



Μυθιστορίες

Affordable Theater, Inc.

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This newsletter is for members and friends of Affordable Theater, Inc. of Los Altos, California. If you would like to receive a copy of your own, please contact us at: musings@affordabletheater.com

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10 Things You Didn't Know About...

The Holidays

10. During Hanukkah, the only work that may be done while the menorah is lit is cooking.
9. The ancient druids believed mistletoe had magic powers as well as medicinal properties. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe was once believed to lead inevitably to marriage.
8. In A.D. 336, Christian leaders set the date of Christmas to Dec. 25, the same day as the popular pagan holiday Saturnalia that celebrated the winter solstice.
7. Professor Karenga of CSU Long Beach created Kwanzaa in 1966 as a nonreligious celebration of family and social values.
6. The familiar abbreviation X-Mas, for Christmas, originated with the Greeks. X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, Xristos
5. In most of the world the letters on the dreidl represent the phrase "A great miracle happened there". In Israel it's "A great miracle happened here."
4. In the Middle Ages, the Christian church forbade the hanging of mistletoe because of its pagan origins, and suggested holly as a substitute, hence "deck the halls with boughs of holly".
3. *Kwanzaa* is Swahili for "fresh fruits."
2. Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer was invented by Macy's in 1939
1. The most recognizable image of Santa Claus was brought to the U.S. by Coca Cola.

Up and Coming

New Website

2005 is a new year, so we welcome a whole new look for www.affordabletheater.com. Please enjoy the new site, and let the [webmaster](#) know if you have any issues.

Auditions

The Competition:

Affordable Theater has been asked to perform in the *AACTFest* as the representative for the State of California.

The competition begins in March 2005 at the state level and continues at the Regional and National levels over the course of the next year.

Performance Date:

March 19, 2005

Auditions:

Thursday 6:30pm-9pm

January 6, 2005

Rehearsals:

Tuesdays/Thursdays 6:30pm-9pm

January 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27; February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24; March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17th

The Play: *A Game*

A short, amusing, and disturbing piece about human nature.

For more info visit www.affordabletheater.com/game/

Grants

ATI will be applying to a minimum of 12 grants over the next 12 months. While there is no guarantee that we will receive any grant money, this is an important step in ATI's development. Grants exist for everything from supporting specific programs, to general monies for everyday expenses.

For you, as supporters of ATI, grants mean expanded growth for the theater. For example, if we were to receive a grant for general expenses, we would be able to give our actors and techies stipends when they work on shows without having to worry whether or not the show made money on its own.

If you hear of a grant that you believe ATI might qualify for, please forward the information on.

Recent Events

Thank You: *When Santas Collide*

To all our wonderful volunteers, thank you! We literally could not have done it without you!!

To those of you who showed up early, worked in different positions that you were assigned, stayed late, answered questions even if you weren't sure you had the right answer, and a thousand other things that made the event go - thank you!

I would like to take a moment to apologize for the more disorganized format of our volunteering. Sadly our coordinator for the day had a family emergency and was unable to attend. But each of you stepped up and filled in where needed and the event was wonderful!

I did get the opportunity to speak with many of you individually, and if I missed you, I apologize.

If you asked about volunteering for ATI during the rest of the year, please drop me a line at deirdre@affordabletheater.com and I'll get you more information. We put on a show approximately once a month, so we are always looking for new actors and techies. Even if you don't have experience, if you are interested, we are always willing to teach.

We are also going to be working on next year's fundraiser, which will be held December 10th, starting in January. If you'd like to help out there drop us a line.

Thank you again, and I hope to hear from many of you in the future.

Sincerely;

[Deirdre B. McGaffey](#)

Technical Director



Some of the volunteers from
[The Santa Clara County Youth Service & Leadership Team](#)

Technical Director's Note

The Next New Phase

Lighting design is a subject near and dear to my heart, and this year it became a reality for Affordable Theater.

With the purchase of twelve PAR56 theatrical lights ATI has entered its next new phase.



PAR stands for **Parabolic Aluminized Reflector**. Basically a PAR-can is just a container for a lamp, designed to make the majority of the light aim in a single direction.

Before their manufacture became standard, many theaters used coffee cans to house the lamps...hence the name.

So why are PAR-cans so popular? After all, there are lots of lights that can do much more than the simple PAR. The answer lies in its very simplicity. By keeping the power and wattage of the beam within the lamp, which is easily replaceable, one PAR-can is able to produce a wide range of beams simply by changing the lamp. The low cost and light weight of the PAR-can, in addition to its versatility, have made it very popular with touring groups. When every pound counts, a fixture with no heavy glass lens or much hardware is a lifesaver.

Basic onstage lighting is made up of three different focuses: "key," "fill" and "back" light. Key lights shine directly on a speaker or object, casting shadows with their features and adding depth. So that these shadows are softened, lower intensity lighting is directed into the shadows on the person or object as a fill light. Back lights illuminate the background. Controlling the position, intensity and color of these lights is what gives a lighting design its individuality.

So what do these PARs mean to ATI? The ability to light a space means that our troupe is now even more versatile. We no longer need to worry about whether or not the room we are being asked to perform in is adequately lighted. Conversely, if we need to turn off the main lights of a room in order to use our projector, we can now have an alternately controlled source of light for the remainder of the show.

If you were able to join us for *When Santas Collide* you were witness to the first production with our new lights. Over the course of the next year, we will integrate lighting into many of our shows. Who knows where this will lead us by next year's fundraiser!

Hope to see you there!

Musing On

Community Involvement

Volunteering Beyond the Fundraiser

The holiday season is a time of giving: to our friends, to our families, to our communities. During the holidays, we give, and this is good. To all those who gave so generously of their time and money and talent at Affordable Theater's second annual fundraiser: *When Santas Collide*, thank you for making the evening such a smashing success.

But as the holidays end, the decorations come down, and we all retreat to our everyday, tinsel-free existence, it's easy to forget that there's still work to be done. So, here's a New Year's resolution for you. This year, resolve to give a little time, every month, to bringing the arts back into your community. Though we hope you'll chose to give some of that time to us, and we'll talk more about that next paragraph, we'd be happy if you gave a few hours to the arts anywhere in your community: gather your friends together to see a show, read stories to children at your local library, take an art class at the community center. Get involved.

Now, for those of you saying, "I'm not sure how to get involved", let Affordable Theater help you. Whatever your interests, whatever your talents, whatever time you have available, we have a place for you. So many little things need to be done - and so many big things as well. Do you only have one afternoon available? One afternoon is all it takes to help our wardrobe mistress reorganize the costume closet, and make sure everything is marked, mended, and ready to go for the next show. New sets need building, and old sets need repainting and repair. There's research to be done for *Drama Department in a Box*, and scripts to be written for the *Storyteller* series. Our fabulous Webmistress has more plans for the site than any single human can handle, and would love to hear from anybody with design or implementation expertise. Do you know anything about marketing or advertising? Come in and tell us about it sometime. And, as always, if you know of group who would enjoy a performance by Sarah's Troupe or could use a *Drama Department in a Box*, it only takes a few minutes to give them our contact information.

Without our volunteers, we couldn't exist.
We look forward to seeing you all in 2005!

How You Can Help

All contributions, whether goods, services, monies, or time, are deeply appreciated.

Please contact us at giving@affordabletheater.com.

Affordable Theater, Inc is a non-profit corporation under tax code 501(c)(3). As such, all contributions qualify for a tax deduction, as well as our undying gratitude.

Wish List

This year we published a wish list in our giving pamphlet that was available at the fundriaser. Here is a recap of that list...

10) Costumes

Have any old clothes hanging about that you really ought to get rid of? Halloween costumes, bridesmaids dresses, clothes from an era you'd rather forget you lived in? All of these can be part of ATI's costume closet.

9) Props

If you find yourself holding a one-of-a-kind item that you just can't keep, consider donating it to ATI.

8) Equipment

Sound equipment, lighting equipment, and moving equipment – all these can be indispensable to the theater.

7) Tools

Whether it's something huge like a table saw, or something we can't live without like wood screws, tools of all shapes and sizes make wonderful donations.

6) Fabric

Sewing supplies of all types come in handy when our costume closet comes up short.

5) Truck

Since ATI is mostly a traveling company we are currently in need of a truck of our own. It needs a 4' x 5' storage area, and room for 3 passengers.

4) Computer

ATI is looking for a computer with movie creation software (such as iMovie or Final Cut), firewire and s-video capabilities, and a DVD burner.

3) Scripts

ATI is always looking for new writers.

2) Volunteers

We are only as good as the people who help us exist. Volunteering at ATI lets you take an active role in bringing affordable theater back!

1) A building of our own.

ATI is not a traditional theater, so we don't need a traditional theater space. Whether a warehouse, an office, or something else a home of our own would allow us to begin our mainstage productions, as well as increase the size and scope of our workshops.

Useful Information

Giving Links

PayPal

<https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=p/ema/index-outside>



iGive.com

<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=99251&causeid=28378>



Email Lists

Click on the link to join a list, or adjust your settings.

Actors

Auditions, and other actor-specific notices.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atiactors>

Musings

The ATI Newsletter.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/atimusings>

Everyone

A public list for anyone involved with ATI.

<http://lists.affordabletheater.com/mailman/listinfo/everyone>

