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Affordable Theater, Inc.

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This newsletter is for members and friends of Affordable Theater, Inc. of Los Altos, California. If you would like to receive a copy of your own, please contact us at [musings@affordabletheater.com](mailto:musings@affordabletheater.com)

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## A Year of Firsts

And so our first year has been, unsurprisingly, a year of firsts. Not the least of which was our first annual costume ball. This year's theme, Fractured Fairy Tales, provided our attendees with much scope for the imagination, and we were delighted by the variety and creativity of the costumes. Along with music and dancing, the evening featured several modern renditions of classic fairy tales, preformed by a talented and dedicated group of actors. Stories ranged from the heartwarming Ugly Dorkling to a marvelous tap interpretation of Little Red Riding Hood. Besides being an enjoyable evening, the dance raised funds to help Affordable Theater find a permanent home.



Little Red Riding Hood's Sandra Pleski

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## Up and Coming

### A Year of Firsts

To all of our gracious volunteers: thank you. We couldn't have done it without your help.

To all of our actors, singers, and dancers: thank you. Neither wind, nor cold, nor fear of dark kept you from rehearsals. Your talent and energy made this event memorable.

To all who came and danced: thank you. A theater is nothing without an audience. In the end, there were good friends and good fun. We could not ask for more. Thank you all, so very much. We hope that you will all come back and join us next year.

### Wrap-up

Affordable Theater took the final quarter of 2003 to complete all those little tasks that get lost in the immediacy of putting on a show: updating our web site, reassessing our fundraising efforts, and revamping our promotional material. All this put us in a better position to move forward in 2004.



Shakespeare 101's  
David Hamilton and Alana Shatto

### The Moral of the Story

In 2004, we focus our attention on our children's programs. We continue to look for opportunities to work with local schools and educational groups. Along with our existing programs, we will be debuting a new show "The Moral of the Story", for grade school children based on the fables of Aesop and Remus.

If you know of a school or educational group that would benefit from one of our programs, please have them contact us at 650-949-1720 or via email at [info@affordabletheater.com](mailto:info@affordabletheater.com).

### Drama Department in a Box

2004 is also when we debut our new program: Drama Department in a Box. As education budgets are cut all across California, drama departments are disappearing, and teachers with no theater experience are often being asked to step in and pick up the slack. Drama Department in a Box is designed to provide these schools and teachers with all the information and instruction they need to successfully stage a selection of plays. Containing information from casting tips to costuming suggestions to historical context and author biographies, this program will help ease the burden on our already overtaxed schools.

More information on this program is available at [www.affordabletheater.com/dramainabox/](http://www.affordabletheater.com/dramainabox/), by phone at 650-949-1720, or by email at [dramainabox@affordabletheater.com](mailto:dramainabox@affordabletheater.com).

## AACT Update

In a continuing effort to involve Affordable Theater more closely with other theaters in the community, our President, Charlotte Schaefer, has taken over the role of Northern California Representative for the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). In this role she will "work to promote communications and cooperation in the theater community." What does that mean, you may ask. Well, for starters, it means that she will be sending letters to theaters all across Northern California, announcing the AACT festival that will be held in the fall of 2004. The festival allows regional theaters to meet and perform in front of their peers and introduce their theaters to new audiences. A panel of judges at the event will choose the best performance, and that show will go on to compete at the state level. Winners of the state competition will continue on to regional and national competitions. Wouldn't it be great to see a Northern California theater take top honors?

Besides the specific goal of the festival, we would like to create a community of local theaters. In the current climate it's more important than ever that theaters support each other. People have less time to volunteer and less money to give, and theaters are feeling the brunt of it. By forming a network, theaters can share information, volunteers, equipment, and experience. By pooling our resources we can make sure that even the smallest theaters continue to grow.



Cinderella's Brianna Klemm, Chad Schwein, and Jessika Pimplaskar (in background)

## How You Can Help

All contributions, whether goods, services, monies, or time, are deeply appreciated. At the moment, however, our primary need is a home.

Our traveling productions have been highly successful, but now we are looking for a permanent space to hold rehearsals, workshops, and mainstage plays.

We are not looking for a traditional theater space. Any area with a space approximately 5,000 sq' (50' x 100') with 12-15' ceilings will suffice. Warehouses, empty grocery stores, old server farms, or unused office buildings are all ideal. If you know of anyone who owns such a space and would be willing to donate a long-term lease or even the space itself, please contact us at [giving@affordabletheater.com](mailto:giving@affordabletheater.com). Affordable Theater, Inc is a non-profit corporation under tax code 501(c)(3). As such, all contributions qualify you for a tax deduction, as well as our undying gratitude.