



MADogram Editor: Cathy Barth, cathy.barth@comcast.net, 301-446-6300

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Auditions for *Weird Romance*

From the composer who brought you “Little Shop of Horrors,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Aladdin,” and “The Little Mermaid,” come join MAD’s production of “Weird Romance,” a science fiction musical! Auditions are Jan 29 and 30 at 7:00 pm in the Building 3 auditorium. Callbacks if needed are on Feb 3 at 10:00 am. Visit the members’ section of <https://madtheater.org/> for audition materials. Contact Randy Barth at randy.barth@comcast.net if you need the log-in info.

“Weird Romance” is two one-act musicals containing a curious mix of a science fiction framework around traditional themes—the generation gap, a love triangle, and the archetypal conflict between those who have power and those who have none.

Rehearsals will begin late February, three to four nights a week, Monday–Thursdays. Show dates are Fridays and Saturdays evenings and Sunday matinees from May 4 through 19, eight performances. Please be prepared at auditions to note rehearsal or performance conflicts. If you want to audition and cannot make the above dates (or have any other questions), contact Randy to arrange an early audition.

Be prepared to sing 32 bars (one verse) of a Broadway-style song, preferably **not** from the show. We’d also prefer you to scan and email the accompaniment in advance to music director Bob Hanisch at rjhanisch@verizon.net so he can be better prepared to accompany you. We’ll also have a couple of books of show tunes in case you don’t have anything of your own. Auditions will include excerpts from the script. While not a dance-heavy show, we will do a short movement audition, so dress accordingly.

The original production of “Weird Romance” utilized a cast of nine actors, many of whom played multiple roles between both acts. In this production, casting is flexible. If you have a preference to be considered for a larger or smaller role based on your rehearsal availability, please state this in your audition. Parts vary considerably in movement, singing, and acting demands and can accommodate a wide range of ages, so we encourage everyone to audition.

ATTENTION DRUMMERS: We are currently seeking a percussionist to be a part of the combo. Contact Randy.Barth@comcast.net if you are interested.

MAD Board Meeting

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th, at 5:30 PM in Building 3, Room 137. All club members are welcome to attend. We plan to hold our board meetings in 2018 regularly on the third Thursday of the month.

MAD About Town

"Almost, Maine" produced by **Andy Negri**, will be performed at the Greenbelt Arts Center from Jan 26–Feb 17. Production staff includes MAD members **Bob Morris, Den Giblin, Gayle Negri, Steve Beitzell** and **Penny Martin**. On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. In this whimsical approach to the joys and perils of romance, knees are bruised, hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night's dream. Tickets: GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

Jill Goodrich will be appearing as Gertrude in Rockville Little Theatre's production of "The Underpants" with performances at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville January 26 at 8 pm, January 27 at 8 pm, January 28 at 2 pm, February 2 at 8 pm, February 3 at 8 pm, and February 4 at 2 pm. Adults – \$22, Seniors (62 and over) – \$20 Students (with valid I.D.) – \$20. For half-priced tickets, use the code "Bloomers". For tickets:

- Call 240-314-8690
- Order online (<https://fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/>)
- Go to the box office (Open Tuesday – Saturday from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

Christa Kronser and **Ben Rollins** are performing in 2nd Star Productions' hilarious production of "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940." The show opens on Friday, February 9, and runs three weekends, with the closing performance Saturday February 24th at 3 pm. To make reservations, go to <http://www.2ndstarproductions.com>.

Luke Amato (Kurt von Trapp in "The Sound of Music") will be performing in Good Counsel High School Theatre's production of "The Music Man" this spring. Come see his portrayal of the Mayor. Shows will be March 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24 at the Good Counsel Performing Arts Center in Olney, MD. Tickets will be available through www.showtix4u.com.

Catherine Asaro will be appearing as the Science Guest of Honor at the Boskone science fiction convention, February 16–18, 2018, at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston, MA. She will be doing panels as a featured speaker, giving a science interview, and singing in concert with Greg Adams on keys.

MAD Update

Steve Leete (most recently Roscoe in "Follies") will be retiring from NASA after 30 years, and going to work in private industry, working for Orbital ATK in Dulles, VA. He will have a

retirement party at the Rec Center on Feb 2nd, 11 am – 1 pm. Please contact Steve at stephen.j.leete@gmail.com, or the party organizer janice.e.burrell@nasa.gov, if you want to attend, especially if you need a badge.

From **Bill Struthers**: “As many of you know, **Priscilla** underwent colon cancer surgery. This was discovered because she was getting short of breath and was overly tired. Our doctor sent her to a cardiologist who conducted several tests including a routine blood test. The blood test revealed that her hemoglobin count was extremely low and he sent her to the hospital for blood transfusions. While in the hospital they conducted several tests and determined that she was bleeding internally. A colonoscopy revealed that she had a bleeding mass in her colon and a biopsy proved positive. She is seeing an oncologist who is currently giving her a series of 10 iron infusions to build up her hemoglobin. At the conclusion of the iron infusion, chemotherapy will be discussed. At this writing we don't know yet whether she will need it or not. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.”

On Sunday, January 21, **Jeanette Conger** passed away. Jeanette was in many MAD productions over the years and continued to attend almost every show. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 11 a.m. at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 4 Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater, MD.