



**West Side
Story opens for
registration
May 4th!!**



**Summer Day
Program
registration
still open!!**



Volume 7, Issue 2

May, 2008

Colleen's Corner

Tips for Auditions

Have you ever wondered what goes on after you audition for the show? How does the cast get chosen? And what ARE directors looking for? Here's a look behind the scenes so you can prepare for your next audition!

The Casting Process:

After all auditions are over, the director, musical director, choreographer, assistant

director and stage manager (the artistic team) sit down (with snacks) to begin a long night putting together an enormous jigsaw puzzle. A jigsaw puzzle? Yup—

because that is exactly what casting is like. We take all the pieces



Continued on page 2

Welcome Home!

After years of wandering, we finally have a place to call home: Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA). This March, ACT and ACA reached an agreement for ACT to move into a space formerly leased by the Underground Railway Theatre. Located next to ACA's theater in the old Gibbs Junior High building, ACT's new home used to be the kitchen. After some renovations and modifications, the space will be used for our workshops, rehearsals, meetings, box office, and administration, as well as for storage for costumes and props.

Artistic Director Colleen Rua is excited that the actors will have a space that is theirs: "Even in professional theatre, many companies aren't able to have their own permanent space. I think having a home not only strengthens the bond between actors, but it impacts the quality of the work—knowing that this is the place where we have fun and work to make magic happen on stage."

In addition, the community has come out in support of ACT by helping to clean the space, donating supplies (internet and phone service are being provided by RCN and all of the office furniture is being donated by Creative Office Pavillion of Woburn), painting the walls, and moving ACT's vast storehouse of theater supplies into our new home.

Although ACT has already started using the space for rehearsals of its two spring shows (*Romeo and Juliet* and *Dorothy Meets Alice*), the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Sunday, May 18th at 3 PM. There will be refreshments, as well as activities for children of all ages. Join your ACT friends in wandering through the new space, and help us celebrate our new home.

Save the Date!

Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

Sunday, May 18th at 3 PM

Join us to celebrate

our new home

ACT at ACA, 41 Foster Street,

Arlington



Upcoming Spring Performances:



Romeo and Juliet

Friday, May 9th, 7 PM

Sat., May 10th, 4 PM

at

Arlington's Masonic Temple

**Dorothy
meets
Alice**



By Alexandra Kew

Fri, May 16th, 7 PM

Sat, May 17th, 2 PM

at Arlington's

Masonic Temple

ACT.arlington.ma.us

Colleen's Corner

Continued from Page 1

(actors) and figure out how they fit together to make a big picture (the cast). Most directors take notes during auditions so that they can remember what an actor did and their best qualities. Through conversation and voting, the artistic team puts together a cast that will be the best fit for the play. An actor may have a fantastic audition and not get the exact role they had hoped for. This is not because the actor wasn't great. The artistic team is thinking about the entire play, not individual parts. They also may see something in the actor that they think will really make them shine in another role.

So, what are you looking for and how should I prepare?

1. Do your homework! Before an audition, try to find the play and read it, or listen to the CD.

2. Be prepared! Memorize your audition monologue if you can, and spend time thinking about how the character moves, what they want, and what is getting in the way of what they want. Practice at home or for your family and friends.

3. Don't be afraid to take a risk! Try something new. If you have seen the play you are auditioning for a hundred times, don't "copy" what you saw—make the character your own.

4. Show that you can take direction! If a director asks you to read, sing or dance differently than you were doing, try it. Most of the time, they are just trying to see how well you can make adjustments in a role.

5. Let your personality shine! A major question all directors ask themselves is "Is this someone I want to work with?" A friendly, positive, hard-working actor is always welcome. If you are auditioning for an ACT show, you probably already know that we are a pretty cuddly, fun bunch. So, don't be nervous, just be you!

6. Be a team player! If you don't get the exact role you want in every play, don't give up! Directors DEFINITELY notice actors in smaller roles that do all they can to make the play the best it can be, and will keep you in mind for next time. Remember—it is a puzzle and every piece has to fit to make the big picture.

7. Be professional! When you enter an audition, make sure to say hello to everyone and introduce yourself. When you leave, a thank you is always appreciated.

I hope to see you soon at an upcoming audition!

Colleen

Registration Open for Summer Drama Camp!

This summer, ACT is offering **five** weeks of fun and exciting theatrical and musical adventures for 6 to 11 year olds with *Seussical*. The show can be adapted easily and performed in parts, highlighting both individual and ensemble pieces.

At the end of each week, the campers will perform their scenework and songs for family and friends at the Regent Underground Theater on Friday evening at 7 PM.



This summer, the coordinator of our Summer Day Program will be Alice Hunter, an experienced teacher and choreographer.

Week One, July 7-11 Week Two, July 14-18
Week Three, July 21-25
Week Four, July 28-August 1
Week Five, August 4-August 8

The cost of ACT's Summer Camp is \$275 for one week, with multiple week and sibling discounts. Extended day is available for an additional fee.

We are now accepting applications for Junior Counselors (JCs) for kids 14 and older, and for Counselors in Training (CITs), kids 11 to 13.

For more information and to register, go to ACT the website.

ACT's Upcoming Productions:

West Side Story

Registration opens May 4th for 7-18 year olds

James and the Giant Peach

Registration opens in Sept for 7-12 year olds

William Sleator's *House of Stairs*

Registration opens in Sept for 13-18 year olds

Godspell

Registration opens in Nov for 10-18 year olds

Taming of the Shrew

Registration opens in Feb for 13-18 year olds

Similarities Between Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *West Side Story*: a primer

It's no coincidence that ACT has chosen to perform *Romeo and Juliet* this spring and *West Side Story* this coming summer. Shakespeare's play and the Broadway musical are closely linked. Arthur Laurents, who wrote the book for *West Side Story*, originally imagined the two fighting clans to be Jews and Catholics living on the East side of New York City. Well, for those of you eager to look for similarities and differences, we've prepared a handy-dandy little primer for you (with some help from the internet).

<http://www.westsidestory.com/site/lev el2/archives/fact/fact.html>

http://www.rit.edu/~423www/performing_ arts/comparerj.html

Maria = Juliet	A-Rab = Sampson	Sharks = Capulets
Tony = Romeo	Riff = Tybalt	Jets = Montagues
Anita = Nurse	Bernardo = Mercutio	Det. Shrank = Escalus
Baby John = Gregor	Doc = Friar Laurence	Chino = Paris

Romeo & Juliet

The play begins with a fight between the rival Montague and Capulet clan's servants, reported on by Sampson and Gregor.

In Scene 2, we meet Romeo for the first time. He has neglected his friends for awhile because he is in love. He has been counseled by his priest: "The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb/What is her burying grave, that is her womb."

Also in Scene 2, Romeo is encouraged to attend the masqued ball that evening in the rival "territory" of the Capulet house. He agrees, thinking that he might see his ex-lover Rosalind, and having a feeling that something important, a "miracle", may occur.

Juliet first appears in Scene 3. She is with her Nurse, a personal and romantic confidante.

Juliet confesses that she dreads her upcoming arranged marriage to Paris.

The play moves on to the dance, where masks and vizards identify the rival families.

The ball scene moves from rituals and words heightening the family conflict to the fateful meeting of Romeo and Juliet, and a harsh reaction by her family.

Juliet questions the importance of family rivalries in the face of true love ("What's in a name?--").

The balcony of Juliet's room is the first place where the lovers can express their feelings.

The dialogue uses light imagery, but almost all of R&J happens in the evening or at night.

Romeo must seek advice in the darkness of Friar Laurence's monastery.

Friar Laurence is sympathetic to Romeo, and gives him advice and warnings. He is an herbalist, familiar with medicines and poisons.

The Nurse is fearful that Juliet will not marry Paris, and become involved with a man from the wrong family

Shakespeare writes: "These violent desires have violent end/ And in their triumph die..."

The fight unfolds, with the killing and counter-killing of Mercutio by Tybalt, and of Tybalt by Romeo.

Juliet can forgive Romeo for killing her cousin because she is convinced that external forces in the world are struggling with the power of love.

Friar Laurence gives Juliet a medicinal potion so she can feign death and get a message to the exiled Romeo in to meet her in her family's tomb and escape.

Romeo kills Paris in the tomb; thinking Juliet is dead, he kills himself. Juliet awakens to find them dead and kills herself.

West Side Story

The play begins with a fight between rival gangs the Sharks and the Jets, commented on by Jets A-Rab and Baby John.

In Scene 2, we meet Tony for the first time. His close friend, Riff, the Jet's leader, is upset by Tony's neglect of the gang. He uses the slogan "Womb to tomb" as a code for their lifelong friendship.

Also in Scene 2, Tony is urged by Riff to attend the dance at the gym to challenge the rival Sharks. Tony agrees, not fully knowing why, only having a strong feeling of "a miracle due" (the song Something's Coming)

Maria first appears in Scene 3. She is with Anita, a "big-sister" friend, a personal and romantic confidante.

Maria confesses that she dreads her upcoming arranged marriage to Chino.

The play moves on to the dance, where gang colors identify the rival gangs.

The dance scene moves from dances and words heightening the gang conflict to the fateful meeting of Tony and Maria, and a harsh reaction by her brother Bernardo.

Tony expresses his newfound love in the song about her name ("Maria").

The fire escape of Maria's apartment is the first place where the lovers can express their feelings.

Tony and Maria sing "Tonight" about a "world full of light." Despite this, almost of all WSS's action in in the evening or at night.

While Tony and Maria sing of light, the gangs and their girlfriends are meeting in Doc's "dark and musty" drug store to plan the rumble.

Doc is caring of Tony and sympathetic to some of the gangs, but he is severely critical of their violence and racism. He is also a druggist.

Anita is aware and fearful that Maria is involved with a boy from the wrong side.

The "Tonight Quintet" is a conflicting visual chorus that shows each character's desires and hoped for goals/ends, just before the rumble.

The fight unfolds, with the killing and counter-killing of Riff by Bernardo, and of Bernardo by Tony.

Maria can forgive Tony for killing her brother for the same reason, ("But it's not us! It's everything around us!" 2.1)

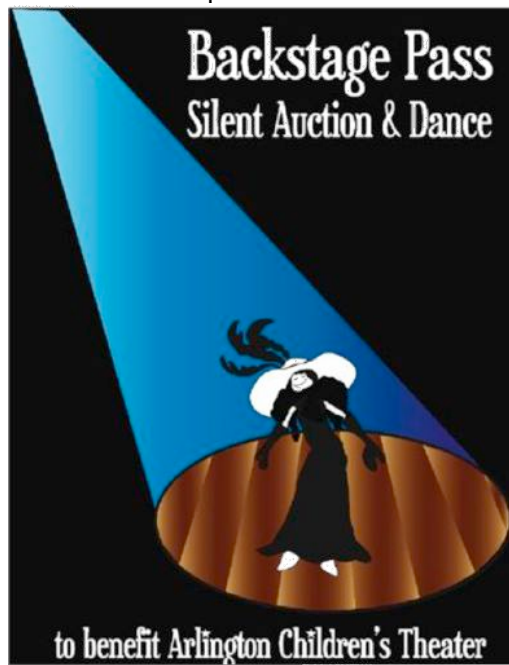
When held for questioning by Det. Shrank, Maria sends Anita to the drugstore to "get medicine"--warn Tony, who is hiding there, that Chino is out to kill him, and to go to Maria.

Chino kills Tony; Maria holds him as he dies (she, however does not kill herself).

ACT's *Backstage Pass* Silent Auction



ACT's Backstage Pass Auction and Dance on March 15th was a wonderful evening filled with community spirit, good food (donated by local restaurants and stores), and great entertainment provided by The Stratton Project and local DJ, Randy Barth. The event was a huge success, reaching both its monetary and community goals. Many thanks to the support of local area business donations, printing sponsors, ACT families and individuals, whose commitment to providing affordable theater programming to the children in Arlington and the surrounding towns made this event possible.

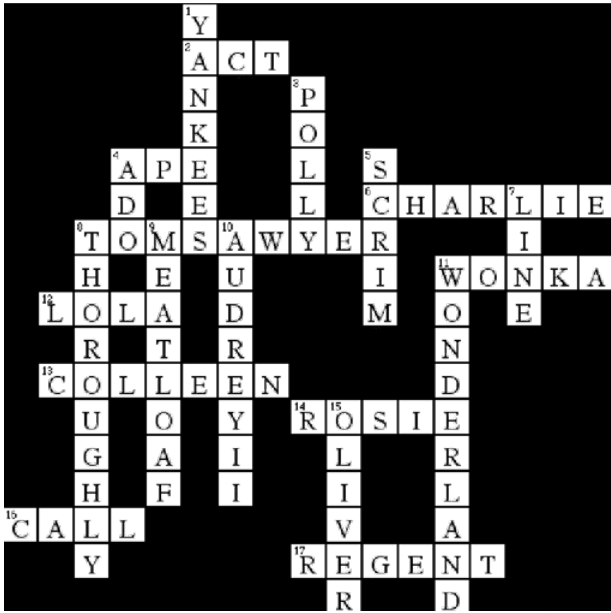


Pictured, clockwise from upper left: 1) Terry Grimm samples some of the delicious food; 2) Susan Virgintino, ACT's Artistic Director Colleen Rua, Board Vice President Andy Atkins, and Tom Daley; 3) Auctioneer and DJ Randy Barth once again points to Jimmy Del Ponte during the Live Auction portion of the evening; 4) Backstage Pass co-chairs MJ Michaels and Board President Jackie Daley welcome friends; 5) the ACT Board: Jimmy Del Ponte, Howie Rafal, Stephanie Martin, Howard Straubing, Mary Anne Lamar, Gretchen LaPan, Terry Grimm, Jeanne Meister, Melanie Hamilton, Lisa Davenport, Donna Begin, Managing Director Steve Smith, MJ Michaels, Jackie Daley, Norton Allen, Andy Atkins, and Kathy Perkins; 6) Kathy Perkins and Jen Baily get ready for the crowd; 7) Melanie Hamilton and Susan Virgintino chat over the silent auction, while Jeff Carver looks for bargains.

Crossword

Contest Winner

ACTor Andre LaPan won last issue's Crossword Challenge by sending in a correctly-filled in crossword puzzle. The puzzle, created by Andy Atkins, featured such ACT-centric clues as: "Did she get what she wanted? Summer, 2006 and February, 2007" (Lola) and "She can be direct" (Colleen). Andre receives two free tickets to an upcoming ACT show.



CBACT Children's Theatre Festival

by Peyton Pugmire, Program Director,
Watertown Children's Theatre

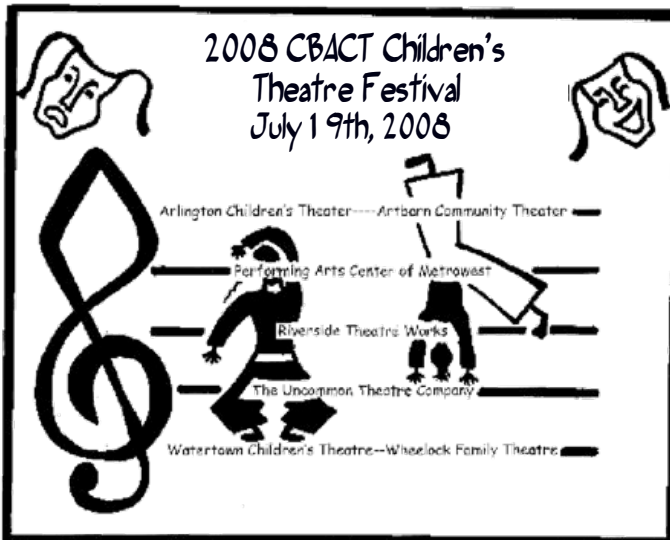
Reprinted from the New England Theatre Conference (NETC) newsletter, spring, 2008. ACT was instrumental in the creation of CBACT and we are very excited to be part of this first-ever children's theatre festival.

On Saturday, July 19th, 2008, the Consortium of Boston Area Children's Theatres (CBACT) and the Watertown Children's Theatre (WCT) will be producing the pilot CBACT Children's Theatre Festival. Hosted by WCT, this first time festival will take place at the Arsenal Center for the Arts (www.arsenalarts.org), located in Watertown, MA, where WCT is the resident children's theatre.

This festival's mission is to provide the Boston-area community with an annual opportunity to experience and celebrate the entertaining, artistic, educational, and multi-transformational effects of live children's theatre. This non-competitive festival will bring together multiple Boston-area children's theatres to perform an artistic variety of diverse performances suitable for audiences of all ages.

Beginning at 9 AM, the festival will include a full roster of performances, from original musicals to cuttings of established works, with opportunities to meet the directors, producers, and child actors. The running times for each individual performance will be under an hour, allowing both companies and families with active schedules to participate. Among the participating companies in this year's festival are the Watertown Children's Theatre, Arlington Children's Theater, The Performing Arts Center of Metrowest, Riverside Theatre Works, and the UnCommon Theatre Company.

Detailed information regarding the day of the festival, including show titles, performance times, and ticket prices will be released in the near future. For additional information, please contact WCT by phone at 617-926-2787 or email Peyton Pugmire at ppugmire.wct@gmail.com.



Hosted by the Watertown Children's Theatre and the
Arsenal Center for the Arts
321 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA
617-926-ARTS(2787)
Full day pass at all shows and workshops-\$20
Single show ticket-\$5 workshops \$5

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE
ACT ANNUAL FUND**



If you believe in us and in what we do for your family and for others, please consider contributing to ACT's Annual Fund! Keep current on our programs and support an important cultural resource! Our donors include families and friends from Arlington and throughout Greater Boston.



"ACT is such a great community of kids and parent volunteers. I feel privileged to work with them."

**ACTor—\$50 Stage Manager—\$100
Director—\$250 Producer—\$500
Executive Producer—\$1000**

Registration for ACT's summer musical

West Side Story

opens on May 4th!!

**For more information and to register,
go to: ACT.arlington.ma.us**



P.O.Box 1076
Arlington, MA 02474

**Inside:
Welcome Home!**

***Romeo & Juliet*, May
9th & 10th**

***Dorothy Meets Alice*,
May 16th & 17th**

**Grand Opening &
Ribbon Cutting at 41
Foster Street, May
18th**

**Registration Open for
*West Side Story***

**2008-09 Show
schedule**

We need your help! Contribute to the Annual Fund today!