

2009

Stage Center Theatre Newsletter- Nov. 2009

Nicole Kashian

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SEASON 2009-2010

Stage Center Theatre

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2009

2009-2010 Stage Center Theatre

Lucky Stiff

Book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Director's Notes

Director: Anna Antaramian

Choreographer: Judith Warren

Set Designer: Jessica Kuehnau

Cast:

Andrew Berlien

Ryan Gilbert

Jesus Matta

Lisa Cantwell

Sara Greenfield

Danna Pantzke

Danny Shannon

Musical Director:

Costume Designer:

Light Designer:

Julie Crossen

Elizabeth Wislar

John Rodriguez

Tony Gasbarro

Kendel Lester

John Rodrick

Ahrens and Flaherty are a musical team whose collaboration has brought to the American Musical Theatre scene, *Lucky Stiff* (1988), *Once on this Island* (1990), *My Favorite Year* (1992), *Anastasia* (1997 – movie), *Ragtime* (1998), *Seussical* (2000), *A Man of No Importance* (2002), *Dessa Rose* (2005), and *The Glorious One* (2007).

Lynn Ahrens, the lyricist and librettist, was born in New York and graduated from Syracuse University. She did TV and children's shows before becoming a part of the Ahrens-Flaherty team. Stephen Flaherty hails from Pittsburgh and attended the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. They met at a Broadcast Music Inc. workshop.

Lucky Stiff is about a young British shoe salesman, Harry, who is left \$6,000,000 in diamonds by an unknown uncle, who was an Atlantic City croupier. There is a small proviso with his inheritance: he must take his dead uncle on a week's vacation to Monte Carlo. If he fails, the money goes to the Universal Dog Home of Brooklyn. A chase ensues: a young woman from the Dog Home, an optometrist, and the wife of the casino owner in Atlantic City all follow Harry and his uncle on their adventures. Out of this, Ahrens and Flaherty have fashioned an enjoyable and zany theatrical experience, which Kevin Kelly of the Boston Globe says is, "silly, droll, grizzly...and very funny."

And which NEIU director Anna Antaramian thinks is one of musical theatres surprising treasures.

Call the Stage Center Theatre Box Office for reservations:

773.442.4274.

-Anna Antaramian, Director

2009—2010

UPCOMING SHOWS

MAIN STAGE *7:30 P.M.

Reservations: 773.442.4274

Lucky Stiff

Book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens,
Music by Stephen Flaherty

November 19-21, December 3-5,
10-12

Vaudeville America!

February 18-20, 25-27, March 4-6

A Tale of Two Cities

adapted by Mark Fitzgibbons

April 15-17, 22-24, 29-May 1

STUDIO SERIES *7:30 P.M.

F-109

Wine in the Wilderness

by Alice Childress

February 22-24, March 1-3

CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP*10:30 A.M.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Reservations: 773.442.5971

Señora Tortuga

by Roxanne Schroeder-Arce

November 9—December 9

Totally Red

by Dinah Toups and Barbara
Walker

March 29—April 30

Call the
Stage Center
Theatre box
office for
reservations
and ticket sales
773.442.4274
Tickets are
free for all
faculty, staff,
and students
with an
NEIU ID



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Señora Tortuga by Roxanne Schroeder-Arce Children's Theatre Workshop

Director's Notes

In *Señora Tortuga* playwright Roxanne Schroeder-Arce uses characters and archetypes from Mexican and Hispanic folktales and legends to tell the story of a contemporary immigrant family.

In this enchanting bilingual play (English/Spanish), young Pedro and his family make their home in a barn on the Mexican border. Pedro complains of having nothing and brings his mother many headaches.

She invites a hungry woman to share the family dinner once, but this Señora returns time and again to eat and tell fantastical stories of the Enchanted Serpent and Cucuy of Mexican legend. Surprisingly, Pedro is learning from these wisdom tales, but his mother is suspicious of the Señora until it is revealed that Señora Tortuga is a Shapeshifter that holds the thread that ties their past dreams to their future (Anchorage Press Plays, Inc).

There must be something very seductive to us about the idea of a human being who is able to take the form of another person or an animal. Every culture, from prehistory to the present, has tales of Shapeshifters, people who can, at will, transform themselves into something else. This was a favorite trick of Zeus in Greek mythology, and the first century Roman poet Ovid devoted an entire

book to such tales (*Metamorphoses*). African, European, Native American, South American, Chinese and Indian folklore all include tales of Shapeshifters. Even today the popular Transformer robot toys and many books and films such as *Twilight*, *Harry Potter* and *X-Men* exploit this intriguing idea.

For more than 20 years The Children's Theatre Workshop has produced two plays every year for local grade schools by way of NEIU's Children's Theatre Workshop Class CMT 351. Keeping in theme with its dual language presentation, The Children's Theatre Workshop performance not only entertains but it gives back.

November 9 to December 9 Monday, Wednesday and Friday kid's grades 3-6 will walk and bus from local Chicago school's to be entertained and learn valuable life lessons while watching *Señora Tortuga*.

Due to the huge success of last year's bilingual production ¡BOCÓN! Director Ann Hartdegen chose to perform another bilingual play.

Under Ann's direction, NEIU's Children's Theatre Workshop students will produce, perform and assistant direct *Señora Tortuga*.

~Directed by Ann Hartdegen

~THEATRE QUIZ TIME~

*This Month's Theme: Musicals**

Coinciding with this month's zany musical comedy *Lucky Stiff* — find out how much you know about the musical theatre genre!

- 1) The three main components of a musical are the:
 - A. Script, Lyrics, Actors
 - B. Novel, Music, Lyrics
 - C. Music, Lyrics, Book
 - D. Book, Actors, Script
- 2) A musical theatre performer is usually an actor first and a singer and dancer second.
True or False?
- 3) The first form of musical theatre dates back to
 - A. Renaissance
 - B. 5th Century BCE
 - C. 1700's
 - D. 1800's
- 4) This Broadway hit has gang members from the "Sharks" and the "Jets" singing in the streets.
 - A. Miss Saigon
 - B. Grease
 - C. West Side Story
 - D. Rent
- 5) In *The Music Man* fast talking salesman Harold Hill sings this song to and/or about the people of River City.
 - A. Say it Ain't So
 - B. Iowa Stubborn
 - C. Trouble
 - D. Come Follow the Band
- 6) Which two Disney movies have been adapted as Broadway musicals?
 - A. 101 Dalmatians, Clueless
 - B. The Lion King, Spamalot
 - C. Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast
 - D. The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast

~Superstition and Mystery: October Newsletter Quiz Answers~

- 1) C (The Scottish Play); 2) Break a Leg!; 3) D (Whistle); 4) B (While looking at them through the mirror) 5) True; 6) B (James Thurber); 7) A (And Then There were None)* Quiz answers will be revealed in next month's issue!

This quiz is property of Funtrivia.com.