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Backstage

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with Pierre Players

PO Box 933, Pierre, SD 57501

www.pierreplayers.com

605-224-7826

September 2010



2009-2010

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Participate in the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Set for September 23rd

Pierre Players' annual meeting will be September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Opera House. The agenda includes reports of committees, the president's report, the election of a new board member and acknowledgement of the service of a retiring board member. The member leaving the board is Lee Ann Smith. A nominating committee has been appointed to select a candidate for the open position. 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.

On December 7 we will be at the Pizza Ranch. Pierre Players members will be bussing tables in return for 20% of the sales between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. We will also have tip jars located around the room for donations. Please join us for dinner – enjoy the buffet or order a pizza. Your meal will support live theatre.

This season we will also be offering patrons a chance to win one of five \$100 gift certificates to the Ramkota River Center. 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.

Artistic Coordinator:
Donna Fjelstad

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



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Providing
opportunity and
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theatre.

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT :

In “The Hollow Men” T. S. Eliot wrote “This is the way the world ends, this is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper.” Pierre Players’ 2009-2010 seasons started off with a whimper but ended up with a bang!

We planned to open the season with *Buddy Holley, The Buddy Holley Story* but those plans changed when we couldn’t find enough musicians. (The whimper) That left us without a show to open the season and without a musical in the line-up. We began by moving *Leading Ladies* to the opening slot and it was a huge success. We still needed a musical. Hannah Carda and Bethany Amundson stepped up to direct *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change*. These first-time directors led a great cast in a wonderful production to top off the season with a bang.

What’s next? The Season Select Committee worked very hard to develop a season that would provide a varied theatre-going experience. The opening show of the season is already in rehearsals and will open on October 22. Alisa DeMers, another fine new director, leads a cast of five women in *The Dixie Swim Club*, a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever. *Six Characters in Search of an Author, Zara Spook and Other Lures, Proof* and *Camelot* complete the season. This collection of two comedies, one classic play, one drama and a musical should provide something for everyone.

Expanding the base has been our goal for the last two years, Like any organization, Pierre Players will not thrive if it does not continue to attract new talent. What constitutes talent? Everyone sees the members of the casts, directing teams and stage crews of our shows. They are the face of Pierre Players. However, they are only a small part of the talent pool of the organization. Countless others collect props, provide costumes, man the box office, manage the web site, organize house managers and ushers, stuff envelopes, run lights and sound, build sets, deliver posters, write grant proposals, sell concessions, and handle other jobs too numerous to mention. These people are seldom seen and rarely thanked. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Pierre Players volunteers and to remind everyone that we need many talents. Come, join us in providing quality theatre to central South Dakota.

Lee Ann Smith, President
Pierre Players Board of Governors

2010 – 2011 Season

THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB

This new American comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, & Jamie Wooten is currently one of the county's most popular plays. The Old Log Theatre on Lake Minnetonka held over a three month run for another four! It features five Southern women whose friendships began on their college swim team. They set aside a weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free of husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives. The Dixie Swim Club focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years demonstrating the power of teamwork and the strength of love. Alisa DeMers directs this hilarious season opener.

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

This classic comedy by Nobel Prize winner Luigi Pirandello will broaden the theatrical horizons of both performers and audiences. The early rehearsals of a play are unexpectedly interrupted by the arrival of six very peculiar people. An infuriated director demands an explanation and believes them mad when they announce they are six characters in search of an author to finish their story. While he isn't an author, the director agrees to stage their story despite the disbelief amongst the jeering actors. What ensues is a romp with arguments and madcap escapades. Pirandello is said to have been the greatest influence on the plays of Beckett and Ionesco. Directed by Rodger Hartley, it could very well be a production you will want to see more than once.

PROOF

This David Auburn play concerns Catherine, daughter of a recently deceased mathematical genius and professor and her struggle with mathematical genius and mental illness. Catherine cared for her father through a lengthy mental illness. Upon his death, his ex-graduate student Hal discovers a paradigm-shifting proof about prime numbers in his office. The title refers to that proof and to the play's central question: Can Catherine prove the proof's authorship? Along with demonstrating the proof's authenticity, she also finds herself in a relationship with Hal. The play explores Catherine's fear of following in her father's footsteps, both mathematically and mentally and her desperate attempts to stay in control. Recipient of five awards including the Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, this prize winner is directed by Anne Rathbun.

ZARA SPOOK AND OTHER LURES

Joan Ackermann's comedy is a hilarious look at three women competing in the "National Women's Bass Fishing Tournament" sponsored by Bassin' Girl Magazine. Evelyn, a little woman dreams of winning. She's got stiff competition in legendary champion Ramona, and may have to settle for "Rookie of the Year." Meanwhile, she must contend with her indefatigable boyfriend Talmadge, desperate to marry her and refusing to take "get lost" for an answer. Ramona, too, has a man in pursuit, her macho estranged husband, dismissed from her life for being insensitive. He's out to prove Ramona wrong. However, who wins could be the least of their worries as they also contend with asthma, a diamond back rattler, a beanie shooter, cow skulls, lightning and ultimately facing their worst fears. Nancy Baker and Kathleen Currey direct this wacky comedy promising to grab audiences hook, line and sinker.

CAMELOT

After years of patron requests, the popular musical by Alan Jay Lerner (book and lyrics) and Frederick Loewe (music) comes to the Pierre Players stage. The original 1960 Broadway production played for 873 performances on Broadway and won four Tony Awards. Based on the King Arthur legend as adapted from the T. H. White

novel, *The Once and Future King*. Guinevere, King Arthur's lovely wife, encourages him to establish the Knights of the Round Table. As the Knights grow in fame, Lancelot Du Lac becomes the most celebrated of them all and rumors begin to circulate about his affair with Guinevere. Can Camelot be the idealistic place of Arthur's dreams? Jay Mickelson directs this timeless classic which has seen fifty years of revival around the world.

Dakota Blond Gives Back

On August 22, Mary Huckins, former resident and Pierre Players' actress, gave back to the community with a celebration of music benefitting Pierre Players and celebrating her parents' 59th anniversary. Mary, lead singer of the professional Colorado based group, Dakota Blonde, was hired for a private party in Pierre. She contacted Pierre Players to explore the possibility of a Pierre Players fundraiser the same weekend. We were thrilled as was the audience. This is not the first concert performed by former Pierre Players people who have moved away. Two years ago, the Minneapolis based group, HOUDEK, led by Patrick Baker and Tom Valentine did a benefit concert for Pierre Players. Sincere thanks to Dakota Blonde, Houdek and all who come home to share their talents!

A New Era of Directors!

One of the things that keeps Pierre Players vital and makes it the longest continuing operating community theatre in the state is its commitment to always involving new people. Some groups become inbred and consequently risk folding when members leave or are no longer involved. Pierre Players has a history of hundreds of people who have led the organization as board members, worked on productions as actors, technicians, costumers, musicians, publicists and in other capacities. In an effort to broaden the base of directors, last year's production of *All in the timing* was selected so that its six one-acts could have a different director. The production was combined with a Director's Workshop led by Artistic Coordinator, Donna Fjelstad, who met regularly with the seven individuals directing the shows. As a result, five of those individuals have taken on mainstage shows!

One these people, Hannah Carda, along with Bethany Amundson as music director, started off with the summer show, *I Love, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Hannah is a Pierre Players veteran who has been in several shows and Bethany is Band Director at Riggs High School. The 2010-2011 season will showcase four others. Well known lead actress, Alisa DeMers directs the opener, *The Dixie Swim Club*. Alisa and Hannah also serve on the board and have worked in nearly every capacity for the organization. Rodger Hartley takes the reins for *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Rodger has earned a reputation for his comedic acting in several recent productions and also works in nearly every capacity with the organization. Nancy Baker and Kathleen Currey will co-direct *Zara Spook and Other Lures*. Nancy has been assistant director for many shows and has served on the board. Kathleen will be remembered for roles in *Dearly Departed*, *The Foreigner* and *French Fry Lady in Talking With*. The other two shows, *Proof* and *Camelot* will be directed by veterans Anne Rathbun and Jay Mickelson. Anne has performed and directed in numerous locations. Most recently she directed *Moon Over Buffalo* for Pierre Players and appeared in *Steel Magnolias*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Rabbit Hole*. Jay is a Pierre Players stalwart who appeared in numerous shows such as *South Pacific* and *1776*. He also directed several shows, most recently *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

2010-2011 promises to be a great season at LAST YEAR'S PRICES. GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!

2009-2010 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. Taylor Becker, Kris Monroe and Rebecca Fahey, all 2009 graduates of T.F. Riggs High School are this year's scholarship recipients.

Thanks to 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 sponsors: **Olson Plumbing, Pierre Dental Clinic, Dakota 2000, BankWest, Beemer and Bartlett Eye Clinic, J. Anthony DeRunge - Attorney at Law, St. Mary's Healthcare Center, Karl's TV and Appliance, Joel Leyden-Ameriprise, Klocker Furniture, Capitol Area Refuse and Schlachter Lumber.**

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 2010-2011, please contact Donna Fjelstad, Artistic Coordinator, Deb Hiatt, Business Manager, or any board member. Thank you for supporting live theatre in central South Dakota!

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

Pierre Players 2010-2011 Season

The Dixie Swim Club - October

Six Characters in Search of an Author - January

Proof – March

Zara Spook and other Lures – May

Camelot – Summer

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Interested in being on stage, working backstage or helping with other production activities? Check out the Pierre Players website!



**Pierre Players
PO Box 933
Pierre, SD 57501**

(605) 224-7826

www.pierreplayers.com

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Memberships may be purchased during regular box office hours or send the following form to:
Pierre Players, P.O. Box 933, Pierre, SD 57501. Join by Oct. 15 to receive a free ticket.
Pierre Players 2010-2011 Membership

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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