



THE UN-COMMON THEATRE COMPANY

SUMMER/FALL 2006

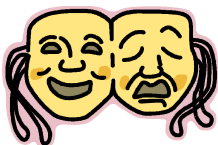
Our 27th Season

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The Un-Common Theater Company Board of Directors

- Chris Lowey, President
- Lisa Armstrong, Treasurer
- Kathy Dowd, Secretary
- Wendy Evans
- Anne Marie Kelley
- Jill Levensohn
- Lew Levine
- Louise Morrish
- Joyce Parlapiano
- Melanie Peddle
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *WHAT A YEAR!!!*

As another great season gets underway, I would like to thank the many, many people who helped Un-Common make this past year one of our most successful, fun and busiest years ever.

With "Bat Boy; The Musical" in August 2005, Un-Common introduced our newly formed Young Adult Company. This show, directed by Christa Crewdson with music direction by Michael Templeton and Chris Charig, offered many of our alumni ages 16 - 21, an opportunity to come back and "play" with us.

Last year's season continued with the hugely successful "Honk", directed and choreographed by Marianne Lonati with music direction by Shannon Manley. Performed at The Orpheum, 45 talented cast members wowed audiences and celebrated difference with a tale of strength and hope.

Our Young Performer's group jumped onto the Qualter's stage in Spring 2006 with 35 1st - 6th graders presenting a wonderful production of "Cinderella's Glass Slipper". This show was produced beautifully by first-time director and choreographer Amanda DeAngelis with music direction by Paula Bishop.

A few weeks later a cast of 40 7th - 12th graders brought the updated version of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" to the Orpheum Stage. Directed and choreographed by Marianne Lonati with music direction by Michael Templeton, the show was LOTS of fun and was enjoyed by all.

The Young Adult Company wrapped up our season a few weeks ago with a cast of 17 bringing the controversial Sondheim musical "Assassins" to the Orpheum stage. Received with wonderful critical acclaim, the show was directed by Christa Crewdson with music direction by Chris Charig. We look forward to continuing to develop our Young Adults Company in the future.

Our "Improv Soup" troupe continues to draw large crowds and is thrilled to have moved to a more spacious venue. This past year we bid farewell to 3 seniors and wish them well as they embark on their future.

As we move into the 2006/07 season we are delighted to offer auditions for "Fiddler On The Roof". See details on page 5. We had applied for the royalties to do this show in Winter 2004 but were denied as the Broadway show was traveling to Providence at that time. Clearly they considered us a threat to their audience. ☺

First through sixth graders will have another opportunity to show off their talents with our Young Performers production planned in early Spring. Details are coming soon so keep an eye on your emails and our website www.uncommontheatre.com.

Next April Un-Common will be presenting our first straight play in a number of years. We are very excited to have secured the rights to the original version of "To Kill A Mocking Bird" and to offer an opportunity to kids who's strengths lay more in acting than singing and dancing.

I would like to personally thank all our Un-Common Members. We really appreciate, in this time of great belt-tightening, your recognition of what participation in live theatre can offer kids of all ages. Un-Common kids develop to be strong, committed, flexible and happy young adults and we are proud to be involved in this process. You can join us and become a member or renew your membership by filling out the form on page 4. As a non-profit arts organization in these times of rising costs, we need and welcome your support.

Thanks for your support and see you at the shows.

Chris

IMPROV SOUP GETS A NEW VENUE!

After years of cramming an enthusiastic audience into the Foxboro High School Chorus room, Improv Soup has found a larger, more comfortable venue to hold its monthly shows at The Burrell School Auditorium on Morse St in Foxboro.

Soup held its final show for the 2005/06 season in June at the intimate 200 seat auditorium to a sell-out crowd. A great time was had by all as we said goodbye to our departing Soup seniors Steve Conroy, Phil DiCanzio and Kevin Smith.

Improv Soup's 2006/07 season kicks off with the first show of the year at their new venue on **Friday, September 29th at 7:30PM**. Don't miss this hilarious way to wind down at the end of a busy week. It's a cheap date too at \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Watch the website www.uncommontheatre.com for further season dates.

IMPROV SOUP WELCOMES SOUP JR.

Eleven budding Improvers in grades 7 - 9 auditioned and were chosen to complete an 8 week workshop to develop Improv skills in a younger group of kids. This fun group was taught by veteran Soupians Matthew Timmons and Dan Liddick.

Soup Jr. then presented a show to family and friends in June at Qualter's auditorium as well as previewing their talents at Un-Common's Spaghetti Dinner. Improv has helped these kids develop skills in quick thinking, cooperation, trust, teamwork and flexibility and all this was demonstrated at each of the performances.

These Soup Jr. trainees will be invited to take part in another workshop starting in September and will be well prepared to audition for Improv Soup in the future.

"CINDERELLA'S GLASS SLIPPER" WOWS AUDIENCES!

Over 30 kids danced and sang their way into the hearts of near sell-out crowds during Un-Common's Young Performers production of "Cinderella's Glass Slipper" this past spring. Directed and choreographed by Amanda DeAngelis, with musical direction by Paula Bishop, this group of first through sixth graders expertly showcased their talent and enthusiasm for the stage.

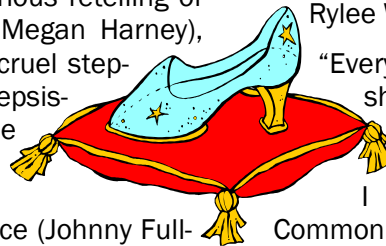
Audiences were introduced to a hilarious retelling of the classic fairy tale of Cinderella (Megan Harney), who works hard in the home of her cruel step-mother (Emily Garven). Her silly stepsisters (Ashley Goverman and Stephanie Berenson) see themselves as beautiful and think the prince will marry them. Of course, the handsome prince (Johnny Fullerton) spends most of the palace ball trying to escape from them, with help from his Captain (Adam Kantor) and Lieutenant (Sam Morrish). This adaptation also included new characters: a brave mouse (Chloe Peddle), a playful cat (Mickey White), and the Pumpkinhead (Douglas Fisher)! Our Fairy Godmother (Melissa Petrovanie) had her hands full tutoring her apprentice (Isabelle Levenson). Other members of the cast included Katie Armstrong (Mistress Haughty), Liza Ev-

ans (Queen and Dance Captain), Julianne Fournier (Lady Blossom), Daniel Fullerton (Troubadour), Marissa Gabrilowitz (Citizen 1), Alissa Melton (Citizen 2), Maddie Myers (Majordoma), Dorian Oberstein (Lady Vine), Caroline Tomsik (Troubadour 2), Erin Van Dell (Citizen 3), and Samantha Vita (Lady Ursula-Ursula). The ensemble of Alison Arnold, Elizabeth Cullen, Hannah Davis, Julia Ellis, Alec Guerrini, Rosalie McAvoy, Halley Peddle, Daniel Regnier and Rylee White rounded out the cast.

"Every cast member was a vital part of this show's success. I was amazed by everyone's talent, commitment and hard work throughout rehearsals and the production.

I am looking forward to working with Un-Common and these great kids again!" raved Amanda DeAngelis. The kids, directors and producers all had a wonderful time working together on this production - and who could forget the spirit of R-E-S-P-E-C-T learned and exhibited during rehearsals and the final performance!

Continue to check our website for updates on audition dates for the next Young Performers' Production planned for spring 2007.





SPOTLIGHT ON A GRADUATING SENIOR



Looking back on my time with the Un-Common Theatre Company, there are a lot of great memories. From being a part of musical productions that I would not have gotten a chance to do elsewhere—"Titanic the Musical", "Les Miserables"—to being a part of old favorites like "Bye Bye Birdie" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", to more modern musicals like "The Wiz" and "Into the Woods". All of these, opportunities that I would not have had during my high-school career without the Un-Common Theatre.

When Christa Crewdson first asked me to audition for Un-Common, I was in seventh grade and the company was performing Neil Simon's "Rumors", I never would have guessed that my role in that show would lead to eight more productions with Un-Common. Without those productions, I never would have met many of the people who helped me to not

only further my love for musical theatre, but also to receive an acceptance from New York University's drama program—Michael Templeton, who became my voice teacher and one of my biggest role models; Marianne Lonati, who not only choreographed and directed me here at Un-Common, but brought me along with her to various community theatre productions at the Orpheum and is one of the greatest directors I've ever worked with. These people, and the other directors here at Un-Common, have been wonderful influences on my life and have changed it immeasurably, and for that I will be forever thankful.

While I still have the opportunity to be a part of the Un-Common Young Adult Company's summer shows, I will never forget the invaluable experiences the youth company has given me, nor will I forget how much it has helped me to get where I am today.

Matt Whitman



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Each year The Un-Common Theatre Company presents a \$500 scholarship to a Mansfield High School senior to thank the school system for allowing us to use school facilities for auditions and rehearsals. Applicants must participate in community service, be involved in music or theater 3 out of 4 years in high school, have an interest in pursuing music and theater in the future, and be accepted at an accredited 2 or 4 year institution. The applicants are also asked to write an essay on what involvement in the arts means to them.

This year's recipient was Jake Robertson. Jake has been involved in several productions with Un-Common over the years. He met all the criteria and his essay really touched the hearts of the Un-Common Board. We wish Jake all the best as he heads off to Trinity College to study English and music, and we hope our scholarship will help defray some of the many college expenses.



GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN BY HELPING UN-COMMON

Have you dreamed of raiding Un-Common's costume loft for your Halloween costume? Now's your chance and all you have to do is join us as we get ready for our 2006/07 productions and help us organize our storage space in East Mansfield.



Mark your calendar for Un-Common's Fall Clean-up day on **Sunday, October 15 from noon - 3:00PM**. Many of you have been in our space - it's compact, but full of great stuff to help us stage our wonderful shows. Please come and lend a hand and get the picks of our costumes (some exceptions) to help you win this year's "Best Costume" prize! See you there!



The Un-Common Theatre Company 2006/2007 Membership—Join or Renew Today!

As a non-profit, volunteer organization that relies on parents, students and community contributions, we need your help. All members who join or renew by September 30th will be entered in a drawing for two tickets to "Fiddler on the Roof".

In addition to membership's great benefits, your contribution helps us continue to offer an exciting place for children and adolescents to gain confidence as they are introduced to the wonderful world of quality theater. THANK YOU!!

Producers Club

\$1000 contribution

- Benefits of Directors Club, a full page ad in fall & spring programs
- Four tickets to fall and spring shows
- Special "Back Stage Pass" - tour the set and meet the cast
- Company or individual name announced at show

Directors Club

\$500-\$999 Contribution

- Benefits of Principals Club, a 1/2 page ad in fall & spring programs
- Photo opportunity with cast of each production
- Two tickets to fall and spring show

Principals Club

\$250-\$499 Contribution

- Benefits of Ensemble Club, a half-page ad in fall or spring program
- Photo opportunity with cast of current production
- Two tickets to fall or spring show with priority seating

Ensemble Club

\$100-\$249 Contribution

- Benefits of Family membership, plus a quarter page ad in fall or spring program
- Company or individual name displayed at Theater Company events and productions

Single/Family Membership

\$50-\$99 Contribution

- Priority seating for all Un-Common Productions
- Ticket exchange privileges for all Un-Common Productions
- Subscription to Un-Common Theatre newsletter
- Recognition in production program
- Recognition in newsletter and on website

The Un-Common Theatre Company 2005/2006 Membership

Principals Club, \$250 - \$499 contribution

Mark Finklestein and Janet Penn The Lowey Family
The Levenson(h)n Family

Ensemble Club, \$100 - \$249 contribution

The Armstrong Family	Lew and Caren Levine
Marianne Blanchard	Martha Oberstein
Cathy Corcoran	The Resnick Family
The Dowd Family	The Sullivan Family
Roy and Wendy Evans	Mike and Jessica Teixiera
Kristi Johnston Artworks	Pamela Tomsik
Anne Marie and Dennis Kelley	The Van Dell Family
Susan and Louis Kunkle	Richard and Beverly Vita

Family Members, \$50 - \$99 contribution

Rick Albee	Debbie and Bob Harney
The Arnold Family	Deborah and Stephen Ide
Debbie and Harris Berenson	Dave Kantor and Laura Salomons
Bess Marcus and Dan Blank	Kevin and Karen Leavey
Joe and Kathy Cullen	Jan and Bruce Lewis
Carole and Lee Duclos	Marianne Lonati
Cynthia and Daniel Egan	Thomas and Anne Marie Mahan
Joe and Betty Fiddler	Robert and Elizabeth McGregor
Nancy and John Fullerton	John and Louise Morrish
Ron and Diana Gabrilowitz	The Myers Family
Shelley and Barnet Goverman	The Francis Shaw Family
Gingy and Frank Grimes	John and Jeanne Travers

Thank you to all our members for you support!

THE UN-COMMON THEATRE COMPANY 2006/2007 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you would like to become a member of the Un-Common Theatre Co., please fill out the form below and return with your donation to:
**Un-Common Theatre Company Membership Drive, P.O. Box 161,
Mansfield, MA 02048.**

_____ Yes, I will like to become a member of the Un-Common Theatre Company

_____ Producer Club, \$1000 donation

_____ Directors Club, \$500 donation

_____ Principals Club, \$250 donation

_____ Ensemble Club, \$100 donation

_____ Single/Family membership, \$50 donation

_____ I cannot become a member at this time, but please accept my donation of \$_____

Method of payment: ___Cash ___Check (Un-Common Theatre Co.)

Credit Card: ___Visa ___MC ___Amex ___Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

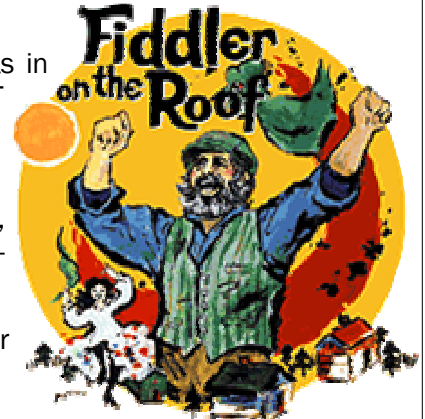
FIDDLER AUDITONS ANNOUNCED

The Un-Common Theatre Company is pleased to announce audition dates for their fall production of "Fiddler on the Roof". The play, based on Sholem Aleichem stories, with music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, is set in the Jewish town of Anatevka in Tsarist Russia in 1905. The story centers on Tevye the milkman and his struggle to maintain religious traditions during changing times. In addition to this lead role, there are many other major parts for both males and females. We are thrilled to welcome Fred Fortier to Un-Common as director of this production and welcome back Paula Bishop as music director. Choreographer, Kathy Fortier, will complete the creative team.

Auditions will be held at the Qualters Middle School in Mansfield for students in grades 3-12 on September 11th and 12th from 6:00- 9:00PM BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call Kathy Dowd at (781)784-4405 to schedule your time. Call-backs will be held on September 14th.

The production will take place at the Orpheum Theater Foxboro on December 1, 2 and 3. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

For more information about this production, please call Kathy Dowd or visit our website at www.uncommontheatre.com.



UPCOMING SPRING SHOW - "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"



Un-Common Theatre Company is excited to announce our spring non-musical production of "To Kill a Mockingbird". This show, directed by Meg Dussault of Sharon, will be presented at The Orpheum Theater in Foxboro on April 27-29, 2007. Auditions will be held in January. Keep an eye on the Un-Common website for more information or email Sue Resnick at SueJush@comcast.net.



Looking for an easy way to purchase your next tickets to an Un-Common production at any hour of the day? Look no further than your nearest keyboard. Tickets to all Un-Common shows can be purchased online at www.brownpapertickets.com. It's quick and easy! Or you can call 800-838-3006.



ENTERTAINMENT DOESN'T DISAPPOINT AT SPAGHETTI DINNER



Were you one of the almost 100 people who attended this year's festivities? If not, you really missed a fun time. It was a great chance for kids to catch up with each other, see friends they made during this year's shows, and gave them a chance to say goodbye to some graduating seniors. There were great raffle prizes and silent auction items — *that variety pack of Un-Common T-Shirts was the biggest hit!*



There was plenty of pasta, drinks & dessert for all as everyone enjoyed an encore performance from the cast of Cinderella. We were also entertained by Improv Soup and Soup Jr. Troupes. Un-Common is truly blessed with some great talent!



P.O. Box 161, Mansfield, MA 02048

(508) 698-3098

www.uncommontheatre.com

Newsletter Editor: Lew Levine

What is The Un-Common Theatre Company?

The Un-Common Theatre Company, founded in 1980, is truly unusual. We are one of the only children's theatre companies in New England and provide aspiring young actors, singers, musicians, and technicians an opportunity to work under the guidance of theatre professionals and perform in a professional theatre house. Our mission is to create a safe, nurturing, professional environment to expose youth to the complete theatrical experience. UTC seeks to develop children's confidence, self-esteem, teamwork and effective life skills. We also welcome and encourage adults to join our volunteer crews which are an integral part of each production. Joining us is a sure-fire way to enrich young lives, enhance your own life, and ensure the on-going success of the Un-Common Theatre Company.



Would you like to get our newsletter electronically?

Send an email to lowey@msn.com requesting you be added to our email distribution list.



Check out the online reviews of your favorite Un-Common performance at www.theatermirror.com/welcome.htm



Calendar of Events

"Fiddler on the Roof" Auditions (*by appt. only*):
September 11 & 12

Callbacks: September 14

Improv Soup Performance
(New Location—Burrell School, Foxboro)
September 29, 7:30PM

Un-Common Space Fall CleanUp:
October 15, Noon—3pm

"Fiddler on the Roof" Performance
Orpheum Theater, Foxboro: December 1, 2 & 3

"To Kill a MockingBird" Performance
Orpheum Theater Foxboro: April 27, 28 & 29