



September 2008

THEATRE HAPPENINGS

Volume 15

No. 3

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

As children head back to school this fall, DTC is also gearing up for an exciting fall and winter season! We are rehearsing for *Urinetown-The Musical* and *Heaven Calls* as well as preparing a wonderful fundraising concert, our *Not Quite a Black-Tie Gala Fundraiser* this Sunday.

There's so much going on, it's hard not to feel a little overwhelmed by the activity. But we are also excited by how many people are going to be involved and touched by all of our efforts.

I continue to be amazed at how much work volunteers put into making this company a living and thriving organization. Between our fall and holiday productions, we will involve well over 100 volunteers in community theater activities and reach out to a potential audience in the thousands!

To those of you who are helping us bring our dreams to reality, thank you for all you do.

How exciting it is to think of the number of people we can touch with the joy of theater.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events and spread the word to

your friends and family. We need your help, especially, with supporting our fundraising concert and activities.

Even if you can't attend the concert, you can still buy a piano key (\$25 each), send in a tax-deductible donation, or donate an item to the Silent Auction.

We need your support to be able to continue producing the wonderful shows you expect and love!

DTC receives \$2,500 Grant!

I'm excited to announce that we received a \$2,500 grant from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council this year. Funds are to be used for our fall production *Urinetown-The Musical* at Olney Theatre Center.

We are in the process of applying for more grants for our spring production as well as to help purchase new sound and lighting equipment. The grants require us to match all funds received, so if you feel you can contribute toward general expenses or the purchase of things like wireless microphones, a sound board, or lights, please contact me via email at stephanie@duet-vocal.com.

Stephanie Bonte-Lebair



Rehearsal photos by Elli Swink



URINETOWN – THE MUSICAL

Oct. 23-26

Olney Theatre Center

Directed by: Kevin Kuchar
Produced by: Barbara Lang
Musical Director: Megan Hartten

Cast: Jennifer Blanton, Stephanie Bonte-Lebair,
Ellie & Elissa Borzilleri, Kim Busch, Amy Clason,
Patrick Doneghy, Hugh Gordon, Brett Harwood,
Dennis Hawkins, Phil Hosford, Jim Korte,
Samantha Melkonian, Bruce Rosenberg, Nicholas
Stamos, Lisabeth Stephens, Art Vandalay &
Alyssa Van Veldhuizen.



Announcement to DTC General Membership

Proposed By-Laws Change

The DTC Board of Directors has voted to approve changes to the by-laws that would move the Nomination and Election dates to coincide with the fiscal year that our organization observes. This will make it much easier to keep accounting and tax records consistent in the future.

Proposed changes are to Article VIII. Nomination, Election and Term of Officers.

1. Nomination - The change will read "...The Nominating Committee shall publish the list of candidates in the notice for the April meeting of the general membership of DTC during which elections will be held. ..."

(The current by-laws say "October" instead of "April.")

2. Election - The change will read "Board elections will be held in June of each year."

(The current by-laws say "January" instead of "June.")

Please check the DTC website for the date the next General Membership meeting will take place when this will be voted on.

Heaven Calls in Rehearsals

Heaven Calls, DTC's holiday show, was recently cast and is in rehearsals.

Nancy Lacy is directing and her husband Michael is Musical Director. Vitol and Kathleen Wiacek are producing.

The Story: Communicating the eternal problem of communication is what Heaven Calls demonstrates. An ordinary family, juggling holiday preparations and responsibilities, are unaware of the subtle, and not-so-subtle, nudges they are set to receive. A glitch in the out-of-the-world communication systems allows a whimsical glimpse into Heaven where the problem resolves itself in time.

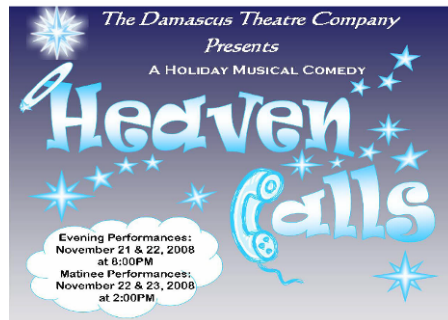
The multi-generational cast gives a peek into the family's home and a sample of the types of angelic advice that may provide direction and solutions in the family's lives. Several musical styles, including ballads n' ballroom, rap n' rhythm, performed as solos and choirs, are used by the characters to tell the story.

The show will be staged at Damascus United Methodist Church Nov.21-23.

The cast, ages two to senior citizens, includes: Cora, Emma & Lyla Ackerman, Isabella & Jillian Ado-Ado, Ariana Aguilar, Katelyn Avon, Jamie Bazen, David Bixby, Bailey Booth, Elizabeth Bradley, Jessie Clemons, Denise & Emily Cofer, Amanda & Darryl Coffman, Tina Esfarjani, Isabel Eyerly, Alyssa Freier, Bob Gladhill, Tommy Hearl, Krista & Susanna Hoffman, Hedy Hosford, Tavorn Hunt, Ian Lacy, Danielle & Iliana Leizman, Simone Loysen, Keaton May, Megan Mosesman, Taylor Payne, Christina Potter, Anne Pruett, Esther & Sharon Rea, James Rogers, Laura Searles, Marci Senires, Drew Thompson, Aubrey Tingle, and Caitlin & Thomas Winans.

We Need You!

Please let us know if you can help with any of DTC's upcoming productions. There are many volunteer opportunities available.



Nancy Lacy gives direction to Tina Esfarjani. (Photo by Elli Swink)

Buy from Amazon and Contribute to DTC

Amazon.com is giving us all an opportunity to help DTC!

DTC become an Associate member of Amazon.com. All visits that we are able to direct to their website, whereby a purchase is made, will result in Amazon.com making a deposit of up to 10% of the total purchase back to DTC.

If you are already a regular purchaser of the many items offered by Amazon.com you don't have to do anything more than you are already doing save one small step! Instead of accessing Amazon.com directly, you simply have to go to the DTC website www.damascustheatre.org and click on the Amazon link on the right side of our homepage.

To maximize the benefit of this tremendous opportunity you simply have to purchase items through the Amazon.com website. The other way you can help is to tell others that shop on Amazon to start going through our website to get to Amazon, so that they too can help!

If you have any questions, be sure to contact Hugh Gordon at hgordon@gofirsthome.com.



DTC ALL STARS

Congratulations to **Ellie Borzilleri** who was named one of the top performers of the 2007-2008 season by the DC Theatre Scene. Ellie also recently appeared in *The Last Five Years*, a two person show she co-directed and co-produced for Twilight Dramatic Arts, a production company she co-developed. **Barbara Lang** was the accompanist for the show.

Ken Kemp is appearing in *I Hate Hamlet!* at Montgomery Playhouse through Oct. 16.

Molly Boyle (Brigitta) & **Micky Goldstein** (Max) will appear in Rockville Musical Theatre's *The Sound of Music* Oct. 31-Nov. 16.

Cast in Damascus High School fall shows:

Noises Off - **Tyler Angier**, **Melissa Klahre**, **Nicholas Stamos**, **Mary Quinn**, and **Scott Bergstresser**

30 Reasons Not To Be In A Play - **Megan & Scott Bergstresser**, **Becca Sears** and **Rebecca Littlefield**

Alex Richmond was cast in Act Two's *The Crucible*, Nov. 21-23, and **Lily Goldberg** and **Alex** will be appearing in *The Children of Eden* Jan. 23-25.

William Amland will be appearing with the Vagabond Plays in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* thru Sept. 28.

Mike Muller is performing in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* with Way Off Broadway Dinner Theater through Nov. 8.

Amy Easton played Little Red in the Theatre on the Hill's summer production of *Into the Woods* in Westminster.

This past summer, **Aref Dejeni** performed in the World Premiere Opera: *The Passion of Persephone* and also in a Spanish opera recital.



Several DTC members marched in the Celebrate Damascus Parade on July 11. (Photo by Vitol Wiacek)

2008 Board Members

Stephanie Bonte-Lebair, President
Elissa Borzilleri, Vice President
Barbara Lang, Executive Producer
Megan Hartten, Secretary
Hugh Gordon, Treasurer

Members at Large

Celia Blitzer, Liz Cribbin, Judy Feola,
Jim Korte, Bill Lebair, and Jenni
McGinnis

www.damascustheatre.org

301-253-6210

DTC Webmaster Vitol Wiacek

vwiecek@yahoo.com

Did you know that you could contribute to DTC right from our website? Check it out.

Just Married!

Amy Easton & Matt Baughman were married on September 13.

Megan Glowacki & Chris Hartten were married on July 19.

Allison Rosenberg & David Ganzhorn were married on June 20 in Redwood City, CA. Bruce, Cindy, and family traveled to CA for the happy occasion.

DTC's THEATRE HAPPENINGS

is published four times a year.

Contact Elli Swink at elliswink@aol.com to submit information for publication.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Wiaceks & The Lacys

Name: Vitol & Kathleen Wiacek

Hometown: Vitol (LA), Kathleen (Denver)

Occupation:

Vitol (Director, Corporate Treasury for Lockheed Martin), Kathleen (English Composition Assistant, Sherwood High School)

Family (including pets):

Children Brian (17) and Daniel (14), dog Missy

How did you get involved with DTC? I

Our son Brian was interested in theatre in middle school and volunteered with DTC to earn SSL hours. Vitol tagged along one day to “help” and caught the theatre bug. Brian lost interest and Vitol has been helping ever since. Kathleen started with the occasional ushering and set painting until she was house manager for Gypsy last Fall.

What are your interests outside of theatre?

Vitol plays drums for the Browningsville Coronet Band and spends many hours making homebrew beer. Kathleen enjoys reading, playing tennis and watching movies.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you during a rehearsal or performance?

We’ve only had one rehearsal so far!! In previous shows, painting the sets backstage during dress rehearsal (in the dark!) is always good for a laugh.

What is your favorite show?

We’ve always enjoyed Phantom of the Opera...saw it in the theatre twice and own the DVD version. The second time we saw it was on the day our son was due. Walking up to the balcony, while 9 months pregnant, was a challenge.

Name: Nancy & Michael Lacy

Hometown: Both are from Illinois

Occupation:

Mike (Scientist), Nancy (Writer)

Family (including pets):

Children Kate and Ian, a dog and two cats

How did you get involved with DTC?

Through our friends the Wiaceks

What are your interests outside of theatre?

We have lots of interests including music and studying and preserving History. Nancy enjoys writing murder mysteries because she can marry her loves of history and theater. We both have been involved as choir directors and working with kids in kids program for over 20 years. The best thing you can be with kids is patient and let their creatively make the magic.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you during rehearsal or performance?

Nancy once was running downstage during a performance and someone took a picture, causing her to fall off the stage into the orchestra pit. She was bruised but kept going.

What is your favorite show?

Each show, musical, comedy, or straight show have a special badge of honor.

If you could have dinner with ANYONE, alive or dead, who would you choose?

Gutenberg - if it wouldn't have been for his printing press, there would be no way to communicate ideas from culture to culture. He was one of the most influential people and he was a regular person so that makes it so remarkable.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!
DTC's Not Quite A Black-Tie
Gala Fundraiser
September 28 at 4:00!

IN THIS ISSUE....



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