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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

Editor

Charlotte Schaefer

charlotte@affordabletheater.com

Designer

Deirdre McGaffey

deirdre@affordabletheater.com

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10 Things You Didn't Know About...

Psychological Experiments

10. Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another.
9. The first recorded experiments occurred in 1898.
8. There are hundreds of participatory psychology experiments being conducted right now.
7. The first and foremost requirement for a clinical study of suggestibility is that the subject's attention be fixated on an object just prior to being given the suggestion.
6. A light is one of the most popular objects used.
5. Online experiments have become popular enough that there is a Yahoo! directory listing for them.
4. Psychology experiments often require a skirting of ethics. To achieve realistic results, subjects often have to be deceived about the true nature of the study.
3. Despite thousands of experiments on human nature and violence, nobody truly knows what causes violent behavior in humans.
2. Mob psychology exists, and anyone can be overcome by it.
1. One of the most commonly asked questions is "Are we all capable of being cruel given the right circumstances?"

Up and Coming

Happy 3rd Birthday ATI!

We all remember that day way back in 2002 when State Secretary Jones lifted ATI up, swatted it on the bottom, and declared it to be a theater. Well, this year we think we're old enough to have our first birthday party, and we'd like all of you to come help us celebrate.

Since we're all about celebrating our achievements, we will be giving you all a chance to see the show that took ATI to Oregon. This is your chance to see the AACTFest California State Champion show A Game.

ATI has grown by leaps and bounds in its first three years. We started with free shows at outdoor events, within 6 months we were performing at schools, and shortly after that we held our first public fundraiser. In the following year we increased our appearances in schools, created our first show written specifically at the request of a teacher, and had our second fundraiser. In 2005 we performed in the AACTFest as the representatives of the State of California, and have already put plans in motion for Julius Santa our third fundraiser to be held in December.

Come join us for cake and ice cream in August. Doors will be open to all ages, though the show does have some strong emotional content and violence, so it may not be appropriate for young children.

Come see what Affordable Theater is up to now, and how you can be a part of it!



Recent Events

Special Thanks

Creating a one-act show that could be taken on a 13-hour road trip was a challenge above and beyond our normal scope. With the dedication of our volunteers, the perseverance of our director, and the ingenuity of our techies we were up to the challenge, but beyond the every day work there were those who stood out by doing much more than was expected of them.

We want to make sure that these three realize that we appreciate all their work, and how much we look forward to working with them in the future...



To Ashley Locklear, who created a Baker we won't soon forget, and who was missed on our journey.



To Judy Pierce, who learned everything and remembered most of it.



To Nicky Robinson, who stepped into the void, and saved us – as usual.

To these, and all the volunteers and donors of Affordable Theater, our eternal gratitude.

President's Note

Look What You Did

What did I do?

You sent us to Oregon for the AACTFest Regional competition. This year, Affordable Theater's production of Dennis E. Noble's A Game, won the California segment of AACTFest. As the California winner, we were qualified to compete against the winners from the rest of Region VIII, specifically Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii. You may notice that Oregon was not included in that list, that's because they are part of Region IX. Indeed, in order to have the largest festival possible, the Gallery Theater in McMinnville, OR agreed to host a combined festival for Regions VIII and IX.

I did that?

Yes, you did. All of you. And here's how. Remember that fundraiser you attended in December? Well, at that fundraiser, we raised enough money to cover our entry fee and many of the expenses of the trip. Those of you who donated clothes or fabric might have recognized bits and pieces of various costumes. Many of you ran lines with actors or volunteered to work tech at rehearsals when our techie needed the night off. You called and emailed and offered support. You supported a play most of you haven't even had a chance to see. We cannot thank you enough.

Why did I do that?

You did it for many reasons. Mostly, you did it because it was good for the theater. Why was it good for the theater? Well, this was our first chance to directly compare ourselves to other theaters. To go up against our peers and see how we look. Let me tell you, we look pretty darn good. No one in Oregon thought we were a young theater. Many people expressed surprise when they heard it was our theater's first competition. Even more said they hoped to see us again at regionals two years from now.

Which is good, because we intend to be there.



President's Note (cont)

You also did it to give us the chance to interact with other theater people. It's easy to get so focused on our own theater that we forget that other people are working at the same thing. They're facing the same issues and finding their own solutions. Sometimes their solutions are better than ours. Sometimes they aren't. There was no doubt about the fact that we had the niftiest piece of tech in the entire festival. Our beloved technical director spent a great deal of time explaining to all and sundry how to build a chair that can support the weight of a full grown adult, but still fall apart on command. Everyone agreed she's a genius. We already knew that. On the other hand, they reminded us how important it is to have a good stage manager. It's been awhile since we've had a stage manager of any sort, we'd gotten used to having our actors do most of the tech work. Paula Terry of the Gallery reminded us that having someone who is not on stage but who knows the stage, and the show makes the entire process go far more smoothly. The fact that she is a truly excellent stage manager was just an added bonus.

As if all this weren't enough, we watched theaters from all over the Western states put on shows that could be set up and taken down in ten minutes. Some of the little tricks they used will be showing up next time we do a show for a class that only has access to a room for a limited amount of time. There's so much more I could tell you about: time spent swapping stories with other actors and techies, a conversation with a man who's run a theater without a building for over twenty years, an understudy who learned her lines in two days, but there isn't time or space. Let me just say that it was an adventure that has made us better as a theater and we intend to repeat it.

So it was a good thing?

Yes. Oh, yes. And we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you all, so very much.



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>

