

Welcome to “Noises Off,” Pit and Balcony’s newest newsletter. In the theatre “noises off” is a stage direction meaning sounds made offstage intended for the ears of the audience. You may also recognize it from our 2015-2016 season when we produced the Michael Frayn farce of the same name. This newsletter will serve as “noises off” for you to stay updated on all of the on and offstage happenings at Pit and Balcony as well as provide interesting tidbits, history, perspectives, sneak peeks of upcoming productions, volunteer opportunities, special events, and more! Take a look around and stay in the loop.

Notes:

You asked and we answered! Starting next season Pit & Balcony is switching from a traditional season ticket to offer 3 different Flex Pass options! In our continued effort to grow and adapt to the ever changing arts & entertainment climate and to give our audiences the best experiences possible all season long you may now purchase a 3, 4, or 5 ticket flex pass and enjoy a discount on the general admission price. This means you have the choice to see all of Season 87's productions or just one! We know that everyone's lives are busy and full of options for how to spend your free time. Pit & Balcony is grateful to be one of those options and we want to do everything we can to stay at the top of that list. Flex Passes go on sale June 1st. Thank you for all your support this season and we'll see you for the next one!

Enjoy your summer!


Amy Spadafore
Operations Manager



We closed our 86th mainstage season with the thrilling punk rock musical, *Green Day's American Idiot* to stellar reviews from critics and audience members alike. Thank you to everyone for your enthusiastic support! We hope you had the time of your life. Now on to our After Dark production of *Hand to God!* Tickets are on sale now and seating is limited.



Up Next: *Hand to God!*

By Robert Askins | Recommended for Mature Audiences Only
Directed by Todd Thomas

After the death of his father, meek Jason finds an outlet for his anxiety at the Christian Puppet Ministry, in the devoutly religious, **relatively quiet small town of Cypress, Texas.** Jason's complicated relationships with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door, and—most especially—his mother are thrown into upheaval **when Jason's puppet, Tyrone, takes on a shocking and dangerously irreverent personality all its own.** *Hand to God* is the darkest of dark comedies, exploring the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind us.

June 21-23 | All Performances at 8:30pm | Tickets: \$15

www.pitandbalconytheatre.com | 989.754.6587 | 805 N. Hamilton



Audition Notice:

July 30 & 31 @ 6pm | Callbacks: August 5 @ 1pm

Directed by Laura Brigham

Audition requirements, online audition form, and more information will be available on our Facebook page 1 month prior to auditions. www.facebook.com/pitandbalcony

Volunteer Opportunities

Here's a list of project dates and times coming up in the next few months. Please give us a call if you're interested in assisting in any of these if we don't call you first!

COSTUME SHOP CLEAN UP

Saturday & Sunday, June 2 & 3 and 9 & 10 @ 10am

Beverages and snacks will be provided. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. Please let us know if you plan to volunteer any of these days by calling 989-754-6587 or e-mailing amy@pitandbalcony.com

Lobby Talk (cont.)

Why is it important for community theatres to produce shows like this? Theatre is art and art speaks to a large range of people. Art provides the color and timbre to our lives and allows us to get out of our own echo chambers to consider new thoughts and perspectives. In my opinion, community theatres owe this to their patrons. A season, of course, must include wildly popular and entertaining fare for large numbers of people. But if that is the rationale for all the show selections, theatres are also not giving back to the community as much as they can. You must keep the lights on, pay staff and fund everything, but to really add value to the community, you also need to push people past their boundaries and let them experience the art that is there.

If you could do anything in life with no consequences, what would it be? I think I would get my pilot's license and, if money were not an object, purchase my own airplane (G8) and fly around the world.

Lobby Talk

With Todd Thomas
Director of Hand to God



Tell us about yourself.

I'm an Associate Academic Dean and Professor at the DeVos Graduate School of Management at Northwood University. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Directing, and worked as an executive in the corporate arena for 15 years or so. When my daughter started participating in theatre in Midland, I did too and now after directing for a few years in the area, here we are.

What drew to you direct Hand to God?

I wanted to challenge myself, my cast, and my audience with the power of the theatre. Since I have a background in psychology, I connected this show in a complex way. The fact that it will leave people thinking about what they've seen for days after they attend is even more appealing to me as that is the power of art in theatre.

What can audiences expect?

While it is a dark comedy and the comedy is an important aspect, there is no question that we will go to some dark places. They can expect very adult language and situations that will make them squirm. They can also expect that none of the adult nature of this show is gratuitous. It's harsh and in-your-face, but it serves a purpose. I truly believe that those who immerse themselves in the experience of this show will not only be entertained but also reminded of how we all are humans together, fighting our battles and depending on each other.

Wednesday, May 23rd - Annual Membership Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Event

~6:00pm, Pit & Balcony - Vote on members of important committees, changes to P&B practices and policies, and get the low-down on the state of the theatre. Members only. Beer & wine and appetizers will be served.

~Immediately following the Membership Meeting is our 2nd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck. Mix and mingle with other volunteers, enjoy homemade dishes, music, and other activities.



Photo Gallery



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



At 90 years old, Dick is the most senior regular volunteer at Pit & Balcony. He has been on the scenic build crew for 13 years which means his handiwork has been on over 65 sets. Thanks for your years of dedication, **Dick! We couldn't do it without you!**

DICK HOUSNER

We've had lots going on around the theatre lately! Spring cleaning in the prop loft, a visit from our founding association, the American Association of University Women, and an intense strategic planning board retreat.

History

The last time Pit & Balcony produced a completely original season was in '05-'06 which included *A Wonderful Life*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Escanaba in Da Moonlight* & *The Exonerated*

Corner



The cast of the 2006 production of *Bye Bye Birdie* directed by Jeff Murdoch.





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