



Μυθιστορία

Affordable Theater, Inc.

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In This Issue

- 10 Things You Didn't Know About...
 - Troy
- Up and Coming
 - Auditions
 - 2004 Fundraiser
- Director's Note
 - Shakespeare 101
- Musing On
 - Questions Most Asked
- ATI Update
 - iGive...do you?
- How You Can Help
- Useful Information

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:

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10 Things You Didn't Know About...

Troy

10. The Trojan War lasted for more than ten years.
9. The army that attacked Troy to regain Helen was led by all of Helen's old boyfriends.
8. When Paris was born it was prophesied that he would bring about the destruction of Troy, so his parents had him sacrificed on a mountain top... unfortunately he lived.
7. Helen was happily married to Menelaus before Aphrodite made her fall in love with Paris.
6. Prior to the war the Greek army was unable to sail because Agamemnon had offended the god Artemis, Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter Iphigenia as an apology.
5. During the war the Greek army suffered through nine days of plague because Agamemnon had once again managed to offend a god, this time Apollo.
4. The phrase "beware of Greeks bearing gifts" is a reference to the Trojan War.
3. Many of the Greeks who fought at Troy came to grief after the war ended: Agamemnon murdered by his wife, Menelaus lost for seven years, and Odysseus lost for ten years, to name a few.
2. The ruins of Troy were finally uncovered when an archeologist, going against everything modern day science told him, used (*gasp*) ancient literature to find the city.
1. Troy isn't in Greece, it's in Turkey.

Up and Coming

Auditions

Performance Date:

December 11, 2004

Auditions:

Wednesday/Thursday 6:30pm-9pm
October 6 and 7, 2004

Rehearsals:

Wednesdays/Thursdays 6:30pm-9pm
October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, November 3, 4, 10, 11,
17, 18, December 1, 2, 8, and 9 2004

The Play: *When Santas Collide*

A comic investigation into Santa myths from around the world.

For more information visit

www.affordabletheater.com/santas/

Competition

Affordable Theater has been asked to perform in the *AACTFest* as the representative for the State of California.

The competition begins in March, 2005 at the state level and continues at the Regional and National levels over the course of the next year.

Auditions and rehearsal schedule will be announced in early January.

Scripts are currently being considered for the competition. Requirements are that the performance be between 45 and 60 minutes long, with 10 minutes at either end for set up and break down.

*It's time for Affordable Theater's second annual fundraiser.
This year we gather together to celebrate the holiday season.
Come join us and see what happens...*



Logo art by Bonni Moeller

Grand Prize to be raffled off at the end of the evening

Saturday, December 11, 2004. 7pm – 10pm

Carden El Encanto Day School
615 Hobart Terrace
Santa Clara, CA 95051

There will be gifts, prizes, raffles, and santas.
Dinner to feed your body, and a show to feed your brain!

Tickets are only \$20 and are available now!
Visit www.affordabletheater.com/santas.html

or by mail at: Affordable Theater, Inc.
When Santas Collide
640 Orange Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022

Bring some holiday cheer, and leave knowing
you're supporting a good cause.

Sponsored in part by...



Director's Note

Shakespeare 101

Revisiting Shakespeare 101 led me to make some choices that never would have occurred to me had we not done the show before. Directing Shakespeare 101 also allowed me to see parts of the show in a different light. It is very true that how a show feels from on stage very often has little correlation to how it looks from the audience.

This version of the script was commissioned by Horizons Homestudy of Pleasant Hill. They were planning on seeing the California Shakespeare Festival's production of 'Alls Well That Ends Well' in the fall, and wanted a show that would give their students some background on the work. Since Shakespeare 101 was designed to be a modular show Charlotte, as the author, and I took this opportunity to decide which scenes to keep, which to remove, and which to add. This was the first time we had truly used the modular aspect, as opposed to rewriting large portions of the script.

Being that the show remains and introduction to all types of Shakespeare's writing the initial sonnet selection remained the same: #18 Shall I Compare Thee To A Summers Day, #130 My Mistress Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun, and #141 In Faith I Do Not Love Thee with Mine Eyes. This time 'Shall I Compare Thee' received a line-by-line translation, while 'My Mistress Eyes' and 'In Faith' were completely redone in modern English. 'Shall I Compare Thee' used the lyrics of Tom Lehrer, while 'In Faith' was immortalized by the words of K. Lutz and K. Smith in their script '10 Things I Hate About You'.

Previously the comedy section had contained 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' and 'Taming of the Shrew'. These scenes were both removed and replaced by two scenes and a monologue from 'Alls Well That Ends Well'. Since we did not want to give away the entire plot, Charlotte chose scenes that gave a taste of the characters, and a brief outline of the overall plot.

The histories portion remained true to our most recent production and included the St. Crispin's Day speech and the final duel between Hotspur and Henry. These scenes not only give an excellent example of how the only thing archaic about Shakespeare's plays is his language, but also give us the opportunity for some fantastic swordplay.

The final section is the tragedies. Here we have run the gamut from the climactic death scene in 'Othello' through the tried and true balcony scene of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Hamlet has also popped up numerous times, and this time was no different. Taking an unexpected turn the 'Tragedy of Hamlet' was represented by the fall of

Troy. In a rich and moving speech by the Player King, the audience is treated to a description of the final moments of Priam, King of Troy.

As both the show's Director and Technical Director for Affordable Theater as a whole, I wanted to continue our utilization of audio/visual technology. Shakespeare 101 has proven a good background for this technology, so we once again brought the fall of Troy to life with film. Acting as a counterpoint to the Player King's speech the film, starring David McGaffey, Charlotte Schaefer, and Brian Larsen as Pyrrhus, engages the students and helps with the translation of the rich, though unfamiliar, middle English.

The main difference in this production of 'Shakespeare 101' is that I worked hard to bring out the entertaining aspects of the script, and let the educational parts be the framework. We spent a lot of time making sure the audience would identify with either Jess or Liz, and therefore be constantly reminded of themselves through the course of the play. The actor was used in a similar way to the Narrator in earlier versions, as the one person on stage who never made mistakes. Though even in this Jess manages to break the Actor once. Realizing that as Director I may be a touch biased on the subject, I believe this may be the richest 'Shakespeare 101' yet. The characters of Liz and Jess seem more alive, due in no small part to the excellent performances by Judy Pearce and Ashley Locklear, and the Actor, intensely played by Charlotte Schaefer, adds just the right touch of drama, passion, and comic relief. Through the course of this play I learned that it is easier to educate people if they don't realize it's being done. The repetition of facts, the reminding of basic principles of Shakespeare's writing and the inclusion of dramatic scenes that stay with you all combine to make sure that when people walk away from the performance, they have retained a few basic facts about Shakespeare's work. Making sure those facts are repeated in the course of hilarious counter-play between characters, and the basic principles are referenced against modern works that the audience already knows makes sure the audience will remember long after the excitement of the flashing swords has worn off.

I will continue to look forward to each new version of 'Shakespeare 101', but this one will always remain dear to my heart, not just because it was partly my creation, but because I think it will mark the beginning of a new era in the world of 'Shakespeare 101'.



Questions Most Asked

As President of Affordable Theater, the question I hear most often is "I'm not a theater tech, and I don't really want to act; how can I help Affordable Theater?" Ok, so it's not really the question I hear most often, but it's the question I wish I heard, so it's the one I'm going to answer now.

If you don't have the desire to act, direct, or tech, don't worry. There are many, many other things you can do with us.

- **Writing**
At this point in our development, ATI mostly performs original works by authors generous enough to donate their skills to our theater. Since we're constantly growing and expanding our offerings, we're constantly in need of new scripts. While we have several concepts already outlined, just waiting for an author to bring them to life, we also welcome new scripts with original ideas.
Not up for a whole play? Well, there's this newsletter. Guest authors are always welcome here.
- **Research**
Drama Department is a box is a growing program in need of a helping hand. We need volunteers to research and report on new authors, as we strive to do our part in repairing the damages done to school drama departments by California's plummeting budget.
- **Publicity**
But, you say, I'm not the PR type. What do I know about publicity? Well, do you know any kids? Do they go to school? How 'bout any teachers? Affordable Theater performs for schools, camps, and other educational venues, and we're always looking for new places to go and people to reach. Take a brochure to a school administrator or give a teacher our contact information. If you'd like us to make the call, send us the information, and we'll take care of it. Every little bit helps.

- **Rehearsal/Performance Space**
Do you work for a company that got smaller during the recent "economic downturn"? Does that company have any buildings standing vacant? Or even buildings with empty floors? Forget your traditional theater space, this is the perfect place for us. Affordable Theater could find a home, your company could find a tax deduction, and you could find a way to help the arts here in California.

So, there it is: a few ways you can help, even if you don't want to participate in a show. And that's only the beginning. Whatever your talents, we have a place for you. Whether you give us materials or money or some of your time, we here at Affordable Theater know we would be lost without you. And I, as President, say, "Thank you all, so very much. And I hope to see more of you in the future."

Do you have a question about
Affordable Theater
that you'd like answered?

Send a note to
musings@affordabletheater.com
and we'll do our best to answer it!

ATI Update

I give, you give, we all give through iGive

Fundraising is a tricky business. The internet has opened many new pathways, but a constant barrage of spam has made people wary of any offer that includes the phrase "enter your email address". So when we became aware of iGive, we looked at it carefully before deciding to join their program.

Through iGive, many of the online purchases you make in your everyday life can now benefit Affordable Theater. Need books? Order from the Barnes and Noble website, and they'll donate a percentage of your purchase to us. Tired of hauling large bags of pet food from the car to the house? No problem. Petco.com will deliver to your home and give a portion of the sale to ATI. Out of ink for your printer? It's not an inconvenience, it's an opportunity to help out Affordable Theater by ordering through 123inkjets or Staples.com. Cooking.com, Eddie Bauer, wine.com, the FTD florist, and hundreds of other online retailers have signed up to help causes around the country.

So, how do you make this happen? Well, first you sign up with iGive. Don't worry; they won't sell your information to anyone, we checked. Go to www.iGive.com/ATI, and follow the instructions to join iGive.

Then, when you're ready to shop, go to the iGive shopping page, <http://www.iGive.com/html/mall.cfm>, and look at their list of merchants. Find the merchant you're looking for, click the link, and shop as you always do. You'll be supporting the theater while purchasing products you needed anyway. Do you have friends that shop online? Forward the link to them or send them to www.affordabletheater.com/support. The more the merrier! No matter how much or little you shop online, your contribution will make a difference to us. We appreciate your support.



How You Can Help

All contributions, whether goods, services, monies, or time, are deeply appreciated. At the moment, however, we are looking to expand our technical program.

ATI is looking for a computer with movie creation software (such as iMovie or Final Cut), firewire and s-video capabilities, and a dvd burner.

Please contact us at giving@affordabletheater.com. Affordable Theater, Inc is a non-profit corporation under tax code 501(c)(3). As such, all contributions qualify for a tax deduction, as well as our undying gratitude.

Useful Information

Email Lists

Click on the link to join a list, or adjust your settings.

Actors

Auditions, and other actor-specific notices.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atiactors>

Musings

The ATI Newsletter.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atimusings>

Everyone

A public list for anyone involved with ATI.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/everyone>

