



STAGE LINES

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The Official Newsletter of Stage Coach Theatre

'Private Eyes' focuses on passion, deceit

Woe to the person who is looking for a concise description of the plot of "Private Eyes," opening this week at Stage Coach Theatre.

In this cleverly structured comic/drama by Steven Dietz (who also wrote this season's "Rocket Man"), the audience is on a roller coaster ride between fantasy and reality. People and circumstances are not what they seem, and time is relative.

Just when you think you have it figured out, Dietz throws in another twist.

Without ruining the ride, I can tell you that "Private Eyes" centers around a married couple of actors who are rehearsing a play about infidelity. Throw in a charming, slimy director, and you have the makings of a potent love triangle that mirrors the plot of the play they're rehearsing. There's also a mysterious woman in a restaurant to shake things up, and a psychiatrist who is overseeing all the madness.

Dietz is a master at writing very real characters with clever, insightful dialogue. He tackles passion and deceit, joy and despair, all combined with a dose of humor, that will leave the audience with plenty to think about on the drive home.

"Private Eyes" is directed by **John Myers**



Chris Schwartz and Mindy Jensen share a tender moment in "Private Eyes."

in a minimalistic style—a black stage with a flat, red-brick background. This helps the audience focus on the relationships and the talented team of actors: **Mike Mullens, Mindy Jensen, Chris Schwartz, Helene Myers, and Elizabeth Greeley.**

Don't miss "Private Eyes." This is one that people will be talking about for a while.

"Private Eyes" opens Friday, May 27, and runs three weekends, through June 11, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8:15 Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 on the single Sunday matinee, on June 5.

Tickets are \$12 Fridays/Saturdays, \$10 Thursdays/Sundays. Call the box office at 342-2000 for reservations and information.

Changes are afoot...

The SCT gift shop in the lobby is closing.

If you've had your eye on an item in the gift shop, this is your last chance to buy it. Visit the gift shop during the run of "Private Eyes."

Our ultimate goal is to create art

Meet the Board

Have you ever wondered about the people who give their time to keep Stage Coach Theatre running? Since we're an entirely volunteer-run theatre, the many people who work at Stage Coach do it for love, not money.

In this continuing Q&A feature, you will meet the various members of the Stage Coach Theatre Board of Directors.

This month, we talk with board member and business manager Larry Dennis.



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Name: Larry Dennis

Where are you from? I was born in the heart of the Ozark Mountains in southern Missouri. While not technically born in a log cabin (Mom was driven to a local hospital for the delivery), I was raised in a two-room log cabin that is now a roadside historical site to show tourists how hillbillies used to live. If you go back into some of the hollers back there, I've still got relatives sitting and rocking on their porches barefoot, sippin' whisky. For those of you who've seen me directing barefoot (or drinking whisky), I'm channeling my cultural heritage.

What is your first memory of live theatre? My first time experiencing live theatre was seeing "Damn Yankees" while being a tourist in San Diego. It starred Gwen Verdon and Ray Walston. Ever since then—redheads on stage, woo hoo!

Why did you get involved in theatre? I got involved in theatre by several of my life paths converging. I have a degree in Radio Production and spent many of my younger years in radio. While earning my degree I took several theatre production/design/directing classes. I've also been a short story writer through most of my life. (I have a psychological need to create fictional characters to populate my life.) So, when I started dating Elizabeth (Life Companion Extraordinaire), she was acting in a play at Stage Coach and they needed someone to run the sound board. I was drafted, and I sat there in the booth every night watching the play thinking (as every director does at every show they see) "they should be doing it this way!" I sent a resume to the theatre's Board of Directors and have been directing ever since.

Give a brief synopsis of your past theatre history. I started directing at Stage Coach in 1988 or 1989 (I forget). I've directed a show every season since then except for the shortened season we did when we moved into the space here at Hillcrest. Somewhere in the late '90s the folks at Boise Little Theatre talked me into directing there and I've done a show there every season since. In the midst of that I've also directed shows for Spontaneous Productions and CAN-ACT, as

well as having directed several of the one acts that Coffee News-Coffee News used to let us do for First Thursdays. Last year I directed Boise Music Week's "The Wizard of Oz."

What differentiates SCT from other theatres? As a physical structure, Stage Coach is great to direct in because the house is big enough so I can sit in back and see the Big Picture, but when I need to work with an actor it's easy to bounce onto stage with them. Artistically I've never had anyone from the Board suggest changes or question concepts of how I approach the work, and I've never had to defend my art. It is a free environment in which to create.

What are your goals for the Stage Coach board during your term? I've been on the Stage Coach Board for 15 years. I come from the time when our mission was to be artsy and daring, to create edgy contemporary work that required our audience to examine the humanity in themselves; why they do what they do, why they feel what they feel. So my personal goal on the Board is to remind new board members as they come and go that while we are making business decisions in our meetings, we are ultimately creating art.

What is your most embarrassing theatre moment? I don't have any embarrassing moments. There were some shows I directed that didn't work like I thought they would, but I wasn't embarrassed, just disappointed. When a show crashes and burns, you sort through the embers for clues and then start rebuilding for the next one.

You didn't ask but my favorite theatre moment came during the rehearsals for "Wizard of Oz." On my birthday, the cast surprised me with a rousing version of "Happy Birthday." Absolutely gorgeous to have an 80-member chorus burst into song for you.

What is your dream show to direct? Through the years I've directed over 30 shows, so my 'A' list of shows I need to direct has gotten rather slim. There are only two left and I don't expect either of them to happen. One is Terrence McNally's "Frankie & Johnnie in the Claire de Lune" and the other is Athol Fugard's "Valley Song."

Backstage Chatter

News and notes from the Stage Coach Theatre "family"

A few weeks ago, we said farewell to a beloved member of our Stage Coach Theatre family. **Joan Gordon** passed away on Sunday, May 1st.

Joan, along with her husband, **Wayne Gordon**, and her mother, **Marjorie Fairchild**, rarely missed a production here at SCT. Joan loved everything that our theatre had to offer, and she worked to help it to succeed.

Several years ago, Joan came forward and volunteered her time, talent, and knowledge to creating a website for SCT. She faithfully took charge of the site from that day forward. Whenever we needed something added or updated, Joan would take care of it, usually within mere seconds of our request. She never asked for anything in return for her hard work.

At Joan's memorial service, several people talked about her mix of passion and compassion. She certainly

was passionate about our theatre and compassionate in her volunteer work.

What we will remember most about Joan was how the theatre instantly brightened up every time she and her family walked through our doors. Joan always had a smile on her face and a story to tell. She will truly be missed.



Here's a bit of news from **Janelle Walters**:

For those of us who know him (and those who don't, but should), on May 2, Scott Beets broke both bones in his lower left leg. He stepped off of a small ledge while putting up a wall at a job site, misjudged how far down it was, which really wasn't much, and fell in a twisting motion. Neither the motion nor the fall could be abated, and the momentum caused the bones to finally give and break. He

had surgery at St. Lukes downtown, where the surgeon put in a rod, plate and screws to "patch him back up." He came home the following afternoon. It will be 6-8 weeks before he can put any weight on his leg, and it looks to be a 6-month recovery process. He is back to work on a limited basis, as much as a cast and crutches will allow. You can send cards and notes to Scott Beets c/o Showcase Homes 1229 N. Midland Blvd., Nampa ID, 83702.



UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

June 4—**Kevin & Kim Labrum** celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

June 6—**Sherry Hunt**

June 28—**Phil Ulmen**

June 28—**Don Walker**

'Chorus Line' cast named

Director Rick Hoover has announced his cast for next season's "A Chorus Line."

Tyson Bates (Mark), **Kelliey Chavez** (Diana), **Christine Geno** (Tricia), **Kelsea Graham** (Judy), **Katherine Bajenova Grimmitt** (Vicki), **Giovanna Hernandez** (Lois, and understudy for Diana), **Laura Jantz** (Maggie), **Emily Jubeck** (Laurie), **Danielle Larson** (Kristine), **Kelly Lim** (Joan), **Angela Simitzes** (Cassie), **Genny Ulmen** (Connie), **James Ulmen** (Mike), **Alies Watson** (Val), **Frederic Webb** (Zach), **Wanda Webb** (Sheila), **Kristi Wellman** (Bebe), and **Bradley Allan Zark** (Greg).

Hoover still needs five more men for roles in the production. Email him at rhoover51@cableone.net. Dancing rehearsals will begin in June, and regular rehearsals in mid September for the show's November 18th opening.

Plan a party for SCT!

If you enjoy planning fun events, we have a volunteer opportunity for you.

We are looking for someone to organize our annual Awards Picnic, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 20.

If you are willing to oversee this fun project, or if you'd like to volunteer for the work team, contact SCT president Karl Johnson at johnson_karl@hotmail.com or 284-5462.

Meanwhile, out in the lobby...

Director Karl Johnson has cast "Loot," a dark British farce that opens on July 8.

Michelle Nelson as Fay; **Joseph Wright** as McLeavy; **Ben Ulmen** as Hal; **Zach Townsend** as Dennis; **Stan Sanders** as Truscott; and **George Spelvin** as Meadows.

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A new, fun way to clean your garage and help SCT

Do you have stuff? Do you love Stage Coach Theatre? Do you love eBay?

There is a way to combine these loves that won't get you arrested in 48 states.

eBay, as part of their Giving Works program, has teamed up with MissionFish to assist in finding new revenue streams for non-profit organizations. You, as an eBay seller, can donate a portion of your auction proceeds to the charity of your choice, in this case Stage Coach Theatre. Or, if you choose to donate 100% of your auction proceeds, then eBay will donate the listing fee and Final Value Fee that they

usually charge all sellers on the auction site. MissionFish charges a small processing fee, so all auctions must sell for a minimum of \$10, but that is the only string. However, every donation made is tax-deductible.

It's easy, it's fun, it makes money for you and SCT, and it cleans the garage. What could be better than that?

If you are interested, go to www.eBay.com. Click on the Sell My Item link and follow the process.

Or, if you have questions, don't know how to sell on eBay or would like some personal assistance, please contact Kim Labrum

either via phone at 388-1191 or e-mail at kimlabrum@hotmail.com.

Thank you for supporting SCT in our mission to producing contemporary live theatre that reflects and celebrates the human spirit for, by and accessible to the community.

