

ACT 1

Theatre



AD LIB

Newsletter December 1, 2016

Limited run Dec. 18-19

***Another Night* looks at the flip side of an idealic Christmas**



Photos by CLIFF ROWE
Robbie Hill as The Guy.

By Cliff Rowe

Collective conversations take on softer, warmer tones this time of year as seasonal influences take hold.

Take advertising, for example... "The perfect gift for under the tree..." or "the even more perfect gift for someone you love."

Songs: "sleigh bells in the snow..." "Chestnuts roasting on the open fire."

Stories: "stockings hung by the chimney with care..." "A star in the east..."

Peace... love, family... giving, remembering, reliving.

But given life's inconsistencies, not everything about Christmas – or other celebration

of the yuletide season - is warm and fuzzy.

Circumstances can prompt sadness, frustration, disappointment and other harsh realities. These, too, show up across the spectrum of stories told, sung and remembered in our seasonal display.

So, what themes come to life in *Another Night Before Christmas*, being presented Dec. 18-19 at ACT1 Theatre in Puyallup?

Director Petra Karr says she had distinct images of Christmases-past in mind as she looked for a play for this year's holiday offering. And not all of them were pleasant.

"I love Christmas," she says. "But I have spent holidays miserable, trying to put on a brave face despite the avalanche of Christmas ads and movies and songs and jingles

See **ANOTHER NIGHT**, Page 2

May the farce be with you

Our youth improv troupe **ACT Now** performs once a month at our warehouse in Sumner.

The youth, ages 12-21, meet once a week to hone their improvisational skills.

Leaders Petra Karr and Joseph Magin both say they are learning as much as they are teaching with this talented group, some part of their schools' troupes and complete novices. In addition to finding their voice in a unique setting, they are building self-confidence and gaining collaboration/team-building skills.

Their next performance is Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Admission is free, seating is limited, and refreshments will be available for donation.

For more information on this weekly class, visit our website at: ACT1Theatre.org

Warehouse address: 13708 24th St. E. • Building B suites 101 and 110

*Joseph Magin
working with
Sophie Carlson*



Give the gift of theater

As 2016 comes to an end, nonprofits are asking for end-of-year donations that offer patrons a final tax deduction for 2016.

I listen to the other pleas, and wonder how, with passion and conviction, to make ACT 1's stand out. Ultimately, I hope it's the stories I can share that will move you to support our work.

By donating one time, or by creating a monthly donation plan on our website, you are providing the gift of theater to the community, not just for the audiences who can experience a diverse season of excellent theater, but for the actors and artists as well.

We have had single parents tell us that our theater provided a safe and constructive place for their child at night while they worked. The youth weren't home alone, were engaged with people (not on a computer or play station for endless hours) and were building their self-confidence and self-esteem through involvement in artistic collaboration and production.

We have artists who trek all the way down from Seattle to work on at least one show a season who tell us that they love ACT 1 because we are professional both on and off stage. We welcome anyone to audition and consider all for casting. We work with more than 200 artists and actors in creating each season.

What else will your gift of theater provide?

Your gift allows us to:

- Offer gas stipends to actors and directors from Seattle and Olympia to expand the range and experience of our artists
- Keep our ticket prices low and affordable for more
- Enable artists to teach costume construction, and how to dye, distress and texture fabric to create an effect
- Provide scholarships for youth to study theater history, Spanish language and improv
- Pay the music conductors who teach our instrumental and vocal programs and provide direction during musical offerings
- Buy the paint, lumber, hardware, lights, sound equipment and makeup
- Pay the rent, utilities and insurance at our warehouse where we have storage and construction space and some of our rehearsals
- Pay our lease at Puyallup's historic Liberty Theatre for our performances, and help cover office costs in Auburn
- Bring excellent and accessible theater to the Pierce County community that reawakens the imagination

This year give the gift of theater. Be a part of bringing art to life.

Mission statement

Dedicated to enriching communities through quality theater and professional and artistic development.

ANOTHER NIGHT

From Page 1

that tell us that everything is perfect. That can be exhausting and depressing."

She found in this season's script some of that seasonal contradiction.

"It's funny and charming," she says, but it also points to socially relevant conflicts that detract from all that's kind and comfortable.

She touches on some of these conflicts in describing the two characters in the play.

First is Karol, the cynical social worker who "is burned out, underpaid, overworked and dealing with social and cultural problems most of us will never have to ponder."

Then there's The Guy, discovered by Karol huddled on a park bench, braced against the harshness of cold and hunger.

"The guy is smelly, arrogant, and witty, but not as we perceive magical," Karr says.

The two actors perceive messages of trust.

Kaira Hensler as Karol, instinctively sees The Man as homeless when she encounters him. Putting aside her basic instincts, she reaches out to him. Can she help?

He (Robbie Hill), in turn, recognizes in Karol a deep distrust in the magic of Christmas, stemming in part from a child's memories of a failed Santa. This guy may be the one to restore that trust.

As the story evolves, the two end up in Karol's apartment, trapped there by a balky security system.

The plot thickens. Trust thins.

Re-awaken your
imagination



ACT 1 Theatre

Studio of Theatrical Arts

116 W Main
Puyallup, WA 98371

**ACT 1 Theatre is a 501(c)3
organization, and all donations
are tax deductible**

Donations are always welcome



Please visit us on
Facebook or at
www.ACT1Theatre.org