



# Noises Off

Vol 4 - March, 2018

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:

Spring has sprung at Pit & Balcony! With another opening right around the corner, we are officially in the downswing of Season 86. This is when we start looking ahead to Class Act - our summer youth workshop, off-season projects, and Season 87! We are expanding the second week of Class Act into more intermediate curriculum; the prop loft and costume shop will face some much needed spring cleaning and the exterior landscaping will receive its annual TLC. In April the Board of Directors will embark on a strategic plan to ensure P&B’s sustainability for years to come and tickets for Season 87 will go on sale in June! Just typing all of that gets me excited for all the growth happening around us. Keep an eye on the volunteer section on Page 2 for ways to be a part of it and, as always, thank you for your support!

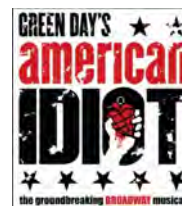
  
Amy Spadafore  
Operations Manager



Tickets for *Moon Over Buffalo* are on sale now and selling fast! Don’t miss this hilarious backstage farce by Ken Ludwig, directed by Todd Thomas. For tickets, call 989-754-6587 or visit [www.pitandbalconytheatre.com](http://www.pitandbalconytheatre.com).



## Up Next:



By Billie Joe Armstrong, Michael Mayer, and Green Day  
Directed by Chad William Baker

Johnny, Tunny, and Will struggle to find meaning in a post-9/11 world. When the three disgruntled men flee their hometown for the city, their paths are quickly estranged when Tunny enters the armed forces, Will is called back home to attend to his family, and Johnny is seduced by love and a hazardous new friendship. An energy-fueled rock opera, the show executes the storyline using the lyrics from **Green Day’s groundbreaking album of the same name and its follow up, *21st Century Breakdown*.**

May 11-13 & 18-20 | Fridays & Saturdays 7:30 pm | Sundays 3 pm

Tickets: \$25 | Youth: \$12 | Groups of 10 or more: \$20 ea.

[www.pitandbalconytheatre.com](http://www.pitandbalconytheatre.com) | 989.754.6587 | 805 N. Hamilton

# Audition Notice:



April 22 @ 1:00pm & April 23 @ 7:00pm | Directed by Todd Thomas  
Audition requirements, online audition form, and more information will be available on our Facebook page 1 month prior to auditions. [www.facebook.com/pitandbalcony](http://www.facebook.com/pitandbalcony)

# Lobby Talk

With Mary Whalen Swift.  
Pit & Balcony's scenic painter.

**Tell us about yourself.** I originally came to Saginaw from Duluth, MN to teach art at Buena Vista. I stayed because the weather was so much warmer. A few years later I started a pottery business, Hibiscus Pottery. I didn't get involved in theater until my

kids joined musical theater at Bridgeport High. It was there 34 years ago that I was lured into scenic painting by Bob and Jan Klump.



**How long have you been involved at P&B?** I started volunteering at Pit & Balcony four years later while Bob Sorbera was director. I gradually became more involved and have painted a staggering number of sets. I think the first set I'm listed as scenic charge artist was "Lend Me A Tenor" back in 1992.

**What is your favorite part about scenic painting?** My favorite part of working here is the magic that happens while I'm painting. I become a channel for the process and am amazed at the transformation of a flat wall into part of a gorgeous set. This doesn't happen every time but it's often enough to keep me coming back.

**Where else can we see your work?** My work is destroyed after every show, so if you want to see it you have to attend theater. It is always featured at Pit & Balcony and occasionally at Bay City Players and SVSU.

**What was the favorite set you've ever painted?** My favorite set was Eurydice at Pit & Balcony in 2016. The director had a clear vision of what he wanted and was able to work with me to achieve it. It was quite challenging but the result was a beautiful and interesting set. Truly eye candy for the audience.

# 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!

## PROP LOFT CLEAN UP

Saturday & Sunday, April 7 & 8, 2018 @ 10am

## LANDSCAPING & GARDENING

Clean up - Sunday, May 6, 2018 @ 10am

Planting - Tuesday, May 15, 2018 @ 10am

## 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**

# Notable

"My students walked away with a wonderful appreciation of the power of live theatre and of all of the work of the talented cast and crew." -Andrew Southwell Carrollton HS Drama Dept

# Quotable



Students from Charlton Heston Academy with the cast and crew of "The Diary of Anne Frank" after the student performance.

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

~6:00pm, Pit & Balcony - Our annual membership meeting is where Pit & Balcony members get their chance to have their voices heard! Vote on members of important committees, changes to P&B practices and policies, and get the low-down on the state of the theatre. 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.



**June 12, 2018\*** - Season 87 tickets go on sale!



~Check out the special feature on page 4 for details on next season's shows!

\*Current season ticket holders may purchase their tickets a month early on May 15th!

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

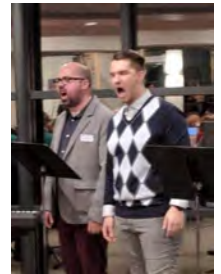
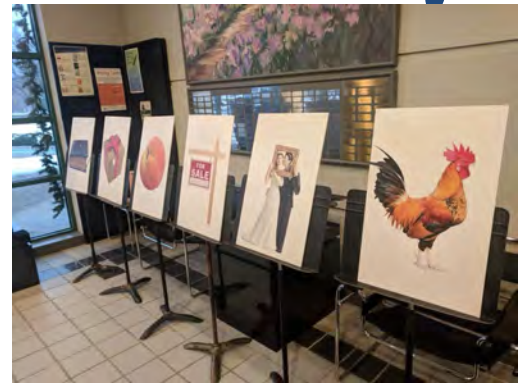


Jo-el made his first appearance on stage here in 2013's "Miracle on 34th St." Since then he has become a mainstay around P&B, not just performing but lending a hand wherever it's needed. Just this month he did an incredible job cleaning and organizing our basement greenroom.

Thanks for everything,  
Jo-el!

**JO-EL GONZALEZ**

**Photo Gallery**



We had a blast at Cocktails & Curtain Calls again this year! Left to Right From Top: Season 87 teaser photos; guests waiting for the big reveal; Chad Baker and Spencer Beyerlein sing a song from next season's opener; Emcee and Board President, David Lyman; Office Manager, Deb Korf, Operations Manager, Amy Spadafore, Board Member, Mary Spadafore, and Director, Danielle Katsoulos show off their coordinating outfits.





# Into the Woods

October 5-7 & 12-14



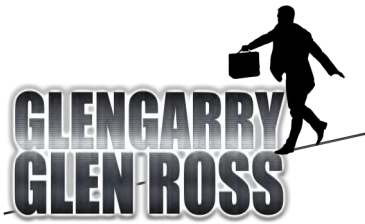
# Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)

November 30-December 2  
& December 7-9



# JAMES and the GIANT PEACH

January 25-27 &  
February 1-3



# GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

March 15-17 & 22-24



# It Shoulda Been You

May 10-12 & 17-19



# THE COCKFIGHT PLAY

June 20-22

**INTO THE WOODS** - This Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching. The story follows The Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

**EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME)** - Instead of performing Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic for the umpteenth time, three actors decide to perform every Christmas story ever told -- plus Christmas traditions from around the world, seasonal icons from ancient times to topical pop-culture, and every carol ever sung. A madcap romp through the holiday season!

**JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH** - The story of Roald Dahl's classic tale is faithfully told by James himself and the insect characters – Miss Spider, Old-Green-Grasshopper, Centipede, Ladybird, and Earthworm. The play begins at the end of the story, when James and his friends are living in the giant peach stone in Central Park, New York. A tour guide brings a party of tourists (the audience) to see this major attraction, and James and his friends tell the story of how they came to live in New York. The epic journey across the Atlantic is acted out with live action, puppetry, and storytelling in David Wood's masterful adaptation.

**GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS** - This scalding comedy took Broadway and London by storm. Here is Mamet at his very best, writing about small-time, cutthroat real estate salesmen trying to grind out a living by pushing plots of land on reluctant buyers, in a never-ending scramble for their share of the American dream. Winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and revived on Broadway in 2005 and 2012, this masterpiece of American theatre also became a celebrated film starring Al Pacino, Jack Lemmon, Alec Baldwin, and Alan Arkin.

**IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU** - A world where nothing is what it seems, religions collide, Machiavellian plots are revealed, promises are broken, secrets are exposed and hope springs from the most unlikely of places. The charming, funny and original new musical, *It Shoulda Been You* invites you to a wedding day that you'll never forget, where anything that can go wrong does, and love pops up in mysterious places. The bride is Jewish. The groom is Catholic. Her mother is a force of nature. His mother is a tempest in a cocktail shaker. And, when the bride's ex-boyfriend crashes the party, the perfect wedding starts to unravel faster than you can whistle "Here Comes the Bride!" It's up to the sister of the bride to turn a tangled mess into happily ever after in this musical comedy for anyone who ever had parents.

**THE COCKFIGHT PLAY** - John has been in a stable relationship with his boyfriend for a number of years. But when he takes a break, he accidentally falls in love with a woman. Torn between the two, filled with guilt and conflicting emotions, he doesn't know which way to turn. His boyfriend is willing to wait for him to make a decision, but so is his girlfriend. And both are prepared to fight to keep him. As the pressure mounts, a dinner with both parties is arranged, and everyone wants to know. Who is John? What is he? And what will his decision be? A comic discussion of identity and sexuality, the play is specified to be performed with no props or set, so the focus is all on the drama of the situation.