

Ankeny Community Theatre  
Annual Member Meeting  
September 17, 2018

*Pending approval by membership at 2019 Annual Meeting*

Stacie Bendixen, 2017-2018 president, called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

**Annual Business**

Whitney Welp read the minutes from the 2017 annual meeting. Cheryl Clark motioned to approve the minutes, Barb Wagner seconded, motion passed.

Stacie recapped key accomplishments of the past year.

- Presented 9 productions with total attendance of 3,696
- Debuted the new Studio Series
- Welcomed 34 actors who made their ACT debut
- Received 5 Cloris Award nominations for acting, and the cast of *Honk!* performed at the awards ceremony
- Received 11 nominations for Iowa Community Theatre Association Awards of Excellence and won 2
- Got a beautiful new curtain for the stage
- Continued our great partnership with Midwestix for ticket sales and business management
- Offered 3 adult and teen education workshops on operating lights and sound, acting auditions, and the roles of Stage Manager, Assistant Director, and Producer
- Hosted an open house for kids and families to learn about opportunities at the theater, and hosted visits by large groups of kids from the YMCA and local churches

Development and community engagement:

- Started our endowment fund for ACT through the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
  - As a better investment tool to make more money on our reserves
  - As a way to handle large gifts and legacy giving like estates and non-cash types of donations
- Engaged an independent accountant to do our bookkeeping
- Received a grant from BRAVO Greater Des Moines
- Held community fundraisers for ACT at HuHot and Orange Leaf
- Partnered with the Iowa Donor Network to raise awareness of organ donation through our production of *The God Committee*. We donated \$200 raised from audience members to the Iowa Donor Network.
- Partnered with Candeo, a nonprofit that serves adults with intellectual disabilities and mental illness who live in the community, for their clients to attend some of our preview nights
- Participated in Ankeny SummerFest by performing a play during Family Fun Day. Participated in Ankeny Evening with the Arts. Involved with Ankeny Arts Council, Bravo Greater Des Moines, the Cloris Awards steering committee, and Iowa Community Theatre Association.
- Arranged two special concerts by Tonic Sol-fa – get your tickets now! Nov. 10 at 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., \$23 in advance.

Lynn Arterburn, Youth Education Director, provided a summary of summer drama camps and free library workshops. ACT provided 3 weeks of youth summer day camp. A total of 134 kids filled 146 slots (some kids did more than one camp), both increases over last year. We had 16 staff members plus one camp director (Lynn). Five high-school students served as interns for the Harry Potter camp. One scholarship was awarded. ACT provided 22 free drama workshops attended by 218 kids at Kirkendall Public Library, for a total of 30.25 hours of free educational programming.

Doug Moon, treasurer, presented the financial report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Revenue was approximately \$99,700, expenses were approximately \$94,400, and we earned approximately \$500 in interest, creating a net profit of approximately \$5,800. Scott Nielsen motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Nicole Titus seconded, motion passed.

Stacie recognized volunteers and actors new to ACT this season, as well as regional theater award nominees and winners.

The Cloris Awards are a regional awards program, like Tony Awards for the Des Moines theater community. Cloris Award nominations:

- Best Ensemble, Youth and Family Division: The Cast of *Honk! The Musical*
- Best Performance by a Rising Star (under age 18): Asher Suski as Ugly in *Honk! The Musical*
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play: Alison Buechler as Sister James in *Doubt: A Parable*
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical: Adam Haselhuhn as Drake, Greylag, and Bullfrog in *Honk! The Musical*
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role in a Musical: Derek Phelps as William Barfee in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

ACT received 11 nominations for the 2017 Iowa Community Theatre Association Awards of Excellence, and two winners:

- Best Supporting Actress in a Play: Susan Casber as Mary Meekly in *Unnecessary Farce* – **winner**
- Best Supporting Actor in a Play: Ryan Ingram as Todd in *Unnecessary Farce* – **winner**
- Best Lead Actress in a Play: Kaci Conetzkey as Karen Brown *Unnecessary Farce*
- Best Lead Actor in a Play: Adam Haselhuhn as Eric Sheridan in *Unnecessary Farce*
- Best Lead Actress in a Musical: Leslie Stratton Gookin as Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Best Lead Actor in a Musical: Greg Romans as Vice Principal Panch in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Best Supporting Actress in a Musical: Charissa Hamel as Bellomy in *The Fantasticks*
- Best Supporting Actress in a Musical: Nicole Titus as the Mute in *The Fantasticks*
- Best Supporting Actor in a Musical: Chance Hejde as Schwartz's Dad and Jesus in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Best Music Direction: Charissa Hamel for *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Best Choreography: Tammy Jacobsen for *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

### **Special Tribute**

Board member Scott Nielsen introduced a special recognition of longtime ACT core volunteer Jerry Reid, who passed away this year. Member Richard Wilson spoke about Jerry and his contributions to shaping ACT.

### **Darel Hildreth Award**

Volunteer Chair Whitney Welp presented the Darel Hildreth Award for outstanding volunteer. The winner was voted on by the membership. Whitney summarized each nominee's key contributions this year. Nominees: Cheryl Clark, Kathy Polson, Matt Tuttle. The vote was a tie: Both Cheryl Clark and Matt Tuttle received the Darel Award.

### **ACT Favorite Actor Awards**

Two new categories were added this year for Favorite Actor and Actress for the Studio Series. Valerie presented these awards.

Favorite Lead Actor in a Studio Show nominees: Ken Reams as Dr. Jack Klee as *The God Committee*, Brad Church as Father Brendan Flynn in *Doubt*, Troy Gould as Dr. Alex Gorman in *The God Committee*. Winner: Ken Reams.

Favorite Lead Actress in a Studio Show nominees: Andrea Haynes as Mrs. Muller in *Doubt*, Tammy Sposeto as Dr. Ann Ross in *The God Committee*, and Whitney Welp as Rabbit in *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Winner: Andrea Haynes.

Last year's winners of the Favorite Actors Awards for the Main Series presented this year's awards.

Ryan Ingram was unable to attend this evening. Valerie presented Favorite Supporting Actress. Nominees: Susan Casber as Susan in *A Christmas Chaos*, Paris Solsma as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Susan Casber as Aida in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Winner: Susan Casber.

Susan Casber presented Favorite Supporting Actor. Nominees: Arlen Daleske as Frank in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Adam Haselhuhn as Drake/Greylag/Bullfrog in *Honk!*, and Don Rothweiler as Nunzio in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Winner: Arlen Daleske.

Ali Kirwen presented Favorite Lead Actor. Nominees: Derek Phelps as William Barfee in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Nicholas Root as Nick in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, and Asher Suski as Ugly in *Honk!*. Winner: Derek Phelps.

Doug Moon presented Favorite Lead Actress. Nominees: Nicole Titus as Lt. Cmdr. Joanne Galloway in *A Few Good Men*, Leslie Stratton Gookin as Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Ali Kirwen as Ida in *Honk!*. Winner: Ali Kirwen.

This year a Special Recognition for Most Memorable Ensemble performance was awarded to the cast of *Almost, Maine*. Cast members present at the meeting were recognized.

### **Board Transition**

Stacie recognized outgoing board members, gave highlights of their contributions, and thanked them for their service: Adam Haselhuhn, Scott Nielsen, and Nicole Titus.

Stacie thanked the group for allowing her to serve as president and introduced James Machamer, 2018-2019 president.

James introduced the incoming board members, as approved by membership vote: John Claes, Cheryl Clark, Tamie Mullen, and Matt Tuttle. Susan Casber was approved to serve as president-elect.

Returning board members are Susan Casber, Ali Kirwen, James Machamer, Doug Moon, Becky Plager, Tammy Sposeto, Valerie Stratton, and Whitney Welp. Stacie Bendixen will continue serving as past president.

### **Membership Prize Drawing**

James drew winners for restaurant and shop gift cards from among members who renewed their membership by the early-bird deadline. He thanked Leaning Tower of Pizza, The Other Place, and DSM Foundry for donating the prizes.

Nicole Titus motioned to adjourn, Barb Wagner seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Following adjournment, Adam Haselhuhn and John and Anne Claes provided the entertainment: an original musical number written by John Claes about the upcoming ACT season, and a Jeopardy game about ACT and theater trivia.