a little girl at heart and once I knew we were producing Cinderella, I wanted to create a wonderful unique experience for little girls and their moms. It was absolutely adorable watching these little girls in their princess dresses enjoying a memorable time with their mothers and grandmothers. The Ritz Players really do make dreams come true!

Joan Ledwedge

**AUDITIONS Set for new comedy,
Doin' Time at the Alamo
MARCH 7th and 8th, 6:30 p.m.
MAINSTAGE**

This charming new comedy play by Mary Hanes takes place in the lobby of a seedy Texas motel called The Alamo located directly across the road from the state penitentiary in Big Spring, Texas. On a hot July weekend, a group of women gather for a stay while they visit their incarcerated men folk. They become involved in each other's lives and "do time" by ordering Chinese food, playing cards, planning a wedding and dreaming of love.

There are roles for 2 men and 5 women from ages 25 to 75! The characters include the motel owner unable to escape the woebegone establishment since his father died in prison; a tough-talking New Yorker engaged to a mobster; her hulky but reluctant bodyguard; a dental hygienist who loves the bodyguard; her mother (a devotee of gin rummy); a young yuppie wife arriving for the first time to see her white-collar criminal husband and a septuagenarian numerologist about to marry a twenty-something prisoner. At the Alamo, these prisoners of love ultimately earn their freedom and take a final stand against loneliness.

Directed by Dianne Pytel, production dates for *Doin' Time at the Alamo* are April 30, May 1 and 8 at 7:30 and May 9 at 2:00. Scripts are available at the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. More information is available by calling the director at 419.448.0707.



Cinderella

Is A Hit!

Cinderella recently closed under the direction of Sandy Anderson, Michael Steyer, and Lisa King. Many individuals shared their talents and time to bring this enchanting fairy tale to life on the Ritz stage. The cast consisted of: Lizzie Cornicelli (Cinderella), Sheila Elaine Fryson (Fairy Godmother), Joan Ledwedge (Stepmother), Erin O'Donnell (Grace), Mandy Bour (Joy), Alan J. Lortz (Prince Christopher), Michael Pinkston (Lionel), Amy Berger (Queen Constantina), Seth Innis (King Maximillian), Brant Gibson (Dove), Jim Cook (Charles, the Cat), and Rick Frederick (Mice). The Maidens were portrayed by: Tera Cox, Emily Dahm, Brenda Eisenhower, Beth Koop, Erin Roberts, and Ellen Venema. Appearing as Villagers were: Karyn Ludlow Abdo, Jerry Baker, Stephanie Dell, Ann Gillig, John Kihorany, Nathan Morton, Mary Nepper, James Puffenberger, and Theresa Stover.



This very successful show was lauded for the cast's fine vocal abilities; beautiful authentic 11-12th century costuming, by Dan Bell; period hairstyles, designed by Sandy Anderson; smooth scene transitions, under the supervision of Lonnie Fitch and Barry Hassinger; and set design by Jim Cook and Randy Halen. All of the cast and crew are to be commended for an excellent job!



Photos by Rob Ledwedge

The Ritz Players is open to anyone with an interest in Community Theatre. Funds raised by annual dues go directly to the Ritz Players to defray the cost of mailings, printings and other internal non-production expenses. Only dues paying members have voting privileges and receive all mailings. Annual memberships are **\$10.00** each and run from **June to May**. (Please direct any membership questions to Nancy Steyer at 419-443-8476.)

Look at your newsletter label for your current standing. If your label has:

2009-2010

You are a current member! Thank you!

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Please consider becoming a Ritz Player!

Name: _____

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The Ritz Players
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