



TAP RAP

Volume...um yeah, well, dis one goes up to eleven

Spring 2006
(it's warm already!!)

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Out of Order a Success!!

OK I know this TAP RAP came out too late to remind everyone to get their tickets for TAP's spring production of Ray Cooney's farce *Out of Order*. So for those of you who didn't manage to get a ticket to the sold out show, let me tell you what you missed....

Act One started with laughter, followed by more laughter, then ended with a HUGE surprise which lead to more laughter.

Act Two kept to the

same path, beginning with laughter, more laughter, a few dropped towels and out and out guffaws.



Oh yeah, there was also a window that seemed hell bent on decapitating the whole cast, a rendi-

tion of New York, New York that had to be seen and a corpse that was looking for one last fling.

The result?? Another successful TAP production that left people smiling, talking about the show and looking forward to next year's offerings.

So that's what you missed. I'm sorry you didn't get tickets but why not order tickets NOW for next year's shows. See inside for details.

This Issue's Words of Wisdom:
"That production was better than anything I've seen at Stage West!"
Out of Order,
Spring 2006

The TAP RAP is the newsletter of:
 The Aldershot Players PO Box 71015, Burlington, Ontario L7T 4J8 (905) 381-1441
 Editor: Scott Broe sbroe@cogeco.ca
 Contributors in this issue:
 Ilene Elkaim, Sondra Learn, Lisa Southon, Susanne Tristani, Christine Whitlock, Roz Woodcock

Get Your Motor Runnin'...!



Doing her best Evel Knievel impersonation, Roz Woodcock hits the open road on her Vespa. Moments after this picture was taken, she shifted gears, popped the clutch and rode a smoking' wheelie for ten feet! Good on yer, Roz!! Now where's the baby blue riding suit??

The Comfy Chair Campaign

At TAP, we recognize that our audience members are our greatest asset. Without you, we could never do the shows that we do. And we also realize that to keep you coming back we need to keep you happy. So in order to do that, we provide you with a fabulous meal (INCLUDING our famous dessert table) and we perform world class plays that let you kickback, relax and take your mind off the outside world for a couple of hours while you laugh yourself silly. All for the miniscule sum of \$30. Where else can you get a dinner and a show for \$30?? Nowhere, that's where!

But we also know that we can't just feed your belly and feed your theatrical intellect ...we also need to take care of your physical well-being. Your comfort. Yourer.... Your.... "ass-et". And with your "ass-et" in mind, TAP is proud to announce the **Comfy Chair Campaign!** Soon to be gone are those old wooden torture devices that seemed intent on punishing your derriere. Through intensive research and unfaltering drive, our crack team of posterior pundits have gotten to bottom of the chair controversy. They have tested, they have tried out, one might even say, they have put their butts on the line and have discovered what they feel is one truly comfy chair. A chair that is worthy of your behind. (Just look at the graphic below for an artist's rendering of the excruciating testing.)

The new chairs are coming for our Fall 2006 show. But we are asking for your help to offset some of the costs of the chairs. And that's where our clever marketing team came up with the **Comfy Chair Campaign** (three C's, get it?) Your generous donation of \$50.00 will get you:

- A lifetime membership to TAP
- Subscription to the world famous TAP RAP newsletter
- An exclusive membership card
- Half price tickets to designated performances with participating local theatre groups
- Recognition and distinction in the TAP Chair Hall of Fame including your name prominently displayed on our new Chair Hall of Fame poster being designed by a local artist



Such accolades! If you'd like to be apart of the **Comfy Chair Campaign**, please send your cheque made payable to: The Aldershot Players PO Box 71015, Burlington, ON L7T 4J8 or call (905) 381-1441 for more information.

TAP is Throwing Another Party!!

Yes that's right, ANOTHER party. Under the guise of the Annual General Meeting, it gives me great pleasure to announce the next upcoming TAP party:

Date: Friday June 2nd

Location: Halton Naval Veterans Assoc. 2444 Industrial St (Near Costco) Burlington

Time: 7:30pm to ???

Cost: Zip, Zero, Nothing, Zilch

What you get for free: Food, Entertainment, Speeches, Mingling

What you don't get: Booze (but it WILL be available!)

Special Moments: The presentation of the prestigious TAP-ster Awards, presentation of Not-Quite-So-Prestigious GAG-ster awards, highlights from TAP shows of the past with some of your favourite TAP people (and possible a few "volunteers" from the audience....

All we ask is that you RSVP your intentions of coming. You can reply to this message or call the TAP-line at (905) 381-1441 (We need to know how much food to get!!)

TAP is Shakin' Up Shakespeare!

While other theatre groups shy away from The Bard, TAP is tackling him head on and doing it up TAP-style! Presenting our next season's line-up of plays. Come and see ol' Will Shakespeare like you've never seen him before!



By Ken Ludwig

October 2006

World famous tenor, Tito Morelli, is to perform *Othello* for the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. He arrives too late to rehearse with the company and through a hilarious set of mishaps, there are two Othellos running around in costume, causing untold problems.

From the author of *Moon Over Buffalo*, a sensation on Broadway and in London's West End, *Lend Me A Tenor* will leave you teary-eyed with laughter.



By Paul Rudnick

April 2007

Andrew Rally seems to have it all: celebrity and acclaim from his starring role in a hit television series; a rich beautiful girlfriend; and the chance to play Hamlet in Central Park. When he unwittingly summons the ghost of John Barrymore, his life is no longer his own.

"...fast-mouthed and funny...It has the old-fashioned Broadway virtues of brightness without pretensions and sentimentality without morals." (Village Voice)

"...unapologetically silly and at times hilarious...affectionately amusing about theatre..." (New York Times)

....And now a Shakespearian Top Ten List

The top ten plays written by William Shakespeare if Shakespeare was obsessed with food:

10. Two Gentlemen of Bologna
9. The Merchant of Venison
8. Romeo and Julienne Fries
7. O-Jell-O
6. A Midsummers Night's Ice Cream
5. Julius Caesar Salad
4. King Pear
3. Omelet, Prince of De Market
2. Taming of the Stew

And the number one play written by William Shakespeare if Shakespeare was obsessed with food:

1. MacBeef

TAP People are EVERYWHERE... Don't miss them!!!

UNICORN PRODUCTIONS

Presents the WORLD PREMIERE OF

"MEMORY SHADOWS"
BY SONDRA LEARN
(Sequel to the award winning 'Slow Down And Look')

A story of family, love, laughter, loss, and the enduring human spirit

*Starring: Julian Nicholson, Maureen Fautley, Dylan Istead,
Krystal King, Sarah Pearce, Anne Redish, Ken Redish, Rich Piatkowski*

JULY 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15 2006
8:00 pm

Drama Centre, 2311 New Street
(beside Central Library)
Burlington, Ontario

TICKETS: \$10.00 each
CALL 905-332-9764

TICKET PROCEEDS TO:
CARPENTER HOSPICE
HALTON CHAPTER- AUTISM SOCIETY
PERFORMING ARTS BURLINGTON

Poster printing courtesy of Paul The Printer pthep@cogeco.ca

Vampire Dentist
A Film By Christine Whitlock

Open To Both Teeth And Fangs

In case you didn't know (and really how could you not!) TAP is blessed with a multitude of talented performers! Not only do they appear on or off the stage at TAP but in many other theatrical milieus. Here's a sampling for you to enjoy: First up Sondra Learn, our Vice-President and resident award winning playwright is directing the sequel to her first play *Slow Down and Look*, which was performed last year by TAP. *Memory Shadows* continues the story of Celeste and Tait and is certain to be a fine night of theatre. Call the number above and get your tickets! Next, we've got our resident film-maker Christine Whitlock's and her second foray into celluloid history with the demonic and campy *Vampire Dentist*, featuring more TAP regulars than a vampire could shake a fang at! This one has Oscar written all over it, folks! Get your DVD copy by calling (905) 547-7135. Here's a tip: Get a copy of her first film *Sharp Teeth*, while your at it, stick your TV on the hood of your car and make it a double feature at the drive-in!

Remembering A Friend of TAP

During the run of *Out Of Order*, TAP lost a very loyal and long standing friend - Don McCartney. Don and his wife Phyllis started coming to our shows when we were still West Plains Dinner Theatre, and have steadily brought increasing numbers of subscribers with them. Forty-two people on our season ticket list come regularly through the efforts of Don and Phyllis. In fact, Phyllis came to the show only days after Don's funeral. We reach out to Phyllis at this time and send her our condolences. Don was a great guy and we shall surely miss him.

The President's Corner

President's thoughts as the 19th TAP season ends, the summer and 20th TAP season on the horizon...

I just realized that TAP should also mean 'The Amazing People'. Seriously. We have had record attendance this year due to some wonderful patrons who continue to enjoy our intimate space, as well as share the word. In turn, these patrons bring more people, growing the The Amazing People list. I applaud you. And, of course, there are The Amazing (passionate) People who work tirelessly behind the scenes, both on the stage and off-off the stage (so entirely off the stage that they aren't even within West Plains Church's walls when they expend their efforts). All this to say... WHAT A TEAM! TAP is TAP (I know you'll get what I mean). And we look forward to sharing more TAP experiences with you as we launch the 20th season.

What a year is shaping ahead...

COMFY chairs are coming in time for our Fall Show (Oct 2006)! We are thrilled, delighted and excited to be able to discard the current chairs and pillows to improve the TAP experi-

ence (either meaning for TAP can be applied). This update actually follows quite nicely after the improvements completed by the church. The larger capacity washrooms on the same floor as "dinner and show" just completes the TAP experience, doesn't it? No more 'single file' waiting after a delicious Maitre D' meal. Seriously speaking, all renovations were greatly appreciated by our audiences during the spring show, and that includes the elevator. Now, you can complete the night with an uplifting ride to the main floor. If you attended the first couple of shows of "Out of Order" you even had a chauffeuse (yes, that would be me).

Two hilarious comedies will be staged for you. *Lend Me a Tenor* by Ken Ludwig as well as *I Hate Hamlet* by Paul Rudnick. We hear the message loud and clear: 'funny' is here to stay. We understand wholeheartedly. During these times of world chaos, it's comforting to know that a night out to "escape" will result in at least a smile, a chuckle or even have a knee-slapping laughter moment. Expect more of the same...

What a shape is coming in the years ahead. A Performing Arts Centre,

right here in Burlington. I have the privilege of being on the board for Performing Arts Burlington, an organization that promotes the performing arts and is closely linked to the city's efforts to bring a Centre to fruition. If you attended the spring show this year, you may have seen the artist's sketches for the facility. Although the details are yet to be worked out, a location has been selected: corner of Locust St and Elgin St (where a police station currently stands). Next, the funds must be raised. Early targets indicate the centre could be built by 2009. As for TAP, we are very excited about the prospect of performing in a new centre. Of course, many details are yet to be discussed within our board as well as with the city. But it is a thrilling work in progress. So, don't hesitate to share your thoughts with us. The reason for us to perform in the centre would be to improve your performing arts experience. Period. Talk with us. We're good listeners!

Have a healthy, safe summer everyone. I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall.

Best regards,

Ilene

Auditions, Auditions, Auditions!!

Auditions for *Lend Me A Tenor* will be held sometime in June!! (we're just not sure when). At press time, audition dates were not yet finalized between the Director and the Church but they will be happening soon so keep your eyes and ears open. Here's what I can tell you:

The Play: *Lend Me A Tenor* ←— This is a VERRRY funny show. Actors will have a lot of fun!

The Cast: 4 males, 4 females, various ages, some singing required but don't worry, you don't have to be able to sing opera!

If you would like information about the auditions or would like to be notified when they occur, here's what you can do:

- Call the TAP-line @ (905) 381-1441 and leave your name or send an email message to sbroe@cogeco.ca and you will be contacted when the audition dates are announced.
- Check View Magazine or the Burlington Post for audition notices.

See you there!!

Tristani on the Town

(The lovely and talented Susanne Tristani was once again off to the Big Apple where she enjoyed the finest that the Great White Way had to offer. And what better way to spend an evening than with a bunch of men with large coconuts. Here's her report:)

I recently had the good fortune to see *Spamalot* at the Sam S. Shubert Theatre in New York (the town so nice, they named it twice!). *Spamalot* is a musical (yeah!) adaptation of the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. With Eric Idle, one of the original Pythoners, writing the book, lyrics, and co-writing the music, I was certain that the distinct style of humour would be maintained.

If you've seen the film, many of the quirky scenes were also in the play, such as the Black Knight, the French Taunters, the Knights of Ni, and the Killer Rabbit. All of these were very well transposed to the stage in clever and sometimes cheeky ways, using movable scenery and distractions to set up later effects. However, what truly makes this play a separate entity are the song and dance numbers. An incredibly talented cast gave incredibly funny performances that had me in stitches from start to finish.

Apparently, *Spamalot* is coming to Toronto shortly, and I highly recommend it. The cool thing about seeing it on Broadway is seeing really famous people in the cast. David Hyde Pierce (Niles Crane from *Frasier*) played a number of roles and was very funny in a deadpan way. Playing many



parts with much more variety was Hank Azaria, who was in the films *Godzilla* and *Mystery Men*, and who does a number of voices on *The Simpsons*. His French Taunter was positively side splitting and even though at one point he broke character and started laughing (another actor had his back to the audience, so I wonder what he was doing!), he was certainly the most versatile actor on the stage.

When the show opened, the beyond fabulous Tim Curry played the role of King Arthur. Unfortunately, by the time I got to New York he had moved on to the London production. His replacement, Simon Russell Beale, was good, but I just kept envisioning what a meal Curry would have made of that part! Finally, if you ask me who knocked my socks off the most in this show, I would have to give full marks to Lauren Kennedy (The Lady of the Lake) and Christopher Sieber (Sir Dennis Galahad, The Black Knight, et al). Kennedy is a tiny, knockout redhead with a huge set of pipes who totally owned the stage whenever she was out there. Sieber is a big, gorgeous hunk who was very committed to every part he played, and was very funny (he was the one who made Hank Azaria laugh).

Bottom line - I LOVED IT!

Susanne

(And now a review from the cheap seats.... By Scott Broe)

Well I'm not as well traveled as Susanne but me and the Mrs. did manage to catch *The Lord of the Rings* in Toronto last month. It was still in previews at the time but essentially the whole play was ready to go.

Now let me preface this review by saying, I have never read any of the Tolkien books or seen any of the movies so the story and the characters were completely new to me. I sat in the theatre without a prejudice in my head about whether or not they would capture the essence of Frodo or Bilbo Baggins or that big spider-thingie.

The play was indeed a spectacle. The wind was blowing all over the theatre, the stage rose up from the floor with a

will of it's own, people were walking around on stilts and of course, there was that big spider-thingie.

But was it good theater? Well let me put it this way...I'm still not sure what the story was all about, or who all those people were on stage, or why they were chasing the ring. And I don't know if I felt any empathy for the hobbits in their quest for the "precious".

In other words, Tennessee Williams has nothing to worry about from this show.

But the big spider-thingie was cool!

SB