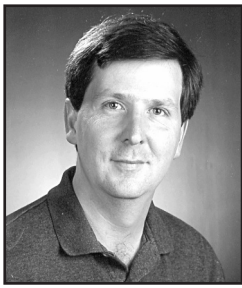


CALLBOARD

racine theatre guild

October 2011



A Note From RTG Director Doug Instenes

A Bit of Drama

Why does the RTG include a drama in its season of plays? We are asked that question by people who prefer comedies and musicals. The answer is simple: a drama addresses issues that are not covered in comedies.

By definition, a comedy aims to make people laugh. It may slip in some serious topics, but ultimately a comedy tickles your funny bone.

A drama aims for your intellect, getting you to think about a subject and confront an issue that challenges your ideas. Television is packed with half-hour sit-coms, yet it also includes full-hour dramas that touch on crime, human nature, historical topics and more. Both have their place.

Doubt is a well-written drama that will make you think about reputation and rumors and the damage that words can do. It has humor, yes, but the main point of the play is to ask the audience to think about what they are sure of and what they may doubt. While the setting is a Catholic school and the possible misconduct of a priest, the topic covered is much broader. Good plays are universal, and apply to everyone, everywhere.

Is there anything that you are 100% sure about? Are there times when your gut feelings are in conflict with the facts? Do you always interpret the facts in such a way that they are absolutely right or wrong, black or white? What if you are wrong?

These are the questions that *Doubt* confronts. You be the jury. Whom do you believe?

We hope you plan to see this brilliantly written play, and that it will challenge you to look at all sides of an issue and decide what doubt means.

DOUBT: A Parable Opens October 14

Rarely does a play take Broadway by storm the way John Patrick Shanley's play *Doubt: A Parable* did in 2005. It won five Drama Desk Awards, four Tony Awards, was named the New York Drama Critics' Circle Best Play, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. This smashingly successful play comes to the Racine Theatre Guild, opening on October 14 and running eight performances through October 23.

Doubt: A Parable is set in 1964 at a Bronx Catholic School. Sister Aloysius, the school principal, rules with an iron fist, telling the younger and enthusiastic Sister James that she should be canny and cold as a teacher, not someone the children want to talk to. So what should Sister James think when Sister Aloysius accuses the parish priest, Father Flynn, of making improper advances to an eighth-grader, the only black boy in the school? Which one is telling the truth? Sister Aloysius has no proof, only suspicions of what Flynn may have done. The boy's mother refuses to help bring down the priest who has befriended her son.

The play includes layers of meaning and complexity in all four of its characters, as the audience decides who is telling the truth and who is lying. When the seeds of doubt are planted, reputations are ruined, and convictions are shaken. Is Flynn a bright and caring priest or a monster? What are the motives for the attacks Sister Aloysius makes on the priest? Is the boy, who never appears on stage, an innocent victim of a terrible crime or grateful for a kind father figure?

With this Pulitzer Prize-winning play, the critics were universally impressed. "*Doubt: A Parable* is an engrossing drama ... It is more than a story with philosophical implications ... it is simply 90 minutes of good theater, with enough humor to entertain and plenty of food for discussions." – *Curtain Up*

Continued on page 4

DOUBT: A Parable

by John Patrick Shanley

Sponsored by

Wisconsin Public Radio

CAST

Father Flynn **Jim Santelle**
Sister Aloysius **Chris Heilgeist**
Sister James **Anne Mollerskov**
Mrs. Muller **Diana Barber**

CREW

Director Norman McPhee
Prod. Stage Mgr. Cindy David
Stage Manager Sue Blaha
ASMs Karen Hamilton, Betty White
Light Design Mike Kurhajec
Light Tech. William Karpinski
Sound Design Janet Petrik
Sound Tech. Phil Paulsen
Props Master Spencer Carlson
Props Crew Jeff Kauzlarich
Costume Design Cynthia McCrory
Makeup Jeanne Christensen

October - Production Calendar - DOUBT

S M T W T H F S
14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23

FRIDAY, October 14 7:30 pm
SATURDAY, October 15 4:00 & 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, October 16 2:00 pm
THURSDAY, October 20 7:00 pm
FRIDAY, October 21 7:30 pm
SATURDAY, October 22 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, October 23 2:00 pm

Meet the *Doubt* Set Designer: Sarah Hunt-Frank

When the audience comes to the Racine Theatre Guild for a show, the first thing they see is the set. While they sit down and read the program, they look at the set and should be transported to the time and place of the play they are about to see.

That is what set designer Sarah Hunt-Frank believes, and she thinks of her sets as giving the RTG audience a "first impression" of the show.

"I begin the process of designing a set by reading the play and taking lots of notes, about what set pieces are needed for the action, whether they need doors, and where those doors lead," she says. "I then go on to research the time period and the specifics of the set. I have a meeting with the director and get his or her impression of the setting and any specific details. Then I begin to do sketches and make notes of visuals as I interpret them. It is a detail game, knowing the RTG stage space and sight lines, and then creating a location or multiple locations."

Sarah creates a ground plan, fits in all the scenic elements, and then builds a small model of the set, which she says helps her look at the set in 3-D. Sometimes she makes a more detailed model, and includes instructions of how it should be built and painted.

"My first show for the RTG was *The Gamester*," Sarah says. "I also designed sets for *Leading Ladies*, *The Producers*, *Don't Cry for Me, Margaret Mitchell*, *Don't Hug Me*, and *The Sunshine Boys*. Each one of those show presented special challenges. I loved the art deco style in *Margaret Mitchell*, with the whole set being painted in two wood tones. For *Don't Hug Me*, I knew we wanted to present a northwoods setting, and it had to reflect the Minnesota/Scandinavian influence, and be a bar with a very masculine flavor. And a musical needs an open floor plan for the choreography."

When designing the set for *Doubt*, Sarah and director Norm McPhee both agreed that the set should have a very open-flow floor plan. Instead of black-outs and time-consuming scene changes, the three main locations would be on the stage at all times, and the actors would

simply walk from one to another, with the lighting to follow.

"The office of Sister Aloysius, the garden with benches, and the pulpit were the three settings that I designed," Sarah says. "The action then moves between the three places without the actor or actors leaving the stage. The flow of movement on stage facilitates the flow of ideas that this show generates. I found a photo of a gorgeous pulpit, and that became the inspiration for the one I designed for this set. Technical Director Jake Warren did a beautiful job in creating it. Now I can't wait to paint it."

Sarah started her journey toward designing sets as an art major at Ball State University in Indiana. She took theatre classes because she liked acting, but soon she gravitated toward working in the University scene shop painting sets. That led to designing a set for a national college theatre competition, and it was a finalist. A new calling opened up.

"I decided set design was the way to go, combining my love of theatre with my love of art and painting," Sarah says. "I got my MFA degree in set design at Penn State University, and here I am, designing sets."

Sarah is married to the artistic director of First Stage Children's Theatre in Milwaukee, and they have two daughters, nine and 12 years old. Her husband went to school with Kim Instenes, Doug's wife, and thus the connection to the RTG arose.

"I just love designing for the RTG's space," Sarah notes. "The audience is so close, they are near the action and can see every detail of the set. And working with the volunteers here is absolutely wonderful. I never forget that I'm working with people who do everything for the RTG without getting a penny in return. They volunteer, on stage and off, for the love of theatre. Bruce Ford and Bill and Kathy Robinson are terrific, with the building and painting they do. And Jake Warren is a wonderful carpenter and a wonderful technical director. He looks at a design and gets excited about being able to build it. I love that enthusiasm. Designing sets at the RTG is a good match for me, and I love working side by side with the volunteers."

COMEDY TONIGHT

Sponsored by

Tri City National Bank

PAT HAZELL

(Writer for *Seinfeld* & John McGivern)

8 pm, Saturday, Nov. 5

MIKE TOOMEY IN

TV & ME

8 pm Saturday, Jan. 7

BABY BOOMERS

8 pm, Saturday, Feb. 11

COMEDY SPORTZ

8 pm, Saturday, March 24

All 4 shows, one low price!

\$55 adult, \$45 senior

Individual Prices

\$17 adult/\$15 senior & student

Special Performance

JOHN MCGIVERN IN

AMERICAN FIESTA

4 & 7:30 pm, Saturday, Mar. 31

\$22 adult, \$20 senior & student

Frank Sinatra & Nat King Cole: A Christmas Show Tribute

2 pm, Sunday, November 13

Enjoy the music, charm and mannerisms (without the smoking) of these two legends, in a nostalgic format reminiscent of their holiday TV specials. Hear jolly repartee and favorite Christmas tunes, like "White Christmas," "The Christmas Song" and "Winter Wonderland."

Tickets

\$17 adult, \$15 senior & student

Call 262-633-1250

or order online at

www.racinetheatre.org

Norm McPhee in Retirement: Portrait of a Busy Man

Many people have asked what Norm McPhee, artistic director of the RTG for 32 years, has been doing in the 10 years since he retired. The answer is that he is keeping very busy.

"I am more than happy to be a guest director at the RTG for one to two shows per year," Norm says. "Theatre, and the RTG in particular, has been such a big part of my life, and something I have loved to have as my profession. I have strong feelings for the RTG volunteers who give so much of their time to community theatre, getting absolutely nothing in return. I want to remain involved with the RTG as much as possible. I get to do something I truly enjoy, and do it with people who impress me with all their dedication and sacrifice to create show after show."

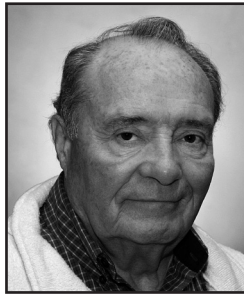


**Norm McPhee in
*The Sunshine Boys***

Norm says that he loves every show he directs, and cannot pick a favorite from those which he has guest-directed. At this point he is impressed with *Doubt*, which he calls "great literature, and a show with a message of value." He says it is exhilarating to rehearse the show and explore its themes and characters.

Fishing is a source of great enjoyment to Norm, and he owns property on a lake in central Wisconsin. While he loves to spend as much time there as possible, the demands of directing at the RTG and his other activities keep him bouncing back to Racine and Milwaukee.

"My favorite activity right now is to be a 'standardized patient' at the



Medical College of Wisconsin," Norm says. "I act as a patient for the medical students. They give me a scenario and an outline of symptoms, and then I become that patient for the students to practice treating. For example, they may ask me to be a severely depressed person, and the med student asks me questions to diagnose what my problem is. I play the part of about 16 to 20 different patients with different medical conditions."

"I also allow the students to do physical exams on me. They have to practice on someone, and I feel it is a way of giving back to the medical community to do this. I also use my acting and improvisation skills, because no two interpretations of a medical condition are the same, depending on the student who is diagnosing me. I really find it a lot of fun."

Another thing Norm does, especially this time of year, is act as a tour guide at Swann's Pumpkin Farm. He is in his fifth year of doing that, helping to educate children and families about pumpkins and how they grow. He also wrote, developed and produced a series of puppet shows that entertain the children for both Pumpkin and Watermelon Festivals that are held at Swann's Farm.

Gigs doing voice-overs for radio and television commercials in Milwaukee sometimes come his way. Norm enjoys using his dramatic skills in that area as well.

"And there are the occasional family things," Norm says. "My daughter Rachel got married this summer, and I have many occasions to get together with family. All in all, I am keeping very busy in retirement. Sometimes I think I'm busier than ever, but I love it. I'm touched that people are interested in my life and what I'm doing."



Cinderella! Cinderella!

Sponsored by Racine Dental Group
UW-Whitewater's Touring Theatre
Company brings this non-traditional
Cinderella to life.

Nov. 4, 5, 6, 2011

The Real Story of Little Red Riding Hood

Sponsored by Just Add Kids
In this hilarious musical we hear
the misunderstood wolf's version
of what really happened.

January 6, 7, 8, 2012

Animal Tales & Dinosaur Scales

Sponsored by Middle School Program
at St. Catherine's High School

A tap-dancing dinosaur and other crazy
animals make Child's Play Touring
Theatre's show a hit for all ages.

February 10, 11, 12, 2012

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Sponsored by Junior Women's Club
This pint-sized, one-hour version of
the Broadway musical demonstrates
what true happiness is.

March 23, 24, 25, 2012

Performance Times:

Friday	5:30 & 7:30 pm
Sat. & Sun.	12:00, 2:00, 4:00 pm

**Season Tickets \$18.00
or \$6.00 each play**

Check us out at www.racinetheatre.org

Jean's Jazz Series Season 11 begins in January.
(Details to follow.)

**For Tickets Call
262-633-4218**

Continued from page 1

“All the elements come invigoratingly together like clockwork in Shanley’s provocative new play, a gripping story of suspicion cast on a priest’s behavior that is less about scandal than about fascinatingly nuanced questions of moral certainty.” – *Variety*

As Shakespeare
Might have Said,
**To Mail
or not To Mail?**
That is the question.

In an attempt to cut costs and be environmentally friendly, the RTG would like to send our newsletter THE CALLBOARD via email.

What Sayest Thou?

If you would prefer the *Callboard* emailed to you, please let us know. Every little bit helps.

*You can email us at
boxoffice@racinetheatre.org*

“*Doubt* is a lean, potent drama... passionate, exquisite, important and engrossing.” – *Newsday*

Doubt: A Parable opens Friday, October 14 and runs two weekends through October 23. For information or to reserve tickets, call the box office at 633-4218 or go to our web page at www.racinetheatre.org.

You won’t want to miss this brilliant drama about truth and doubt and the consequences of both.

Auditions for
GLORIOUS!
7 pm, November 14 & 15

New York socialite Florence Foster Jenkins had a passion for singing, but a disastrous voice. This glittering comedy tells the true and endearing story of the joyful Ms. Jenkins and her devoted friends.

Roles available for 4 women, an older man, and a younger male pianist/actor. Weekend performances Jan. 20-Feb. 5

No experience needed.
Scripts can be checked out from
the RTG box office.

**The Remaining
2011-12 Season**

* **DOUBT: A Parable**
Drama - Oct. 14-23, 2011

WILLY WONKA
Musical - Dec. 2-18, 2011

GLORIOUS!
Comedy - Jan. 20-Feb. 5, 2012

THE CURIOUS SAVAGE
Comedy - March 2-18, 2012

* **SHERLOCK HOLMES:
THE FINAL ADVENTURE**
Adventure - April 13-22, 2012

CHICAGO
Musical - May 11-27, 2012

* Limited-Run Productions
purchased separately

The Callboard is written by
Volunteer Nancy Moldenhauer,
a free-lance writer

www.racinetheatre.org
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