

# STAGE DOOR NEWS

The Ritz Players Publication  
May 2010

Tiffin, Ohio 44883  
Sue Cook - Editor

## A Letter From the President...

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up our 26<sup>th</sup> season! You won't want to miss our final show, "Doing Time at the Alamo," under the direction of Dianne Pytel. The production runs April 30, and May 1, 8 & 9.

The end of another season means another Ritz Players Banquet. This year's festivities will be held on May 23, at The National Theatre. As always, one of the highlights will be the awarding of the Gus Awards. Please complete the reservation form included in this newsletter and send it in, along with your payment. Don't forget to renew your membership dues along with your RSVP.

If you have any questions or ideas they 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 Thursday of the month at the Ritz Theater.

Join us at the Ritz!

*Michael Steyer*



## GIRL SCOUT SATURDAY

On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> nearly seventy-five Girl Scouts and Daisies spent the day at The Ritz earning their performing arts badges. Members of the Ritz Players and the Teen Guild contributed their time to make this event happen. Attending were troops from Tiffin, Fremont, Republic, New Riegel, Sandusky, Amherst, Lorain and New Philadelphia.

Workshop leaders included Brenda Eisenhower in Costumes; Brianna Siler and Sandy Anderson in Make-up; Rachel Flood and Katie Smith in Creative Dramatics. Leaders for the skits that were performed on the Mainstage were Candace Curatti, Kyle Hammer, Alycia Harrison, Kyle Slagley, Jody Strong and Kim Tiell.

Thank you to these volunteers who helped to introduce all these girls to the enjoyment of theatre and the excitement of performing.

## Spring Banquet

May 23rd

6:00 pm

TNT

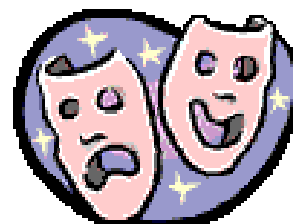
See flyer in this newsletter!

Great Food!!

Awesome Friends!!!

Annual Gus Awards!!!!

Don't miss it!!!!



## 2009-2010 Ritz Players Board

Michael Steyer	President
Joan Ledwedge	Vice President
Mandy Bour	Secretary
Jan Banks	Treasurer

Kelly Addis  
Sue Cook  
Lonnie Fitch  
Rick Frederick  
Sandy Kimmel  
Mary Nepper  
Stephanie Osborn  
Nancy Steyer

## DOIN' TIME AT THE ALAMO



Opening April 30<sup>th</sup> is the Ritz Players production of *Doin' Time at the Alamo*, an adult comedy by Mary Hanes. Set in the lobby of the forlorn Alamo motel in Texas, across the road from the State Penitentiary, the play brings together a collection of characters on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. They all "do time" between visits with their men in prison.

The characters of this warm, yet lively comedy, include the motel owner (Dale Depew) who has been unable to escape from The Alamo since his father died in prison; a tough-talking New Yorker (Stephanie Osborn) engaged to a two-timing mobster; her reluctant bodyguard (Kyle Slagley); the dental hygienist (Amy Berger) who loves the bodyguard; her card-playing mother (Sandy Kimmel); a seventy-year old numerologist (Nancy Fisher) who has come to marry her pen-pal prisoner and a young woman (LaRae Seay) whose yuppie husband has lied to the Feds. Over this eventful weekend, each of these lonely 'prisoners of love' takes a final stand against loneliness and finds freedom.

The cast has been rehearsing since March 15<sup>th</sup> under the direction of Dianne Pytel. Stage Manager is Lenore Bergstrom. Set Designer is John Spahr assisted by Jamie Oberholtzer and members of the Teen Guild.

Tickets are on sale at the Ritz Box Office (419.448.8544) Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is an adult comedy and not recommended for those 15 or under.

### Board Member Bios

The following articles have been submitted by the four people that are running for the Ritz Players Board and the two people that are running for the office of president. Be sure to come to the banquet so that members may vote!

**Sandy Kimmel** is thrilled to be considered for the role of president of the Ritz Players Board. She began her volunteer career with the Ritz 12 years ago as a "room mother" during the first-ever Summer Theatre Camp. She is proud to have repeated the role every year, and will reprise it again this summer as team leader for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade group. "*Doin' Time at the Alamo*" marks Sandy's 10<sup>th</sup> show since rekindling her love affair with the theatre after her kids were grown up enough that she could sneak out of the house in the evenings. Favorite roles include The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical*, Miss Lynch in *Grease*, Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*, and Mrs. Hurryup in *The Runaway Presents*. She has also been seen onstage as a mama in *Fiddler on the*

*Roof* at Heidelberg College, and in the chorus of *Sweeney Todd* at the Bellevue Society for the Arts. Sandy's dream is to play Mimi in *Rent* on Broadway, with an encore performance as Effie White in *Dreamgirls*.

By day, Sandy is a seventh-grade intervention specialist at Fremont Middle School. She is happily married to David Kimmel (English professor at Heidelberg), and is proud mother of Ben and Tommy, both of whom have been seen on and behind the Ritz Theatre stage.

If elected president, Sandy would like to renew discussions of reviving the Ritz Youth Players, continue organizing the mall storage facility, and find better ways to track membership. She also promises cookies at every board meeting!

**Joan Ledwedge** is no stranger to the stage. In her 22 years of Player's productions, Joan has been a stage manager, make-up artist, costumer and prop manager. She was the assistant director for *Steel Magnolias*. Her acting career has taken her from being a Nova Scotian' moose lovin' waitress in *Don't Hug Me*, a wise crackin' tough nun who loves the stage in *Nunsense* to the twinkie eating, dessert wine drinking Jan in *Grease*. She was most recently seen as the Stepmother in *Cinderella*. When Joan is not acting, planning summer theater camp, or running princess teas, you can find her teaching third grade at Noble Elementary. She is married to Rob Ledwedge and is the mother to her son Andy and daughter Jillian.

**Jan Banks** began her involvement with the Ritz Players as a props runner in 2002 with the production of *My Fair Lady*. Since then she has worn many hats on many productions including *Everything I Need To Know I learned in Kindergarten*, *Grace and Glorie*, and *Kiss Me Kate*. She also appeared in *Plaza Suite* in 2005 and was assistant director for the *Music Man* last season.

**Jim Cook** has worked as a Ritz Player for many years. From his early work performing in *The HolidayGlow Show* and set builder for *Pippin* through his

recent work as Music Director for *The Music Man* and Set Designer/Charles the Cat in *Cinderella*, he feels comfortable both on and off stage. His most enjoyable production to date has been performing as Kanute in *Don't Hug Me*. It was great to be a part of a show that was not "stock theater". It stretches the individual.

When not entertaining with the Ritz Players, Jim designs and builds sets for Mohawk High School. He has also worked with Columbian High School, Calvert High School, Bucyrus Little Theater, and most recently as Oscar Meyer in *Sermon on the Mound* with the Melmore KFC.

Additional productions include *The Sound of Music*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Everybody Loves Opal*, *My Fair Lady*, *Seussical*, *Lil' Abner*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Lion in Winter*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oliver*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

In "real" life, Jim works at Sonoco Products as a Quality Professional. His part time jobs include Funeral Director and antique radiator restoration. Hobbies include model railroading, gardening, and antique brass era cars.

**Judy Downie** was born and raised by Robert and Shirley Ross in Tiffin. I have three sisters (one of which is my twin) and one brother. I was educated in Tiffin City School system. I earned my bachelor's degree in elementary education from Heidelberg College in 1989 and my master's degree in curriculum and teaching from Bowling Green State University in 2008.

In 1990, I married and moved to Maryland with my husband, Barth Downie and taught there four years. We returned to Tiffin in 1997. After having children, my family life put my career on hold until 1999, until my children entered school. I have a son, Ben, in tenth grade and a daughter, Katie, in seventh grade. Of all my teaching experience, I would say the grade I enjoy teaching the most is the grade I currently teach, first grade.

Theater has always been a wonderful place for me to escape and be creative. I enjoy the many wonderful creative people that participate in the world of the theater. I have been involved with theatrical work since high school with the role as Make-up

Director during my Junior and Senior years. I also was cast in the chorus of several Columbian High School musicals: *Oklahoma*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Little Mary Sunshine*. I have been involved with the Ritz theater for the last several years in the capacity of a concession worker, an usher and a prop assistant or a Prop Mistress. I have helped with the props of several Ritz Players' musicals: *World Goes Round*, *Nunsense*, and *Cinderella*. Being a Ritz Players' member has allowed me to meet many wonderful new friends and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you for the opportunity to act on your behalf as a Ritz Players board member.

**Mike Steyer** has been a member of the Ritz Players since its beginnings in 1983. He has served several terms as a board member, currently holding the office of President. Additionally, he has served as Vice-President, two terms as Treasurer, and one term as Secretary, as well as acting as Membership Chairperson and Bylaws Committee Chairperson. He also served as co-editor of the Stage Door News for two years.

In 2006, Michael was honored by being named the Ritz Players Most Valuable Player.

On stage, Michael began with his appearance as Billy in the Players' first production, *Anything Goes*. His most recent appearance was in *Over the Tavern* as Chet. He has also appeared on stage in *The Lion in Winter*, *On Golden Pond*, *Joseph...*, *Hello Dolly!*, *The Odd Couple*, *Once In A Lifetime*, *The Nerd*, and *Everybody Loves Opal*. Michael has also been very active from the directing end. He was co-director of this season's *Cinderella*, as well as co-directing *Grease*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Plaza Suite*, *Together For Ten*, and *The King and I*. He also directed *The Holiday Glow Show*, and was assistant director for: *Pippin*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Cabaret*, and *South Pacific*.

In addition, Michael has worked backstage on several productions in various capacities, which include: props, sound, lights, and spotlight. He also serves as a volunteer at the Ritz Theater as an usher and concessions worker.

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.)

**COME TO THE BANQUET AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TOO!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_**Number of Individual Memberships@\$10.00**

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check and this order form to: The Ritz Players, P.O. Box 289, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

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