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MADogram

May, 2008

2008 MAD Fall Show – Opportunities in “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

From the Director, Barbara Ying:

“Joseph...” is a show that has opportunities for pretty much everyone! I’m planning on needing about 50 performers for each performance of the show! We can adjust that number up or down to accommodate everyone who is interested in participating in this upbeat, positive, high-energy show. Specific audition materials will be announced in early June. Here is some information on the roles available and the skills needed for each (Note that numbers of characters listed are per performance). Unless otherwise noted, all roles are open to men and women actors as “players” telling the story. The gender of characters in the story will not be changed. We hope you’ll find something that interests you in this list!

Major singing roles:

The “Narrettes”: The Narrator, who tells the story of Joseph to the audience and is the female lead, is broken into a female SSA trio (or possibly an SA duo depending on the audition pool). The Narrettes sing in various combinations in 14 of the show’s 19 musical numbers. Female actresses of any age with strong singing and acting skills, high energy and personality. Some dance/movement (but don’t let this stop you from auditioning for it).

Joseph: Our male lead and hero. This is a significant acting and singing role, including two of the most well-known and beautiful songs, “Any Dream Will Do” and “Close Every Door.” Some dance/movement (but don’t let this stop you from auditioning for it). Male actor with strong singing and acting skills able to play approx. age of 18-40.

Other singing roles:

Choir: An SATB choir of approx. 12 people. The choir sings in 18 of the 19 songs! The choir will be seated on benches, visible to the audience but not part of acting out the story. The choir may be able to use music for part or most of the show. The emphasis is on quality part-singing over memorization skills.

Children’s Choir: A children’s choir of approx. 10 kids ages 5-12 sings, acts and does simple dance in several songs.

“One More Angel in Heaven” Soloist(s): A Country Western style song – presented with comedy! – is how the brothers tell their father that Joseph is supposedly dead. One or more soloists will sing the verses of this song. One of the brother’s wives could be drafted to tell their father the sad news. Comedy and presentation are crucial.

“Those Canaan Days” Soloist(s): One of the brothers imitates Maurice Chevalier with an overdone comedic French accent as the brothers moan about the famine in Canaan. Could be sung by someone other than one of the brothers. Comedy and presentation take precedence.

“Benjamin Calypso” Soloist: A fun calypso style song presented with energy, style and flair while the brothers beg Joseph to spare Benjamin from punishment. Singing, style and acting are all important and a bit of dance is a plus.

Pharaoh: Also known as Elvis! The King sings two songs. Time to pull out the stops for the Elvis impersonation you’ve always wanted to do!

Butler: Pharaoh’s butler has been thrown in jail, where Joseph interprets his dream. He later tells Pharaoh of Joseph’s ability. Sings one verse in jail and a line later to Pharaoh. Male or female actor, any age.

Baker: Pharaoh’s baker is also in jail where Joseph interprets his dream. Sings one verse. Male or female actor, any age.

Acting roles (Some of these roles have singing parts which are either small, may be pattered/spoken, or are part of a group where singing is optional for some members):

Eleven Brothers (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Naphtali, Isaachar, Asher, Dan, Zebulon, Gad, Benjamin, Judah): Joseph’s eleven brothers are feature acting roles in 9 numbers. Being able to act the story and comedic skills are most important. The brothers sing melody as a group in several songs, supported by the choir. Basic movement skills are a plus. Male or female actors able to play ages mid-teens through 50 (or so).

Potiphar: The Egyptian businessman who initially buys Joseph as a slave and has him thrown in jail. Primarily an acting role with one large scene, Potiphar has a small singing opportunity and basic movement. Male actor, any age, more likely to be cast as a character over 30.

Ensemble: Ensemble players of all ages will play various acting roles in approx. 8 numbers. The roles that may be cast from the ensemble include: Jacob’s wives, the brother’s wives and family, Ishmaelites, Camels, The Sphinx, gamblers, prisoners, Pharaoh’s household. Some of these roles include small singing solos or small group singing.

Dance roles (Some of these roles have singing parts which are either small, may be pattered/spoken, or are part of a group where singing is optional for some members):

Mrs. Potiphar: Potiphar’s wife is an acting and dance feature with one scene. She leads the dance as she tries to seduce Joseph, who resists her. She has one singing line, which may be spoken.

Apache Dancer: (TBD) The Apache dance may be part of the “Those Canaan Days” French café scene. One (or more) feature dancer(s) help the brothers remember what life was like before the famine.

Dance ensemble: A group of dancers who may dance as part of the following roles: Jacob’s wives, brother’s wives and family, Potiphar’s harem, prisoners, and Pharaoh’s household in approx. 7 numbers. Some of these roles include small singing solos or small group singing.

Save these dates: auditions, Monday through Wednesday, July 7-9; call-backs on Saturday, July 12.

NVM (Non-Voting Member) Applications Now Being Accepted

The MAD Executive Committee is now accepting applications for Non-Voting Members (NVMs). You can apply to be an NVM if you are (1) a guest who had significant involvement in a winter, spring, or fall show during BOTH 2006 and 2007, or significant involvement in a winter, spring or fall show for 2007 AND the winter 2008 or spring 2008; or (2) a current NVM who wants to renew his or her status or an individual who lost membership qualification (for example, by leaving Goddard) during 2007 (renewal requires involvement in a winter, spring, or fall show during either 2007 or 2008). Note that if you applied and were accepted this past winter, you do not need to apply again until the end of 2008. Please apply online at the MAD website as instructed below, or complete the form below and submit it to Randy Barth, Code 610.2, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD 20771. All applications must be received online or via mail by May 31, 2008. Approval of all applications will be determined by the MAD Executive Committee at the June meeting and will be published in the June or July MADogram.

Online instructions:

Click on (or paste) <http://www.madtheater.org/mem/NVM.htm>

OR

Go to MAD's home page, click on "Member Services" button. Click on NVM Application. Enter current or previous year user id and password (if unknown, call Randy Barth at 301-614-5472). Click on "Blank Form" if no previous record, otherwise search for your previous record.

SPRING 2008 NON-VOTING MEMBER APPLICATION RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Current Status: _____NVM _____Guest

Mailing Address:

Daytime Telephone: _____

Evening Telephone: _____

Electronic Mail Address: _____

List MAD shows you were involved with and briefly describe your participation during 2006:

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Briefly describe your participation with Winter 2008 show or production team duties for Spring 2008:

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).

The Friday Morning Music Club Chorale, **Webster A. Rogers, Jr.**, music director, will be performing a spring concert on Sunday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 4001 Yuma St., Washington, DC 20016 (off Wisconsin Ave. at Tenley Square). The program will include Bach's Cantata Number 4, *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*, Puccini's *Messa a Quattro Voci*, and "Voyage to a New Land," a new work by FMMC composer David Rubenstein, who will be in attendance. (The last will be performed by the Collegium Musicum, the small mostly a cappella vocal group from the chorale, and accompanied on the piano by **Chris Wells**.) If any of the MAD participants in the Beethoven 9th Symphony concert would be interested in joining the chorale for this performance, we would be most happy to have you. We rehearse on Monday nights at the First Baptist Church, 16th and O Sts., N.W., Washington, from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. Email Chris Wells, christine.wells@verizon.net, if you are interested. (Other singers, too!)

Jerry Khatcheressian will be performing in a One Act Play representing Laurel Mill Playhouse and the State of Maryland, in Newark, Delaware, on Saturday, May 17th. This is part of the Eastern States Theatre Association's One Act Competition. The play to be performed is called "Not One Single Thing," and its the same play that was chosen by the Maryland One Act Festival back in January to go to the Regional in the category of Original Works. For more information go the website, http://www.estafest.org/08_Schedule.html. The play will be performed on Saturday at the 9:30 Performance Session II.

From **Laurie Way**: "Throughout the weeks of rehearsal with the Papal Mass Choir, I intended to look for **Kathy Nieman**, who I was told was also in the choir. Unfortunately, there was no time for searching and chatting. The 250 of us in the Papal Mass Choir worked very, *very* hard under the gifted director, Tom Stehle, at St. Mark's Church in Hyattsville. It was an excellent musical education and, I believe, made us all into better singers. Singing at the Mass itself was a spirit-changing experience. Three of us were seated in the front row behind the huge gong, which was part of the brass ensemble on a stage in front of the choir; we three couldn't see the pope, the altar or the grounds of Nationals Park. We *could* see the upper stands and their tops, on which were stationed several sharpshooters. One of the eeriest, most poignant moments I've ever experienced was that moment at which Pope Benedict entered the stadium in the popemobile -- we could tell by the cheering of the audience -- we began to sing the gentle song, "Tu es Petrus" ("You are Peter"), and I looked up at the clear, bright-blue sky, the helicopter circling overhead and the sharpshooters on top of the stadium. More than 45,000 people shared the Papal Mass with the four choirs (Intercultural, Children's, Gospel and ours). Each choir had selections of its own, and all the choirs joined together for many hymns. Most thrilling of all were the times when thousands in the stadium added their voices to the prayerful music. MAD taught me how to be part of an ensemble and how to seem comfortable when my feet hurt and my stomach rumbles. MAD taught me to listen to the directors and to persist to the end of a production. What I learned in MAD between 1970 and 1985 stood me in good stead April 17, 2008, when this very ordinary, lowly alto got to sing with the pope.

The Bowie Senior Chorale will perform on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. This 80-voice chorale will take you back to the great music of the 70's

“Forever Motown” and more. The December concert was attended by 600 people so you don’t want to miss this! Tickets are \$5 (suggested donation at the door). **Jeannette Conger** is a member of this chorale. She also sings with the Heritage Harbor Chorale and has been making MAD music since 1979.

MAD Update

Barbara Ying had her fourth corneal stem cell transplant surgery on April 30th to repair a section of the previous transplant that had rejected. Surgery at the Cincinnati Eye Institute went very well and she is recovering quickly. This surgery is intended to restore the vision in her left eye which was deteriorating slowly after the rejection in July. Unfortunately, the pressure in the eye remains seriously low after the glaucoma surgery in the same eye last August, meaning on-going bending and lifting restrictions. However, all remains well so far and she is glad to have the surgery out of the way in time to put her full efforts into the fall show!

Jen Larsen is graduating from Towson on May 21st, Honors Summa Cum Laude, with a BS in Music Education!

Susan Breon received an Outstanding Leadership Medal at the NASA Honor Awards held recently. The medal was for outstanding leadership of the Cryogenics and Fluids Branch and significant contributions to cryogenic technology development both internal and external to NASA. Congratulations Sue!

Nina Harris has received an Exceptional Service Medal for her work in GSFC’s Public Affairs Office.