

## Newsletter to be Offered On-line

Barn patrons who enjoy reading about the inner workings of community theater, the personalities who make the Barn tick, the latest and greatest faces on our stage and behind the scenes, and the funny stuff that happens in rehearsals and performances will want to subscribe to our electronic newsletter. There is no charge, but we will need your email address, which we promise (hope to die, stick a needle in my eye) not to share with anyone else.

Every two months or so, we'll regale you with the latest stories, gossip, and up-to-date news from the Barn Theater.

The printed newsletter you now hold in your hand is just a teaser. Postage and other production costs make mailing this to your home outside our budgetary restraints. So, to continue to get the low-down on the Barn through cyberspace, please tear off the bottom left-hand corner of this sheet, write your email address on it, and put the slip of paper in the basket at the box office on your way out of the theater.

Thank You.

Your email address here, please.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

## Supervisor Supports Community Theater

Jim Maples, our 5<sup>th</sup> District County Supervisor has donated \$750 from his "Good Works" fund to assist the Barn family in its efforts to bring live theater to southeastern Tulare County.

Maples, a Springville resident, is not seeking re-election after serving three terms. The Barn Theater Board of Directors wishes to express its sincere appreciation of Supervisor Maples support, and we wish him a rewarding, relaxing, and well-deserved retirement.

## Meet the Actor:

### Peter Grant

Foggy London town to 110 degree Central Valley heat was only part of the cultural shock Peter met when he arrived in Porterville a few years back, but he has happily settled in. Peter brings with him a charming British accent and many years of experience in music and theater.

He started out in the early 80's as a professional musician, eventually joining a touring theater company as its music director. When an actor dropped out at the last minute, Peter filled in, and discovered that he had a knack for it. A 16-year career followed.

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## Play Schedule Set for 06-07

"Something for Everyone" is the theme of the 2006-07 season at the Barn Theater.

**Steel Magnolias** takes the stage under the direction of Peter Grant from September 1st through the 16<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't seen the 1990 Oscar-nominated movie (and even if you have), you'll enjoy the cast of six eccentric and hilarious women who frequent Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small parish in modern-day Louisiana.

For the young and young-at-heart, we offer the charming musical **Dear Edwina Jr.** directed by Michelin White, whose innovative production of **Babes in Toyland** debuted several budding young stars and was a highlight of the current season. Follow Edwina Spoonapple and her troupe of performers as they present their "Advice-A-Palooza" and learn along the way that taking your own advice may be the best advice of all. The play opens October 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Make plans to join us at the Barn when **Bob Milne** returns to our stage with his rousing program of **Ragtime Piano** the weekend of November 25 and 26.

Janet Richey makes her directorial debut at the Barn with **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.**

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## Weird Moments at The Barn Theater

For each issue of Backstage, we hope to feature one of the odd occurrences that happen from time to time in community theater. One such moment was the creation of long-time Barn actor, George Pearce, in the role of the innkeeper who hosts the wedding party in ***Fiddler on the Roof***.

A rule actors learn early in their careers is Never Move Props. One such prop in *Fiddler* was a pair of silver candlesticks placed just offstage-behind a curtain. At the appropriate moment, George would reach down and grab the candlesticks, raise them high and announce that they were a gift from the bride's parents to the happy couple.

In my role as Lazar Wolf, I stood near George and had seen him do this several times. But one night, when George reached for the prop, the candlesticks were not there! I was horrified. What would George do? I needn't have worried. Almost without pause, he reached behind the actor playing the rabbi and grabbed the ceremonial chalice which the groom had supposedly stomped on, and held it high. To me, a novice on the stage, it was a breathtaking moment. More importantly, the audience never knew how close we had come to one of those awkward silences that can plague amateur theater.

I have often wondered what I would have done in George's shoes that night. I can imagine fumbling for words and looking for help from the other actors. George's quick thinking and spur-of-the-moment reaction to the unexpected, happens all the time in community theater, and chances are, as a member of the audience, you never knew it.

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## Grant (continued)

He cites as a inspiring moment attending an actors workshop where Anthony Hopkins was a surprise presenter.

An illness in 1994 (12 surgeries in 10 years) sidetracked his theater career but not his interest in theater.

Among his many accomplishments is the writing of two children's musicals. He believes it's important to get kids interested in theater at a young age, and he would like to see a Barn Theater Drama Club established. Under the auspices of the Lindsay school district, he is currently directing ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** to be staged at the Lindsay Theater.

Peter makes his living as a writer/novelist and web designer. As co-director of *Waiting in the Wings*, he is excited about the performances of brand-new actors, two in their 80's. "This is what community theater is all about," he says.

## Schedule (continued)

This popular musical based on Charles Schulz' famous cartoon characters runs for two weekends in January, 12-13, and 19-21.

The Pulitzer Prize and Tony award-winning ***Proof*** runs March 9 to March 24. Will Catherine inherit the madness (or genius) of her father, an unstable but brilliant mathematician? The play combines elements of mystery and surprise with old-fashioned storytelling to provide a compelling evening of theater. Ian Hammer is the director.

Our final production of the season will be the comic hit ***Hollywood Arms***. Helen, the main character who works in a movie theater, recounts for her family the events of the previous few hours in which she calmed the unruly audience during a projector malfunction by re-enacting the scene and song of the movie they were missing. The play is based on a memoir by Carol Burnett. Steve Ross is the director and the play runs May 25 through June 9.

Be sure to stop by the box office and put your name on the mailing list for season tickets for the 2006-2007 schedule. You can also order season tickets directly from this website.

