



Bottom's Dream

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THESPIAN CALENDAR

One-Act Play Festival
Thursday, January 7, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Thespians Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2010
3:30 p.m.

Area Thespians Conference
Saturday, January 9, 2010

Committee of Seven Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Thespians Candy Sale
January 25 - February 5, 2010

Thespians Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2009
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

All-School Talent Show
Friday, January 29, 2010

Stage Parents Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Committee of Seven Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2010
3:30 p.m.

VPA Theatre Auditions
Thursday, February 18, 2010
Tuesday, February 19, 2010

Thespians Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2010
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Akron HS Film Festival
Friday, February 26, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Stage Parents Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2010
6:30 p.m.

State Thespians Conference
March 19 - March 21, 2010

Four One-Act Plays Bring Big Comedy

Annual Festival Takes FHS Stage One Night Only on January 7
Large Cast Comedies Sure to Make You Laugh Out Loud

Four fast and funny plays make up Firestone Theatre's *One-Act Play Festival*. This annual event is to be held in the Linda B. Kersker Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2010. All tickets cost \$5.00 and will be available only at the door on the night of the show. The festival is comprised of four comedies including *13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Audition* by **Ian McWethy**, *Check Please: Take 3* by **Jonathon Rand**, *Dinner with the MacGuffins* by **Chris Sheppard** and **Jeff Grove**, and *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying* by **Jonathan Rand**.

13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Audition is directed by FHS alumnus **Brian Jackson** and features a cast comprised of juniors **Ally Freely**, **Haley HineLine**, **Christopher Sharkey**, and **Andrew Mills**; sophomore **Jaquie Hailstock**; and freshman **Sierrah**

Jesiolowski. *13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Audition* tells the story of two college recruiters at a prestigious university who need to fill one last spot to keep their jobs, thirteen eccentric, dim-witted and slightly-insane high school seniors are eager to come in for an interview. What seems like a simple task turns into a nightmare when the applicants turn out to be a reality TV star, a practicing vampire, an amateur magician, and others that are much, much worse. Each

(SEE ONE-ACT ON PAGE 3)

Schedule for Upcoming Sweeney Todd Complete Musical Thriller to Play Five Performances in March

The upcoming Firestone Theatre production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* will include a total of 5 public performances over one long weekend in March, 2010.

The musical thriller will open with a special preview performance at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2010. Tickets for the preview performance cost \$5.00 and will be available only at the door. Regular performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25; Friday, March 26; and Saturday, March 27, 2010. A single matinee will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Tickets for regular performances of *Sweeney Todd* cost \$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Advanced tickets are available by mail and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the school commons starting no later than March 18, 2010.

A special fundraising spaghetti dinner is scheduled to take place between the matinee and

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A Missive from Your President

by Ian Bolden

President, FHS Troupe #5570

So far the theatre year has going really well -- but there is more to do!

Our recent productin of *1001 Afernoons in Chicago* was wonderful. We are now in the throes of our annual *One-Act Play Festival* which is to be held on Thursday, January 7, 2010. I am excited about this event and I hope to hear you in the audience laughing along with me.

Auditions for the musical are in progress at press time and have created a great stir of excitement in the performing arts wing.

Plans are underway for the upclng Area Thespian Conference to be held right here at FHS on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Registration for this event is already complete but I know that Mr. Zimmerman is still looking for some adult volunteers. Call him at 330-873-3408 if you would like to help with this fantastic event.



Plans Set For All-School Talent Show

Plans are already set for Firestone's All-School Talent Show. The special event sponsored by Firestone Theatre is set to be a "buy-out" assembly during 7th and 8th periods on Friday, January 29, 2010. Auditions were held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, and includes a wide range of acts and students.

Tickets are available only to FHS students and will be available during all lunch periods starting Monday, January 25, 2010. No tickets will be sold on the day of the event.

Schoolhouse and Dear Gabby to Hit the Road

Firestone Theatre's productions of *Schoolhouse Rock Live* and *Dear Gabby: the Confessions of an Over-Achiever* are set to tour to Akron Schools throughout the spring semester.

Schoolhouse Rock Live is ideal for elementary school students and helps to extend classroom lessons in social studies, math, history, and language arts. This 45-minute musical uses songs from the famous Saturday morning cartoon series to teach and entertain.

Dear Gabby: The Confessions of an Over-Achiever is a 75-minute play that is ideal for eighth and ninth grade students. *Dear Gabby* is an outstanding play to use as part of an anti-bullying or anti-drug campaign. The play deals with typical teen problems including peer pressure and cheating in a sophisticated and entertaining way.

Call the theatre office at 330.873.3408 for more information.

London May Still be Calling for You

Tentative plans have been made to travel to London, England, this summer for a week of fun and theatre in June of 2010. Tentative plans for the trip include lots of site-seeing and tours as well as a day-trip to Stratford-upon-Avon -- William Shakespeare's hometown! There will also be lots of theatre to see as tentative plans call for a total of four theatre shows.

Registration for the London trip currently costs approximately \$2400.00 but we expect that price to come down somewhat with fluctuating airfare and hotel rates. The total price includes airfare, lodging, two-way passage on the Gatwick Express, a seven-day tube pass, a ride on the world-famous London Eye, a Big Red Bus street and river tour, and all those theatre shows.

We expect to take on some additional fund-raisers to help lower the cost as well. We fully expect the overall price of this London Trip to come down by \$400 to \$500 per student traveller by the end of the year. Ask Mr. Zimmerman for details.

SWEENEY TODD

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evening performances on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Dinner service will begin at app. 5:00 p.m. and conclude at app. 7:00 p.m. The spaghetti dinner is ideal for patrons of the matinee and evening performances of *Sweeney Todd* as well as dinner patrons who are not attending theatre that day. An individual dinner costs \$7.00 and will include a full serving of spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce as well as a small dinner salad and three-bean salad. A family of four can attend the dinner at a cost of \$20.00.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street is the rare instance of a musical thriller, Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's chilling, suspenseful, heart-pounding masterpiece of murderous barber-ism and culinary crime tells the infamous tale of the unjustly exiled barber who returns to 19th century London seeking revenge against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. His thirst for blood soon expands to include his unfortunate customers, and the resourceful proprietress of the pie shop downstairs soon has the people of London lining up in droves with her mysterious new meat pie recipe!

Firestone to Host Area Thespian Conference

Firestone High School will play host to hundreds of Thespians from throughout NE Ohio for the annual Area Thespian Conference.

This conference is sponsored by the Ohio Educational Theatre Association and is full day of theatre and fun. Students will share performances of short plays and cuttings as well as participate in a wide range of workshops and other activities.

Workshops presented at the conference include stage combat workshops by free-lance fight choreographer **John C. Davis**, an acting workshop by **Stephen Skiles** (The University of Akron), a costume workshop by free-lance costumer **Randie O. Sass**, a stage management workshop by **Elynmarie Kazle** (The Cleveland Playhouse), two acting workshops from free-lance actor / director **Kevin Joseph Kelly**, a musical theatre choreography workshop by free-lance choreographer **Rachel Galambos** and a film workshop by **Inda Blatch-Geib** (Cleveland State University), among others.

Performances for this conference had not been determined at press time.

ONE-ACT PLAYS

(continued from page 1)

applicant's interview hilariously illustrates what *not* to do at a college interview.

Check Please: Take 3 is directed by FHS senior **Benjamin Isaiah Black** and features a cast comprised of senior **Curtis J. Walton**; juniors **Jeremy Clarke**, **Bria Cooke**, **LaSosha Edwards**, **Lauren Johanni**, sophomore **Rachel Black**; and freshman **Demaris Evans**. In *Check Please: Take 3*, best friends Guy and Girl used to be a couple. Desperate to buck singlehood, they decide that even considering their atrocious blind dating track record, it's worth another shot. But after struggling through dates with a wannabe rock star, a vote-starved politician, and the guy who does those intense movie trailer voice-overs, there's the inevitable question: Which is better — staying single the rest of your life, or suffering through a series of the worst dates in history?

Dinner with the MacGuffins is directed by FHS alumnae **Sam Ost** and features a cast comprised of senior **Stephen Carder**; juniors **Becca Aronholt**, **Caeli Droge**, and **Denzel Washington**; sophomore **Jon Bozeka**; and freshman **Katie Johanni**. *Dinner with the MacGuffins* is a typical family comedy: teenage James and girlfriend Karen try to make out one afternoon, only to face repeated interruptions by other members of James' family. But the ultimate interruption comes when a cell phone goes off in the

Beyond the Stage Door

... alumnae **Jessica Whitaker** recently appeared in a featured role on the FOX drama *House* ... senior **Jesse AskeW** and junior **Jeremy Clarke** have been cast in the All-Ohio Production of *Indian Blood* to be presented at the State thespian Conference ... alumnus **Eric Magnus** recently appeared in the production of *Idiot Savant* at the New York Public Theatre. This off-Broadway play was directed by **Richard Foreman** and stars **Willum Defoe** ... junior **Jeremy Clarke** has been cast in *Beauty and the Beast* at North Canton Playhouse ... Ashland University student **Rachel Galombos** ... will be serving as the choreographer of our production of *Sweeney Todd* while also completing her student teaching in our theatre program ... alumnae **Mina Manjouna** is a graduate student in community counseling at Kent State ... alumnus **Michael Marina** is studying culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University. He has participated there in SlamCharlotte, North Carolina's slam poetry team ... alumnae **Crystal Cook** is the senior legislative officer at Kent State University ... alumnae **Dani Julian** is a senior business administration major at Thiel College ... alumnae **Darcy Green** recently accepted a nursing position at UPMC in Pittsburgh ... alumnus **Kareem Browne** is studying aviation maintenance science at Embry-Riddle University Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida ...

audience, breaking the "fourth wall" so that James can see the spectators. As James tries to convince his increasingly worried family that a wall is missing from their house, and that people are watching them, the play takes more left turns than Bugs Bunny should have taken at Albuquerque — until it reaches a happy (if twisted) ending.

How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying is directed by FHS theatre director **Mark A. Zimmerman** and features a cast comprised of senior **Jamila Okantah**; juniors **Jasmine Benson-Williams**, **Jillian Bryson**, **Josh Palan**, and **Christina Smith**; sophomores **Shayla Averiette** and **Geonah Miller**; freshman **Nick DeFrange** and **Zoe Sapienza**. *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying* asks the important question, want to know the easiest way to make it through the grueling abyss known as high school? A group of student agents infiltrate an assembly to demonstrate their secret tips and tricks, ranging from legally changing your name to get around roll call, to using Tom Cruise to help memorize science terms.

Next on our stage
One-Act Play Festival
Thursday, January 7, 2010
7:30 p.m.

FIRESTONE THEATRE
AKRON BOARD OF EDUCATION
70 N BROADWAY
AKRON OH 44308-1999

Firestone Theatre Mission Statement

The mission of Firestone Theatre is to provide all FHS students with the opportunity to experience and practice the craft of collaborative, theatrical creation, to provide educational, cultural, and otherwise positive theatrical options as an extra-curricular activity, and to enrich and enhance the cultural and artistic life of Firestone High School and the greater Akron area.

2009-2010 Firestone Thespian Officers

President -- Ian Bolden
Vice President -- Shannon Thanasiu
Treasurer -- Hayley Hinline
Clerk -- Kevin Glass
Secretary -- Jesse Askew
Senior Rep -- Amanda Klein
Junior Rep -- Tessa DiTirro
Sophomore Rep -- Jacqui Hailstock
Freshman Rep -- Amelia Britton
Committee of Seven Rep -- Benjamin Black

2009-2010 Committee of Seven

Chair of Stage Managers -- Benjamin Black
Chair of Lights -- Randall Hall
Chair of Props -- Dred Geib
Chair of Sound -- Brittini Wolohan
Costumes Chair -- Katie Michalec
Hair and Make-up Chair -- Samantha Clarke
Shop Foreman -- Jamilla Okantah
Box Office Manager -- Adam Laston
Publicity Manager -- Lauren Johanni
Auditions Manager -- LaSosha Edwards
House Manager -- Molly Doyle