



Spotlight on...Fremont Community Theatre

The Dixie Swim Club takes the stage

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.



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.

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.

FCT Hits the Yellow Brick Road

After nearly ten years, Dorothy and her friends will again be bringing the familiar classic **THE WIZARD OF OZ** to life on the Fremont Community Theatre stage for **nine big performances**.

It all began on Saturday, February 20, when the lobby of FCT was filled to the brim with nearly 80 little munchkins and their parents who sang and talked their way into the cast for our spring musical.

After the main Munchkin roles were filled, all the other children were eventually split into two casts, O and Z, and then assigned a role as either a munchkin or a poppy. The two casts will alternate (continues next page...)

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Show information:

- **Production dates:** March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29
- **Reservations:** 419.332.0695
- **Written by:** Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, Jamie Wooten
- **Directed by:** Judy Smith
- **Cast:** Mandy Burris (Dinah), Brittney Forster (Lexie), Karen Langley (Vernadette), Laura Pinkston (Jeri Neal), Sue Stotz (Sheree)

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performances during our shows in May.

Then, on Sunday and Monday, it was time for the teens and adults to strut their stuff. Unbelievably, over 50 people auditioned for the show. It was truly amazing to see such a talented group of individuals, and it really made the casting difficult. After all the singing and readings were done, the cast of principals was announced.

- Dorothy.....Lizzie Cornicelli (Tiffin)
- Aunt Em/Glinda.....Candi Barickman (Fremont)
- Uncle Henry/ Emerald City Door Guard.....Scott Havice (Fremont)
- Miss Gultch/Wicked Witch.....Mary Jo Foos (Gibsonburg)

- Professor Marvel/ Wizard.....Steve Oberst (Lindsey)
- Zeke/ Cowardly Lion.....Tim Bolton (Fremont)
- Hickory/Tinman.....Brant Gibson (Tiffin)
- Hunk/Scarecrow.....Jeff Buchanan (Gibsonburg)
- Winkie General.....Michael PJ Foos (Gibsonburg)

Many teens and other adults were cast in the additional roles of the Flying Monkeys, Jitterbugs, Winkies, Trees, Crows, and Ozians.

Directing the production will be Randy J. Brown with Jan Wilcox assisting.

Spotlight on...Fremont Community Theatre

Production dates for THE WIZARD OF OZ are scheduled for May 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, 2010. Due to the size of this cast, you may want to call in early and make your reservations to get your favorite seats.



Angels in the Balcony

Recently we have focused a great deal on the next generation of FCT but we never want to forget those that have gone before us.

The board of trustees' wishes to honor, in memoriam, outstanding members, whether it is through years of service, outstanding contributions or providing inspiration long after their passing.

A lighted, wood and brass plaque will be located in the auditorium in

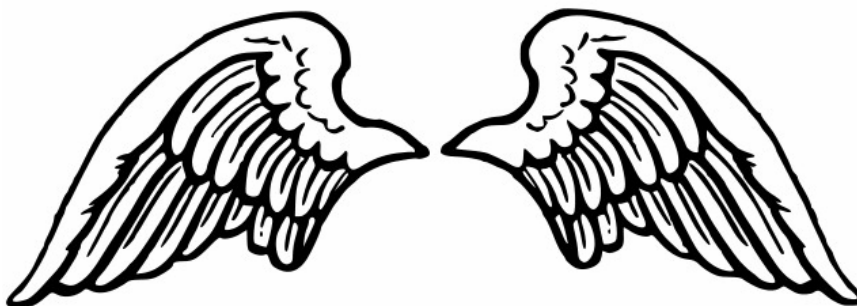
view of the stage so that our "Angels in the balcony" will never miss another FCT show and for generations ahead, everyone that graces our stage can draw inspiration from them.

The new plaque honoring just a few of the many people over the years that have contributed to the continuing existence of FCT will include along with their name the years of birth and passing.

"They will forever be missed but never forgotten."

The first individuals honored as "Angels in the Balcony" will be Karen Church, Ron Hoffman, Millie Mikesell, Rob Rexroth, Walter Sibbrell, Ivy Sprunk, Ray Sprunk, and Harry Wilcox.

Although many of you may not know some of these names, FCT would not be the place it is today without their dedication and multitude of talents on stage and off. They will forever be missed but never forgotten.



Fifty-fifth Season Announced

BINGO

Bingo is a splashy, zippy, outrageously funny new musical. Come meet Vern, Honey and Patsy: three pals that have driven through a terrible storm in the name of their weekly obsession. In between the number calling, strange rituals, and fierce competitions, love blossoms and long lost friends reunite. The audience plays along with a few games of Bingo and everyone comes away a winner after enjoying this fresh new musical to kick off the 2010-2011 season!

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Follow 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out." All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more. Due to the early excitement surrounding this family favorite, it is being scheduled to run for 2 additional Saturday matinee performances in addition to the standard 6 shows.

LEAVING IOWA

The spark behind *Leaving Iowa* comes from being children of parents from the now dubbed "greatest generation." The story is a toast to their undying dedication to the classic family road trip. It is the story of a middle-aged writer, who returns home and decides to finally take his father's ashes to his childhood home, as requested. But then discovers Grandma's house is now a grocery store, he begins traveling across Iowa searching for a proper resting place for his father. This father-and-son road trip shifts smoothly from the present to memories of the annual, torturous vacations of his childhood. This existential journey leads him to reconcile his past and present at the center of the United States. *Leaving Iowa* is a postcard to anyone who has ever found himself or herself driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of his or her youth.

THE AMOROUS AMBASSADOR

When Harry Douglas, the new American Ambassador to Great Britain, tells his family he is going to Scotland to play golf, his wife and daughter announce weekend plans of their own. Their newly hired butler, Perkins, watches stoically as each leaves and secretly returns for a romantic rendezvous in the empty house. Harry's secretary and Captain South of Marine Corps Embassy Security then arrive in the wake of a bomb threat and the embassy is sealed off,

with hilarious results. Even the imperturbable Perkins is drawn into the shenanigans. This non stop laugh riot is sure to combine some classic farce moments with a few unexpected surprises!

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre. Once again, by popular demand, FCT will be alive with *The Sound of Music!*

I want to thank Mitch, Sue, Claire, Tim and Judy for their many hours of work researching and reading plays to consider for next season. It has been a pleasure, as always, working with you and I think the 2010 – 2011 season will be a hit with our loyal theatre patrons.

Pete Lowry—Playreading Committee Chair

From the President...

I would like to think that Saturday February 13, 2010 was a very important day for FCT. It was the first official gathering of what I hope would grow to be the Fremont Community Youth Theatre. In conjunction with the Fremont Community Teen Theatre and our main season shows entering our 55TH year, we help establish that, FCT is here to be **More than a stage in your life.**

Over 65, 6-12 year old children got their introduction to the theatre with tours of the building, sing-a-longs, and even some practice auditions for *The Wizard of Oz*. Most of these children did return and audition for Oz landing roles as Munchkins. I

guided small groups backstage, showing them how sets are constructed. Scott Havice lead groups through the light booth and costume loft, Cyndi Hine line lead some singing of popular Oz songs, while Bridget Smith shared some reading tips and gave them the opportunity to read on stage after director Randy Brown spoke briefly about what to expect if cast in *The Wizard of Oz*. My many thanks to Hilary Frater and Brandon Wurgess for keeping us on schedule that morning also.

This was just the first of many events that being planned for the near future to excite the youth of Fremont and surrounding areas of the joys that can come from being in the theatre, whether it is on stage or off. Still in the formative stages for this August is the Summer Theatre Camp, a 2-week adventure where participants will experience a show from auditions through rehearsals,



Cyndi Hine line leads singing practice.

the building of sets and costumes, make-up and more right up to public performances.

For more information on this exciting program, contact the business line at 419-332-0775 or email us at info@fremontcommunitytheatre.org to have your name added to the USPS or e-mail list.

A special thank you to **Action Printing** (626 Grant St. Fremont...332-9615) for providing the youth workshop fliers to the nearly 3000 children in grades K-7 in the Fremont City and Parochial schools.



Randy Brown explains Oz tryouts.

Election Time



The annual FCT election dinner is April 17 at 6 PM in the Hayes United

Methodist Church. President Mitch Antesky is looking for three volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. If you are not a current board member and do not plan on running for a position on the board, you may serve on this committee. All that is required is you ask or make phone calls to qualified FCT members to inquire as to if they would like to have their names listed on the ballot for an

officer or board members seat.

Phone calls may be made at your convenience but ballots must be prepared by April 2 in order to have them ready for absentee voters.

Contact Mitch if you would like to help (and help in a big way!) and run for the board when asked, we need active participation from as many members as possible to keep FCT strong!

More Than A Stage In Your Life Spotlight: Virginia Wise

My story involves over 40+ years at FCT. Growing up my brother Bob was the musician (drummer), and I had no talent in playing any instruments, but I enjoyed dancing and telling jokes. I was in a Christmas play in the fourth grade "Patty's Christmas." I played Auntie Bear and had to crawl on all fours and find the true meaning of Christmas by peeking in windows and watching families at Christmas time.

In High School my speech teacher as well as several other teachers were involved in FCT. My speech teacher had the lead in "The Music Man" presented at the Fremont Junior High (where FCT presented their big musicals before the theater building). I was cast in the show as a dancer and had a big number in the library scene. As fate would have it my partner had to play in the orchestra so I ended up ushering and working box office.

I graduated and entered BGSU branch classes at Ross High School. I met Ben Wurzel who was very active at FCT. So it was his fault that the "theatre bug" bit me. I officially joined in 1965 - doing set painting and properties for "Mary, Mary".

Along the way several wonderful people influenced me to stay in the theatre - I know if I start naming them I will

forgot someone but I do want to point out that if your first experience at FCT is a great one - you have found a home and lots of new friends.

I especially remember I wanted to direct from the very beginning. The qualifications were: three chairmanships behind the curtain (stage manager, assistant director, technical director, properties, set design, costumes, makeup, etc.) and three in front of the curtain (publicity, box office, house manager); and a major and minor lead on stage.

From 1965-1982 I learned all I could from everyone (Harlans, Ivy Sprunk, Ron Hoffman, Dates). My last qualification was a lead role. Thanks to Linda (Herner) Rich casting me in her play "Dirty Work at The Crossroads" in a lead role, I finally earned my directorship! In the winter of 1983 my first play was "Snoopy" and the rest is history. As family affairs goes - I do remember singing and dancing in "Jesus Christ, Superstar" in May of 1983 with my son Kevin (12 at the time). Ben directed.

I have gained very close and dear friends through FCT; and we stay close even if they are not involved in theatre anymore. I met Marian (Nuhn)

Binder in the winter of 1969 who met Bert Binder; and Linda Rich, Wayne Livingston, Linda (Kramer) Bower, Liz Stetzel, John Aiello who introduced me to Bill Burkett, Janet (Smith) Wilcox who introduced me to Harry who introduced me to my love - New York City; Patty Hill who introduced me to Joe Kaiser; and I met Mitch while working at Playmakers in Port Clinton and I like to think that he joined FCT because of me; and the list keeps mounting.

So if you are thinking - how can I volunteer at FCT? -- everyone has a hidden talent -- just ask anyone at FCT. Everyone has taken that first step and they all began by cleaning the auditorium, ushering, baking cookies, or painting a set. (P.S. We have a great teen theatre and soon will have a children's theatre.)

This "stage" of my life hasn't ended, just slowed down. So it doesn't matter if you're 19 or 99 there's always room for a new "stage" in your life.

Memories never end.

—Ginny Wise

OCTA News

The next delegate meeting is March 27 hosted by Sandusky Harlequins.

Delegate Ginny Wise will be attending. This is the meeting where delegates receive the OCTA Festival Packets (information about the Festival being held at the University of

Findlay in June). So attention: Mitch, Pete, Dan, Judy, and Randy (directors of the shows this season) inform your casts about the OCTA Festival. The FCT excerpt selection will be sometime in April. Any questions just call Ginny at 419-332-2879.



Fremont Community Theatre
P.O. Box 24
1551 Dickinson Street
Fremont, OH 43420

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Community Theater: More Than A Stage in Your Life

March 16.....Board Meeting, 7pm
March 19-21.....*The Dixie Swim Club*, Fri. & Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm
March 26-28.....*The Dixie Swim Club*, Fri. & Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm
April 17.....FCT elections meeting, 6PM Hayes United Methodist Church
April 20.....Board meeting, 7pm
May 9,10.....Tryouts for FCT teen show, 7pm



Spotlight On... produced and edited by Scott Havice

