

News from the Hall

Summer 2016



Gilbert & Sullivan's
The Mikado
Japanese Have Invaded
Pultneyville Harbor!

A group of Japanese businessmen have arrived in Pultneyville and seized the country club in a hostile takeover! How will it end? With the usual merriment and rousing choruses of a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, of course! Director John Gaehring has created a more modern concept for "The Mikado", playing at Gates Hall on July 15 and 16 at 8 pm, and July 17 at 3 pm.

The show opens in the Hamlet of Pultneyville where the chorus of nobles are joined by Nanki-Poo (Sam Wersinger), who is looking for Yum-Yum (Karen Karnisky). A noble lord named Pish-Tush (Luke O'Dell) learns that the minstrel had fallen in love with the girl a year ago. Yum-Yum was betrothed to her guardian Ko-Ko (Eric Thompson), but discovering Ko-Ko was condemned to death for flirting, he returned to claim Yum-Yum. Unfortunately he finds that Ko-Ko has in fact been let out on bail, and appointed Lord High Executioner. Pooh-Bah (Craig Packard), informs Nanki-Poo that Yum-Yum and Ko-Ko are to be married.

Mikado, continued on p. 3

Don't Miss.....

Pultneyville Homecoming

July 15-17

YouTheatre Auditions

Godspell

August 14

story p. 2



Gates Hall, home to
community theatre since
1867.

Special Presentation: ***Works in Progress***

August 13 & 14

Autumn Pollock makes her
directorial debut with engaging
show about teen life.

In a special "season extra," the Gatesinger Company will proudly present the play ***Works In Progress***, by Paul H. Johnson, directed by YouTheatre alumni Autumn Pollock. The play deals with the fact that we are all "works in progress," in spite of the fact that we might feel at times that we have it all figured out. With auditions taking place June 18, the show will feature young actors portraying young people as they learn lessons about life.... and the overall message is that we are *always* learning. Director Autumn Pollock has served on the Gatesinger Board as Youth Liaison, and in other leadership roles (including a current assignment as intern for the Wayne County Fair). She looks forward to directing this timely and relevant work.

Don't miss it! Tickets available on gateshall.com, or use the order form in this newsletter.

YouTheatre AUDITIONS FOR “GODSPELL” AUGUST 14

Directors Karen Skerrett Nail and Nan Hanna-Paquin are excited to announce auditions for this year's YouTheatre production of “Godspell” by Stephen Schwartz, John-Michael Tebelak, and the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Auditions will be held from **2 pm to 6 pm on Sunday, August 14** at Gates Hall. Production dates are November 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7:30 pm, and November 27 at 3 pm.

The directors and producer, Dan Montondo, were proud to be part of this popular production in the 1970s, along with former YouTheatre director Barbara Hunn, Matt DeVries, John and Anne L'Hommedieu, Michael and Sue Mulberry, Dale Hopkins, Stephanie Cooper, and many other current and former Gatesingers. It was a joyful experience in which the cast members bonded as a “family”, inspired by the spiritual message and deeply moving music in the show.

“It's a true ensemble production from beginning to end,” said Karen. “There are opportunities for solos – but also incredible duets, trios and ensemble numbers that stretch the actors vocally. Challenging and energetic choreography will bring the parables and Bible-based lyrics to life in a deeply meaningful way. The songs have a beautifully spiritual message, as well.”

Joining Karen, Nan and Alisha on the production team are returning accompanist, Marcia Sheremeta; Dan Montondo as producer; set construction by Steve Mullin; set decoration by Tammy Buehler and Julie Kramer; lighting by John Erwin; costumer Deb Galek; and a team of parent volunteers who will help with costumes, hair and make-up.

Company Wows Audiences

When is “COMPANY” too much “COMPANY?” Never when it's at Gates Hall! Stephen Sondheim's "COMPANY" took the stage in April with a vastly experienced and exceptionally talented cast, five of whom were new to the Gates Hall stage. The 15 member cast thoroughly thrilled crowds and earned rave reviews, as well as two prestigious awards from Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS).



Gatesinger veteran Director Kasi L. Krenzer-Marshall said, "I have had the pleasure of working with some incredible people, but this group was unique and just clicked. I could have cast this show three different ways from the staggering talent pool who turned out for auditions. Yet from the very first rehearsal we knew we had something special in this small, but mighty group. My crew was also a cut above and together we prepared a production without the modern amenities of microphones or fancy projections and technology. I was eager to have an audience in the house to experience the talent and hard work of this group. They were not disappointed!" Marshall, as well as Vocal Directors Lois Fiegl and Charles Palella, were recognized with a TANYS Award for their Excellence in Direction. A TANYS for Excellence in Vocal Performance was also awarded to the entire cast.

Thanks to all who participated to bring another outstanding show to the stage of Historic Gates Hall for the Community to enjoy!

Message from the President

Carl Webeck

As we approach the anniversary of 150 years of live theatre in Gates Hall, let me take a moment to explain what that means to the Gatesinger Company and the surrounding community.

At a time before Gates Hall was “Gates Hall,” the building was known as the Union Church. The building was used for religious purposes and as a community meeting house. In June of 1867, Lewis Clark—a prominent schoolteacher, regional collegiate educator, and past school administrator at this time—led a cast of actors to perform the building’s first play. The production was to raise funds for improvements to public property in Pultneyville.

When local philanthropist Mary Gates funded some major improvements to the building (including the addition of a stone foundation and an expansion to include the current stage), the building was thereby named Gates Hall. Aside from minor improvements from time-to-time, the building has since appeared nearly the same and has since been used for similar purposes—a community meeting place and performance center.

Various iterations of community theater companies have come and gone at the Hall. Some have been better organized than others. But, the Gatesinger Company and its subsidiaries (starting with the Pultneyville Civic Light Opera Company) has been the primary community theatre company at the Hall now for more than five decades.

It is historically and financially important that we continue to perform live theatre in the Hall year-after-year. Our user fees go toward the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society, and they apply these funds toward the operations and management of this public property. Gatesinger productions continue the tradition of raising funds that go toward the care and maintenance of this public property in Pultneyville, similar to what Lewis Clark established with the first performance in 1867.

There are many small theatres and meeting houses in America. But, you won’t find one *quite* like Gates Hall. What a delight that Gates Hall is our community theatre! She brings us so much joy and has served us well as a theatre for 150 years. With your participation and support, and with the care of the community, we are sure she will serve us for at least another 150 years!

Members of the Gatesinger Company, Ltd, and the Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society meet regularly to determine how best to care for and improve Gates Hall. In addition to major structural supports last year, and ongoing lighting improvements, sometimes it takes a little “elbow grease” to keep the place looking good! A work day was held on March 19 where a team of volunteers painted, repaired, stained, and spruced. Thanks to participants Peter and Sue Jane Evans, Anne Vander Byl, Steve Mullin, Perry Howland, Dan Montondo and Ann Rhody.

Mikado, con't from page 1

Yum-Yum and her sisters, Pitti-Sing (Ali Saiff) and Peep-Bo (Larissa Myhowych), appear with their schoolmates. When Yum-Yum sees Nanki-Poo, he reveals that he is the son of the Mikado. She admits she does not love her guardian. Realizing their cause is hopeless, Nanki-Poo tries to kill himself. Ko-Ko has received a letter from the Mikado threatening to abolish the post of Lord High Executioner unless a beheading takes place within a month. Noticing Nanki-Poo's suicide attempts, Ko-Ko offers to do the job professionally. Nanki-Poo agrees, on the condition that he can marry Yum-Yum and enjoy one month of married life before he is beheaded. After the execution Ko-Ko would marry the widowed Yum-Yum. Hilarity ensues as all does not go according to plan, and the formidable Katisha (Kathy Doremus) and the Mikado himself (Wayne Vander Byl) are added to the mix.

Joining John on the production staff are new choreographer Tina Crandall-Gommel, accompanist Marcia Sheremeta, set artists Tammy Beuhler and Julie Kramer, producers Nan Hanna-Paquin and Karen Skerrett-Nail, and costumer Tamara Kelley. Tickets are available at gateshall.com, by mail using the ticket order form in this newsletter, or by calling the Gatesinger box office at 315.589.3326.





Mark Montondo

YouTheatre alumni

"I can't think of a better way to spend a childhood than on stage at such a spectacular place."

Making the choice to pursue the arts in college is a tough decision to make, but I can't think of very many people I know who would say they regret that choice. Often, it is a much harder decision for the parents to come to terms with, but whenever I have a parent ask me my opinion I say this: an education from a good theatre program isn't a guarantee for a career on Broadway, but it is a strong investment in becoming a well rounded, worldly and passionate adult.

In my undergraduate studies at Fredonia, I was nurtured by passionate artists who made it their goal not to create a cookie-cutter version of the ideal Musical Theatre performer, but rather to make myself and my classmates into the best possible version of ourselves. We learned to work as a team. We learned to set aside our differences, our prejudices and our egos in order to cultivate a community of support.

I am extremely lucky to have grown up in Pultneyville and to have spent as much time as I did on stage at Gates Hall. It was there that I learned the importance of community. I love a good cliché, and Gates Hall is a perfect example of "It takes a village to raise a child."

The opportunities I had doing YouTheatre shows certainly gave me a leg up when it came to auditioning for BFA programs in Musical Theatre. I had already been exposed to performing in so many full-scale musicals by the time I was auditioning for college. I don't know many kids my age that have been exposed to the classics the way I was in my younger years. Being able to perform principal roles in Gilbert & Sullivan operettas as a 16 year old was certainly a unique opportunity. It fills me with pride to see the younger generation of YouTheatre kids going above and beyond what I did, taking every opportunity that comes their way. I'm glad to see that they are encouraged to do this by their school teachers and by the directors and producers at the Hall.

Moving to New York City and working to break into the theatre scene here has been nothing short of a culture shock, but I was well prepared by my training. Having had the opportunity to be a part of the entire production process at the Hall, with my dad producing shows, my mother running the box office, helping to build sets, seeing many directors work and being able to talk to and work with professionals like Mike Zygo and Michael Lockley was so important to this preparation. The main thing I have learned since graduating in May 2015 is that the theatre world is huge, and there's plenty of ways to be involved that don't include being on stage. Theatre has always been about community for me, and I think it's so important for young artists to discover every aspect of theatre.

I'm not sure what the future holds, but as I continue my work as a writer, an actor and (possibly most important) an educated fan of theatre- I can't help but hope that 10 years from now I will be writing another one of these Spotlights as success story for the Hall to claim.

Whatever happens, I will always have the community at the Gatesinger Company to thank for their support and love. I can't think of a better way to spend a childhood than on stage at such a spectacular place.

TICKET ORDER & PATRON DONATION FORM
All performances at Gates Hall, Pultneyville, NY

ADULTS \$12.00 STUDENTS/SENIORS \$10.00

Mikado

Fri. July 15th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Sat. July 16th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Sun. July 17th @ 3:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Works in Progress

Fri. Aug. 12th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Sat. Aug. 13th @ 8:00pm: # Adults = _____ # Seniors = _____ # Students = _____

Gatesinger Patron Donations:

- Consider being an **In the Spotlight** contributor—you'll receive two complimentary tickets to the show of your choice.
- If you plan to see our entire season of shows, be a **Center Stage** contributor and receive two complimentary tickets to a year of Gatesinger shows

Stage Door Johnny/Jenny	Up to \$24
Starstruck	\$25 - \$99
In the Spotlight	\$100 - \$249
Center Stage	\$250 & over

(The Gatesinger Company, Ltd. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.)

Amount of Patron Donation: _____ Amount for Tickets: _____

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Name to appear in patron section of program: _____

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(All mail orders will be confirmed by phone upon receipt.)

Make checks payable to: Gatesinger Company, Ltd.

Send to: Gatesinger Company, Ltd., PO Box 95, Pultneyville, NY 14538

You can also pay by credit card by calling the box office at
315-589-3326 or online at www.gateshall.com.

The Gatesinger Company, Ltd.
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Theatre Located at:
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Tickets on Sale Now!