



CDC NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! We are halfway through our season and I am so proud of what we have accomplished. *Sweeney Todd & Aladdin*, directed by Alan Van Antwerp & Gira Derise-Weaver respectively, were two strong productions that brought in large audiences and were crowd favorites. We had great success with our children's program, led by Megan Ferentinos, which brought theater to a whole new group of children at the CDC Theatre and culminated with two ADORABLE sold out runs of their shows, *A Christmas Peter Pan & The Nutcracker*. Through the efforts of our members, we have received multiple grants that will allow us to improve the production values of our shows. It has definitely been a stellar year thus far, and I am excited to see where the rest of the season takes us! Thank you to everyone!

-Liz Howard, President

Speeding Right Along...*Speed the Plow* Opens Next

SPEED. THE PLOW

Speed the Plow is the upcoming show in our season that opens February 6th. Led by Director, Jonathan Fishman, rehearsals have been coming together nicely as the final weeks approach. The David Mamet play is a satirical dissection of the American movie business in Hollywood, *Speed The Plow* focuses on two high-powered

Hollywood executives who have come up from the mail room together, Bobby Gould, played by Mike Burdick, and Charlie Fox, played by Jonathan Fishman. Charlie brings Bobby a surefire hit with a major star attached. Bobby has been reading an apocalyptically spiritual novel that has deep "meaning." Enter Karen, Gould's temporary office assistant, played by Kate Bader and we are reminded that power is the ultimate aphrodisiac.

Show dates are Feb 6, 7, 13, 14, 15th, 20th & 21st. Fridays and Saturdays @ 8 and Sundays @ 2. For ticket information click [HERE](#).

Pictured Below: The cast of *Speed the Plow* - Jonathan Fishman as Charlie, Kate Bader as Karen, and Mike Burdick as Bobby (sitting)



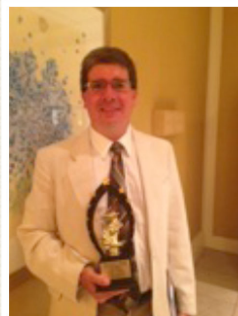
How to Succeed Is Cast!

Director: Jeff Fiorello
Producer: Leslie Riccio
Musical Director: Jack Bender
Stage Manager: Pam Wilczynski
Set Design: Chris Abbott
Lighting Designer: Mark Reilly
Props: Joe Leo
Costume Designer: Francesca Stokes
Hair/Make Up: Raven Dunbar

Finch - Shane Long
Rosemary - Emily Greenberg
Smitty - Lindsay Braverman
Miss Jones - Arelene Britt
Hedy - Dana Harris
Womper - Howard Smith
Bratt - Gus Ibranyi
Frump - Scott Baird
Twimble - Joe Leo
Biggley - Rich Maloy
Tackaberry - Anthony Bruno
Krumholz - Mollie Gash
Gatch - Joey Caramanno
Ovington/Matthews - Zach Mazouat
Peterson/Toynbee - Andy Calderone
Johnson/Davis - Edgar Hidalgo
Jenkins - Adrian Rifat
Scrub Woman #1 - Andrea Thibodeau
Scrub Woman #2 - Michal Efron
Ensemble - Nicole Bosc
Ensemble - Dawn Afanador



PERRY WINNER



This past September, Mark Reilly took home the Perry Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for *Spring Awakening*.

GRANTS GALORE!

Thanks to the efforts of some of our members, the CDC Theatre was given a grant for sound equipment from the E.J. Grassmann Trust, along with a donation from Ed Whitman, and the theatre also obtained a new lighting board through the Corporate Giving Office of Electronic Theatre Controls Inc.

If you would like to help further these kinds of efforts, you can ask if your employers give matching grant opportunities to their employees. CDC Theatre can greatly benefit from this generosity and it helps improve the production values of all the shows on the CDC Theatre stage.



Keeping A Time Honored Tradition Alive



In honor of Veterans Day, CDC Theatre members, directed by Anjanette Valiente, joined the Volunteer Service to Veterans Committee of Crane's Ford DAR and the Linden High School JROTC to entertain hospitalized veterans at the VA Lyons Medical Center in Bernards Township.

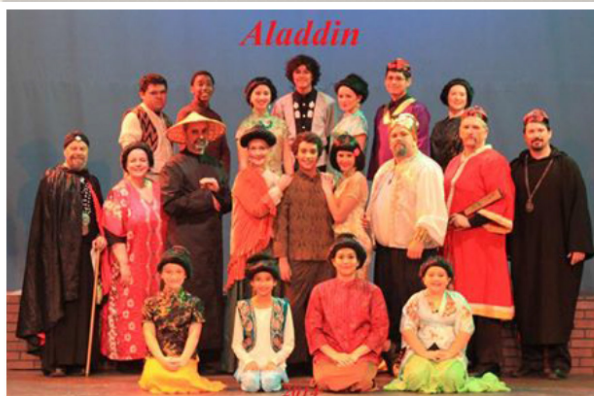
LOOKING BACK: A SEASON FULL OF HITS

SWEENEY TODD

This season began with some dark subject matter, a sadistic revenge-filled barber and a pie maker with some interesting ingredients, but it was also packed with talent, strong vocals, and more than a few laughs. Directed by Alan Van Antwerp, the production was an audience favorite which had much to do with its two leads. Melissa Timpson and Alex Oleksij brought everything they had to each and every performance and that is what made this such a success. It was also a unique concept; Van Antwerp transformed the set into a giant "kill room", much like that in Dexter, and each time someone met their end, blood was splattered upon the set. It was a strong choice and almost all of the costumes made it out unscathed! Bravo!

ALADDIN

Following Sweeney, we soared into lighter territory with our children's show, Aladdin. The young and young at heart were charmed by the story and left the audience humming the show's catchy tunes. We are still hearing from parents that their children are "hum mum mum"-ing at the table to help them think like the Genie while doing their homework. Thank you to everyone who was involved with this production and to all who came out to support us in the audience. We couldn't have done it without you!



CURTAIN CALL

We ended 2014 with our Curtain Call performances. After a 12 week program, led by Megan Ferentinos & Alan Van Antwerp, our two Curtain Call classes got to perform their Christmas themed shows, A Christmas Peter Pan & The Nutcracker, to sold out houses. The shows were so much fun to watch, and you could feel the performers excitement. It was great to welcome a whole new group of performers to the CDC Theatre stage!



LOOKING FORWARD: WHAT'S COMING UP



DIRECTOR: ALAN VAN ANTWERP

#BOOKEDIT

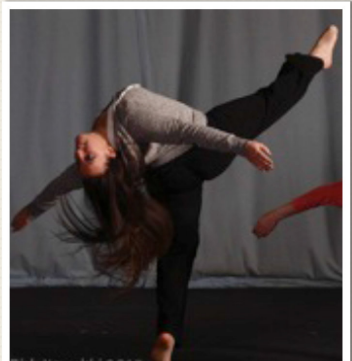
Picture this: You are an actor, singer, dancer auditioning for your dream part. What would you pick as a monologue? What would you sing? What would you choreograph? This is the premise of #bookedit: Act 1 is entitled "Audition" and Act 2 is entitled "Showtime" - showcasing great talent performing the roles they've dreamed of.

The performances are planned for March 27th & 28th.

DANCE BENEFIT

The annual dance show is coming up on its fourth year at the Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre. Each year our patrons are treated to a themed night of dance by an incredibly talented company of dancers, led by director and organizer, Raven Dunbar, and this year will be no different with the theme of "Animal Instincts". You do not want to miss this!

Performances are set for March 13th @ 8PM & 14th @ 2PM & 8PM. Tickets are \$8.



DIRECTOR: RAVEN DUNBAR

SPRING CLASSES

If you were one of the many kids involved in our fall Curtain Call classes, or you are a parent who heard how great the program was and you want to see your child on the CDC Theatre stage then you are in luck! Our program will be continuing with a spring session !

Be on the lookout for more information, we are looking to start in early March. If interested in enrolling, please contact Megan Ferentinos at megferentinos@yahoo.com



DIRECTOR/HEAD TEACHER: MEGAN FERENTINOS

Speed the Plow Needs Your Help!!

Opening night may be a few short weeks away but Speed the Plow is calling on all members and patrons for some prop/furniture help. Here is what is needed:

Coffee table - square or rectangular with clean, modern lines. Ideally 15-18" in height.
Large canvas drop cloth used for painting. Cannot be plastic. Size 10' x 12' or larger.
Black Office Phone

Anyone who is able to donate these items or knows of someone who would be willing to please contact Bill Chamis at william.chamis@yahoo.com.

Thank you!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steven Douches
Eilidh Brady
Andrea Thibodeau
Walter Zimmerman
Laura DeSantis
Keith Slusser
Edward Whitman
Olivia Chandler
Kathryn Kaligain
Kelly McMahon
Lauren Ramsay



And joining us since the beginning of the season, member Igor Lebre has been lending his background in graphic design work to the CDC Theatre marketing department - helping with our posters, banners, fliers, etc - Many thanks!

**OUR JUNIOR
PERFORMERS
ARE ACTING
ALL OVER**



Joshua Hunt, who last June played the White Rabbit in our Junior Theatre production of Disney's *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, has been cast as Michael Darling in the Kean University production of *Peter Pan* that will go up at the end of February.



Urinetown alums will represent in Cranford High School's spring musical *Seussical, The Musical* :

Dylan Randazzo will be Horton , **Tyler McMahon** will be the Cat in the Hat, **Katie Morreal** will be Jojo, **Sara Parlapiano** will be the Sour Kangaroo, **Bart Lahiff** will play the Grinch, and **James Lynch** will be Yurtle the Turtles. They will be joined by **James Lynch**, **Mark Lynch**, **Max Kopla**, **Kelly McMahon**, (who were just Aladdin and Princess Mei Lei), **Charlie Bernstein**, **Jake Randazzo** and **Samantha Gordan** in the ensemble.



Eilidh Brady is preparing as a member of the onstage ensemble for the March premiere of Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Paper Mill Playhouse.

CDC GIVES BACK



The Normal Heart was held as a benefit in early September with a portion of the proceeds going towards the Gay Mens Health Crisis. The CDC Theatre proudly presented a donation of over \$1300 to Krishna Stone, the Assistant Director of Community Relations, Communications and Marketing at the Gay Mens Health Crisis Center in New York.

Photo Caption -Krishna Stone of GMHC, and CDC Theatre members and actors Joe Leo, Scott Tyler Richenaker, Salvador Navarro, Terry Darling, Leslie Reagoso, and seated Alan Van Antwerp (co-Director) and John Sechrist.

GET WELL SOON

Sending healing thoughts to board member Sandi Pells as she recovers from her recent knee surgery.

And also to member John Duryee who recently underwent shoulder surgery.



ANOTHER ANGEL

The Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of longtime associate member Mary Kusiv this past spring. Even though she had moved out of the Cranford area she remained in touch with several other longtime members.

She will always be remembered by her CDC family. Our thoughts go out to her family and close friends.



SENDING LOVE

Longtime member Joanne Geschickter lost her father recently. For all of us that know and love Joanne, our hearts go out to her and her family as they go through this hard time.

For those that wish to pay their respects there will be a viewing at Gray Funeral home in Cranford on Springfield Avenue this Monday, the 26th from 2-4 & 7-9. The funeral service is also at Gray's this Tuesday the 27th at 11, with a luncheon to follow.

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