

Don't Drink The Water Opens As Our First Comedy at Massachusetts Hospital School (MHS) - A Great Way To Laugh Away Those Winter Storms

Our second show, Don't Drink The Water, plays January 31 and February 1, 7, 8 & 9. The flats have been painted and the cast and crew eagerly await construction setup. The cast of 14 has had their first rehearsal at the school and are looking forward to when they start working with set and props around them.

Harriet reminds me that when we did "Water" 44 years ago the set went up 4 days before our first performance! And another first for Don't Drink The Water: it's the third time and 22 years between each production that we will have produced the show: Feb 1970 directed by Harriet and Shirley Turner (3 performances); Feb 1992 directed by Kevin LaCount (4 performances); Jan/Feb 2014 directed by Richard Alvin White (5 performances) – who will direct it for six performances in 2036?

Special thanks to the Kirichoks for hosting the December holiday party and Claire Lukaczyn for representing the Players at the MHS Christmas concert.

Here are some important dates for upcoming activities:

- Setup for Don't Drink The Water: January 11. Coffee and lunch provided.
- 95.9 FM will spotlight Don't Drink The Water on their Monday night live talk show February 20, 6:15 to 8:00 PM. Two Players will be interviewed – check it out to see who....
- Auditions for Laura are February 4 and 6. Setup is March 29. Rehearsals begin February 11.
- Volunteers still needed to help Vickie for parking attendants, wine pourers, ushers, and hospitality setup – any time, any date, any where, any show. Can't do Don't Drink The Water? Our last season's show, Laura, needs staffing also. Contact her at vgkp93@yahoo.com

Executive Board Proceedings, Monday, January 6, 2014 (Minutes recorded by Glenn Ryan)

- 1) Dawn, Cathy, Kevin, Frank, Laura, Erin, and Glenn were in attendance.
- 2) Minutes and Callboard for November 18, 2013 were approved.
- 3) Corresponding Secretary report: thank you cards were read from Glenn Ryan and Laura Dunkum to all the Players for their gifts, well wishes, and get well cards. Laura is scheduled for another surgery January 8.
- 4) Treasurer report: Due to just about selling out 4 of the 5 performances for Anne Frank plus our new rental agreement with MHS, we are in good financial shape as we approach the winter show. The additional expenses such as \$50 each night for a liquor license and

buying fire-retardant paint at \$75 per gallon did not have a significant impact. Online sales continue to increase.

5) Production report for Don't Drink The Water: Kevin applauded the 15 people who showed up January 4th to paint (with the fire retardant mix) and lug up flats. Second setup day is Saturday the 11th. The board approved Kevin's request to purchase new French doors since we have needed them and usually use them at least once or twice each season. Maureen has collected bios for the programs. Set dressing and lighting placement via L.A .and Dan Sheehan will commence after set build on Saturday.

6) Erin has sent out over 1,000 emails to advertise the current show – about 100 of those addresses came from new ticket patrons who purchased tickets for Anne Frank and were thus added to Constant Contact for future mailings. Photo shoot was done Sunday night and an event has been set up on Facebook for Don't Drink The Water. Postcards and posters have been ordered via Steve Hamilton for "Water" and for "Laura." Steve is also making up some additional signs for handicap drop offs at MHS. Erin will submit wording to CEO MHS for electronic sign outside school grounds. She has "Laura" audition notice ready to go out.

7) Laura Dunkum has arranged to have Brian Delaney and Jen Walsh fill in for her doing tickets at "Water" while she recovers from her surgery. She reports 110 tickets sold so far.

8) Vickie needs someone to fill in for her on February 7 and 8 to run front of house. Glenn volunteered to step in.

9) Cathy announced the Playreading Committee's (Pat Brawley, Vickie Kirichok, Michael Bradley, and chairwoman Cathy Larson) recommended plays for the 2014-15 season: Comedies: Caught In The Net; The Dixie Swim Club; House of Blue Leaves; The Man Who Came to Dinner; The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940; and No Sex Please, We're British. Dramas: The Crucible, God Only Knows, and Inherit the Wind. Musicals The Boyfriend and Damn Yankees.

The board was charged with reading all the plays for final selection at the March 17 board meeting. In February we will decide to do either two comedies and one drama; or one drama, one comedy, and one musical.

10) The January selection of the nominating committee was postponed until we hear if Michael will head the committee.

11) Frank reported that Auditions for Laura are February 4 and 6. March 29th is set up and February 11th rehearsals start every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Frank was waiting to hear back about a stage manager.

12) Dawn announce that her request to The Milton Cultural Committee for \$600 for new tables was returned with a \$225 grant. She will purchase more tables since we had to buy \$180 worth for opening show.

13) Frank wanted recommendations for one cast member and one board member to promote Don't Drink The Water and the Milton Players on Talk Show Live at 95.9 FM radio station where Kevin Lowney works. Kevin got us the spot for February 20, 6:15 to 8:00 PM. The Players will have a 15-minute segment.

Next board meeting is February 10, 2014, 7:00 PM, Milton Yacht Club. We'll be in our green for the March board meeting on the 17th, 7:00 PM, Milton Yacht Club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
(End of board minutes)

Frank Notes from Our President