

A View from My Lens

by Mary Ann Beaudoin

They say if a building could talk, what stories it would tell. When I walked into the Norwalk Theater it was certainly telling me its story. I could imagine all of the people who visited it and worked there ever since its completion in 1941.

Countless dates, friends and families gathering to watch a show. Men might have been enjoying their last show with their sweetheart before going off to war. People going to concerts, listening to everything from swing to rock-n-roll. Songs like "In the Mood" or "Yellow Submarine".



This beautiful building with its elegant Art Deco style is a wonderful reminder of our past and an inspiration for our future.

Its architecture is an art form that house other art forms. I am so happy that there are people who want to restore it, care for it and preserve it.



"A thing of beauty is joy forever" -John Keats

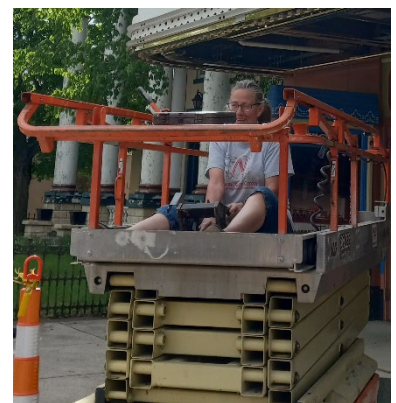
Work continues on historic marquee

While progress has been slowed by weather, the Norwalk Theater marquee is still getting a facelift. NAC Board members helped prepare the East Main Street gem recently by removing old sockets and wiring. Brady signs is creating and installing all new electrical for the restoration.

Restoration chair, Kathleen Sigsworth, said "We have a very hands-on board of directors, we don't mind being on the front lines and getting dirty". Brady Signs and Wheeler Sheet Metal have been doing the work, much off site. "We are happy to see things being installed," said Sigsworth. NAC hopes the completion of the marquee will be in the near future.



Board President/Fundraising Chair, Dina Lukasko, Treasurer/Restoration Chair, Kathleen Sigsworth and Co-Founder/Secretary, Vanessa Cook along with Cook's sons after a day's work.



Grants and Outreach Chair MaryLisa Boose positions the lift to park it for the night.

Tuttle Named NAC Volunteer of the Year

Norwalk Arts Center is pleased to announce Diane Tuttle as NAC 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Diane began volunteering for NAC in 2019. She is willing to volunteer in any capacity needed. She volunteers with productions, fundraising and mailing newsletters. She spends countless hours scrapbooking to document NAC's journey and record the Norwalk Theater's history. "Diane is a big advocate for the Arts and the positive benefits the Arts provide for mental health," said Dina Lukasko, NAC President.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." This quote from

Elizabeth Andrew encapsulates Diane. Her dedication to volunteering whenever there is a need is greatly admired and appreciated by the entire NAC Board of Directors. "She makes the time to volunteer for our events because of her passion and enthusiasm for NAC," said Lisa Bleile, NAC volunteer coordinator. "Through her support and that of all of our volunteers, NAC is able to produce plays and musicals, raise money for the renovation of the Norwalk Theater and provide educational programming.

Diane was recognized and given flowers and two pilsner glasses engraved with her name and new title at NAC's April Board meeting. Anyone who would like to become a NAC volunteer can register on the NAC website at norwalkartscenter.org.



NAC Board of Directors (first row) Theresa Barcus, Lisa Bleile, Diane Tuttle, Jeff Cook and Dina Lukasko (back row) Vanessa Cook, Tiina Ruffing, Mary Lisa Boose, and Kathleen Sigsworth (not pictured Rylie Mullen)

The Art of Healing Event & Travel Raffle Drawing!

Art comes in many forms and the powerful form of self-care, balance, and peace is a beautiful artform we are offering to everyone on Sunday, June 30. The afternoon will offer many practices, workshops, art projects, and vendors to help you enjoy time for yourself, or with friends or significant others. All of the proceeds from this event will go directly towards the restoration of the theater. If you've wondered what a sound bath or tapping is, come and find out. Yoga, Qi Gong, reiki, nutrition advice? Yes, all available to check out and experience.



We have a wonderful meditative art form called Paint Your Way Out being offered, as well as a community created Mandala and personal flower embossed prints that you will take home with you! So much to offer and our vendors include crystals, tarot readings, essential oils, herbalist, pottery/ceramics, incense and soy candles, soaps/lotions and skin care and shampoo. What a great afternoon!



Also, at the conclusion of the Art of Healing Event, we will be drawing the winner of the Art of Healing Travel Raffle. The winner does not need to be present to win. We are selling only 200 tickets for this raffle, and there are just under 60 tickets remaining!

If you are the lucky winner, you and a guest will be flown to one of three awesome getaways; Healdsburg, CA - The Best of Food and Wine, Oregon/Washington Cascade Vista by Rail, or Fairmont Chateau Louise, Alberta Canada. Airfare and accommodations are included! All proceeds from this raffle go directly to the restoration of the theater as well!

Tickets for each event are \$100 and limited space and tickets are available. Please go to our website at norwalkartscenter.org to purchase your tickets online.

NAC Offers Live Summer Theatre for All Teen Theatre

Local teens will take the stage this summer to present *All Shook Up*. The full-length musical written by Joe DiPietro examines the lives of a small mid-west townies and their response to the arrival of a roustabout in the 1950's. Using the music catalog of Elvis, the show unfolds with musical pieces that relate to the staging.

DiPietro's roustabout (Chad) is in need of a mechanic, Chad is introduced to Natalie, who is instantly smitten ("*One Night With You*"). Upon learning that Mayor Matilda has instated the Mamie Eisenhower Decency Act, outlawing "Loud music, public necking, and tight pants", Chad seeks to incite some rebelliousness in the citizens ("*C'mon Everybody*"). Whilst Natalie fixes his motorbike, Chad inspires her to take to the open road ("*Follow That Dream*").

The musical tackles social issues including personal identity, social class and authoritarianism. When the show debut on Broadway this is what director Christopher Ashley had to say. Of the period setting, Ashley said, "That's sort of new again, unfortunately, in 2004 — there's a kind of new conservatism in the air: the ideas of what's decent and what's not, and how much permission do you have? All kinds of different civil rights issues are again in play. Unfortunately, I think a lot of the 1950s' issues are as alive today as they were then." Even twenty- years after the debut production, these issues still face our communities and the youth of those communities.

Teens from six area high schools have come together to present this comedy based on Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The cast has been rehearsing since early April and under the stage direction of NAC co- founder Vanessa Cook, stage manager/choreographer Rylie Mullen and music director Dr Greg Ramsdell.

The jukebox musical will be presents at 22 E Main St on June 7, 8 and 9. The show is rated PG -13. Tickets are on sale through the NAC website.



Adult Community Theatre

NAC is very excited to present the adult community theatre the NActors musical production of *Godspell* for summer 2024 under the direction of NAC Co-founder, Theresa Barcus. Originally written in 1970 by John-Michael Tebelak when he was a student at Carnegie Mellon University, *Godspell* was born of collaboration and a desire to spread a joyful message. With Tebelak's vision and Stephen Schwartz's music, *Godspell* quickly became a cultural phenomenon. The NAC production will feature 15 performers over 18 years of age. Rehearsals begin in May and performances will be August 9, 10, and 11 at 22 East Main Street in Norwalk.

Godspell revisits the idea of Jesus as a revolutionary figure. One who challenged authority and preached a new, radical message to the world: "love your enemies and pray for your persecutors." Tebelak in a 1975 interview with *Dramatics* magazine stated that he, "wanted to make [*Godspell*] the simple, joyful message that I felt the first time I read [The Gospels] and recreate the sense of community." *Godspell* was written in reaction to the world and to those in authority who saw a young Tebelak, in his "hippie" attire, leaving a church and assumed he had snuck in to loiter rather than to listen.

One of the most brilliant aspects of *Godspell* is its ability to be relevant to any time or place in which it is staged. The original cast were named only as clowns, which afforded them a level of theatrical freedom and honesty. Using clowns and comedy also afforded a degree of innocence, art, and humor to the story that is essential to the balance of the show. As the show evolved, the characters were named after the actors who originated them, with the exception of Jesus and Judas/John the Baptist. As the show moves onward, each individual begins to join in to the community through song.

We are also in the midst of another cultural revolution. We are also facing uncomfortable truths about the inequalities that have always existed in our society. The world is changing and evolving, minute by minute, hour by hour, and "day by day". So too does each note and each word of *Godspell* evolve and take on new meaning with every performance. In an era of uncertainty, advanced technology, social unrest, *Godspell*'s message of hope and unity has never been more relevant.



Save the Dates:

Market on Main: NAC Merch Shop at 22 E. Main will be open from 4pm - 8pm during the following Market on Main dates!

-May 31- *All Shook Up* preview at Suhr Park at 5 pm

-June 14, 28, July 12, 26, August 9, 23, September 13

NAC Teen Theatre: *All Shook Up*, performances June 7-9, 2024 at 22 E. Main St. The show is rated PG-13 tickets are \$15.00 each.

NAC Summer Theatre Camp w/Missoula Children's Theatre: June 24- 29, open to all 1st through 12th graders, limited spots register today!

NAC Summer Theatre Camp: *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, performances Friday June 28, 6 pm and Saturday 29, 1 pm at 22 E Main St. Family friendly show tickets are \$5.00 each.

Art of Healing: June 30 from 12:00 pm to 4:00pm, at The Kilkerrin, 4391 Fitchville River Rd, Wakeman, OH. Tickets are \$100 each.

NACtors Adult Theatre: *Godspell*, August 9-11, 2024, Family Friendly show, tickets are \$15.00 each.

NAC Junior Theatre: *Seussical JR* open to students grade 2- 8, classes begin August 26, 2024. Registration opens: July 29, 2024

Visit our webpage for more information about all of our programs and to register! **NorwalkArtsCenter.org**

It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the Arts in North Central Ohio by providing education, experiences and environment for artistic growth.

Thank you to our generous continuous



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Local artists Heidi Hovestadt and Summer Braddock help local volunteers and organizations "Glam the Can". Trash cans donated by the city of Norwalk are getting artistic additions. When the project is completed, 50 cans will be completed. This community art project was made possible through grant funding from Arts Midwest and collaboration with AOS. The next workshop is May 18, 2024.



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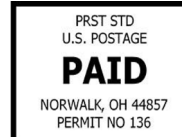
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