



Backstage



with Pierre Players

PO Box 933, Pierre, SD 57501

www.pierreplayers.com

605-224-7826

September 2011



2010-2011

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Participate in the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Set for September 29th

Pierre Players' annual meeting will be September 29th at 5:30 p.m. at 107 S. Pierre next to the Grand Opera House. The agenda includes reports of committees, the president's report, the election of three new board members and acknowledgement of the service of retiring board members. The members leaving the board are Tam Gatje, Tim Larson, and Ryan Riedy. A nominating committee has chosen Bethany Amundson, Michele Beeler and Rachel Hearn for the open positions. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. All season membership holders are encouraged to attend. The meeting is brief and provides information on the current state of the organization, its finances, and plans for the future.

Pierre Players Fundraisers

Pierre Players is always looking for ways to raise funds to help keep ticket prices down. Patrons have several opportunities to help us this year.

Pizza Ranch for Pierre Players., Come eat at Pizza Ranch on Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 5-8 p.m. to benefit Pierre Players. Pierre Players will receive 20 percent of the proceeds from dine-in, delivery and carry-outs. Any way you slice it (cheesy isn't it), Pizza Ranch will share the night's proceeds with Pierre Players, and gratuities will be accepted. Best part, we'll clear the dishes! Anyone interested in helping bus tables at the fundraiser, contact Alisa DeMers at 280-3700 or ademers@pie.midco.net.

This season we will also be offering patrons a chance to win one of five \$100 gift certificates to the View 34/Pub 34. One certificate will be given at the end of each of our five productions. Raffle tickets will be sold at all six performances and the winner will be selected after the closing performance. The cost of the tickets will be \$5.00 for one or \$10.00 for three. Take a chance! You will help the organization and you might win a night out for yourself and your family or friends.

Mission Statement

Pierre Players-Providing opportunity and experiences in quality community theatre.



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Visit our website for more
information @
www.pierreplayers.com

*Show Tickets and
Memberships Make
Great Gifts!*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In some ways this was the season of our discontent. This is mostly attributable to the loss of Donna Fjelstad, the Grand Dame of Theatre in our community. Donna was one of the founding members of Pierre Players and for many years directed, acted and taught many of us what it means to put your heart and soul into an activity that is even more ephemeral than the daily newspaper. Donna was my neighbor, teacher of my children, a mentor and most of all my friend. She is missed and will be long remembered. A lasting memorial to her memory is in the planning, and any gifts to that end will be deposited into the Pierre Players Foundation.

The landlord of our valley, AKA The Mighty Mo, decided, with some assistance by the Corps, to remind us that we are but tenants here in the valley. We opened our season with those fine ladies who made up the *DIXIE SWIM CLUB*. These wonderful ladies, through laughter and tears, allowed us to reflect on what it means to grow old together.

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AUTHOR challenged our ideas of what is real, what is a dream, and what a play is in relationship to the audience. Pirandello's seminal work has confounded audiences, critics and actors since it was first performed in 1921. The show marks a paradigm shift in theatre as an area of human endeavor. It is not everyone's cup of tea, but it is passionately defended by those who have fallen under its spell.

PROOF presented us with a mathematical mystery. One of the characters was already dead when the play opens. His representation on stage was lively indeed. The genius stay-at-home daughter and the pushy big city sister, mixed in with budding romance, made for a racy rambunctious evening.

A fishing contest set the scene for *ZARA SPOOK AND OTHER LURES*. A gun toting and firing boyfriend added quite a bit of excitement to a trip out west to win the contest with a personalized lure that was sure to land the big one. Our third biggest show was a hit with the audiences.

Our season thundered to a climax in a full-scale production of *CAMELOT*. The show played to nearly full houses and enjoyed great popularity with cast, crew and audience. Some new stars appeared in this show, and a powerful orchestra held forth in the elevated pit. A large cast and the most extensive costume effort mounted by the Players in many years rounded out a performance worthy of a professional troupe.

With kudos to all who worked to make this season shine and a huge THANK YOU to our sponsors, advertisers and members, the income and the expenses for this season balanced out ever so neatly. We approach the new season with high hopes. We are looking forward to a family friendly season. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank each and every one of you for your support of Community Theater in the Capital City. See you next season!

Tom Harmon

Welcome to the 2011 – 2012 Season!

Pierre Players is back and ready to go for another season. The Season Select committee worked hard to come up with a balanced season and the results show! Purchase your membership by October 6, 2011 and receive a free pass for one show.

Don't Dress for Dinner – Veteran Alisa DeMers directs the season opener, with Tara Gregory as her assistant. In the show, Bernard is planning a weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in a French farmhouse. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights, is packing his wife Jacqueline off to her mother's, and has even invited his best friend to provide the alibi. It's foolproof; what could possibly go wrong? Suppose Robert turns up not knowing why he has been invited? Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers? What happens if the cook is mistaken for the mistress and the mistress is unable to cook? An evening of hilarious, sometimes spicy, confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed. *Don't Dress for Dinner* opens October 7th with performances on October 8th, 9th, 13th, 14th, and 15th.

A Christmas Story – This show is so big, it takes three amazing ladies to direct! Nancy Baker, Kathleen Currey, and Lee Ann Smith work together to bring the story of 9-year-old Ralphie Parker to the stage. We follow him in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt's Department Store. The consistent response: —You'll shoot your eye out. All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more.

All My Sons – Esteemed director Michael Pangburn brings to the stage this full length drama by Arthur Miller. It tells the story of Joe Keller, a captain of industry during World War II, whose business partner was imprisoned some years before the play starts for selling faulty parts to an airplane manufacturer, which led to the death of American soldiers. A love affair between Keller's son Chris, and Ann Deever – the daughter of the business partner, the bitterness of Deever's son, who returns from the war to find his father in prison and his father's partner free, and the reaction of a son to his father's guilt escalate towards a climax of electrifying intensity.

Getting Sara Married – Kathy Riedy returns to Pierre Players this season to direct a light comedy. Sara Hastings is a single lawyer who is too busy for romance. Her Aunt Martha decides to take an active role in catching Sara a husband. When Aunt Martha meets a young financial adviser named Brandon, she feels she has found the answer to end Sara's unmarried status. Unfortunately, Aunt Martha takes matters into her own hands using some unorthodox and ridiculous methods of matchmaking. Add to the mix an entrepreneurial delivery man and unhappy fiancé and a funny, sweet story is told in "Getting Sara Married."

Quilters – Anne Rathbun ends the season by directing a musical about a pioneer woman and her six daughters. It blends a series of interrelated scenes into a rich mosaic which captures the sweep and beauty, the terror and joy, the harsh challenge and abiding rewards of frontier life. Illuminating stories contained in various patches or "blocks" with music, dance and drama, the action depicts the lot of women on the frontier: girlhood, marriage, childbirth, spinsterhood, twisters, fire, illness and death. But, with this, there is also love, warmth, rich and lively humor and the moving spectacle of simple human dignity and steadfastness in the face of adversity. In the end, when the various patches are assembled into one glorious, brilliantly colorful quilt, the effect is both breathtaking and magical—and a theatrical masterstroke which will linger in the mind and memory long after the house lights have dimmed.

2010-2011 Scholarships Awarded

In its tradition of providing scholarships to students devoting time and talent to community and school theatre, Pierre Players awarded \$200 scholarships to three deserving high school seniors. Kayla Pochop, Deidre Beck and Rebecca Hahn, all 2011 graduates of T.F. Riggs High School are this year's scholarship recipients.

Thanks to 2010-2011 Sponsors

Without the support of local sponsors, admission prices to Pierre Players productions would be considerably higher. Mounting a production costs several thousand dollars. Pierre Players celebrates and sincerely thanks the 2010-2011 sponsors: **Olson Plumbing, State Farm Insurance-Becki Potzreba, Linn Real Estate-Rita Linn, Stulken, Petersen, Lingle, Walti & Jones LLP, Steamboat's Inc., Pierre Dental Clinic, Audiology Associates and View 34/Pub 34.**

Sponsors contribute \$500 toward the cost of a production or provide major assistance in another form specifically needed for the show being sponsored. In return they receive many benefits. The name of the business is featured in all print and media advertising including posters, table tents, newspapers and the Grand Opera House marquees and it is featured on the playbill cover. There is a half-page ad and a thank you in the playbill. Sponsors are also thanked from the stage by the director before each performance. In addition, sponsors are featured in interviews on local radio talk shows and receive ten tickets to the production.

Please consider being a sponsor for a production this season. To become a sponsor for 2011-2012, please contact Deb Hiatt, Business Manager, or any board member. Thank you for supporting live theatre in central South Dakota!

Facilities Update

Many of you surely noticed some lighting improvements in the Grand Opera House this past year. The big chandelier has been moved above the main seating and several additional recessed lights were added to help everyone see a little better. Two smaller chandeliers were placed in the foyer and hallway. Not so noticeable to you audience members are some more new stage fixtures to replace the aging equipment we have. The big upgrade project has been ongoing for several years now and is nearing the end with only eight more fixtures to go.

A new project for the stage is installing a grand drape. The hardware is in place and Riggs Theatre has donated their old grand drape.

Not too far down the road, we will be expanding into the space to the right of the theatre entrance. Having this opportunity has been exciting for the governing board. Details are still being worked out, but progress is being made. We will definitely have an office and additional area for patrons.

Box Office

Hours: 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Monday - Friday

Office opens approximately 2 weeks prior to the production

Call 224-7826; if no answer please leave a message!

Email pierreplayers@yahoo.com

www.pierreplayers.com

Pierre Players
PO Box 933
Pierre, SD 57501



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Memberships may be purchased during regular box office hours or the following form may be mailed to: Pierre Players, P.O. Box 933, Pierre, SD 57501.

Pierre Players 2011-2012 Membership

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please select one: Would you like to receive Pierre Players flyer by mail or email.

Please select one:

- Executive Producer (ten tickets per show-* name appears in program) \$500
- Producer (four tickets per show-* name appears in program) \$250
- Associate Producer (Two tickets per show-*name appears in program) \$120
- Associate Producer Single (One ticket per show-* name appears in program) \$65
- General Membership (Two tickets per show) \$90
- General Membership Single (One ticket per show) \$45
- Senior (age 62+Two tickets per show) \$70
- Senior Single (age 62+ One ticket per show) \$35
- Student (One ticket per show \$35)

*Please indicate above how you want your name to appear in the program. Our e-mail address:

pierreplayers@yahoo.com website: www.pierreplayers.com