

35 REPartee

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OCTOBER 2006

A Publication of the Ferndale Repertory Theatre

Playing Sept 28 - Oct 22

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP

BE AMUSED. BE VERY AMUSED!

Written by Charles Ludlam in 1984, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* became the most popular of Ludlam's plays. Named one of 1984's best plays by *Time Magazine* and the *New York Times*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* is a campy tribute to gothic horror films, liberally stealing from well-known film classics like *Wuthering Heights*, *The Mummy's Curse* and Alfred Hitchcock's Academy Award-winning *Rebecca*.

The story goes something like this: Lady Enid, the new bride of noted Egyptologist Lord Edgar, is having a hard time adjusting to life in Mandacrest Mansion. The portrait of Edgar's previous wife, Irma Vep, is watching her every move, as are shifty servants and a mysterious stranger prowling the moors surrounding her home. Lord Edgar embarks on a trip to... but why tell all?

Directors Renee Grinnell and Vikki Young have brought together a great cast to present this tale of dark secrets and light moments. Victor Howard and Brian Walker take on the leads, with newcomers Anwar Belkir, Lawrin Baker, Wilena Barka, Rich V. Tarwood, Corvida Worth, and Darci Thorvow in the supporting roles. Design credits go to David Kenworthy (Lights), Denise Ryles & Rosemary Smith (Costumes), Vikki Young and Daniel L. Lawrence (Set), Jim Berry (Sound), Dan Tubbs (Photography), and Vicki Charlton (Stage Manager).

The Mystery of Irma Vep --You'll have to see it to believe it -- and you may not even believe it then! For tickets and reservations, please call (707) 786-5483.

ART FROM THE HART GALLERY

Featuring the oil paintings of
SUSAN COOPER
through the month of October

ANGEL OF THE MONTH
David Moore

The Rep...Founded in 1972!
Celebrating *35 Years* of Quality
Entertainment on the North Coast!

Ferndale Repertory Theatre

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
6:30pm at the Rep
447 Main Street • Ferndale

Join us as we present the financial report for 2005-06 and budget for 2006-07, introduce your Board of Directors, discuss plans and visions for the next 35 years at The Rep!

VOLUNTEERS OF THE REDWOODS Day of Caring - Sept. 9, 2006



l. to r.: Jamie Reed, Tara Millsap, Debbie Hart, Johanna Jackson are still smiling, even after 3 solid hours of tackling the Rep's property loft during the annual Day Of Caring.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Volunteer Center of the Redwoods has sent its enthusiastic volunteers throughout the county to work with non-profits, performing whatever work needs to be done. This year, volunteers from AmeriCorps came to the Rep to tackle a job that theatre staff has been ignoring for the past ten years: the Property Loft—the dreaded corner, tucked under the ceiling, that is home to all the “stuff” used in hundreds of productions over the years. They sorted, organized and catalogued the accumulation and will be forever in our debt. So, from all of us special thanks to Jamie, Tara, Debbie and Johanna for a job well done.

EDitorial

From the Diary of the Executive Director

Thirty-five years! Pretty impressive! Not many community theatres own their building, are financially in the black, and are going strong!

So what makes it happen? Certainly a working and caring Board of Directors is an asset; they keep an eye on the business, a hand in the fundraising, and are the champions of the theatre. A good, working staff who also cares about the running of the theatre artistically and carries on the vision set forth by the Board is essential. But the lifeblood, the backbone and heart of any regional theatre are its volunteers.

During the course of a season, the Rep can use up to seven volunteers per performance night (house manager, two ushers, a ticket taker, a ticket booth person, and concessions), and up to ten backstage and booth volunteers, not to mention the actors in the show! Multiply that by the number of shows times the number of performances and you come up with a pretty large number! And that doesn't even account for the showcases and special events that need volunteers as well. As you might guess, I am always on the hunt for new ones.

So, you want to volunteer, but you don't know what you want to do, or know if your skills are needed, or know how you can help, or know how, even, to get your foot in the door. Here are the answers!

• Many people have asked me, "What can I do to help? I've never been involved with theatre." Believe me, there is a job for every skill and ability level in the theatre. You don't have to act or sing or want to be on stage to be involved! Theatre utilizes many volunteers behind the scenes. For example: data processing, sewing, prop making, musicians, puppetry, office help, filing, historical preservation, Board member, publicity, ushering, concessions, special event helpers, fundraising, backstage, run lights or sound, marquee,

building maintenance, set building, posting posters, photography, graphic arts, gallery sitting, and developing study guides...just to name a few!

• Any age group can volunteer. I've had five-year olds handing out programs on a performance night and eighty year olds selling concessions or taking tickets! I tell my high school volunteers that, as a non-profit, you can list us as fulfilling your community service requirement.

• How do I get in the door? All you have to do is call me at the theatre or stop by to see me and let me know you want to help. That's all there is to it! I won't bite, I promise! I will welcome you with open arms and put you to work!

In the theatre, every show is different, and each has different needs. But some things remain the same, show after show. You can fit into the scheme of things, and I promise an experience that is well worth your trouble, whether you just come to help with one show or work on an entire production. Hope to see you in our 35th season.

Marilyn McCormick

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**Got Friends?
Give 'em a Gift!**

Season Tickets • Flex Passes
A Gift from the Hart Gallery
A Night on the Town with Dinner & a Show
A Seat Plaque with their Name

35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35 ◊ 35

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**GET DRESSED
THIS HALLOWEEN
AT THE REP!**

**Costume Rentals at
Reasonable Rates!
Spooky or Smart...
Support the Arts!**



**It's
More
Fun
in a
Group**

Group
rates
available

REpartee
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Theatre**
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Marilyn McCormick

DOWNWIND OF UPSTAGE

35

Assorted Rep Rap

WE'RE READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP, MR DEMILLE:

Veteran actor Bob Clark was a child actor in the DeMille epic, *The Ten Commandments*. Following shooting, the prop department began to throw away some of the set dressings. The then 10 year-old "Bobby" Clark took a fancy to one of the tapestries and was given the beautiful Egyptian piece as a memento. It graces the set of *Irma Vep*. Thank you, Bob, for sharing this special piece of history with our audiences.

SIT ON IT! Many thanks to Open Door Community Health Centers for the donation of an office chair to replace the seriously dangerous one we have been using in the production office for more than 10 years.

GRIN AND BEAR IT! Thanks to Bear Winkle for the generous monetary donation following *A Funny Thing...*

TOAST OF THE TOWN: Carolyn Jones will donate the champagne and glasses for our opening night toast to Almquist Lumber. Thank you, Carolyn!

AD MEN & WOMEN: We salute all the advertisers in our program for 2006-07 season. We appreciate their continuing support and encourage our patrons to utilize their services and shop in their businesses.

SEW WHAT?: Nan Heidtman donned her magnifying glasses and repaired one of our beaded costume tops, sewing on sequins and tiny beads to give it that "right off the 1930s rack" look. Great job, Nan!

We're 35 and We're Having A Party!

Save this Date!

Saturday, March 24

Join Us as we celebrate the Rep's
Extraordinary 35-Year History!

Watch for Information as the date draws near...

Vaudeville at the Rep

Our Angel of the Month is David Moore who just "wanted to do something for the Rep"—that something was this month's Vaudeville Show which he organized and directed, contacting all performers and bringing them together for an old-fashioned evening's entertainment. There were singers, comedians, jugglers, magicians—everything but a dancing bear. But that's next time!

The evening added more than \$1000 to the Rep's coffers and was enthusiastically applauded by the large audience. And we enthusiastically applaud David for his efforts and for being such an "Angel." David is our light operator for *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and he will also be directing our annual teen show, *Hamlet Through the Looking Glass*.

COMING 35 ATTRACTIONS

Sept. 28 - Oct. 22

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP

See page one for details

Thru October 31

Art from the Hart Gallery

Featuring the Works of
Susan Cooper

Nov. 24 - Dec. 17

CINDERELLA

THE MUSICAL BY
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

Our Holiday Gift to You!

Sponsored by Bancrest Dairy &
the Bansen Family

Dec. 5 - 14

Cinderella

Holiday matinee
included with
your season ticket!

Sponsored by Bertha Russ Lytel
Foundation

Ghost of the Hart

Due to a scheduling conflict,
the Young Actors' Workshop
production of *Ghost of the Hart* will
play in March, following
Lettice & Lovage

Board of Directors

Vikki Young, *President*
Mike Bailey, *Vice President*
Carolyn Jones, *Sec/Treasurer*
Kay Cohn • Demetrius DiStefano
Renee Grinnell • Bruce Keller
Jenny Oaks • Patricia Stanley
Sarah O. Turner

Ferndale Repertory Theatre
P.O. Box 892
Ferndale, CA 95536

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**THE MYSTERY OF
IRMA VEP**
Opens September 28

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WHAT'S INSIDE?



35

Playing Sept. 28 - Oct. 22

**THE MYSTERY OF
IRMA VEP**

- Art from the Hart Gallery •

Playing Around
Since 1972...
And still in the Act!

- **Assorted Rep Rap** •

- **COMING ATTRACTIONS** •

Halloween Costume
Rentals

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 17
6:30pm at the Rep