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MADogram

February, 2009

Tickets for "Inherit the Wind"

Savvy MAD members and patrons are snapping up the front-row seats to "Inherit the Wind" but there are still plenty of tickets available for all performances. This classic show has timeless appeal, touching on themes that resonate today: science versus faith; more government versus less; conformity versus non-conformity. Put together a group of friends and come spend a thoughtful -- and fun! -- night with MAD. To place your ticket order, complete the electronic order form at <http://www.madtheater.org>; send your order to the address on the flier; or call the MAD ticket line at 240-475-8800.

Call for Director and Show Submissions for the 2009 MAD Fall Dinner Theater

If you have an interest in directing the MAD Fall dinner theater musical, now is the time to think about which show(s) you'd like to direct, your vision for doing the show(s) at MAD, and the staff you will bring to this rewarding project. A director candidate can submit any number of shows, with a suggested maximum of five shows. Each show submission will be treated as a separate submission, so each show package may include a different proposed artistic/production staff, if desired. Please remember that the Fall dinner theater is designed to be a large cast musical with a variety of opportunities in acting, music and dance for a variety of MAD members while providing primarily family entertainment.

Your submission should include **for each show**:

1. The show name, and any specifics about which version you would like to direct, if more than one exists.
2. The director's name and resume.
3. Any proposed staff for the show, including producer, choreographer, music and/or vocal director, technical director, and any other identified staff. **NOTE: Director candidates are highly encouraged to include a producer candidate in their package submissions since there is no Fall Show Vice President.**
4. A brief description of your vision for the show. This description should run about 2-4 paragraphs and describe how you would make this show work for the MAD membership and audience. Examples of things to include are: a brief synopsis, show demographics, types of dance, flexibility in casting, general ideas on set or technical issues, dealing with dated material, or other approaches which you think may be important to the show selection process. This description will be used by the show selection committee and will be posted to the members only area of the MAD web site during the show selection process.

Please submit your packages to Barbara Ying by February 26, 2009 at b.ying@verizon.net or call Barbara at 301-490-3154 to make alternative arrangements.

Call for Producer for the 2009 MAD Fall Dinner Theater

If you'd like to be involved with making the Fall show a real success and being part of the people who make the decisions, then this is your opportunity! The producer is the person to make it all work – without a producer, we can't have a fall show! If you are interested in producing, contact Barbara Ying at b.ying@verizon.net or call 301-490-3154. Want to know what you have to do to produce? Call Barbara, peruse the MAD Rules and Guidelines on the MAD web site, or talk to one of our recent producers. Even if you are willing to help, but not sure you want to be in charge, give me a call and we'll talk about how you can participate.

At-Large Show Selection Committee Members for the 2009 MAD Fall Dinner Theatre

Each year, three MAD members are selected at random from those interested to participate in the fall show selection committee. Interested members were solicited in the January MADogram and this year's At-large committee members were selected at the February 4 Executive Council meeting by drawing names "from the hat." The two voting members of the committee are **Michael Hartman** and **Cathy Barth**. The alternate, who participates in all discussions but votes only if one of the other voting members does not vote, is **Ginny Zanner**.

Spring Show Planning Underway!

MAD will mount a combined music/drama/dance Spring show on June 5-6 in the evening and June 7 afternoon. Work is already underway by producers Georganne Larsen and Courtney Smith and directors Randy and Cathy Barth. You should start your plans to be a part of the show. Chorus rehearsals will begin the week of March 9 (day of the week still under debate) at 6:30 in building 3 under Randy's direction. (We'll be doing a medley from *Wicked*, as well as several other fun songs.) No auditions are necessary—come be a part of this enjoyable group. Solo/small group auditions will happen the week of April 6th (details to follow). Drama workshops begin soon (see below), to be followed by monologues and small group cuttings for the show.

What's the theme? Whatever the participants want it to be! This will be a free-form show built around what people bring in. We'll keep the tech needs small as we'll present this again in building 3 (we just can't get building 8 on Friday nights any more). We're looking for a "small concept" show that we can have fun mounting and our friends can have fun seeing.

So start putting together some fun things to bring in for drama or solo/small group numbers. Keep it scaled to the building 3 space (drama pieces and dance pieces in particular, keep that in mind).

We are in need of someone to lead dance workshops that would culminate in one or two acts for the show. If you're interested in being part of this, please contact Jan Bloom, the MAD Dance Coordinator, at 301-593-7720 or janbloom@att.net. If you would like to be "the one," you call the shots on when and how many classes you want to lead. Contact Jan even just to discuss possibilities.

Spring Drama Workshops

Featuring Matt Williams (Carousel) leading a fun four-week improvisation workshop! Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, 7:00–9:00 PM, in the building 3 auditorium. Those who participated in Matt's improv workshop last year know just how much fun this is. Improv is for everyone! It develops great skills for speakers, actors, teachers and performers of all kinds. Learn how to listen and respond in real time while having loads of fun! No experience, no scripts, no memorizing needed – the only requirement is to show up and be willing to let loose!

MaryLou Fisher will also be giving a vocal projection workshop on Monday, March 30.

Learning Drama Skills Through Experience: Monologues and Scenes for the Spring Show

Readings will be held Mondays, March 30 8:00 to 9:00 PM after MaryLou's workshop, and April 6, 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the building 3 auditorium. Rehearsals will continue through May, once pieces have been selected. This is your chance to expand your drama skills by working and performing one or more monologues or scenes for the spring show. Bring your favorite scenes for one, to five actors. For more information, contact Courtney Ritz at 301-785-1611 or Courtney.L.Ritz@nasa.gov.

MAD About Town

Don Mitchell will be appearing as *Kromov* and **Sherry Mitchell** as a *Grisette* in the Victorian Lyric Opera Company's production of Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow" on February 27, 28, March 1 and March 6, 7 and 8. Fridays and Saturdays are at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville. For more information see their website at www.vloc.org.

Christa Kronser is appearing as Constanze in Greenbelt Arts Center's production of "Amadeus." The show will be performed at the Greenbelt Arts Center on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. (March 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, April 3 and 4); and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (March 14, 22, 29).

Nina Harris and **Carole Long** will be appearing in Bowie Community Theater's March/April production of "Inspecting Carol". It's an adult comedy about a mid-western theatrical company staging a production of 'A Christmas Carol'. Show dates are March 20 through April 4. For ticket information and further details, check the BCT website at: <http://www.bctheatre.com>

Rosalie Daelemans and **Jerry Khatcheressian** are in rehearsals for 2nd Star Productions' "No Sex Please, We're British." The play opens on Friday, February 20th, and closes on Saturday, March 14. For further information please link to www.2ndstarproductions.com.

March 7 at 7 p.m. is the annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction for the Central Maryland Chorale. The CMC includes MAD members **Suzie Parks**, **Dana Raitt**, and **Becky Silverstein**. The group will be performing a selection of fun medleys from Motown, the Beatles, and the Sixties. In addition to the great concert, there will be food and the silent auction. The auction features many items up for bids, including a weekend at Chincoteague as well as many other goods and services. This is a major fund-raiser for this non-profit organization so your support is encouraged! CMC has their annual Spring Concert on May 16 at 8 p.m. They will be performing the Brahms *German Requiem*. Check out CMC's website at centralmarylandchorale.com for ticket prices and locations as well as information regarding joining the group. The group will be performing at Carnegie Hall on June 14! **Becky and Dana** will be part of that performance.

Mishkan Torah will be hosting its annual Spring Concert at the synagogue in Greenbelt on

Saturday, June 7 at 7 p.m. This group is under the direction of MAD member **Becky Silverstein**. Other MAD members performing in the group include **Carol Juran, Jan Bloom, and Suzie Parks**. This is likely the last performance of this group under Becky's direction, and it is shaping up to be a great concert. Ticket information and pricing will be available closer to the performance date.

MAD Update

From **Jill Goodrich**: "My dad died yesterday, February 7th, after a 3-year battle with cancer; the last 6 months under the care of hospice. My husband, Kevin, and I were at his side here in Albuquerque, NM. His burial will be at a later date in New Paltz, NY, where we lived while I was growing up. One of my happiest moments of the past few years is that he got to see me in 'Carousel'."

Marolyn Cross was in the cast of "Hello, Dolly" and was involved in some other shows. She'd love to hear from MAD friends at crossmarolyn1@verizon.net. She writes: "Saying goodbye to nice old memories. Two years ago I felt a tear in my shoulder, doctor stated it was not a tear (did not show up in an X-Ray). Finally insisted on getting an MRI, which showed a massive tear that could not be repaired. A few days ago a 2nd opinion confirmed this could not be repaired, and I have to spend the rest of my life, everyday, doing 28 range of motion exercises, which can take 2-3 hours. On the good side, while it is difficult to get dressed, I've earned 3 promotions at FEMA and I now make enough money to get a condo (moving to a new 55 plus community, being built by Ryan Homes, in August at Elliott City and I'm sure I'll meet lots of new people while there, while visiting the treadmill. Say to any of the "old timers" there, including John Degnan. Once again, good luck with the show. Just wanted to pass this along-- make sure you find ways of exercising your shoulders, and don't worry about doing your floors, to avoid having your shoulder(s) someday lock up or tear on you."

Joanne Alexander is in an Alexandria rehab center to get some of her muscles back in shape. She had become bed fast and couldn't open her hands. Her doctor said she would probably need surgery, but the neurologist disagreed and she will now have physical therapy and other treatments to get her back as close to where she was as possible.