

# StD Guild

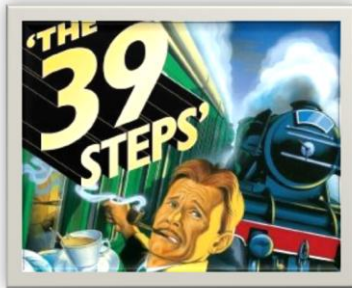


ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD OF CRANBROOK

OCTOBER 2011

## FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

MAC	Oct. 4
<i>The 39 Steps</i> opens	Oct. 14
<i>She Loves Me</i> auditions	Oct. 16, 17



### The 39 Steps

- 38 wildly imaginative scenes
- Four wildly talented actors
- Physical comedy
- Understatement
- Overstatement
- Hilarity and a great spy spoof

New (to St. Dunstan's) director, Kathleen Lietz proves her understanding of "camp" with superbly orchestrated chase scenes and electric "moments" between Richard Hannay (Alan Canning) and the German, Scottish and English bevy of beauties played by newcomer Julie Spittle. Jake Zinke, who joined the group during *Producers* and veteran St. D's member, John Rutherford, are tireless and endlessly clever as they change characters, costumes, voices and accents, playing everything from inanimate objects to classic ghouls and a wacked-out, poison-wielding sheriff (sometimes all in the same



scene!). This is a not-to-be missed show. With a minimal set that gives maximal WOW-effect, you will marvel at every aspect of this superbly planned production—and, once again, you will be so proud of St. Dunstan's and the fine productions and exceptional talent that make our troupe so special. Tom Edson and Nat Towle have spearheaded building the set so cleverly designed by Leslie Pilling. Performance dates are Oct. 14, 15, 21-23 and 28, 29. Call now for reservations, or you might not get a seat!

### YOU'LL LOVE "SHE LOVES ME"

Be a part of the fun! *She Loves Me* auditions are Sunday and Monday, Oct. 16, 17 at 7 p.m.. Registration starts at 6:30. The dream crew is in place, all we need is YOU---the cast! Don't miss the chance to be a part of this fun, charming and sweet musical. For audition information go to St. Dunstan's website and click on the Green Room tab. A great show and an even better time is guaranteed. Performance dates: Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28, 29; Feb 2 & 3, 2012. Audition and music cuts can be obtained either at St. D's or by e-mailing Jeff Davison at [tonyjeff@comcast.net](mailto:tonyjeff@comcast.net)

### **AANTSY AARDVARK-- AARRR**

Timing was off to list the new cast of characters resulting from auditions Oct. 2 and 3 for this year's Theatre for Children production of *The Aantsy Aardvark*, since production date and final auditions landed on the same day. You will have to wait a whole MONTH (doing the aantsy dance, of course) to find out who will interpret Aabigail the Aardvark, Captain Messy Ned and One Eye the Pirate.

### **AARCHIVES WILL CAST YOU**

Yes, Aarchives, too, is aantsy to have some help organizing and identifying materials so they can be stored and easily accessed. Jimmy Luzenski hopes to find some organized minds or good method actors who can pretend to be organized, to help with the project. You have Jimmy's personal invitation to be part of the process (Jimmy is known to spoil his committee members rotten with fabulous homemade goodies and great wine), so you would be helping St. Dunstan's and having fun, too. Senior members in particular are sought (those who have good long-term memory ☺) and other interested parties. Call Jimmy at 248-797-0509 or write him at jamesluz@aol.com

### **SHOW TICKETS MADE EASY...**

To purchase tickets, just go to [www.ShowClix.com](http://www.ShowClix.com) and type in St. Dunstan's Theatre, or simply click on the ticket link on our own website.

Patrons may also telephone **1-888-71-TICKETS** from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday to order tickets or ask questions. A real, live human being is there to help!

### **SHORT DRIVERS! (WE'LL TAKE TALL ONES, TOO)**

When you have battled road construction all the way to Christ Church parking lot to see a show at St. D's, (and it's raining), the sight of the van with a smiling thespian at the wheel, is welcome

indeed. Our patrons will never know that delight unless we step up to help with the shuttles for this year's slate of shows. Anyone who's willing to help, or get a driving lesson, could contact Nat and Mairo Towle, the co-chairs of Producers or Ruth Bennett, Ticket chair.

### **HEY MAC! COME ON DOWN!**

Serving on the Membership Advisory Committee (MAC), serves the Guild in the unique way of welcoming new members, and giving them a short orientation to the Guild and how things work around the Pavilion. Could you spare an hour a month for a short meeting and the chance to have the lead in getting fine, new talent into our numbers? Try it, you'll LOVE it. Meetings will be Oct. 4; Nov. 1; Jan. 3; Feb. 7; Mar. 6; Apr. 3 (all Tuesdays) at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Room. Contact Sally Garrison (248-540-3762 or [WSARAHSALLY@aol.com](mailto:WSARAHSALLY@aol.com)).

### **JOYFUL NOISES! CAROL SING**

We're getting ready for the annual St. Dunstan's Carol Sing on Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook. This year we're hosting the fabulous Detroit Children's Choir. If you've been involved in the St. D's ensemble in the past or would like to join us this year, please contact Matt Horn at [mah48076@aol.com](mailto:mah48076@aol.com). Everyone is welcome! Rehearsals will be held on the four Sundays in November with an additional rehearsal just prior to the event on 12/3. We welcome your participation AND your ideas! And please share the date with friends and family. It's a wonderful way to start off the holiday season and St. D's members can invite guests to the Santa Party too!

### **IT'S ONLY ONE!**

Think of it—imagine it--envision a program BURSTING with ads from local businesses. Imagine the lineup outside the theatre EVERY night, for patrons clamoring to snatch up a ticket from a poor

patron eaten by a hungry crocodile from the Limpopo on the way to see the latest St. Dunstan's production. Eliza Doolittle isn't the only one saying "Wouldn't it be lovely!" So, what's stopping this dream from becoming a reality? YOU! If each of us sold just one season ticket, or a single program ad, we could be packing the houses—even at our annual meeting! How about it? Do your part? Ask your Zumba teacher to take out an ad! Buy a season ticket for the professor in that class you are failing. BE CREATIVE and the Guild can benefit. Invite your mother!

### **Preliminary Financial Report St. D's 2010-2011 Season**

On a five-play basis, ticket sales were down by \$20,044, compared with 2009-2010. With great efforts by everyone, we made a significant reduction of \$14,364 in the costs to put on our shows (again on a five-show basis), and *Tuna Christmas* brought in an income of \$7,500 for a cost of \$2,900. We also increased our Season Ticket sales by \$1,500 and at the same time reduced their costs by \$800 for an overall improvement of \$2,300. We need to find more of these improvements. But even with an extra show we were still **\$13,490** down on ticket sales. So, we made an overall operating profit this year of \$5,775 compared to \$6,711 for the prior year.

Recognizing this continuing need to improve our finances, we have put together a 2011/2012 budget. It is based on the six-show season and requires that we maintain the \$54,000 overall costs of putting on our shows that we achieved this year. This will require the efforts of everyone involved and an overall consciousness about every dollar we spend. Nat and Mairo, as Producers, will be working with all committee heads and the show directors to create individual show budgets that will meet our overall \$54,000 target.

If we can attain the target revenue for the shows of \$106,000 **by increasing our ticket sales,** obtaining sponsors, running benefits and any other revenue raising efforts that can be created we can achieve a profit of over \$10,000.

Thank you all for your support. Just remember that the majority of people who come to our shows do so because they know someone in the Show or in the group. So as members, it is up to you to 'sell' our shows.

–Ian McEwan, Treasurer

### **TIME STANDS STILL BUT TIX MOVE!**

Former member Heidi Bennett (daughter of Board member Ruth Bennett) is appearing in the Tony Award-nominated play "Time Stands Still" at Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor. Written by Donald Margulies, the play revolves around Sarah (Suzi Regan), an award-winning photo-journalist who returns home after nearly losing her life in Iraq. Will she return to the front lines? Or opt for a "normal" life and cushy job like that of her old friend Richard and his young girlfriend? "Time Stands Still" runs through October 23. Information is at [www.PerformanceNetwork.org](http://www.PerformanceNetwork.org).

Incidentally, Heidi was married Sept. 4 to Sean Carter (owner and photographer at Sean Carter Photography). They met through a mutual friend while Heidi was in *Sweet Charity* in 2005. Her match-making friend, Christi Carpenter, was also a dancer in that show and invited Sean to come see it and go out afterwards. The rest is history :-). Sean does headshots and performance photos, and has been doing work for Performance Network and the Purple Rose, in addition to his day job at Zingerman's.) Ruth says she is one lucky mother and mother-in-law!

### **OBITUARIES**

Ted Teegarden, father of so much St. Dunstan's talent, died on Sept. 23 at age 83. Proud dad of Nancy Wegienek and Jim Teegarden, father-in-law to former costumer extraordinaire, Janice and grandpa to the prince of Rumpelstiltskin princes, Scott Wegienek, Ted was also the longtime Executive Vice-President of D'Arcy, Masius, Benton & Bowles, Inc.

Memorials may be made to:

Nancy Clark Teegarden  
Scholarship - School of Education  
Indiana University  
201 N. Rose Avenue  
Bloomington IN 47405-1006

Memorial services for long-time member Gretchen Hitch Kirkpatrick were held at Christ Church Cranbrook on Sept. 13.

### **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Hello again, gang. There is lots of great stuff coming up at St. D's in the next couple of weeks. Oct. 3 and 4 mark auditions for the Theater for Children show *Aantsy Aardvark*, which was written by Patrick and Michael Brooks. The TfC shows are a great way for us to introduce live theater to the area children, and maybe attract some of their parents, as well. Audition! Help with something backstage; costumes, lights, sound can always use willing volunteers. Kathy Brooks has been having too much fun putting together this show from her brother's script. She invites anyone who loves kids and loves having a great time to be part of the production. Contact her for scripts or to let her know that you can help in some way.

Speaking of tremendous fun(ny), *The 39 Steps* opens the season Oct. 14. This high-energy show features only 4 actors playing over 150 parts in total, and is fraught with danger and intrigue as only Hitchcock could produce. Chases on a train, jumping off bridges, airplane crashes onstage, villains

and heroes galore ... OK, OK, so it's really a campy farce that includes many tongue-in-cheek references to Hitchcock movies and characters, but it's STILL a two-time Tony winning show, and is fabulously well-acted.

And, remember that the opening night gala is open to members and their guests, as well as season ticket holders. The galas may be a bit different this year, since the cost comes out of the show budget. I don't want to step on the Producer's toes here, but if we could get the membership to bring a dish to share, or maybe some cookies or something, that would be extremely helpful. Contact Nat or Mairo Towle to find out how you might be able to help out.

*She Loves Me* auditions will be Oct. 16 and 17, and there is some great music and great fun to be had being part of that production, too. Audition!

Your Roster coordinator, Barb Gowans, has been hard at work putting together this year's Roster. Due to some unforeseen computer problems, it wasn't ready in time for the Open House. BUT, she assures me that it is now in the final proofing stages, and will be printed and ready for the opening of *39 Steps*. Paid members can pickup their copy at the theater when you come to see the show. If you haven't yet paid your dues, Kathy Brooks will be happy to accept your check (or a credit card if you go to the Web site).

We are still looking for someone to head up the Special Events committee. Remember, St. D's is also a social group, and if you're that social butterfly that loves to organize parties, then consider taking on this responsibility. There are lots of workers to help!

Until next time!

--Mark Walters, President

**DO YOU  
WISH TO BE  
INVOLVED?**



**IF YOU MUST BORROW...**

Part of the perks as a member of St. Dunstan's is your access to cool costumes, props, and the talent of the Guild. However, sometimes costume pieces or wigs or props are "borrowed" without going through the proper channels (clearing the loan with the committee head), and property is being lost, damaged—or, heaven forbid, WIGS ARE BEING CUT!

Please treat our property as if it were yours. You would want to have veto power over who uses your things, and so does St. Dunstan's. We appreciate your respect in this regard!



Editor: Pam Richards  
Contributors:  
Kathy Burch  
Jeff Davison  
Kathleen Lietz  
Connie McEwan  
Mairo Towle  
Mark Walters  
Alan Canning

**VISIT ST. DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE**  
[www.stdunstanstheatre.com](http://www.stdunstanstheatre.com)

**FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS  
TO DETROIT'S BEST  
COMMUNITY THEATER, CALL  
248.737.3587**

St. Dunstan's Theatre  
*presents*

ALAN CANNING - JULIE SPITTLE - JOHN RUTHERFORD - JAKE ZINKE  
DIRECTED BY - KATHLEEN LIETZ

# THE 39 STEPS



SHOWING

**OCTOBER 14 - 29, 2011**

Joseph B. Lease © Photography

Design by A2 Creative, Inc.



*Celebrating 80 Years*  
**St. Dunstan's Theatre**

400 Lone Pine Rd. - Blmfl'd Hills, MI 48304

Call 1.888.71.TICKETS [www.StDunstansTheatre.com](http://www.StDunstansTheatre.com)



Adapted by Patrick Berlow - From the novel by John Buchan - From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock

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