

CDC NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 96th season is off and running! Thank you to Alan, Brian, Raven, and Maureen for all the work with Future Stars; thank you to Alan, Jeff, and Megan for all of their work putting up *The Normal Heart*; and to Bill & Karen for hosting our opening picnic.

Here's to another successful year!

On a more somber note, last month while I was on vacation I was deeply saddened by the news of longtime member, past president, and most of all, good friend, Madge Wittel's passing. I, along with her CDC family, will miss her greatly.

-Liz Howard, President



WELCOME!

The CDC family would like to welcome our newest members!

Steven Douches

Eilidh Brady

Andrea Thibodeau

Walter Zimmerman

Laura DeSantis

Keith Slusser

Happy to have you!

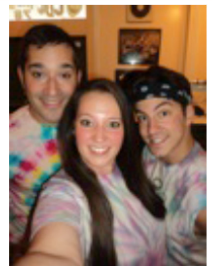
* * FUTURE STARS *

The Future Stars program took place August 25th-August 29th and it was a great new success for our theater. Eleven young aspiring artists were led through a week long workshop under the instruction of Raven Dunbar, Alan Van Antwerp, and Brian Hall, which culminated in a showcase for parents and friends. The kids learned the music, staging, and choreography to four numbers: "Good Morning Starshine" from *HAIR*, "Love is an

Open Door" from *Frozen*, "Green Eggs and Ham" from *Seussical*, and "Come on Everybody" from *All Shook Up*.

Teachers, students, parents, and friends all had a fun time at the performance and celebrated with a post-show ice cream sundae party. Next up is our Curtain Call classes in the fall, and definitely look for the return of Future Stars next summer!

(Pictured Right:
Instructors
Alan Van
Antwerp,
Raven
Dunbar, &
Brian Hall)



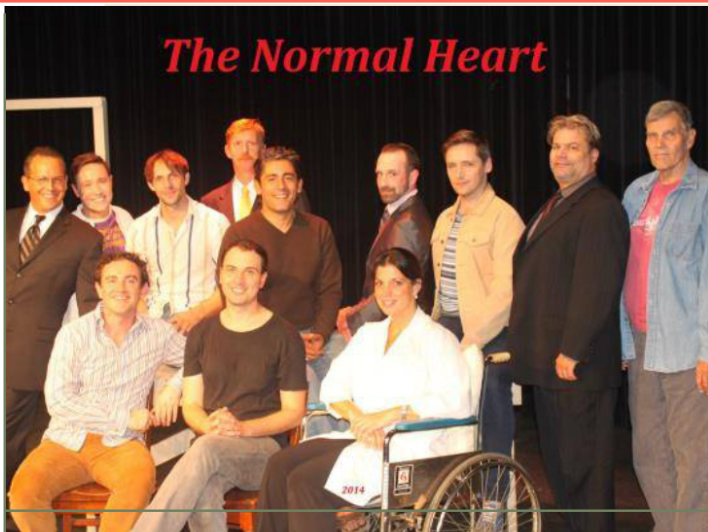
Pictured Below: Our young superstars!



CDC's 96th Season Opens Strong with *The Normal Heart*

We opened our season with our benefit performances of *The Normal Heart* this past weekend to great reviews. The powerhouse cast, led by Gus Ibranyi and Scott Tyler, the direction of both Jeff Fiorello and Alan Van Antwerp, and the detail oriented Megan Ferentinos as producer had the audiences engaged, moved, and at points, weeping in their seats. It is a powerful story that details the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in New York City, the unbelievable homophobia in politics and the media that delayed awareness and funding for years, the creation of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and of course, the heart wrenchingly honest portrayal of love and loss.

The full cast included, Leslie Reagoso, John Sechrist, Terry Darling, Sal Navarro, Jeff Maschi, Rob Evans, David Christopher, Zach Mazouat, Chris Abbott, and Joe Leo. It was a mixture of CDC veterans and first timers, those of whom we wish will grace our stage again the future. The new cast members, as well as the



Pictured Above Full Cast of The Normal Heart: Top Row - Joe Leo, Zach Mazouat, Chris Abbott, Terry Darling, Sal Navarro, Rob Evans, John Sechrist, Jeff Maschi, David Christopher. Bottom Row - Scott Tyler, Gus Ibranyi, Leslie Reagoso

subject matter of a gay themed show, brought a new audience to our theater. And hopefully we will see them return throughout our season!

The post-show reception both nights was filled with friends, compliments, and good food.

Many thanks to The Garlic Rose, Edible Arrangements, and Old City Cafe for providing the appetizers, drinks, and desserts. Make sure to check

out these businesses, you won't be disappointed!

The most exciting news that came out of this past weekend is that through a portion of ticket sales, concessions, silent auction, ribbon and bracelet sales, and donations, the CDC is going to be presenting the Gay Men's Health Crisis with a substantial donation. Thank you to all who came out and supported this incredible show!

PERRY FEVER IS IN THE AIR!

September 21st all of New Jersey's community theater will be heading to the Somerset DoubleTree Hotel for the 2014 Perry Awards. Congratulations and good luck to all of our Cranford nominees!

The Spring Awakening Nominees

Mark Reilly - Outstanding Lighting Design

Jeff Fiorello, Christine Hahn - Outstanding Costume Design

Megan Ferentinos - Outstanding Choreography

Gus Ibranyi & Dave Maglione - Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical

Melissa Timpson - Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical



Pictured Above: Some of last years Perry winners for CDC's production of the Music Man

Aladdin Auditions THIS WEEKEND!

Auditions are coming up! September 13th and September 15th. Audition information [HERE](#). Hope to see you all there.

Calling All Painters!

If anyone is interested in helping with scenic painting for Aladdin during the month of November please email either coriannchandler@me.com or gira.d.weaver@gmail.com. Set painting will begin around 11/9. Get your brushes ready!

Attend the Tale of Sweeney Todd!

The cast of *Sweeney Todd* has been having a bloody good time in rehearsals, and they are sounding AMAZING! Don't miss out on this incredible show. Be the first to book your tickets [HERE](#).

Teen

New this season!

A Cappella Ensemble

AUDITIONS

SEPT. 27
11AM

SEPT. 30
4PM

For teens who love to sing, harmonize and perform

Open to students in Grades 9-12

This audition only ensemble will meet

Tuesdays from 4-6pm at CDC Theatre in Cranford
and prepare for a concert on January 16, 2015

Once accepted there is a \$225 participation fee
for this 12 week course.



Visit www.cdctheatre.org for
more information

Nurturing Imagination Since 1919

We are happy to announce that the Cranford Dramatic Club is now a featured charitable organization on AmazonSmile. Anyone who shops through AmazonSmile is now able to choose CDC as their charity of choice and a percentage of their purchase will go towards our theater. Thank you to Gira Derise-Weaver for this great idea! Happy Shopping!



Open call auditions for *Speed the Plow*, directed by Jonathan Fishman, will take place at the CDC on the following dates:

Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00

Tuesday, November 4th at 7:00

Callbacks

Wednesday November 5th

PLEASE ARRIVE WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR OF AUDITIONS
CASTING ROLES OF BOBBY & KAREN ONLY

Performance Dates:

February 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20, and 21st.

**SPEED.
THE
FLOW**

For the full audition notice, including summary of the show, character breakdown, and audition sides, please visit our website at www.cdctheatre.org

Cranford Street Fair

The annual Cranford Street Fair is taking place on Sunday October 12th. We are looking for volunteers to help work the CDC table. The event is from 9-5 and ANY time donated would be appreciated. Please contact Maureen Monroe at rjbrady@rjbrady.cnc.net. If you can't volunteer, please stop by our table and say hi!

Member News

CDC board members, Corinne Chandler and Mark Douches, are performing in UPAC's production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*; which opens September 19th and runs through October 5th. For info and tickets click [HERE](#). Break Legs!

Junior Alum News

Lucas Shultz, who starred in the title role in CDC's production of *Oliver*, is now starring in a touring production of Broadway's *Pippin* in the role of 'Theo'. Congratulations, Lucas!

Ryan and Lee Rosenthal, who performed in CDC's productions of *Gypsy* and *Oliver* and participated in our *Curtain Call* classes, appeared in the SuperBowl Halftime Show with Bruno Mars this past February and appeared in an episode of *Royal Pains* that aired in June. Congratulations, Ryan and Lee!

Our young performers are certainly reaching for the stars!

HELP FIX OUR FLOOR!

50 years is a long time to have a floor in place! We as a board have decided to target our floor as our fundraising project for the next year. We want to see if we can get some volunteers to help out on the fundraising committee to help find ways to raise money to replace the floor in the theatre, and help organize how to do that! If you are interested email Alan Van Antwerp at vanantwerpa1@gmail.com!

Thanks so much!



Madge Wittel

July 4, 1937-August 11, 2014

"It's going to be hard to imagine CDC without Madge", that was the reply that longtime member Judi Chandler sent me after hearing of Madge's sudden passing. And I think that sentiment rings true for countless people that have known her through the theater over the years.

I only interacted with Madge a few brief times over the past year but I remember her as a larger than life personality, a tell it like it is kind of person, and a lady with a great laugh. I asked her what she had done at CDC when she was more active and she responded with "Well I've been on the stage, been on the board, done costuming, done props, directed, I was heavily involved with the children's shows, and pretty much everything under the sun." Her love of the CDC was evident at her service as well. Huge pictures of her on stage were blown up for all to see, the playbills of all the CDC shows she was a part of were thoughtfully laid out for friends to look through and reminisce, the program even featured her turn in CDC's *Nunsense* (Pictured Right), and her president's plaque was featured as well, having served as CDC President from

2002-2004.

Madge is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Edward, sons Edward C. and Keith, daughter-in-law Claudia, grandchildren Lauren, Luke, and Julia, and brother William and sister Joan.

She will truly be missed by all those that knew her, and her presence at CDC will be missed as well.



FROM THE EDITOR

If there is anything you would like to be featured in the newsletter, please email brian.hall2@yahoo.com and I will make sure it makes its way into the next issue.

-Brian Hall

Newsletter Editor