



Stage Lines

The Official Newsletter of Stage Coach Theatre

Celebrating our 25th season

Callboard

Auditions for "Laundry & Bourbon" and "Lone Star" will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22nd, and Sunday, Oct. 23rd, at SCT.

There are roles for 3 men age 25-35 and 3 women age 25-35.

For more information, call the director, Jeremy Chase, at 447-7325.

Madcap 'Diana' is also a clever satire

"Abducting Diana" will appeal to both ends of the audience spectrum—those who love broad, physical comedy and those who appreciate clever satire.

The show, directed by Larry Dennis, tells the story of a female publishing tycoon who is abducted by three bumbling kidnapers. Along the way, the playwright, Dario Fo, takes aim at politics, power, and the exploitative media.

Controversy could be Fo's middle name. He was born in 1926 in Italy, the son of railway station master who was also an amateur actor and socialist. During World War II, Fo helped his father, who was a member of the resistance against German forces in Italy, and took escaped Allied soldiers across the border to Switzerland.

After the war, Fo went to art school and started acting in small cabarets and theaters. In 1951, he met Franca Rame, the daughter of a theatrical family, and they became engaged. That same year, he invited controversy by doing 18 satirical monologues on Italian national radio. The monologues were politically satiric adaptations of biblical tales, and caused scandalized authorities to cancel the radio show.



The action is nonstop in "Abducting Diana." The cast includes Kenny Randles, Kevin Labrum, Brandi Flowers, Elizabeth Greeley, Jeff Thomson, Craig Shaul, and Karl Johnson.

Most of Fo's earliest plays were one-act farces. He first attracted the attention of the critics in 1953 with a loosely structured play, *Il Dito Nell'occhio*, in which he combined Marxist philosophy with gags, songs, and other theatrical devices reminiscent of the commedia dell'arte, popular stage shows, and 19th-century farce.

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"Abducting Diana" opens Friday, Oct. 7, and runs through Oct. 22 with performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8:15 Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 on the single Sunday matinee on Oct. 16. Tickets are \$12 Fridays/Saturdays, \$10 Thursdays/Sundays. Call the box office at 342-2000 for reservations and information.

SCT raises funds for hurricane relief

Several members of SCT have long had a love affair with New Orleans. A group of SCT regulars even took a “group trip” there a few years ago. So all of us were hit hard by the news of the devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused to that vibrant city.

The hurricane struck during our recent run of “Hell to Pay.” According to director Kevin Kimsey, an “ancient” member of SCT called Kimsey during the second week of the play and said, “We should do something to help the folks in New Orleans! Can your show do an extra performance to raise some money?”

There was no need to ask twice. “Absolutely!” the cast and crew said, and they scheduled a benefit performance on Wednesday, Sept. 7, during the final week of the run.

But that wasn’t enough. There had to

be a way to raise even more money.

Early in the run, we had been selling raffle tickets to raise money to relocate our box office to another part of our lobby. But during the final two weekends of “Hell to Pay,” raffle coordinator Kim Labrum instead raised money for hurricane relief.

Rick Hoover made a sign for a collection box on the concession stand to raise funds. And the audiences were generous with their donations.

What’s the moral of this story? When all was said and done, the SCT “family” had pulled together once again and raised \$1,020. Our president, Karl Johnson, presented a check to the American Red Cross to help the residents of one of our favorite cities in their time of need. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to help with this project



SCT president Karl Johnson, right, presents the American Red Cross with a check for \$1,020 for hurricane relief.

Backstage Chatter

News and notes from the Stage Coach Theatre "family"

The SCT team is at it again. As many of you know, when we updated our lighting system years ago, we were only able to upgrade the control system at that time. In the meantime, we've used everything from halogen work lights to coffee cans with light bulbs in them to illuminate our creative passions.

As we prepared to launch our 25th season, something just had to be done to finish our update efforts. So...an idea was hatched to give the theater a proper send-off and to celebrate a quarter century of quality live theater in the Treasure Valley.

We contacted folks from all over the

organization, and they helped us to raise the funds needed to retire our less-than-professional (and less-than-safe) lighting fixtures. We had 29 people step up to plate and deliver this home run to ensure the next 25 years of theater here at Stage Coach will be well lit.

As you view or perform this season's offerings, take a minute to notice our new lights. The folks listed on the plaque in the lobby have been very generous to our cause, and we thank them sincerely. HAPPY BIRTHDAY STAGE COACH!

BIRTHDAYS:

Oct. 16: **Brandon Kimsey**

Oct. 25: **Janelle Walters**

Oct. 27: **John Myers**

Nov. 15: **Robert Hunt**

Nov. 19: **Julie Miller**

Nov. 25: **Angela Simitzes**

ANNIVERSARIES:

Oct. 11: **Chris and Mickey Salkeld**, 2 years

Nov. 9: **John and Helene Myers**, 9 years

Nov. 19: **Rick and Sherry Hunt**, 29 years

Nov. 23: **Doug and Julie Miller**, 14 years

You can submit your Backstage Chatter to Stage Lines editor Michele Cronen at MLCronen@rmci.net.

Meanwhile, out in the lobby...

Director Rick Hoover and his cast and crew are hard at work preparing "A Chorus Line." The cast includes:

Jose Alonzo, Tyson Bates, Paul Budge, Kelliey Chavez, Sarah Handren, Aaron Hanson, Giovanna Hernandez, Emily Jubeck, Peter Kriss, Danielle Larson, Susan Larson, Kelly Lim, Matt Nolan, Brian Peoples, Jessica Peoples, Tina Reminger-Carpenter, Angela Simitzes, Geneva Stevahn, Genevieve M. Ulmen, J. P. Ulmen, Alies Watson, Frederic Webb, Wanda Webb, Kristi Wellman, and Bradley Allan Zarr.

Come celebrate the 30th anniversary of this amazing musical. "A Chorus Line" opens Nov. 18 and runs for four weekends. Don't miss it!



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF STAGE COACH THEATRE

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"Our task as artists who mount the stage, and who, most importantly, address to young people, is not just to teach them method, like how to use the arms, how to control breathing, how to use the stomach, the voice. It's not enough to teach a technique or a style: we have to show the young people what is happening around us. They have to be able to tell their own story. A theatre, a literature, an artistic expression that does not speak for its own time has no relevance." (from *Fo's Nobel Prize acceptance speech*, 1997)

Dario Fo

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While the play was hugely popular, government and church authorities censored him and the theater company producing the play had trouble finding a theater in which to perform it.

Fo married Franca Rame in 1954, and they worked together in movies and theater. They founded their own theater companies and produced popular satirical dramas and, later, improvisational plays in response to specific international, national, and local issues. Although their productions were popular, the government continued to castigate them.

The Italian government censored Fo's works throughout his career. He has also been jailed, beaten up, and threatened with assassination. In one of his plays, Fo criticized police. Soon after, a fascist group kidnapped

Fo's wife and tortured and raped her to teach her a lesson. But she returned to the stage 2 months later with new anti-fascist monologues. The couple went on to produce many more plays, all of which were controversial for their satiric views of society, religion, the government, and more.

In 1975 Fo received his first nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1981 Cambridge University invited Fo to perform in the Italian Theatre Festival in New York. However, the United States Department of State refused to allow Fo into the country.

Four years later Fo was granted a 6-day visa, and he performed at Harvard University, the New Haven University Repertory Theatre and the Kennedy Center in Washington.

In 1997 Dario Fo was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.