



STAGE WRITE

IOWA CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS

VOLUME 54 - ISSUE 2 - JANUARY 2010



Book by Joseph A. Fields & Jerome Chodorov

Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Greene

Music by Leonard Bernstein

Directed by Ben Bentler

Englert Civic Theatre

Feb. 18th-20th 8pm

Feb. 21st 2:30pm

A word from the director:

Wonderful Town is a show that is quite alive. The music is catchy and vivacious and the story is clever, funny, and honest. The possibilities are endless with

the show. It is a hymn to New York City during a very lively jazz time and all the ingredients are there. It is a witty modern commentary on jazz of the 1930's and is utterly American in conception and execution from head to toe. It is current and characteristic of our people, and not paralleled by any other musical theatre, for better or worse, of the contemporaneous world. The electricity shoots back and forth over the storyline which projects such spirit, and is maintained with such ingenuity and taste, that it is not for an instant vulgar or banal or less than triumph of invention.

The show is an opera made of dance, meaningful music and song and speed. Its unflagging pulse is characteristic of its restless time and nervous environment. This Bernstein work towers over any of the other musical comedy scores of the day including Guys and Dolls. It's youthfulness and exhilaration of the music are companioned and fully matched by every artistic element of the score and script.

ICCT is looking for directors for their 55th season!

If you're interested in presenting a show for next years season, contact ICCT via this page, email (office@iowacitycommunitytheatre.com), or phone (338-0443). Possible plays and musicals ICCT is considering for next year's season are listed at the Facebook event page "ICCT's 55th Season Selection." If you're on Facebook already, join the ICCT group and get updates and event notices. We look forward to meeting with you and good luck!

Bend In the Road

Written & directed by Michael Sokoloff
Music composed by Nathan Basinger

Auditions

January 22 (6:30pm) & 23 (1:00pm)
at the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center
Callbacks: January 24 (6:30pm at ICCT)

For more information check out the Iowa City
Community Theatre website:
<http://www.iowacitycommunitytheatre.com>

Michael Sokoloff

Over 30 years in the Theatre, Michael Sokoloff has worked in New York (on Broadway and off), in Chicago store-fronts, and everywhere in between. He was the Fight Director for the Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Tony-winning production of *The Grapes of Wrath* starring Gary Sinise. He conceived and directed *Judas Goat* for the Organic Theatre in Chicago, where he was an Artistic Associate. In addition, Sokoloff has extensive regional theatre credits at top-tier theatres including Actor's Theatre of Louisville, the Arena Stage, the Denver Center Theatre, the Goodman Theatre, and others.

Since returning to the state, Sokoloff has been a full-time Theatre Artist in eastern Iowa, Directing, and creating Stunts and Swordplay for Riverside Theatre, The Old Creamery, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Classics at Brucemore, Grinnell Productions, U of I Summer Rep, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre, and Moongarden Acting Company. Before starting his own company (the Aggravated Assault Ensemble), Sokoloff was an Artistic Associate at Riverside Theatre in Iowa City for 6 years, where directing credits include *Equus*, *Under Milkwood*, *The Memory of Water*, *RUTHLESS!*, *Sideman*, *Boy Gets Girl*, and *The Last 5 Years*. Sokoloff's Aggravated Assault Ensemble has appeared in Chicago, and at Fringe Festivals in Kansas City, Des Moines, and twice at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in Minneapolis.

The Characters

JOE BUCK, a young adventurer, strong, handsome.

BILLY PERSON, his friend, also young and strong, but not as handsome.

MATTIE MAY MONTANA, a down-at-heel fancy woman, fortune teller, and proprietress of *MATTIE'S MEDICINE WAGON*.

POTTS, a middle-aged degenerate, also the narrator.

DAPHNE DEERE, a big, raw-boned girl, a farmer's daughter, longing for more life than she's got.

ENSEMBLE, 3 or more actor/acrobat/musicians, *MATTIE*'s minions (gender breakdown discretionary), who double as a rag-tag frontier klezmer band (The songs and incidental music for *BEND IN THE ROAD* should be rowdy, raucous, rough-edged, really 'down-an'-dirty'). 'ENSEMBLE' lines provide the basis for an overlapping, patch-work choral effect, and should be assigned among them to that end.

In addition, there are 2 *SOLDIERS*, a *SCOUT*, a *MOUNTAIN MAN*, and a splendid *CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD*.

The Setting

A bend in the road, Oregon Trail, mid-1800's, western Nebraska, butte country, Chimney Rock, Scotts Bluff, dusty, dry, wind blowing chill, fall settling in, Harvest Moon. The Gold Rush is in full dance, and the trail is littered with graves of the fallen, and the discarded chattels of discouraged travelers, an amazing assortment of items.

Want to read the script?

A few copies of the script may be found at the IC Public Library. Please check with library staff at the second floor information desk.

See you at auditions!

Thoughts from the Treasurer...

Happy New Year! By the time you read this, whether it is online on our website (www.iowacitycommunitytheatre.com) or a hard copy, we will be set up to accept donations online! By going to our website, you will see a button that says "Donate." This will allow anyone who visits our site to contribute to us via a secure PayPal site. Donors will have the ability use a credit card and not have to worry about the security of their card information, as no financial information is transmitted to us.

I am currently investigating a link from Friends of ICCT on Facebook, and the possibility of establishing an online "store" that would allow people to purchase season and individual tickets... Many of you saw the story about our theatre in the Press-Citizen, and know that we are facing some serious financial hardships. However, as the headline of that article stated, "the show WILL go on." The board is exploring numerous fundraising efforts and welcomes any ideas you may have.

Personally, what I will be focusing on is a seed money campaign in order to pursue a capital campaign. Everybody knows that it takes money to raise money. This is not something I can – or should – do myself. I am looking for a group of 8-10 people to serve with me on this seed money campaign. One of our first goals is to get current on our debts, followed by retiring our debt at Hills Bank. If you are willing to serve on the fundraising committee, either talk to me at the membership meeting or email. (board@iowacitycommunitytheatre.com) When I look at what Ben Bentler and Ed Kottick raised in a very short period of time for Wonderful Town, I know there is money and donors out there. Looking forward to the remainder of this, and to our NEXT season... Dave

New Computer for managing props, set pieces and costumes

A big thank you to Dee Thayer for the donation of a computer. This computer will be left in the loft and its sole purpose will be to identify what props, costumes and set pieces that we have and where to find them in the loft. Another step toward better organization!!!

ICCT Breakfast Club

Come one, come all to the ICCT Breakfast Club every Saturday from 9am to 1pm. There will be all sorts of tasks from the simple to the complex. There will be notification on the website if the event is canceled on any Saturday. Come and have a cup of coffee and help us out.

Looking for a few good people

We are looking for people to head up some committees. Perhaps there is something that will interest you. Here is what we already have and here is what we are still looking for:

Membership - Ken Van Egdon

Publicity - Mary Fowler

Volunteer - Deone Peterson

Public Relations - Jo Betts

Box Office - Charles Brungardt

House Manager -

Season Tickets -

Photographer -

Board Members *(notice the new board members)*

President	Patti Mott
Vice President	Barby Buddin
Secretary	Kathy McDonald
Treasurer	David Roe
Past President	Patti Mott
Member 2010	Brenda Christner, Jo Betts & Gene Troyer
Member 2011	Ken Van Egdon, Kehry Lane & Rachel Howell

Things ICCT needs:

List of things that are needed by ICCT.
Chairs for the lobby
Stamps
Plastic storage bins
Coffee
Paper towels
File Folders
Digital camera

Very Important Date - - January 18th, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Robert A Lee Recreation Center!!!

Please come and attend the ICCT Membership Meeting. We have come up with some creative fundraising ideas and need your help. Check out the ICCT Website for an agenda of this meeting.

Founded 1956

Visit us online at: www.iowacitycommunitytheatre.com



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