

Fort Findlay Playhouse



THE FORTTELL



November 2011

Shirley Nebergall, Editor

Fort Findlay Playhouse

300 W Sandusky St
Findlay, Ohio 45840
419-423-7168

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Other Contacts

FFP Patrons: ffp patrons@gmail.com
FFP Website: fortfindlayplayhouse.org
FFP Webmaster: jaysmith@fortfindlay.com
Fortell Editor: shirleynebergall@yahoo.com

Meetings

Board: 1st Wednesday of the month
General Membership: 4th Wednesday of the month
(If a meeting night falls on a final dress: Board meetings are moved to the following Monday, GM meetings aren't rescheduled)

Fortell Staff

Editor: Shirley Nebergall
Proofing: J.R. Smith
Photos: Breadth Films, Mike Ebersole
Contributors: Samantha Henry, Jim Toth, Jeanie Waaland

NEXT ISSUE'S DEADLINE

5pm, Sunday, January 15

Box Office

Fort Findlay Playhouse tickets can be purchased through the Arts Partnership, located at 618 S. Main St. in downtown Findlay, or by calling the Arts Partnership Box Office at (419) 422-4624. Box Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Note the new hours!) (artspartnership.com)



OCTA Website: www.ohiocommunitytheatre.org

The King and I Opens December 1

By Samantha Henry

The Fort Findlay Playhouse celebrates the holiday season this year with the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic *The King and I*. The show opens Thursday December 1 and will run Thursdays through Sundays till December 18.



The King and I tells the story of Anna Leonowens (Cathy Williams), an Englishwoman who in the 1860s becomes the governess and schoolteacher to the wives and children of the King of Siam (Jerry Mathern). As part of his attempt to modernize Siam, the King hires Anna and gives instructions for her to "westernize" both the children and his wives. Although the King frequently disagrees with Anna, as does his second-in-command, the Kralahome (Eric Hertenstein), with some gentle insight from Lady Thiang (Sandra Krueger), the King's head wife, Anna comes to understand that the King is not cruel and is in fact deeply conflicted in his love and pride in the people of Siam and his deeply rooted traditions.

At the same time, we see the struggle of Tuptim (Elizabeth Orley), a Burmese slave sent to the King as a gift, and her lover Lun Tha (Jeff Opperman). Anna is sympathetic to the two lovers but must stand back and watch them work against the odds to be together without the King being the wiser. Upon the arrival of the

(Continued on page 2)



Auditions Coming Soon

By Jim Toth

Auditions will be held for the Fort Findlay Playhouse production of the new comedy *The Dixie Swim Club* on Monday, December 19 and Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. Director Jim Toth is looking for five ladies to cast. Ages of all the women are in the 30-40 age range.

It is laughs galore in this wonderful new comedy by the same authors and director that brought you the FFP hits *Dearly Departed* and *Dearly Beloved*. In *The Dixie Swim Club*, the fast paced comedy never lets up as the story unfolds of five southern women who met at age 18 as members of a college swim team. The play follows these ladies as they meet once a year each August at the beach to reconnect in a swim team reunion, without husbands, children, phones or inhibitions. They learn the real picture of what friendship is and what it can be.

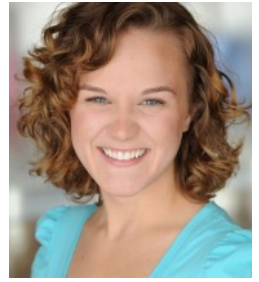
The play spans a glorious 33 years in the lives of the teammates, letting us peek in as each character changes through marriages, children, careers and tragedy. No matter what the occasion, these five best friends find hilarious laughter in every situation, and you will laugh right along with them.

This is a very funny play with more riotous one liners than the best stand-up comic routine. Make sure you don't miss this popular comedy.

The Dixie Swim Club is produced in association with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Former FFP Youth in Romantic Lead

Melissa (Missy) Waaland, daughter of Jeanie (*Steel Magnolias; Dearly Beloved; Urinetown, the Musical*) and Eliot Waaland was recently cast as the romantic lead in an independent feature film from Breadth Films called *Shadow Boxing*.



Missy grew up around theatre as her mom would bring her to the playhouse during rehearsals. She was also in a couple of shows including *Boy Meets Girl* (2003-2004 season). Missy participated in Findlay Light Opera (*The King and I*), worked with the University of Findlay Summer Stock for two years (appearing in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*) and was very active in the Findlay Area Youtheatre.

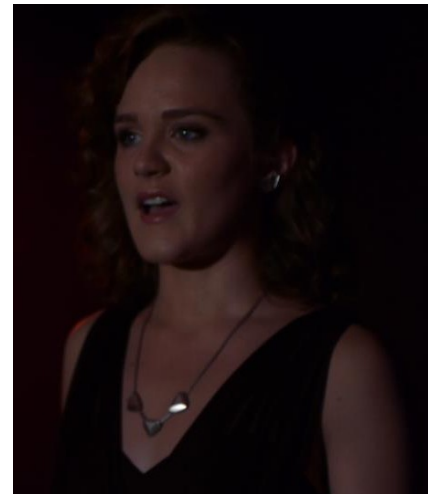
She graduated from Findlay High School in 2007 and went to Huntington University for her freshman year in college. She then auditioned for and transferred to The American Academy of Dramatic Arts (the oldest drama school in the U.S.) in New York City in the fall of 2008. She received her associate degree from there in the spring of 2010 and joined their Academy Company. Missy received a certificate in advanced acting techniques in February 2011.

Missy will be playing the role of Maggie in *Shadow Boxing*. The shooting has been completed and a trailer has been put together to get out on the internet to raise money for post-production. You can view this by going to www.facebook.com/pages/Breadth-Films/110937932317100 and click on the link <http://vimeo.com/32010803>. Breadth Films is hoping to get *Shadow Boxing* into the film festivals next year.

Missy lives in New York and works three jobs to support herself between acting jobs. She waits tables, is a hostess and works as a coat check.

Break-a-leg Missy!

(Editor's note: did your son or daughter grow up at FFP, and are they now pursuing a career in the performing arts? If so, I'd like to include them in an upcoming *Fortell* edition. Just email me their story and I'll take it from there.)



(Continued from page 1)

British envoy led by Sir Edward Ramsey (Pete Reynolds), the wives and children put on a Siamese ballet of the Harriet Beecher Stowe classic *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in an attempt to impress the visiting English and dissuade them from making Siam a colony of the British Empire. Other characters in the show are Louis Leonowens (Jake Bixler), Anna's young son who has accompanied her to Siam and Chulalongkorn (Brad Garner) the son and heir to the King of Siam.

Those in the children's chorus are Ewan Hertenstein, Ryan Boehm, Evan Barth, Evan Fisher, Julius Hucke, Katelyn Rose, Rosalind Hertenstein, Gracia Haynes, McKenzie Hutchison, Maddie Kreinbrink, Sydney Zirger, Emma Linthicum, Mara Sansalone, Emily Gilbert, Meghan Boehm and Denise Mojica. The adult chorus is made up of Mark Thomas, George Rustemeyer, Andrew Varney, Kyle Slagley, John Garner, Michelle Zirger, Alexandria Wilson, Wendy Henry, Tara Lacioano, Linda England, Emily Foster, Vicki Lopez, Richele Reynolds and Samantha Henry.

The show is directed by Marty Williams and produced by Samantha Henry with choreography by Julie Lane and music direction by Katie Blocksidge.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased through the Arts Partnership at 419-422-4624. All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday matinees begin at 5 p.m. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance, and tickets will be available at the door until they are sold out.

The King and I is produced in association with the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization.

FFP Says Goodbye to Mark Deerwester

Fort Findlay Playhouse lost a long-time player on September 15 when Mark F. Deerwester passed away following a battle with Leukemia.

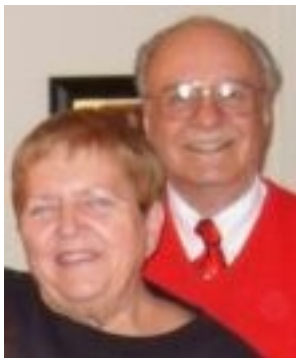
Mark was a 1957 graduate of McComb High School and a 1961 graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he was a member of the Ohio Zeta Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. In 1973 he received his master's degree from Bowling Green State University. He taught music for 17 years at Lakota, Eastwood and Fostoria Schools. He ended his working career as office manager for Agraliance in Fostoria.

Mark was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Fostoria, where he retired this past spring after 50 years of music ministry. He was the director of the Chancel Choir and the Memorial Bell Choir. He also served as an elder in the church. Mark was born to be a musician and entertainer. He sang with the Terra Community Chorale, played bells with the Old Millstream Ringers and played in the Fostoria Community Band.

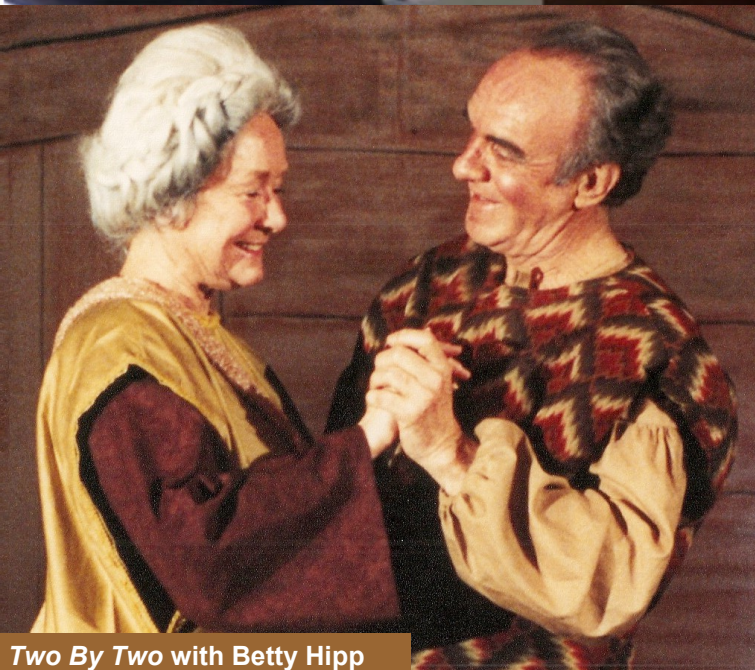
Mark volunteered for the Arts Council of Fostoria, Meals on Wheels, and Feed My Kids. He and his wife of 50 years (Beverly) also played in several bridge groups.

He was a member of the former Fostoria Footlighters and played at the Ritz Theatre in Tiffin as well as with the Fort Findlay Playhouse.

Mark appeared in 12 shows at FFP. His first was in 1980 in *The Fantasticks*, and his most recent was in the 2007 production of *The Curious Savage*. In between he was seen in *1776* (1981), *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1981), *Man of LaMancha* (1983), *Tribute* (1984), *Sly Fox* (1986), *Squabbles* (1991), *The Cemetery Club* (1992), *Olympus On My Mind* (1994), *Two By Two* (1997) and *The Sisters Rosensweig* (1998).



Piano Duet with Karis Matz



Two By Two with Betty Hipp

Squabbles

Ritz Theatre, On Golden Pond with Peg Baker





What to see in the Northwest Region and other local theatres

White Christmas

11/25 - 12/4

Amil Tellers of Dramatics - Lima
www.amitellers.org
800-944-1441

A Christmas Carol

11/25 - 12/10

Harlequins, Inc. - Sandusky
www.harlequintheatre.org
419-621-1311

Babes in Toyland

12/1 - 12/4

Star Players - Upper Sandusky
www.starplayers.net
419-294-1410

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

12/2 - 12/4

Off-Stage Productions - Van Wert
www.offstagetheatre.com
419-605-6708

A Christmas Carol

12/2 - 12/4

Toledo Repertoire Theatre - Toledo
www.toledorep.org
419-243-9277

A Christmas Story

12/2 - 12/11

Bucyrus Little Theatre - Bucyrus
www.bucyruslittletheatre.com
419-562-0731

Nuncrackers

12/2 - 12/11

Fremont Community Theatre - Fremont
www.fremontcommunitytheatre.org
419-332-0695

A Christmas Story

12/2 - 12/11

Williams County Community Theatre - Bryan
www.williamscountycommunitytheatre.com
888-569-9228

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

12/9 - 12/18

Black Swamp Players - Bowling Green
www.blackswampplayers.org
bsplayer@wcnet.org - subject line "tickets"

It's a Wonderful Life, Radio Play

12/11 - 12/12

Shoestring Players - Norwalk
www.theshoestringplayers.com
419-677-3531

It's a Wonderful Life, Radio Play

12/17 - 12/18

Shoestring Players - Bellevue
www.theshoestringplayers.com
419-484-2878

An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein

1/6 - 1/14

Bellevue Society for the Arts - Bellevue
www.bellevuearts.net
419-484-2787

True West

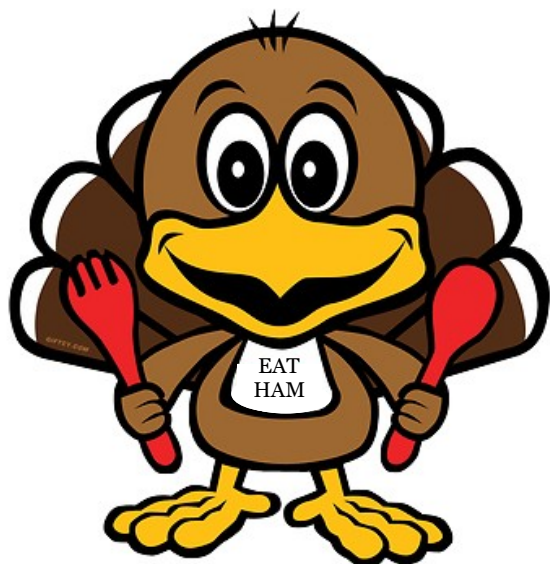
1/6 - 1/21

Village Players - Toledo
www.thevillageplayers.org
419-472-6817

Cheating Cheaters

1/12 - 1/22

Playmakers Civic Theatre - Port Clinton
www.pcplaymakers.org
419-734-5044



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
from all of us at
THE FORT FINDLAY
PLAYHOUSE!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

(all events take place at FFP unless otherwise noted)

Tickets on Sale for <i>The King and I</i>		
Benefactors	Mon., November 14	Arts Partnership Box Office
Angels	Tues., November 15	419 - 422 - 4624
Patrons	Wed., November 16	Mon - Fri
General Public	Mon., November 21	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
General Membership Meeting	Wed., November 23	CANCELLED
<i>The King and I</i> (see article page 1)	Thurs. - Fri., December 1-3, 8-10, 15-17	8:00 p.m.
	Sun., December 4, 11, 18	5:00 p.m.
Board Meeting	Wed., December 7	7:30 p.m.
<i>The Dixie Swim Club</i> Auditions (see article page 1)	Mon. - Tues., December 19 - 20	7:30 p.m.
General Membership Meeting	Wed., December 28	7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting	Wed., January 4	7:30 p.m.
<i>Fortell</i> Deadline	Sun., January 15	5:00 p.m.

PLAYHOUSE
Findlay
300 W Sandusky St
Findlay OH 45840

Proper
Postage
Required