



# STAGE LINES

Volume 5, Issue 4

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*The Official Newsletter of Stage Coach Theatre*

## With a name like 'Trousers,' it has to be a good old-fashioned farce!

### Callboard

The place to look for news of upcoming auditions:

**"Thumbs,"** presented by Stage Coach Theatre. This comic thriller was written by Rupert Holmes and will be directed by Don Walker. Audition dates are Feb. 5-6, at 2 p.m. at the theatre. Looking for one mid-40s male, two mid-40s females, one 30-ish male, and two non-speaking roles, mid-teens to early 20s. Show dates are Apr. 15-16, 21-24, 28-30. For questions or more information, please call Don Walker at 345-6764.

It's traditional for Stage Coach to present a rip-roaring comedy in January to help our audiences chase away the winter blues. This year, we've found a perfect specimen of that very British creation—the sex farce.

"When Did You Last See Your Trousers?" was written by Ray Galton and John Antrobus and is directed by Larry Dennis. The show features Jeff Thomsen as Howard Swerling. When Howard falls asleep at his mistress's London flat, an intruder relieves him of all but his undies. Unable to go home to his wife half-dressed, he repeatedly tries to obtain suitable clothing. Clothing comes and goes at alarming rates, along with corrupt policemen, naughty neighbors and a mysterious German woman!

The humor is all very "nudge-nudge, wink-wink," and full of double entendres, mistaken identities, and slamming doors. (The set boasts six doors and a couple of windows for maximum slamming effect.)

Other cast members include Kevin Kimsey, Deanna Crawford, Jake Koepl, Katie Crane, Karl Gautschi, Melissa Montgomery and Gerry Fields.

Although "Trousers" is running for four weekends rather than three, you won't want to wait to make your reservations. Laughter is the best medicine for cold weather, and our January comedies frequently sell out, so get your tickets now!



Jake Koepl and Jeff Thomsen in "When Did You Last See Your Trousers?"



### STAGE LINES

is edited by  
Michele Cronen.  
Send submissions to  
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**"When Did You Last See Your Trousers" opens Friday, Jan. 7, and runs FOUR weekends, through Jan. 29 with performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8:15 Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 on the TWO Sunday matinees, on Jan. 16 and Jan. 23.**

**Tickets are \$12 Fridays/Saturdays, \$10 Thursdays/Sundays. Call the box office at 342-2000 for reservations and information.**

# Yep, 'Annie' loves cutting-edge theater

**Name:** Michele Cronen

**Where are you from?:** I'm originally from Washington, Pennsylvania, a small town near Pittsburgh. I also lived in Cincinnati and Mason, Ohio, before moving to San Jose, Calif., in my freshman year of high school. I lived in various places in the Bay Area before we moved to Boise in 1993.

**What is your first memory of live theatre?** My best friend in kindergarten had a very cool mom who took us to see some live shows (I remember "Rapunzel" and "The Pied Piper.") But theatre really clicked for me when I saw a production of "My Fair Lady" at a theatre in Pennsylvania when I was 10. As I watched the actors sing and dance, I immediately realized what I was going to do when I grew up!

**Give a brief synopsis of your past theatre history.** My first show was "Father Hits the Jackpot" in sixth grade in Pennsylvania. I played "Mother," the first of many character roles! I was very active in San Jose Junior Theater and in high school and at Cal State Hayward, where I met my husband Mike when we were both in a production of "A Streetcar Named Desire." Mike and I were founding members of the Sunol Valley Cabaret Theatre in California, but then I quit doing theatre for 13 years to raise my kids. I didn't come back to it until 2000, when I did "Keely and Du" at Spontaneous Productions here in Boise. I'm proudest of playing axe-wielding Annie Wilkes in "Misery" last year.

**When and why did you get involved with Stage Coach Theatre?** Mike got involved here first, and I got to know the people who make up the Stage Coach "family." I finally did a show here in November 2002, when I got to play the fabulous Erna Tinker in "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens."

**What is it about Stage Coach that made you choose this theater?** I love the people, I love that the acting space is intimate but that it's still a "real" theatre facility, and I love that Stage Coach tries to do some more cutting-edge shows than many of the other theatres in town. I'm not really interested in participating in theatres that do the same old chestnuts that everyone else is doing.

I was a theatre critic and columnist for newspapers for 7 years before I moved here, and I was privileged to see some great shows done by a wide variety of companies, large and small. There's nothing like seeing a \$10 show that you know was worth a \$50 ticket. I like that Stage Coach aspires to achieve that quality.

**What are your goals for the Stage Coach board during your term?** I want us to make enough money to stay in business. I want us to present a balanced season each year that gives our audience a full menu of what theatre has to offer. I'm thrilled that musicals are back in the mix, and I want us to find good, well-written, contemporary comedies, and at least one drama and one show that pushes the envelope in some way, exposing our audiences to something new. I'm excited by education and helping people to learn new things, and I think our theatre will best serve the community if we can throw in a bit of education with all the fun stuff we offer.

**What is your most embarrassing theatre moment?** It was the only time I ever broke character on stage. I was playing Domina in a terrific production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at Cal State Hayward. It was the end of my big song, and my character had to shake and throw around the character Hysterium. As I gave him one last hard shake and dropped him to the floor (as blocked), his wig flew off and skittered down stage right. The audience howled as the actor scurried after the wig and placed it back on his head... sideways! We had to hold for about 30 seconds while the audience laughed. I held it together, but when I had to say my line, my voice quavered with laughter. I just couldn't control it! I was really mad at myself, but I still laugh when I think about how the audience enjoyed it.

**What is your dream role to play on-stage?** Well, you may know that I'm currently retired from acting in theatre so I can focus on my other great love—being the lead singer in a rhythm & blues band. If I could find a role that allowed me to sing that type of music, I'd be in hog heaven. I'd LOVE to play Effie in "Dream Girls." I'm the right size, and I could do the songs justice, but unfortunately I'm too darn white!

## Meet the Board

Have you ever wondered about the people who give their time to keep Stage Coach Theatre running? Since we're an entirely volunteer-run theatre, the many people who work at Stage Coach do it for love, not money.

In this continuing Q&A feature, you will meet the various members of the Stage Coach Theatre Board of Directors.

This month, we talk with Michele Cronen, currently serving the second year of her three-year term on the Board.

# Backstage Chatter

*News and notes from the Stage Coach Theatre "family"*

One of Stage Coach Theatre's favorite actors and karaoke singers, **Jason Roper**, is currently serving in Iraq with the National Guard. (Jason was most recently seen in "Funny Money" and "Out of Order.") Let's all show Jason how much we miss him by writing to him with news of home while he's in Iraq. You can send letters to:

Spc. Jason W. Roper  
Company B, 145th Support Battalion,  
116th BCT (forward)  
APO AE 09368

What a great way to show Jason that he's in our thoughts and prayers. (And, as you'll see below, Jason's birthday is Feb. 21st, in case you want to send birthday greetings.)



**Paul Budge**, the theatre's Facilities Manager, wanted to express his special thanks "to **Erin Van Engelen** and the crew of 'The Harry and Sam Dialogues' for leaving the tech booth just as neat and tidy as they found it. It makes it so much nicer for the next crew."

Great job, "Harry and Sam" team!



Congratulations are in order for **Lisa King** (who played K.C. in "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens"). Lisa was married this fall and is expecting her first baby in May. Welcome to another member of the Stage Coach family!

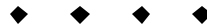


The theatre's Script Committee, under the leadership of Artistic Director **Kevin Kimsey**, is still collecting and reading scripts for Stage Coach's upcoming seasons. If you would like to submit a show for consideration, please contact Kevin

at [kkimsey@computrol.com](mailto:kkimsey@computrol.com).



**Rick Hoover**, just off his successful stint directing "Jekyll and Hyde" for Stage Coach, is now directing his first show at Boise Little Theater. "Scapino!" is a crazy commedia dell'arte-style farce that will delight both adults and children. The show opens Feb. 25 at BLT.



There are lots of special days to celebrate in January and February:

#### BIRTHDAYS:

Jan. 1: **Rachel Adamson**

Jan. 10: **Sara Hunt, Kevin Kimsey, Grant Schoeneweis**

Jan. 11: **Wendy Decker**

Jan. 13: **Lane Bottemiller**

Jan. 20: **Rick Hunt**

Jan. 21: **Rick LaFond**

Jan. 22: **Herb LaFond**

Jan. 25: **Perry Decker, Kevin Labrum**

Feb. 7: **Erin Van Engelen**

Feb. 8: "The" **Steve Cronen** turns 21!

Feb. 10: **Liberty Leeds**

Feb. 11: **Lynda Snodgrass, Ben Ulmen**

Feb. 19: **Mike Cronen**

Feb. 21: **Jason Roper**

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

Jan. 26: **Diamond and Dennis Dufendorst**, their 26th anniversary.



## Don't miss Casino Night!

Our next big Casino Night will be held Saturday, February 5th at the theater.

This twice-a-year event is Stage Coach Theatre's big fundraiser. As always, your \$10 donation at the door will earn you \$100 in Stage Coach Bucks to spend at our tables. You may use your winnings to purchase items donated by local businesses. There will also be door prizes.

Good luck at the gaming tables, and thank you for supporting our theatre!

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST.** Get updates, opening night reminders, and Stage Lines on line (with color pictures!). To subscribe, send an e-mail to: [StageCoachTheatre-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:StageCoachTheatre-subscribe@yahoo.com)

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OF STAGE COACH THEATRE

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WWW.  
STAGECOACHTHEATRE.COM

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## Theatre Around Town

**Boise Little Theater:**  
**THE GRAPES OF WRATH**  
Jan. 14 through 29.  
342-5104

**Knock 'Em Dead**  
**ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**  
Feb. 11 through March 12.  
[www.idahotickets.com](http://www.idahotickets.com)

**Prairie Dog Productions**  
**GRABNET, PART II**  
Jan. 28 through March 5.  
336-7383

**New Heritage Theatre**  
**AVATARA**  
Jan. 12 through 23.  
381-0958

## Meanwhile, out in the lobby...

Director Jeremy Chase has chosen his cast for "Rocket Man," a comedy-drama that explores one man's obsessive desire to find that parallel world where all the roads we never chose converge. The show opens March 4 and runs for three weekends at Stage Coach, featuring the following cast:

Donny – Mike Cronen

Buck – Rick Hunt

Rita – Becky Jaynes

Louise – Nova Perry

Trisha – Katie Preston