

Between the Acts

A newsletter of The New Harmony Theatre

Volume 1, Issue 2

THE REPERTORY PROJECT

The Crucible

By Arthur Miller
Directed by Lenny
Leibowitz

She Stoops to Conquer

By Oliver Goldsmith
Directed by Elliot
Wasserman

**October 25—
November 18**

**USI Theatre, 3001
Igleheart Avenue
in Evansville**

**For tickets, call
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or toll free
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The New Harmony Theatre & USI Theatre launch The Repertory Project

The New Harmony Theatre (NHT) proudly announces The Repertory Project, a landmark initiative launched in collaboration with University of Southern Indiana Theatre.

The Repertory Project will follow a classic repertory model, with two plays staged by one company of actors performed on alternating nights. The acting company will include Equity players from New York and Chicago as well as some of the top acting students at University of Southern Indiana (USI).

According to Lenny Leibowitz, NHT's artistic director, The Repertory Project will capitalize on the dynamic synergy created by putting veteran actors alongside students. He also anticipates that it will attract national attention to

both programs. He said, "Many professional theatres shy away from doing rep and from doing great works of theatrical literature because they are expensive to produce. And very few undergraduate theatre programs offer students the opportunity to gain professional experience before they graduate."

Lenny thanked Dr. Linda Bennett, provost and vice president for academic affairs at USI, for her support of The Repertory Project. He said, "Dr. Bennett's vision has been invaluable in launching this groundbreaking initiative."

For its first season, The Repertory Project will include productions of *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller's searing examination of lust, hypocrisy and witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts; and *She Stoops to*

Conquer, Oliver Goldsmith's uproarious comedy of manners. According to Lenny, these plays are a wonderful pairing. He said, "One is an 18th century British comedy; the other a 20th century American drama. Despite these differences, they respond to the same concerns. Both plays aim to take a can opener to society to expose sanctimony and hypocrisy, and both demonstrate how real love can transcend the social constraints and cruelties that test it."

Tickets for each production are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors (60+), \$10 for anyone 25 or younger, and \$8 for USI students. Patrons purchasing tickets for both shows on the same order can deduct \$2 per ticket.

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New Seating and Other Renovations for 2007

To celebrate The New Harmony Theatre's 20th anniversary, Murphy Auditorium is getting a fresh new look. Renovations will be completed before the 2007 season begins and will include new seats, plaster repair work, and new carpet and fresh paint in the auditorium and lobby.

According to Mark Rozewski, vice president for business affairs at

the University of Southern Indiana, the renovations became a priority for him shortly after he came to USI in 2005. He said, "The New Harmony Theatre is a wonderful program. My family and I enjoy the productions each summer, but the old seats were uncomfortable. I think the new seats and the other renovations will enhance the theatre experience."



Murphy Auditorium was built in 1914. It is part of the New Harmony National Landmark District, one of only 50 districts so designated by the National Park Service.

Between the Acts

Supporter Jerry Wade reflects on The New Harmony Theatre's history



Jerry Wade (center) in *Man of La Mancha*.



Wade's headshot from *The New Harmony Theatre's 1989 playbill*.

Most memorable theatre

experiences?

*I love being drawn completely into the world of the play—some productions that did that for me were **Machinal** at the Public, **Arena Stage's Sunday in the Park with George**, and **Ariane Mnouchkine's Les Atrides** in Paris.*

In this issue, we continue our series of articles honoring those who were instrumental in joining The New Harmony Theatre and USI. Longtime supporter and Posey County native Jerry Wade lives in New York now, but he remains deeply committed to NHT.

Encouraged by New Harmony's theatrical legacy and the availability of performance space, Jerry and a group of theatre lovers ran their own version of The New Harmony Theatre in the early eighties. Eventually, the group could see that a bigger effort would be required. That realization led Jerry to invite his friend, Jim Blevins, then chair of the Division of Humanities at USI, to join the theatre's board. At around the same time, it became clear that USI was going to oversee Historic New Harmony, and it made sense that the theatre

should be similarly managed. Jerry believed that Blevins had the passion and the knowledge to guide the theatre under the umbrella of USI.

Jerry moved to New York in 1989. He comes back to New Harmony each summer. He said, "I am so thrilled that the tradition of theatre in New Harmony has continued."

The New Harmony Theatre has fulfilled another of Jerry's dreams: as a professional theatre company, it helps support theatre artists who make their living doing what they love. Jerry has always felt strongly that artists should be compensated appropriately for their work, a belief strengthened by his own background as a musician and his stint as managing director for the New Harmony Festival of Music.

Jerry and Lenny Leibowitz, NHT's

artistic director, recently spent time together in New York. Lenny learned that Jerry is one of the organizers of New York's Project Shaw, an effort to present every play written by George Bernard Shaw as a concert reading. Inspired by Project Shaw, Jerry and Lenny developed plans for a new series of play readings at NHT this summer. Lenny said, "Jerry's brilliant idea for a series of readings that complement the mainstage productions is one I am thrilled to bring to fruition." (For more about the readings, see page 3.)

In addition to his steadfast support of The New Harmony Theatre, Jerry is a member of the USI/New Harmony Foundation Board and The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art's advisory board.

Q & A with Amy Estes, managing director

In our first issue, Amy Estes, NHT's managing director, quizzed Lenny. Now he turns the tables.

Lenny: What got you into theatre management?

Amy: In college, I worked for Vassar's Powerhouse Theatre and in the summers, I worked at the Berkshire Theatre Festival. In both places, I admired the managing directors and the work they did. Ultimately, I wanted to be the person charged with helping to illuminate for a community the extraordinary value of having a professional theatre.

Lenny: How did you train to be a

managing director?

Amy: I completed an MFA in theatre management at University of Alabama and Alabama Shakespeare Festival, followed by a fellowship at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. But the best training is on the job.

Lenny: What's a typical work week for you?

Amy: Right now, I am doing a lot of work to prep for the arrival of our actors and technicians. Next week, I will be turning my attention to creating our playbill for the summer. I also work closely with the great staff at USI



Foundation to plan events like our season gala. In general, I'm always looking for creative solutions that allow the art to flourish without breaking the bank. By the way, another part of my job is to make sure our artistic director has regular meals. You're hungry again, aren't you?

Lenny: Yes, let's finish this after a sandwich break. (Time elapses for tuna salad.)

Continued on page 3

Be A Star—Support The New Harmony Theatre

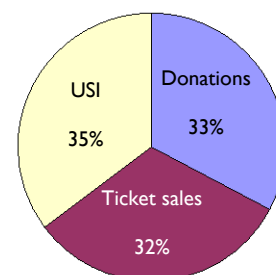
When we talk to people in the community about The New Harmony Theatre, one of the questions we are often asked is, “How is it funded?”

NHT’s budget for the 2007 season is \$422,500. Roughly one-third of that money comes from ticket sales, with another third coming

directly from the University of Southern Indiana. The remainder must be made up by private donations.

Anyone who has spent much time with Lenny Leibowitz, New Harmony Theatre’s artistic director, knows that one of his favorite phrases is, “You’re a

star.” We’d like to thank the many NHT supporters who have already earned their stars this season by making a contribution to support our work. And it isn’t too late to become a star! Contributions received before May 9 will be recognized in our playbill.



NHT Funding Sources

The New Harmony Theatre launches a series of play readings in 2007

For the first time, The New Harmony Theatre’s summer season will include a series of play readings. Each play has been selected to complement its mainstage companion. Tickets for the readings are only \$10 each, but seating is limited. All readings will take place at the Mallette Studio Theatre in the Liberal Arts Center at the University of Southern Indiana. Be part of this exciting new series by ordering your tickets at 465-1635 today!

PATHÉTIQUE (Midwest premiere)

By Sinan Ünél
Directed by R. Scott Lank
Wednesday, June 13

We are thrilled to present a fresh draft of this searing historical drama by a playwright who is garnering national attention for his provocative work. The play revolves around Tchaikovsky’s stormy personal life as he attempts to complete his final symphony. It premiered at the Huntington Theatre’s prestigious Breaking Ground Festival in Boston in 2004.

Contains adult language and themes.

CANDIDA

By George Bernard Shaw
Directed by Joseph Bowen
Wednesday, July 11

Shaw’s brilliant examination of love and marriage in the Victorian era provides stimulating counterpoint to *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Candida’s upright, self-involved husband believes that all is right with his world until Candida brings home a young poet who has fallen in love with her. This feast of wit, jealousy, discourse, and sex is served with typical Shavian zest.

NORA

By Ingmar Bergman
Directed by Lenny Leibowitz
Wednesday, August 1

Bergman’s stark retelling of Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* lays bare the play’s hot core. This adaptation of the classic reveals Bergman at his most tender, lyrical and impassioned. Nora is a potent companion play to *I Do! I Do!*; together both pieces traverse the full spectrum of marital experience.

Contains adult language and themes.

Our deepest thanks to these “stars” whose gifts or pledges of \$250 or more were received before April 19, 2007.

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Ernest W. and Margaret L. Rapp
John T. and Audree E. Riddell
James A. Sanders
Thomas W. and Nancy S. Traylor
Eric L. and Katherine A. von Fuhrmann

Q & A with Amy Estes (continued from page 2)

Lenny: If you weren’t in the theatre, what would you be doing?

Amy: Probably working at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. I’ve done a lot of volunteer work for that organization over the past ten years. I love being able to let Bunny’s Evansville friends know that she is doing great.

Lenny: What is the hardest part of your job?

Amy: Saying no to worthwhile

artistic pursuits because there isn’t enough money. That’s tough.

Lenny: What do you see in New Harmony Theatre’s future?

Amy: For theatre artists all over the country, working at NHT will be an aspiration. And NHT will become a model for audience development; we’re going to create programs that attract people to the theatre throughout their lives.

Lenny: What is your favorite spot in New Harmony?

Amy: Carol’s Garden. I feel as if I’ve walked into another world; I can leave everything at the gate.

Lenny: Do you have any guilty pleasures?

Amy: Chocolate. Spending a whole afternoon reading magazines. And once a year, gluing myself to the television for March Madness.

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THE NEW HARMONY THEATRE

BETWEEN THE ACTS

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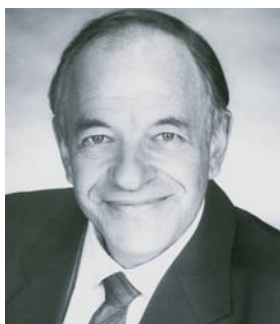
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Casting for the 2007 Season Is Complete!

The New Harmony Theatre conducted its annual auditions in New York in February. Lenny received over 3,000 actor submissions. He said, "The response was truly extraordinary. It reflects the high regard for The New Harmony Theatre that exists among professional actors and the excitement about our season. The audition experience was akin to a veritable deluge of talent." Here are just a few of the Equity actors who have been cast for the summer productions.



Kenneth Tigar will play Salieri in **Amadeus**. His credits include Broadway, major regional theatres, films (*Primal Fear*, *Lethal Weapon II* and *III*) and television series such as *Law and Order*, *ER*, *The West Wing*, *Will & Grace*, *Barney Miller*, and *Hill Street Blues*.



Carl Anthony-Tramon will play Mozart in **Amadeus**. His credits include the Broadway productions of *Peter Pan* and *Rags*, the first national tour of *Fame*, and many film and television roles.



Getchie Argetsinger will play Miss Prism in **The Importance of Being Earnest**. She was part of the storied national tour of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and has appeared in films such as *Annie Hall*.



Chris Kipiniak was one of the stars of the Tony Award-winning production of *Metamorphoses* and has major regional theatre and television credits. He will play Jack in **The Importance of Being Earnest**.