



Spotlight on... Fremont Community Theatre

Volume 36, Issue 4

January-February 2010

Kitchen Witches Stirs Up Trouble on the FCT Stage



Take 2 parts cooking show divas, add 30 years of hatred, frantically mix with a complicated past and let simmer until all comes to a boil !

Meanwhile in a separate bowl, combine 1 long-suffering son with a generous portion of loyalty to his mother and a heap-
ing serving of his job as producer to her smash hit show, when the heat in the kitchen is turned up you have baked up a cross between Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer.

Isobel Lomax and Dolly Biddle are two "mature" cable-access cooking show hostesses who through a spontaneous on air encounter are teamed together and create the biggest hit of the new television season, called *The Kitchen Witches*. Before long the insults are flung



Tracy Armentrout, Brandon Wurgess, and Mindie Ottney

harder than the food! Dolly's son Stephen tries to keep them on track, but as long as Dolly's dressing room is one inch closer to the set than Isobel's, it's a losing battle.

With hilarious broadcast highlights, including guest judges in the cooking challenge and an on stage **food fight** balanced with plenty of backstage drama this Fremont premiere of a relatively new play will have you rolling in the studio audience aisles.

Show information:

- * **Production dates:** January 29-31 and February 5-7
- * **Written by:** Caroline Smith
- * **Directed by:** Dan Henning
- * **Reservations:** 419.332.0695

Auditions for The Dixie Swim Club January 17 & 18



Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives.

As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging) that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives in the second act, these friends, proving the enduring power of "teamwork," rally 'round their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction.

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB is the story of these five unforgettable women, who will age during the show from the appearance of 44 to 77 years old. A hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever.

Editor's note: Apologies to those that receive this publication through the regular mail. It is very likely that by the time you get this the audition dates will have passed. Auditions for this show are a bit earlier than the normal schedule. (I would like to take this time to encourage all of those who get the newsletter by regular mail to sign up for the electronic version which went out on January 10th. To sign up send an email to: havices@fremont.k12.oh.us

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. Sheree, the spunky team captain, desperately tries to maintain her organized and "perfect" life, and continues to be the group's leader. Dinah, the wisecracking overachiever, is a career dynamo. But her victories in the courtrooms are in stark contrast to the frustrations of her personal life. Lexie, pampered and outspoken, is determined to hold on to her looks and youth as long as possible. She enjoys being married—over and over and over again. The self-deprecating and acerbic Vernadette, acutely aware of the dark cloud that hovers over her life, has decided to just give in and embrace the chaos. And sweet, eager-to-please Jeri Neal experiences some life decisions that takes them all by surprise.

- * **Written by:** Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten
- * **Cast:** 5 Women
- * **Directed by:** Judy Smith
- * **Auditions:** January 17 & 18 at 7pm
- * **Production dates:** March 19-21, 26-28

From the pen of the president...

For months now you've heard me say it or have seen it pop up in FCT printed materials...**MORE THAN A STAGE IN YOUR LIFE..** but what does it mean?

It stands for a variety of principles and can be interpreted into many things by many people, so over the next few issues of the Spotlight we are going to discover what it means to a few of our FCT members.

This month I asked Box Office Manager Mary Jo Foos. As you read her response, think about how FCT has been more than a stage in your life.

Thank you.

—*Mitchell Antesky*



More Than A Stage In Your Life Spotlight: Mary Jo Foes

I was seven years old. My household chore was to vacuum the carpet. Mom knew better than to ask me to dust the magazine rack, because I'd browse through the pictures and never finish. Instead, the handle of the upright vacuum cleaner was just the right size for an imaginary stand up microphone. I loved singing show tunes from movies like *The Sound of Music* and *Cinderella*. I would airily but melodically give the furniture a delightful performance while singing into the sweeper!

Although singing and pretending was an important part of my youth, I never had the confidence and outgoing personality to perform in public. I performed with our high school show choir and was in the chorus of one play, but no way would I ever consider a solo in a spotlight.

Until years later, after I had started teaching, a friend GAVE me the role of *Oklahoma's* Ado Annie in a community production in Gibsonburg. That was it! The theater bug had bitten me! I sought out other theatrical opportunities and came upon an ad for Fremont Community Theatre. I had never been to FCT and didn't know how to audition. Luckily director Patty Hill saw some potential and not only gave me a role but also let me understudy the female leads in *Carousel*.

FCT opened a new world for me. I found an outlet for my interest in singing, but I also tapped into a new hobby—acting. I couldn't believe how much fun it was to step out of Mary Jo and into another person's persona. What a great way to explore emotions and examine life choices as well! I found acting to be a therapeutic escape from worries and work. I actually used my new-found dramatic skills to improve my career. I found my teaching and storytelling was becoming more animated. I had a greater level of confidence in front of my students and coworkers.

I also found that using theater to "get away from it all" was a form of reverse psychology; I could bring "it all" to the theatre—my kids, friends, and coworkers. My children and some of my friends and coworkers have followed me onto the stage and found the experience rewarding as well. I have made new friends at FCT and found that camaraderie is the key to a successful performance as well as the key to happiness and success in the home and workplace.

The greatest reward of doing theatre, besides a thunderous applause of an audience, is having a hobby that can be shared with my entire family. All four of my children have been on the FCT stage at one time or another. In fact, all four just happened to be in one night's performance of *The Wizard of Oz* in 2000. My oldest daughter, Lydia, was filling in for a cast member who had another commitment, and the other three were already cast members.

I even met my husband at FCT. PJ and I were married in a theatrical-style wedding on the FCT stage in 1992. Since then, we've had passionate scenes together, thrown videos at each other, fallen in love with someone else, danced together, swapped spouses, been kidnapped by the other, and directed together. How many marriages can survive that?

Fremont Community Theatre has been "more than a stage in my life". It has seen me through good times, bad times, marriage, birth of my children, death of my father and in-laws, and all the while it has given me and my family a second home, a second family, and entertainment yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Thanks for the memories!
—Mary Jo Foes

OCTA News

OCTA is holding a contest which includes a section where members get points for attending shows at other local theatres.

If you go see shows at any of the NW region sites, please notify a board member. A list of locations can be found in the Northwest region section on the OCTA website at: www.ohiocommunitytheatre.org



The regional OCTAfest will be held at the University of Findlay June 12th and 13th.

The theme for the 2010 OCTA state conference will be Peace, Love, and Theatre...A Salute to the 70s. The 2010 conference will be held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg, September 3-6. Chair Joe Barton is looking for members to be a part of the steering committee. Please contact Joe at: jbarton22@msn.com or call Ginny Wise at 332-2879.

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January 12.....Playreading committee, 7pm
January 17 & 18.....Auditions for *The Dixie Swim Club*
January 19.....Board meeting, 7pm
January 26.....Press dress for *Kitchen Witches*
January 29-31.....*Kitchen Witches*, Fri. & Sat 7pm,
Sun 2pm
February 5-7.....*Kitchen Witches*, Fri. & Sat 7pm,
Sun 2pm
February 9.....Playreading committee, 7pm
February 16.....Board meeting, 7pm



Spotlight On... produced and edited by Scott Havice
