



STAGE LINES

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The Official Newsletter of Stage Coach Theatre

“Loot” promises big laughs

It's not every British farce that includes a corpse among its props. But Joe Orton's "Loot" is not your average British farce.

This very dark comedy, directed by Karl Johnson, cynically mocks corrupt policemen, Catholicism, the rituals that surround death, and loveless family relations.

The show takes place in the home of Mr. McLeavy (Joseph Wright). His wife has died, and her corpse lies in a coffin in the living room, awaiting the funeral.

The McLeavy's son, Hal (Ben Ulmen), has recently robbed a bank with his friend, Dennis (Zach Townsend), and he has hidden the loot in the closet. The oft-married, gold-digging nurse, Fay (Nova Calverley), discovers the crime and soon is in cahoots with Hal, helping him to move the loot into his mother's coffin before they move the corpse into the closet.

Soon, Detective Inspector Truscott (Fred Webb) is on Hal's and Dennis's trail, and the plot starts taking its many hilarious twists and turns.

If you're looking for some cool humor for the hot summer days, "Loot" will fit the bill.



Truscott (Fred Webb) threatens Hal (Ben Ulmen), much to the dismay of Fay (Nova Calverley) in "Loot."

Callboard

Auditions for "Abducting Diana" will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 20-21 at the theatre.

Needed: 2 women, ages 30-55 and 5 men, ages 20-55.

"Abducting Diana" is a fast-paced physical farce. The director will be looking for character actors with a good sense of timing and an understanding of comedy.

For more information call Larry Dennis, 322-3408 or Melina Marx, 371-3548.

"Loot" opens Friday, July 8, and runs three weekends, through July 23, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8:15 Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 on the single Sunday matinee, on July 17.

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

Fake world of theatre is hard to resist

Name: Karl Johnson

Where are you from? I was born in Boise and raised here. While in the Army, I was stationed at Fort Ord, Calif., for 3 years and in Korea for 13 months. I wasted my G.I. bill trying to learn gunsmithing in Denver for 2 years. Returning to Idaho, I became a full-time National Guardsman, assigned to Twin Falls for a couple of years and Payette for about a year. I spent 5 years leeching off the taxpayers as a resident of Idaho Correctional Institutions in Orofino and here in Boise. The caring family I found here at SCT helped to keep me from returning to prison. Many of the friends I made volunteered to help me develop and maintain a relapse-prevention plan that helped me complete 10 years of parole this past November.

What is your first memory of live theatre? Why did you get involved in theatre? My first memory of live theatre is getting to play "Old McDonald" in a kindergarten skit. What really hooked me on theatre was that magical, epiphanous moment when I realized that it was all fake! My parents took me to see a revival of "Arsenic and Old Lace" at BLT because my mom's best friend, Betty Joanna Jefferson was playing one of the sisters. ("You know, I don't believe that Mr. Hitler is a gentleman.") During the show, I completely believed that Teddy was charging up those steps into a second-floor bedroom. Afterwards we went backstage to offer congratulations, and I discovered that the entire upstairs of that lovely old Long Island home was a platform about 3 feet wide. Wow. The hook was firmly set as I played juvenile roles and helped with tech in Shrine melodramas, then spent 3 years in high school drama learning from Opal Reinbold. I always allowed "important" things to keep me from trying out for anything, though,

until after my stint in prison. After that, I psyched myself up to audition for La Rae Walker directing "The Whales of August." After that, there was no turning back! Since then, I've worked with SCT, Knock 'em Dead and BLT. Last year, I made the mistake of leaving the state during our annual meeting and was made president. (Just kidding...)

When did you get involved with SCT? What differentiates SCT from other theatres? My first experience with SCT was in '87 or '88, as a smarmy lawyer in the one-act "Trifles." I got to play across from four A-list actors in that one. I was transferred to Twin Falls shortly after that, so I couldn't work in any other shows. The thing I love about our theatre is that it's not about egos. Everyone seems to be working for the good of the show and the organization. Of course we *have* some big egos, myself included. Theatre has to have big egos involved. No one would go to a second audition if they didn't have. But at SCT, we all seem to control our egos and be friends first. I don't recall ever dealing with any divas in our theatre. Plus there's all the parties and food and stuff. That's good too.

What are your goals for the Stage Coach board during your term? My big dream is to get a foundation started—a separate entity chartered to take care of our major fundraising. That would release our board to worry about the artistic direction of our theatre. I would also like to see us develop and follow a 5-year plan, that each successive board builds upon. If we are ever to be taken seriously as an artistic venue *or* as a business, even a not-for-profit one, we must begin to behave like a grown-up business. We don't have to actually *be* grown up, just *act* like them around others.

(Continued on page 3)

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 president (and the director of "Loot"), Karl Johnson.



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is edited by
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Backstage Chatter

News and notes from the Stage Coach Theatre "family"

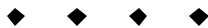
The alumni of last season's funereal comedy "Dearly Departed" have been busy lately. Here's the scoop:

Melody Whigam, who played the snooty Juanita, had a baby boy on May 26th. His name is Nolan Reeves Whigam, and he weighed 7 lbs, 3 oz. Melody reports that she and her husband are doing very well and trying to adjust to life with baby!

And Molly Kaczmarek, who played Junior's wife, Suzanne, was spotted recently with her new baby girl. Rumor has it that she NEVER yells at her baby in the back seat of her car, unlike her wacky character.

And Julie Miller, who played the prim and proper Aunt Marguerite can currently be seen on TV in a pair of commercials for Roaring

Springs. Julie plays the fun-loving mom and is, as always, a real hoot!



If it's the July 4th weekend, it must be time for the annual get-together at Kevin Kimsey's house. Since there were several people attending their first Kimsey barbecue, the bash was highlighted by Don Walker regaling a new audience with his golf-course tales of the tornado and the "corn snake." For many of us, this was the third or fourth year we'd heard these stories, so we weren't surprised when the corn snake turned out to be a copperhead. But the story gets more entertaining every time we hear it. (Thanks, Don!)



UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

July 4—**Jerry and Lynda Snodgrass** celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary.

July 4—**Don and LaRae Walker** celebrate their 18th.

Aug. 28—**Mike and Michele Cronen** celebrate their 23rd.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

July 9—**Becky Jaynes**

July 15—**Paul Budge**

July 17—**Michele Cronen**

July 18—**Kelliey Chavez**

July 29—**Ian Taylor** turns 25!

Aug. 1—**Jeremy Chase**

Aug. 7—**Mike Mullens**

Aug 15—**Leah Cronen** turns 16!

Aug. 20—**Nicky Barger**

Aug. 28—**Brett Walker** turns 16!

Meet the Board

(Continued from page 2)

What is your most embarrassing theatre moment? September 13th, 2001. We were doing a Cold War satire called "Visitor to a Strange Planet" over at BLT. As part of the parody of blind patriotism, my character mockingly sang the World War II ditty "Comin' in on a Wing and a Prayer." It had been a hard decision to do the show at all, two days after 9/11, but we finally decided that if 115 people could pry themselves away from the endlessly repeated loops of jetliners slamming into the World Trade Center, then we could make the effort to entertain them. Effort it was. That whole "stay in charac-

ter, stay in the moment" rule of acting went out the window when I started in on the lyric: "One of planes was missing, two hours overdue. One of our planes was missing, with all its gallant crew..."

What is your dream role to play on-stage or your dream show to direct? Hum, good question. Since I am generally cast as a type—usually the second clown in farces—naturally I would like to turn my hand to a drama. Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman" springs to mind. Or Giles Corey in "The Crucible." The mayor in "The Moon is Down." The three plays I'd most like to direct are "The Gingerbread Lady," "Asterisk" and "Burning Bright."

Meanwhile, out in the lobby...

Director Kevin Kimsey has chosen his cast for "Hell to Pay," the first show of SCT's 25th season, which will open Aug. 26.

Rick Lopez plays Molvado, **Becky Jaynes** is Lisa, and **M. Spelvin** is Danny.

Watch for special effects by Primedia-Digital.

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OF STAGE COACH THEATRE

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Learn to sell on eBay with a free class at SCT

Do you have tons of stuff just taking up space? Do you need some extra money? Then eBay may be the solution to your problems.

Millions of people have taken advantage of the "World's Largest Garage Sale" and you should as well. You can learn the ropes about selling on eBay in a free class being offered at SCT.

In this class, you will learn:

- ? How to register on eBay as a buyer and a seller
- ? How to list an item
- ? Tips and tricks to getting your item to sell.

Instructor Kim Labrum has been teaching this class for 2½ years and has traveled all over the state teaching it. This is a fun way to earn a little extra money and get rid of extra stuff as well.

Since Stage Coach Theatre is a registered nonprofit on eBay, you can choose to donate part of your sales proceeds to SCT. Kim will cover how to do this during the presentation.

The price for this seminar is usually \$39, but it is being offered to Stage Coach members and patrons for FREE. Come down and see what the buzz is all about!

WHAT: "Selling on eBay"

WHEN: Saturday, July 16
1-3 p.m.

WHERE: Stage Coach Theatre

COST: Free to our members
and patrons!