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MADogram

April, 2008

2008 MAD Spring Show Information

Auditions for the solo and small-group numbers for our MAD Spring Show, "MAD Across America," were held on April 8-9. It isn't too late! If you are interested in performing a solo or small group number but didn't make it to auditions, please contact Ted Ying at 301-614-5244 or tedying@yahoo.com by April 21 to make special arrangements or more information.

The MAD Spring Show will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7 in the Building 3 Auditorium. All are invited to join the MAD Chorus to be directed by Becky Silverstein. The chorus will begin rehearsal on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Building 28, Room E210. Call Producer Mark Faber at 301-286-6966 if you require a badge.

2008 MAD Fall Show – Notes from the Director

I am thrilled to be directing this fall's musical, and I believe that we will all have a wonderful time with "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." I've wanted to direct this show for MAD for a number of years and have put much thought into how to make this show fit our group. First and foremost there are a few things you should know:

1. **Almost all roles will be open to both men and women.***
2. **Almost all roles will be open for people in a very wide variety of ages.***
3. **A multi-part singing chorus will be crucial to a significant portion of the music.**
4. **While there are few spoken lines, there is significant opportunity for those who feel that acting and comedy are their strength.**

My philosophy for this show is to take the people who come out for auditions and use each person's strengths as an actor, singer, dancer or some combination to present the show in a unique and creative way. I want to make the show fit us, rather than how we usually have to try to fit MAD into a restrictive show.

"Joseph..." is a show about following your dreams, and I think that applies to many of us. We will present this show as a group of folks on a tour of the Goddard Visitor Center who get drafted by the Narrator to help tell the story of a "dreamer like you." Since we draft people who happen to be on the tour to tell the story, it doesn't matter if a female or male plays each role. We won't change the gender of the roles in the show, so women will be paying "pants" roles in many cases. (Can you really call them pants roles if you are wearing those funny Egyptian skirt things??) We'll just put obviously fake beards on the women and play it up for all the comedy it is worth if it makes the women feel better. Adding as much humor as possible to the way in

which we tell this story (without making fun of the story itself) is a key element to the audience enjoyment of the show. If you are willing to let go of your preconceptions about this show, we can have a huge amount of fun!

Over the next couple months, I'll make more information available about opportunities in "Joseph..." for various groups (women, men, kids, actors who don't consider singing their strength, choral singers, dancers, etc.) I hope you'll read this and consider coming out for what I think will be a very upbeat and exciting show for everyone involved.

*The role of Joseph will be cast as a man approximately between ages 16 and 45. The role of The Narrator (the largest role in the show) will be cast as 2-3 women of any age for each performance - a female duet or trio called, "The Narrettes" - among whom we will divide up the 13 songs of the Narrator. The role of Mrs. Potiphar (a dance feature who tries to seduce Joseph) will be cast as a woman, somewhere between 18 and 60. **All other feature roles are for whomever can act, sing and/or sell them the best!** The youngest auditionees - probably 13 and younger - will be used in the children's choir and the ensemble. Teens and up can qualify for all roles. "Brothers" can range in age from 14 to 60 (or older), as long as we have a Jacob older than the oldest brother.

Who wants to do the Elvis impersonation? Who wants to spoof a country song? Who wants to do a Maurice Chevalier imitation? We need these and more!

I hope you will join in the fun!

-Barbara Ying

MAD About Town

Just to show that not everyone gets type-cast, **Malca Giblin** plays one of eight Irish Catholic sisters in the Greenbelt Arts Center's upcoming production of "The Octette Bridge Club" (Malca's neither Catholic nor of Irish descent, though she DOES play bridge!). Directed by **Erica Drezek**, this play offers two snapshots of the Donovan sisters over a span of ten years in their lives. Their foibles and secrets are gradually disclosed by the sisters, who gather every other week, ostensibly to play bridge. There are four weekends of performances, beginning April 25. For more information, visit <http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org/>.

The Friday Morning Music Club Chorale, plus many guest choristers, including about 10 MAD members, will be performing as the guest choir in a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony by the NIH Philharmonia, directed by Nancia D'Alimonte, on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 917 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 20852. The concert is free of charge and open to the public. We hope many of you can come and listen to this wonderful performance, and there are still openings for all voice parts if you wish to participate; serious rehearsal begins on Friday, April 18. For information, contact Chris Wells at christine.wells@verizon.net.

Kathy Nieman will be singing in the 250-voice Papal Mass choir at the Nationals stadium on April 17. A children's choir and a multi-cultural choir will also sing for a total of 575 voices. Look for her on television!

Ron Wilder is directing PGLT's "Steel Magnolias." Concerned with a group of eccentric southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor, the play is alternately hilarious and touching—and, in the end, deeply revealing of the strength and purposefulness which underlies the antic banter of its

characters. Produced by Roy Peterson, the cast includes: **Rosalie Daelemans** (M'Lynn Eatenton); **Hillary Mazer** (Truvy Jones); **Gayle Negri** (Ouiser Boudreaux); **Cassie Youhouse** (Annelle Dupuy Desoto); **Linda Smith** (Clairee Belcher); **Meg Yednock** (Shelby Eatenton Latcherie). Performances will be: May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17, 2008 at 8 PM and May 4 & 11, 2008 at 2 PM at The Bowie Playhouse, White Marsh Park, 6314 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD 20715. For Box Office and Ticket Orders, please call 301-937-PGLT (7458).

MAD Update

Ginny Zanner's oldest son Bill has recently passed away. She, **Lelia** and **Tommy** attended the memorial service in St. Paul, Minn. Easter Saturday.

Karen Canon also recently passed away. A memorial service will be held on April 20th at 1:30 pm, Annapolis Friends Meeting House, 351 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. The family requests in lieu of flowers that a donation be made to Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Jan Hardy is recuperating from two cataract surgeries, with a cloudy cornea thrown in for good measure.