

Now Playing

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE — Youtheatre production with audience participation featuring the characters of *Alice in Wonderland*, **12:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1**, Shawnee Library, ACPL; **10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3**, Dupont Library, ACPL, Fort Wayne, free, 421-1220, www.fortwayneyoutheatre.org

I'M A BELIEVER: THE MUSIC OF NEIL DIAMOND — Cabaret show featuring hits like "Sweet Caroline," "Cracklin' Rosie," "I'm a Believer" and more; choreographed musical performances, narration and commentary; dinner **6:30 p.m.**; show **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3; Monday-Wednesday, Aug. 5-7; Tuesday, Aug. 13**, Huntington Supper Club, \$41-\$44 (includes dinner & show) thru box office 454-0603

LES MISÉRABLES — Musical which takes place in 19th century France, presented by Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 2-3; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 9-10; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$26, 424-5220, www.fwcivic.org

THE NERD — Comedy play set in Terre Haute in 1979, **7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 2-3; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6; 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7; 2 & 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8; and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 9-10**, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$15-\$33, 574-267-8041

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN — Comedic bluegrass/gospel musical featuring the Sanders Family at the end of the Great Depression, **times vary thru Aug. 18**, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indianapolis, \$37.50-\$62.50 (includes dinner buffet), 317-872-9664

TOTALLY AWESOME EIGHTIES — Cabaret show featuring rock, pop, punk and preppy 80s songs; choreographed musical performances, narration and commentary; dinner **6:30 p.m.**; show **7:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Aug. 29-31; Friday, Aug. 2; Wednesday-Friday, Aug. 14-16**, Huntington Supper Club, \$41-\$44 (includes dinner & show) thru box office 454-0603

Asides

AUDITIONS

FPT CHRISTMAS REVUE (DEC. 5-22) — Two adult tenors, bass, sopranos and altos needed for this brand new musical; prepare to sing, read from script and do a movement audition, **7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329, firstpres-fw.org

MRS. PACKARD (OCT. 24-NOV. 9) — Minimum of 5 men and 6 women to play 30 roles, read from script for the inspirational story of a woman victimized by oppression, **7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329, firstpres-fw.org

DRIVING MISS DAISY (JAN. 9-25, 2014) — Read from script for roles for 1 African-American male and 1 white male for this Pulitzer Prize winning play, **7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329, firstpres-fw.org

STEPPING OUT (OCT. 4-19) — Roles for comedy about eight individuals taking tap dancing classes in a dingy North London church hall, **7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Aug. 11-12**, Arena Rehearsal Studio, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, 424-5622

Upcoming Productions

AUGUST

SEE JANE QUIT — Comedy about a neurotic waitress who tries to quit smoking, rated PG13 for mature subject matter, **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Aug. 9-10, 16-17 & 23-24**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

Les Miz Sets a New Civic Standard

Amazing voices, rich live orchestration, excellent costumes, humor, tragedy, love – Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's current production of *Les Misérables* is exceptional. Another triumph for the Civic team. While we're opening with lines suitable for posters, add this: An evening you will remember and use as a yardstick for all future shows. "Was it as good as *Joseph?* As *Little Shop?* Ah, but was it as good as *Les Miz?*?" you will ask in the future.

The bar was set high on opening night last Saturday. The audience came not only with the movie and the touring Broadway casts in mind, but also several well-liked local high school productions that have generated passions about the musical culled from Victor Hugo's massive novel of the upheavals following the French Revolution. Scenes and songs have become iconic, and there would likely be more than a few former Little Cosettes and Fantines attending, as well as those longing for a more lyrical Javert.

Director Gregory Stieber, music director Eunice Wadewitz, assistant director Nan Durant and the huge cast and crew of about 100 successfully met the challenge. Some 45 actors were ably supported by wig makers, seamstresses, makeup designers, dressers, fight and dance choreographers, a dramaturg, lights, sound, prop swords and guns, carpenters building bridges and barricades and stage crews to turn the giant, virtually invisible turntable at the center of the set. Melissa Duffer provides some very nice choreog-



Curtain Call
SUSAN BURNS

raphy, subtle yet powerful, intricate and effective.

The show – a sung-through musical by Alain Boublil and Claude Michel Schönberg with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, originally produced in London by the famed impresario Cameron Mackintosh and the Royal Shakespeare Company – is closer to an opera than most musicals. This production, drawing talent from all around northeast Indiana, suggests that opera is possible here. Many of the voices are that good. The complexities of the score included some lovely duets, trios and quartets, including the Finale of Act One, all performed

flawlessly. When the full ensemble delivers a song, as for example with the stirring anthems "The People's Song" and "One Day More," the chills you may experience are not from the air-conditioning.

The lead actors are all excellent. Todd Frymier as Jean Valjean is sympathetic, yet strong enough to stand up to Stuart Hepler's implacable, righteous Inspector Javert. Gary Lanier would steal the show from any lesser cast with his tremendous "Master of the House" number, which he plays as a sort of Cat-in-

Continued on page 23

LES MISÉRABLES
FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE
Friday-Saturday,
Aug. 2-3 & 9-10 • 8 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 4 & 11 • 2 p.m.
Arts United Center
303 E. Main St. • Fort Wayne
Tix.: \$15-\$26 thru box office,
260-424-5220

Les Misérables

July 27 - August 11, 2013

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre presents
A new production of
BOUBLIL AND SCHÖNBERG'S Les Misérables

CIVIC
theatre

260.424.5220
fwcivic.org

Show Sponsor
PHP

Season Sponsors
ARTS UNITED, **IAC**, **Lincoln Financial Group**

First Presbyterian Combines Auditions

First Presbyterian Theater director Thom Hofrichter is trying something new this season. He will be holding auditions for three of the season's shows during the same week in August. The first show of the season has started rehearsals and the last two shows, *Othello* and *Misalliance*, will audition in November and February, respectively.

Auditions for *FPT's Christmas Revue* will be Monday, August 5, at 7 p.m. The revue is written by Jack Cantey, Hofrichter and Jim Mergenthal, directed by Hofrichter. Music is directed by Jim Mergenthal, and choreography is by Sara Black. Auditioners should prepare 16-32 bars of music and will read from the script and perform a movement audition. Rehearsals are October 6-December 4; the show runs December 5-22. Needed are four men (tenors and basses) and four women (altos and sopranos) as well as two children who can play 7 to 8 years old.

Auditions for *Mrs. Packard* by Emily Mann will be Tuesday, August 6 at 7 p.m. Auditioners will read from the script. Rehearsals will be August 19-October 23 (with breaks in the schedule); the show runs October 24-November 9, 2013. Director Hofrichter will need a minimum of five men and six women to play 30 roles.

Hofrichter also directs *Driving Miss Daisy* by Alfred Uhry, with auditions on Wednesday, August 7 at 7 p.m. The role of Daisy is cast, but the play requires two men – one African-American and one Caucasian. Auditioners will read from the script. Rehearsals will be October 12-January 8 (with lots of breaks in the schedule) and will run January 9-25, 2014.

Arena Presents Annual Awards

The Arena Dinner Theatre presented its annual awards on Sunday, July 21. Awards were given for



The Green Room
JEN POIRY-PROUGH

best costume design (Jan Klee), set design (Christopher J. Murphy), direction (Christopher J. Murphy), featured actors (Tom Scribner and Susan Kahn), supporting actors (Kevin Knuth and Gloria Minnich), leading actors (Jim Nelson and Suzan Moriarty) and ensemble actors in a musical (Jon Hartman and Aimee Lackey).

Jim Wasson was presented with the Marlene Niccum Service to the Theatre Award. Darrell Monroe Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Fred Krauskopf and Dave Thompson. Director's Awards went to Steve and Donna Frey, Clarence Tennis, Jim Wasson, Andy Gross, Ben Wedler, Dave Thompson and Lauren Bachle.

During the emotional ceremony, emcees Brian Wagner and Larry Wardlaw, as well as other presenters and recipients, paid homage to Arena founders Wayne Schaltenbrand and Robert Behr, both of whom past away this past season.

Bower North at Pokagon

The Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana, is now taking reservations for a Bower North Mystery-Comedy on Friday, October 11. Their special package includes dinner for two, two tickets to a Bower North mystery, overnight accommodations, and breakfast for two, all at the special rate of \$235. Cost is based on double occupancy. For reservations, call 877-563-4371 and mention group code 1011MM.

jen@greenroomonline.org

SPINS - From Page 6

wonder. It's as if someone is looking at dark, ominous clouds swirling overhead, but there's a hint of blue far off in the distance. There seems to be a mix of digital aural trickery and sounds from the acoustical realm as well. Swirls and hisses mixed with clicks, clacks and tremolo strings come in and out of the mix like rays of sun coming through the dirge of dense, hazy sound. "323" is a blast of exuberance with hints of the Orient in the percussion and lilting strings. It's a taste of the Far East, like someone dreaming of the Orient who has never known a thing about it. It's very much a song rather than a collection of noise. Just as the rays of light begin to fade, we are brought into the darkness of "Cantus," a brooding piece of music. Starting out with notes hanging in the air like fireflies shimmering in a darkened forest, the mood darkens as the piece moves on.

Songs like "Ouverture," "Plus ou moins" and "Limbs" mix the playful with the unsettling. An eerie piano line resonates with a bouncing, floating bassoon as strings pop in and out on "Plus ou moins," as if Wohl isn't sure where he wants the piece to take the listener. It's really quite a feat what he does, taking the digital world and traditional classic world and blending them into a concoction of modern classical, ambient noise, and dream-like soundscapes. The final song, "Corpus," is mournful strings that open up into something hopeful as chiming bells and piano. This is chamber music to accompany you to the other side, or to another existence. The next phase.

Wohl - with help from Aaron Roche and Julia Shammass Holter - has created something completely unique. *Corps Exquis* a soundtrack to a fever dream, or a night terror. It's accompaniment to an existential play that was dictated to you by the voices in your head. It's calming and discerning at the same time. It's the flaming purple birds cawing, "Nevermore." (John Hubner)

CURTAIN CALL - From Page 20

the-Hat Fagin! Among the women, Bridget Pearson is splendid as the ill-fated Eponine. Emily Susanne Franklin tugs heartstrings with her acting as well as singing "I Dreamed a Dream" as the doomed Fantine. On opening night, little Lidie Ataoguz perfected the "Castles in the Sky."

As the young lovers, Jimmy Mitchell's Marius is very strong and sympathetic in his thunderstruck love for the beautiful Cosette, played lyrically by Lindsay Hoops. Jake Wilhelm, as the revolutionary students' leader Enjolras gives a very passionate performance, although he may be wise to get a little additional voice coaching to protect his wonderful voice for the next two weekends' shows. Another voice perfectly matched to the role is that of Kent Bixler as the saintly Bishop who buys Valjean's soul for two candlesticks. As Gavroche, the street urchin "pup," Wyatt Chesebrough has the chops, although on opening night, he could benefit from someone giving him a discrete tone to launch his solos. Sheridan Asher alternates days for the Little Cosette role. Kayley Alissa Hinen, as the rascal innkeeper's wife, gets a few brief chances to shine.

Scenic designer Robert Shoquist has provided a set so minimalist as to be almost abstract, relying on large panels flown in from above, a long bridge structure above a frequently used turntable. It works in part because the story is familiar enough, the acting and costumes are good enough to orient the viewer, and because Jonathan Maag's lighting provides some unusual angles. If I have any suggestions about this *Les Misérables*, it would be that the stage was so dark it was difficult at times to see who was singing. Yes, it's often a very gloomy story set in troubled times, but it's a stage - light it up! Especially so if the set is spare.

If you haven't already reserved your tickets for this splendid show, be advised that ticket availability will go quickly as word spreads from those who gave *Les Misérables* a standing ovation with cheers Saturday night. susanburns.whatzup@gmail.com

SCREENTIME - From Page 22

selling just \$7.5 million over its third weekend, upping the film's disappointing 17-day total to just \$84 million in the U.S. Thankfully for del Toro, the \$200 million dollar film has done well overseas, selling more than enough tickets to turn an overall profit. Perhaps most notably, a new indie classic called *Fruitvale Station* had a strong first week in wide release, averaging over \$4,000 per screen and upping the modestly budgeted film's still young box office total to just under \$5 million. I'd love to see it do much better, but am glad that people are seeing it. Also of note: Woody Allen's latest, the acclaimed *Blue Jasmine*, led the weekend in per-screen average, selling over \$600,000 while playing on just six screens. The film is set in San Francisco and stars Cate Blanchett in what some are calling an Oscar-worthy performance. Can't wait to see this one.

gregwlocke@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

HEY, STARVING ACTORS!

Guys age 15-65. Character acting, folk dance roles in Slipperzzzz!: King, Grand Vizier, Bandits & Underworld Brothers. Paying \$60 to \$100. Performs 11 a.m. Saturdays in September. Details at www.ecstatic-theatrics.com 260-484-5946.

1x-7/25

SNICKERZ COMEDY BAR

Now hiring experienced bartenders & wait staff. Part-time hours, full-time pay. Apply in person Thursday-Saturday after 6:30 p.m.

TFN

BUY CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

ONLINE @ WHATZUPCOM

MC OR VISA REQUIRED

Membership Makes The Difference

- Job Referrals
- Experienced Negotiators
- Insurance
- Contract Protection

Fort Wayne

Musicians Association



Call Bruce Graham for more information
260-420-4446

Classified Ads

INSTRUCTION

DRUM LESSONS!

Todd Harrold, eight-time Whammy winner, currently accepting beginner to advanced drum students, 260-478-5611 or todddharrold3@gmail.com.

x12_5/17

SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICES

Adoption can be a fresh start. Let's do lunch and discuss your options! Call the Adoption Support Center anyday, anytime. (317) 255-5916.

x12_5-22

CUSTOM DRUM SERVICES

By Bernie Stone expert repairs, refinishing, restoration. Bearing Edges custom drum shells. Thirty years experience. customdrumservices@gmail.com or call 260-489-7970.

x12_3/14

CLASSIFIED AD

Rewards Program

Up to 18 Words Weekly

(not including headline of up to 25-characters).

Unlimited Copy Changes

(copy/copy changes due noon Friday the week prior to publication).

Just \$25/Month

(billed the first Thursday of each month).

Guaranteed Rate

(your monthly rate will stay the same for as long as you stay in the program).

12-month commitment is required. For details, call

260-691-3188

WHO YOU ARE ~ In case we need to contact you.

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Night Phone: _____

WRITE YOUR AD ~ Please print clearly.

(25 Character Headline - This part is Free!)

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

WHAT YOU'RE PAYING ~ Prepayment is required.

Word Rates

Insertions Must Be

Consecutive

(Skip dates start over at new rate)

Do not include headline in word count

1-5 Insertions 70¢

6-11 Insertions 60¢

12-25 Insertions 55¢

26-51 Insertions 50¢

52 Insertions 45¢

Number of Words: _____
 x Number of Weeks: _____
 = Total Word Count: _____
 x Rate Per Word: _____
 Amount Due: \$ _____
 Less Discount: (\$ _____)
 Amt. Enclosed: \$ _____

Artists, performers and not-for-profit, charitable organizations may deduct 25% from gross amount.

Minimum insertion: 6 words (not including free header. Telephone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

Enclose payment and send to: whatzup 2305 E. Esterline Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725