



Volume XIX
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Coshocton Footlight Players
BACKSTAGE
Footlightplayers.com

*OUR
61st
Season!*

Footlight Players Presents:

Moonlight & Magnolias

A Comedy by Ron Hutchinson

Producer: James Gauerke

Director: Betsy Gauerke

Rating: This comedy recommended for ages 13 & up



If you love the arts and entertainment, it's hard to resist the appeal of a backstage story. When the story involves the making of the most popular movie of all time, it may be impossible not to enjoy the tale.

Moonlight and Magnolias sneaks us into the office of legendary producer David O. Selznick during a week when his production of *Gone with the Wind* is in deep trouble. George Cukor has been fired as director and the umpteenth draft of a script has proven to be unworkable. Selznick has suspended shooting and the entire cast and crew are being paid \$50,000 a day while he figures out what to do next.

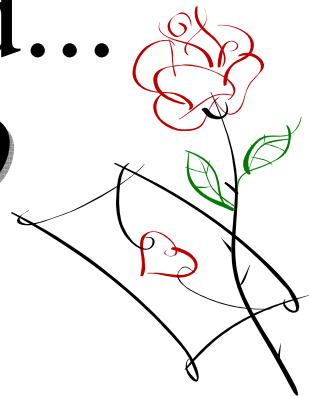
Early on a Monday morning in February 1939, Selznick meets with the screenwriter Ben Hecht to offer him \$15,000 for a complete rewrite of Sidney Howard's screenplay. The main problem is, Hecht hasn't read the novel, isn't impressed with Selznick's synopsis of it, and thinks the picture's bound to be a turkey. Selznick pulls the director Victor Fleming off the soon-to-wrap *Wizard of Oz* and sequesters the director and writer with himself in his office, with bananas and peanuts their only sustenance, to knock out a workable screenplay by the end of the week.

Tackling the ambitious work of these movie making icons is Matthew Hardesty as David O. Selznick, Jeff Wherley as Ben Hecht, Shane Pyle as Victor Fleming, and Caroline Heading as Miss Poppenghul (Selznick's secretary).

Tickets go on sale to all Members on Feb.22 , and non-members on Feb. 23. Performance dates are March 5, 6, March 12,13 and March 19, 20. Tickets may be purchased or reserved online or by calling the box office at 622-2959 from 7-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2-4 pm Friday and Saturday.

Auditions Announced...

Chapter Two



by Neil Simon

Directed by Susan A. Metz

Auditions for Neil Simon's romantic comedy *Chapter Two* will be held on **Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 pm** and **Monday, March 15th at 7:00 pm** at the Triple Locks Theater.

Chapter Two tells the story of recent widower and writer George Schneider, who is encouraged by his younger brother Leo to start dating again. As a result, George finds himself even more depressed after a series of bad matches. Then Leo comes up with Jennie Malone and she's a keeper. Still, it's a bumpy trip on the road to happily-ever-after for these not-so-young lovers.

Parts are available for two men and two women, ages 25-60.

Performance dates are May 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 at 8:00 pm.

For a perusal script or questions, please contact Susan Metz at 740-622-8566 (evenings).

Triple Locks Theater and Habitat for Humanity
Present Benefit Dinner

Moonlight & Magnolias

Dinner Buffet before the show

Friday, March 19th 6 PM at the English Ivy

Purchase buffet tickets in advance at the English Ivy \$25 each

Reserve theater seating by calling 622-2959. Non-member theater tickets are \$10

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Coshocton Footlight Players



Triple Locks Center Roscoe Village



From the Director's Chair: *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*

“I have not shut out the lessons the spirits have taught me that night, I keep the spirit of Christmas in my heart all the year long” – Ebenezer Scrooge.

Nor have I, the director of such a special show. A month has passed since we closed the curtain on our final performance and I am still thankful for the amazing group of volunteers we have at the Triple Locks Theater.

First I would like to thank the Play Reading committee and the Footlight Player's Board for selecting this play to be produced this season. Second, my producer Patty Wherley who has stuck by my side ever since *Flaming Idiots* and took on the work required for Scrooge during the busiest and most hectic part of the year. Third, the amazing group of actors and actresses who came to rehearsal, learned their lines, blocking and cues; Jon Cotterman, Jeff Wherley, Dave Osso, Jamie Hostettler, Chris Hart, Shelley Lillibridge, David Wickham, Frank Ackerman, Dana Kittner, Diana Marlatt, Leonard Hayhurst, Katerina Virostko and Emma Brems. Each added their own special flavor to the character they were portraying which made for a unique, entertaining performance.

Behind the scenes we had Glenn Mishler orchestrating as stage manager; keeping the actors in line for entrances and exits and ensuring the performance proceeded flawlessly, with the help of his wife Jackie Mishler and Stephanie Keller. Stephanie even stepped in one evening for Glenn, and it was one of our best shows during the run. Ed Sawyer provided his expertise at stage lighting and Mark Ott jumped at the chance to do sound. This was Mark's first time running the sound board but you never would have known it.

Kudos galore go out to Mindy Brems for the amazing costumes she put together from scratch, 14 costumes in all, which required additional help from Nancy Porteus, Shelly Lillibridge, Michelle Obaro and Katerina Virostko. They were truly remarkable and enhanced the believability that we had indeed traveled back to 1844. I am especially thankful Nathan Mayse stepped in at the last minute for Make-Up. Together with Ann Cugliari we had such amazing characters such as an elderly Scrooge, a frightful Jacob Marley and a beautiful Ghost of Christmas Past. Judy Milligan stepped into the role of Props Manager again to provide those hard to acquire period pieces needed for the set.

The set itself was grand! Thanks to Roger Eastman for putting it all together, with the help from set builders Jon Cotterman, Jim Gauerke, Jeff Wherley, David Wickham, Glenn Mishler, Frank Ackerman, and Patty Wherley. Set painting and decoration provided by Patty Wherley, Diana Marlatt, Frank Ackerman, Dana Kitner, Grace Wherley, and Emma Brems. To add to the special seasonal atmosphere, Ellen Hardesty, Nathan Mayse, and Betsy Gauerke helped to decorate the Green Room and outdoors in special Christmas cheer.

Cheerfully answering the phones and handing out tickets were Denny and Brenda Blanford, who were especially busy as we had 4 nights at sold out capacity and over 92% of available seats sold.

Finally my thanks to my fiancée, Angie Porteus, and my family for allowing me the extra time needed to direct this project and have a little “playtime” this holiday season. Nothing expresses love more than allowing those in your life to opportunity to pursue their dreams.

It is my sincerest hope that everyone enjoyed our departure from the traditional Christmas Carol and walked out that evening with a smile on their face and a message in their heart; that we keep Christmas in our hearts year round and openly share that love with everyone, without the need for extraordinary measures.

Shane Pyle



Rehearsal photos (L-R): Chris Hart, Shelly Lillibridge, Leonard Hayhurst, Jon Cotterman, Emma Brems



Setting the Scene

by Going Green!

Want to reduce the amount of paper you receive and perhaps save a tree? Check out our website www.footlightplayers.com. Make your reservations, renew your membership, check on upcoming events and auditions, and much, much more. All financial transactions are done safely and securely through PayPal!

Would you like to be on our electronic mailing list? Submit your e-mail address to CFPReservations@gmail.com and be the first to get upcoming newsletters and invitations to events directly to your e-mail box!



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Triple Locks Center Roscoe Village

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