



The Playhouse in San Anselmo has served the community for 50 years as a center for dance recitals, student performances, local and touring theatrical companies, music concerts and other innovative productions.

The Playhouse in San Anselmo STAGEBILL

Wow!

**With Phase II upgrades complete,
The Playhouse facade looks as
good as new.**

With the generous support of our entire Marin and extended community, we have recently completed a \$150,000 upgrade to the front of The Playhouse. In addition to the cedar-planked siding, we upgraded the ramp to current ADA accessibility standards, and also made the front steps and railings ADA compliant.

The most recognizable feature of the Playhouse facade, the circular window, was built by a window specialist to match the original 1928 design. Two dressing room windows on the second floor and a small window on the first floor were also renovated.

For those of you who always wondered why there was a missing pillar, wonder no more. It has been replaced, along with new front doors and outside deck lighting. After the San Francisco Theological Seminary graciously removed the extraneous foliage around the entrance at no cost to The Playhouse, the beautiful new facade is easily viewed.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Board of Directors has targeted a new roof and conversion of a former mens room to a six-stall ladies room, which will dispel the long lines at intermission.



Second Annual Concert/Picnic on the Lawn

Join us on Sunday October 14 from 3-6pm for a picnic on the lawn and enjoy live music provided by The Clark Kentfields. We will have an Astro Jump for the little ones. Please bring balls, Frisbees, and other games to play. We will provide the drinks, all the fixings for a great deli-sandwich, and ask that you bring a salad and/or dessert to share. Although this is a no-charge event, donations will be accepted. Last year's event raised \$2,500. Come ready to dance, play, and enjoy an afternoon of fun in the sun. Call Matt Wertheim at 456-7864 if you have any questions or would like to help with the event.

New Year's Eve Party

Come One, Come All to our first annual New Year's Eve Party at The Playhouse on December 31, 2007 at 8pm. Our theme is *"The Playhouse for a Song"* with all proceeds to benefit The Playhouse Renovation Fund. Enjoy great food, music, a sing-a-long and special entertainment. If you or your child are interested in being sponsored to sing a favorite show tune at the gala, or would like to help us with the event, email Katie at Pereira9@pacbell.net. If you would like to be on our mailing list, contact Marilyn Izdebski at 453-0199 and mention *"The Playhouse for a Song"* fundraiser. Help us *sing* in the New Year by attending this fabulous event. No children under five or "Babes in Arms," please. Adults \$100, children \$50.

Fall 2007

What The Playhouse means to me...

"The Playhouse was the first stage I ever stepped onto. I'll never forget the first time I entered the house from stage right in the opening number in *Oklahoma!* and knew I had discovered something special for myself. I hold every show I did in that wonderful theatre very close to my heart." - *Matt Doyle, can be seen as the lead in "Spring Awakening" on Broadway. Matt is no stranger to the stage, having performed with many local Marin theatre groups in The Playhouse. His first exposure to the bright lights was with Marilyn Izdebski, who brought him to The Playhouse in a number of productions including "Carousel" and "Gypsy". He later performed the principal role of Rolf in the San Anselmo Town Players' production of "The Sound of Music." Matt Doyle graduated from Redwood High School in 2006. There, under the tutelage of Brit Brock, Redwood's drama teacher, he was stretched into very challenging roles.*

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"I first performed in The Playhouse with the Mayflower Community Chorus, back in the early 1980s. Thanks to my wonderful friend and mentor, Larry Vargo, I was able to "find my voice" in The Playhouse, both as a chorus member and soloist tenor. When Larry, the founder of the Mayflower Chorus, passed away in 1991, I took over directing the chorus, and thus began my experiences as a director of performances here at The Playhouse. Working with Virginia Stapleton, Marilyn Izdebski, Mary "Futon" Hughes and a host of others, including the wonderful Pam Levine, I learned first hand what keeping a theatre alive entailed, when The Playhouse Committee gathered to save this wonderful community asset from extinction.

Since 2000, I have had the joy and pleasure of performing and directing musical theatre at The Playhouse. Thanks to the Stapleton Theatre Company/San Anselmo Town Players, I was able to reconnect with my true love of theatre, and have since performed in or directed at least 10 shows in the new millenium. It is this experience that led me to begin my pursuit of professional theatre.

In this year alone, I directed a production of *Brigadoon* at The Playhouse, I performed professionally in San Francisco (*42nd St. Moon*), San Jose (*Thunderbabe, the Musical*) and as a Guest Artist in Stockton (as Harold Hill in Stockton Theatre Co.'s production of *The Music Man*).

I will NEVER forget the feeling of being the last one out of The Playhouse on Sunday night, immediately following strike and cleanup after *Oliver*, the first musical I directed. I sat on the floor of The Playhouse, with only a single work light on, smelling the old wood, hearing the echoes of music and applause, and savoring the voyage that our company had just concluded. I thought of my dad, pounding the boards down the street at The Barn, and of my daughter, the third generation of Halsings in Marin to pursue the performing arts. And I thought of my friends, mentors, and teachers, and all of those who encouraged me over the years, and I thought, "where but for The Playhouse would I be?"

This Old House....a fine house indeed!
- *Grant "Buzz" Halsing, director, actor and producer of many, many shows at The Playhouse.*

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"The Playhouse is honestly where my love of theatre was born. The most positive influence in my childhood was my participation in community theatre. When I think of community theatre, the first thing that pops into my mind is the warm and nurturing environment created by The Playhouse."
- *Alexis Grausz, a working actor and choreographer in New York City.*

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"The first time I realized that I wanted to spend my life as an actor was twelve years ago on The Playhouse stage singing Billy Bigelow's soliloquy in *Carousel* with Marilyn Izdebski Productions. I have treasured the opportunities I have had to both perform and direct many shows in this unique theatre, unlike any other I have worked.

The blend of groups that utilize this building, from youth theatre and dance to adult productions of all types, make it magical to me. Every time I walk through the doors of The Playhouse, I am filled with wonderful memories and nostalgia of the theatre that I have been involved in, and I hope that there are many memories still to be created."

- *Jeff Wiesen, a working actor and director in Los Angeles, recently played the lead in The Mountain Play's 2007 production of "Hair," and Directed IAM Theatre's adaptation of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."*

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"The Playhouse is where I grew up as a performer, where I was braver than I knew myself to be. Where my passion and discipline for theatre was nurtured and encouraged. Because The Playhouse is still The Playhouse I get to have the profound experience of reliving the best part of my childhood every time I return!" - *Liza Monjauze, former student, performer and teacher with Marilyn Izdebski Productions, now a teacher, director and producer in Los Angeles.*

If you, a friend, or relative has an experience to share regarding The Playhouse, please email your story to John Polachek at jp3ball.mac.com.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The Playhouse in San Anselmo was built in 1928 and has been a home to thousands of dancers, actors, singers, and performers who made their debut here as 4-year-old ballerinas, 12-year-old singers, or 54-year-old tap dancers. Well before *Good Morning Viet Nam*, or even Mork from Ork, Robin Williams was an 18-year-old College of Marin student getting his start in The Playhouse. We need your help so that this local community treasure can be restored in honor of all performers: past, current and future.

Since 1992 The Playhouse has been managed by a completely volunteer Board of Directors who, in addition to maintaining its original mission to provide an affordable facility for local performing arts groups, has actively taken on the task of fundraising via capital campaigns. Over the past seven years The Playhouse has received donations totaling over \$400,000. Donations have come from actors, grandparents, real estate brokers, and from tips at the concession stand. All of this helps and is greatly appreciated.

The Board is currently looking for an "Angel" interested in making a large gift, and naming rights are available. If you are interested, please contact Matt Wertheim at 456-7864, or Mary Jane Baird at 456-2759 to confidentially discuss a large gift. The Playhouse also welcomes your support of The Playhouse via a future gift, estate planning or stock pledge! Just let us know how we can help you set up your contribution. All donations are tax-deductible, as The Playhouse is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt non-profit corporation.

Many of the Board members actively use The Playhouse. Marilyn Izdebski has been on the Board since 1992 and directs children and adults in theatre and dance. Before each of the performances, during the curtain speech, Marilyn suggests to the audience how easy it is to make a donation to support the Theatre. Through the sale of homemade decorative cookies and through donations, each of her shows last season were able to contribute \$1,000 to the renovation campaign. Board Member Virginia Stapleton of the Stapleton School of Ballet and Stapleton Theatre Company, has her annual ballet recitals and shows at The Playhouse and her productions also contribute generously to our campaign.

These shows and all gifts of at least \$1,000 in any single year will be acknowledged on our soon-to-be-installed "A Thousand for a Thousand" campaign plaque in the lobby.

All of these efforts have provided a great space for performing arts and artists. These artists go on to become performers or teachers of the performing arts. But mostly, The

Playhouse gives a love of the performing arts to those that cross its threshold, including the audience who love watching family and friends perform.

Please use the enclosed envelope to join our "A Thousand for a Thousand" campaign. Gifts can also be made via our PayPal link at www.PlayhouseSanAnselmo.org

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors we thank you for your past and future support.



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Fundraising Committee

In addition to the above-noted Board Members, the committee consists of the following:

Edwina and Steve Bednarz
 Rebecca Brinskele • Sharon Burns
 Karen Cassidy • Jill Cincebeaux
 Laura Euphrat • Rebecca Sullivan
 Karen Thouvenin • Monique Viola

A Thousand for a Thousand

The Playhouse launched its new "A Thousand for a Thousand" giving campaign in Spring 2006 and we wish to acknowledge the following donors:

2006

Anonymous
 Mary Jane Baird
 Kathryn and George Barcos
 Susan and John Feder
 Kelé and George Gasparini
 Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
 Mackenzie Greene
 Kathy and Chris Hartzell
 Cynthia Herron and Thomas Guerry
 Marilyn Izdebski
 (Izdebski) *Gypsy 1 & 2*
 (Izdebski) *Joseph*
 (Izdebski) *Recital*
 (Izdebski) *West Side Story*
 (Izdebski) *Wizard of Oz*
 Kreitzberg Family Foundation as
 Recommended by the Spinrad Family
 Lou Muckerman
 Frank and Katie Pereira
 Suzan and Stephen Plath
 John and Janet Polachek
 Playhouse 2006 Barbecue
 Chaz Simonds
 (Stapleton) *Annie*
 (Stapleton) *Footloose*
 Matt and Lisa Wertheim
 Judy and Lawrence Wiesen

2007

Mary Jane Baird
 Jill, Chris, Emily, Maddie and Tyler
 Cincebeaux
 The Clark Kentfields
 County of Marin - Sup. Hal Brown
 Stan and Joan Green Family Fund
 Susan Herron, in honor of Emily, Sally
 and Charlotte Guerry
 Mary "Futon" Hughes
 Marilyn Izdebski
 (Izdebski) *Evita*
 (Izdebski) *Once Upon a Mattress*
 (Izdebski) *Pajama Game*
 (Izdebski) *Recital*
 (Izdebski) *Singin' in the Rain*
 Kreitzberg Family Foundation as
 Recommended by the Spinrad Family
 Noscaasi Ink Screen Printing;
 Ellen Goldman
 Pacific Union's Marin County Fund
 Chandler and Morgan Rich
 (Stapleton) *Music Man*
 Ross and Rebecca Sullivan

The Playhouse in San Anselmo
27 Kensington Road
San Anselmo CA 94960

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Be a Playhouse Angel!

Show & Event Calendar

October 12 - November 4
Original Musical - Theatre Now

October 14 3 to 6pm
**2nd Annual Picnic on the Lawn
Concert & Pot Luck**

November 9-11, 16-18
Carousel
Marilyn Izdebski Productions/Kids

November 30 - December 2
O' Sister Where Art Thou
YES Theatre - White Hill School

December 6-9
Winter Concert - Mayflower Chorus

December 31
New Year's Eve Party
Dinner, Dancing, Entertainment
8pm 'til we raise the roof!

January 11-13, 18-20, 2008
Once Upon a Mattress
Marilyn Izdebski Productions/Adults

"Beauty and the Beast" at The Playhouse

One of the highlights of the 2007 season was *IAM Theatre's* adaptation of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast". This extraordinary production utilized the stage to its fullest and played to packed houses.

