

## **ANNE FRANK Sell-out Nights, Enthusiastic Audiences and Front of House Committees Contribute to Boffo Opening at Massachusetts Hospital School (MHS)**

The Diary of Anne Frank made magic theatre and entertained large audiences in our November opener at the Brayton Auditorium. Cast and crew should take a bow and special encore to Frank for captaining us through our first production. The handicapped students at MHS attended Act 1 of dress rehearsal and were intrigued and receptive to live theatre.

And now on to our second show, Don't Drink The Water, January 31 and February 1, 7, 8 & 9. Director Richard Alvin White has picked his cast of 18 and rehearsals are under way. Producer Maureen Truax is eagerly awaiting your assistance.

Here are some important dates for upcoming activities:

\* Christmas party at Vickie and Dan's December 13.

\*Setup for Don't Drink The Water : January 4.

\*Auditions for Laura are February 4 and 6. Setup is March 29. Rehearsals begin February 11.

\*Volunteers needed to help Vickie for parking attendants, wine poures, ushers, and hospitality setup---any time, any date, any where. When you come to the Xmas party let her know which night you want to help out.

Laura says tickets are going already for Don't Drink The Water. So if we sold out several nights for Anne Frank with a smaller cast, don't let your friends miss this one by not getting your tickets while available.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD PROCEEDINGS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013 (minutes recorded by Maureen Truax)**

1) All board members except Glenn Ryan are in attendance. First order of business hearing that Glenn is recuperating and doing as well as can be expected after major surgery!

2) Minutes and Callboard approved.

3) Corresponding secretary report : Sympathy card sent out to Ken Senibaldi on the loss of his mother and get well to Glenn Ryan.

4) Treasure report : Anne Frank was a great success with over \$10,000 in revenue realized. However , there were some extra costs due to the new space: building expenses for the set and fire proofing materials, two extra days of set-up with food and drink for the workers plus ice and liquor license for cabaret nights. Our insurance policy is also not going up, good news! Dawn will apply for liquor licenses for the remaining two shows in 2014 and hopefully be able to get both at once.

5) Production report for Anne Frank brought out suggestions made for better signage for handicap drop off and adding handicap parking instructions to website. There may also be the possibility of adding a question about special needs to the online ticket website where a patron check mark could be made when you order tickets, thus alerting us to any problems. This would be for seating and parking. Steve has redone all the signs for rows, Thank-You !

6) The Do's and Don'ts for MHS had our house manager Vickie saying 14-16 people are needed a night to effectively run the show. She also wants it known that crew cannot go behind the curtain where food and wine is being prepped during intermission because audience members followed them and there was pandemonium. We are considering moving the concessions to the other side of the theater. The decision was made not to open both sides of the theater for admission as this would require even more people to usher. A discussion whether snacks should only be available during intermission at the Sunday matinee was not decided on; Vickie said mayhem resulted in the snack table being so close to the doors.

The stage manager must come an hour before every rehearsal at MHS to open everything and is also responsible for locking everything up at the end of the evening. A check list will be made for future stage managers of what needs to be opened and closed. The stage manager and producer must also have the Campus Police number; the police can turn on heat if needed. All fabric that remains on stage must be flame proofed and any set pieces that we make from here on must be painted with flame retardant paint. We will get spray and paint.

7) Erin reports that 30% of people opened the email about Don't Drink The Water auditions and 10% clicked through. There was a good turn out for auditions, particularly for men. The new auditioners will be added to our Constant Contact list. We discussed making an "Event" on Facebook for all shows and then encouraging the membership to share this event with everyone they are friends with. The creation of any Facebook pages must go through Erin and all website changes or additions must go through Frank to avoid confusion. We decided magnets and post cards are a worthwhile investment and a good way to advertise shows. Anne Frank was featured in two Patriot Ledger articles but did not make The Boston Globe's Best Bets of The Milton Times. Kevin announced his radio station would be happy to run an interview with actors or production team from Don't Drink The Water.

8) Laura has changed the phone message and is getting ready for Don't Drink The Water. She reports online sales are way up. We have decided to have a mailing to the few people who expressed interest in The Milton Players but have no email. Dawn will make labels from the mailing list. Our hairdresser for Anne Frank has asked to take payment for her services in tickets for the next show instead of cash! We love her.

9) We are looking into the possibility of purchasing flame retardant table clothes so they would not have to be removed every night. The use of carts to move flats was very helpful and made strike much easier. All the tables are stored in the loft area over stage. We have no decision on scholarships at this time. MHS will buy any lamps needed for stage lights. Thank-you to Dan Sheehan for the instructions for making concrete blocks that held the sets; they worked beautifully. Regina Kennedy is looking for someone to sing at a MHS fundraiser on December 12th at the school; several members names were suggested. Frank will make some calls.

10) The Playreading committee is still reading and discussing options. A list of plays read with member suggested entries, committee likes, and plays removed from list by committee was presented. If anyone on board wants a the committee to reconsider a crossed off piece, let them know. The comedies, dramas, and possible musicals for the 2014-2015 season will be presented to the board January 6.

11) Member at Large had nothing to report.

12) Auditions for Laura are February 4 and 6. March 29 is set up and February 11 rehearsals start.

13) Stage manager Bruce Houston was approved by the board for Don't Drink The Water. Kevin reports the scene design is in the works. Alternate site for rehearsal on December 5th is Milton Yacht Club. Set-up is January 4.

14) The Milton Cultural Committee is meeting November 20 to decide if our request for \$600 for new tables will be granted. They will contact Dawn and let her know their decision. Dawn will also write a letter requesting we be considered for a portion of the sale money from The Milton Women's Club, as a part must be given to an organization as a charitable donation. Our long history with the club should put us in the running for some money.

15) The Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 13 at Vickie and Dan Kirichok's home in Brockton. An invite will be emailed to the membership by Erin and Maureen.

16) We are currently not listed on the EMACT site as members though adjudicators did come see Anne Frank. Dawn will send an email to find out what is going on.

17) Next meeting is January 6, 2014, 7:00pm, Milton Yacht Club.

### **Frank Notes from Our President**

I want to thank the Board of Directors, the cast and the crew of "The Diary of Anne Frank", and all the members of the Milton Players, who turned out and helped make our first production in the new venue such a success. We sold out 4 of the 5 performances. The word is out there. The Milton Players are back.

Congratulations to the cast of Don't Drink The Water. With Richard Alvin White's direction, I'm sure it will be a great production.

Hope to see all of you at the Kirichok's for the Christmas party on December 13.