

The Spotlight Is Focused on *LAURA*

Our last show, the thrilling murder mystery *Laura*, is in production and ready to finish out our first season at MHS. With two successful shows before it and with this excellent cast under the direction of Tom Coon to round out the season, it's no wonder that weeks before opening the tickets are selling fast: *Mark McPherson*- Kevin Lowney, *Danny Dorgan*-Nathan Ferry, *Waldo Lydecker*- Lance Wesley, *Shelby Carpenter*-Gary Mlinac, *Bessie Clary*-Lilliana Ryan, *Mrs. Dorgan*-Judith Leonardo, *A Girl*- Ashley Harmon, and *Olsen*-Bruce Houston.

Here are some important dates/announcements for upcoming activities:

- * Setup for *Laura* :March 29 (flats painted in the basement, moving scenery up to stage and furniture setup), and April 5 (set construction). Coffee and lunch provided.
- * *Laura* performances: April 25 and 26; May 2, 3, and 4.
- * Volunteers still needed to help Vickie for parking attendants, wine pourers, ushers, and hospitality setup. Front of house tables and chairs setup April 24. Contact her at vgkp93@yahoo.com.
- * 2014-2015 season selected and tentative dates announced.
- * Summer outing announced.

Executive Board Proceedings, Monday, March 17, 2014 (Minutes recorded by Glenn Ryan)

- 1) Dawn, Cathy, Frank, Laura, Erin, Vickie, Maureen, and Glenn were in attendance.
- 2) Minutes for February 10, 2014 were approved. Maureen served the most delicious home-made Irish bread and tea.
- 3) Corresponding Secretary report: Best wishes to Mary Quatromoni on getting her vision problems corrected and a speedy recovery to Joan Faulkner who shattered her arm in a skiing accident. Maureen reported that she and Erin will be attending a free Constant Contact session sponsored by EMACT on March 29.
- 4) Treasure report: Dawn's breakdown of expenses for *Don't Drink The Water* showed a profit. The bank balances to date are about 30% over the previous year due to fewer rental fees and a growing audience base,
- 5) Production report for *Laura*: Production manager Frank Moffett and assistant production manager Dawn Crowell announced that Megan O'Connor has taken on the props for the show and that she is looking for oriental porcelain vases that need to be smashed each production. March 29 and April 5 are setup dates for the show. Set design utilizes the thrust and extends to back wall. Color of the set will be myrtle (rose gold). The *Laura* portrait is being produced by Steve Hamilton.
- 6) Erin has created a Facebook event for *Laura* and an e-postcard will go out to cast to share by March 22. Mass mailing goes out March 25. Head shots and photos will be taken on April 6. Erin and Frank presented a Photographer Production Staff Agreement that stipulates services, fees, and terms for hiring of a photographer to do head shots and publicity pictures for each show. Board approved agreement and the hiring of Sarah Rocca Vento for *Laura* and the next season at \$200 per show.
- 7) Laura Dunkum reported that we had 152 tickets sold for the show to date. that is one of the best pre-sales so far ahead of the performances (5 weeks).
- 8) Front of House: Vickie announced that she is working on the dozen black tablecloths needed to have a complete set of blacks for tables. She also proposed using miniature easels with pictures of *Laura* on each table for decorations. The board approved. Frank proposed using new sandwich boards to ease patrons into the parking areas/theatre. He also proposed generating a check off sheet of all signage materials placement inside/outside the theatre so that we will have a guideline for varying volunteers who do front of house. We all agreed and he would follow up. It was decided that Constant Contact request for front of house help should go out two weeks before show opens.
- 9) MHS Issues : Dan Sheehan needed to help set lighting up so that full stage can be utilized. A possible conflict exists on last

performance of show with a scheduled MHS 5K run; Frank coordinating with school admin so two events do not collide. the second Friday of every month MHS honors their students on the thrust area of the auditorium; this requires cast to remove any set/furniture when we are set up on those days. Maureen, Erin, and Frank attended a special documentary film showing by MHS (narrated by Alan Alda) on what process the school uses to teach the students; the film was so well received that Erin is going to arrange a link on our website so our patrons can view. Frank notified school that we would have a gunshot in current show; school asked us to secure weapon at all times and remove from building at end of rehearsal/performance each night.

10) Glenn reported that he and his committee (Dawn and Harriet) will present proposed slate of new officers at the April board meeting.

11) The board selected and approved the following shows for the 2014/2015 season depending on availability: *Inherit The Wind* on October 31, November 1, 7, 8 and 9 with auditions August 18 & 19, callbacks if necessary August 21; *Caught In The Net* on January 30 and 31, and February 6, 7, and 8 with auditions November 10 and 11, callbacks if necessary November 13; and *Dixie Swim Club* on April 24 and 25 and May 1, 2, and 3 with auditions on February 9 and 10, callbacks if necessary February 12.

12) Glenn Ryan and Erin Stulb were appointed to the director selection committee. Frank was to get one more member from a list proposed by board, Shows were to be posted on 411, Stage Source, and membership lists for prospective directors to reply by April 4.

13) New Business: (a) Erin offered to have the Summer end of season party at her home on one of the first two Sundays in June. The board agreed it was a great idea. More details will be forthcoming. (b) friends in other productions were announced: Craig Truax wrote, produced and directed *Sleeping Beauty: Lost In Time* for The Fringe Theatre in Needham, April 4 - 6 with his daughters performing and costumes by Maureen - a family affair; Michael Bradley and Jen Walsh will appear in *The Odd Couple* for Bay Players, March 21,22, 28 and 29; and Jane and Chris Cartier and Ken Carberry will perform at the Alley Theatre in Middleboro.

Next board meeting is April 14, 2014, 7:00 PM, Milton Yacht Club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.
(End of board minutes)