

The Real MacGuffin

Summer 2009

A newsletter for friends of MacGuffin Theatre & Film Company

A Whole New MacGuffin



The Adrienne at 2030 Sansom Street

There's no place like home! And thanks to your continued generosity and support, as well as the hard work of the MTF Board, MacGuffin Theatre & Film Company now has a new studio to call home in September 2009!

**Adrienne Theatre,
2030 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103**

How did it happen? After a year of strategic planning, with the help of Allison Trimarco from the LaSalle Non-Profit Center, our Board of Directors and Artistic Director John Rea found a space to satisfy all of MacGuffin's needs under one roof. It was the perfect space for the next phase of MacGuffin's development.

What's the space like? Our new studio is on the 2nd floor at the Adrienne. (It is one floor above the Playground, where we performed Chicago, Mischief Manor and Little Women.) Our main studio space has a beautiful dance floor that will be perfect for classes, rehearsals and small productions. Our smaller studio offers ideal space for small classes and rehearsals. There are two offices, two bathrooms, a kitchen area, and storage space as well. Our main studio space will seat up to 70 people...and we have a great fund raiser so you can help us get COMFORTABLE seats for your enjoyment and comfort at future productions.

The Adrienne Theatre is home to four great theatre companies including InterAct, Amaryllis, MacGuffin, and Flashpoint Theatre Companies. Renovations to the front façade and lobby space are planned in the future. John Ciccone, the owner of the Adrienne, has

a great vision for the building as a vital cultural center in the neighborhood. There are plans for more bathrooms and a café in the lobby area. And best of all, he is currently installing an elevator (no more steps!!!)

Plus, MacGuffin will be able to rent additional rehearsal space in the building at a reduced cost when needed for classes, rehearsals, and/or camps. We are very excited to join this vibrant theatre community.

What about the neighborhood? The Adrienne Theatre is located in the Rittenhouse neighborhood of Philadelphia. Easy access via public transportation, the Adrienne Theatre is about two blocks from Rittenhouse Square and a few blocks from Suburban Station. Parents will love exploring the many restaurants and coffee shops this

neighborhood offers, as well as Trader Joe's a few blocks away. Kids will love Capogiro, the delicious gelato place that's only half a block away!

What does the new space mean for MacGuffin? Having a place to call home gives

us more visibility in the theatre community... and that means more opportunities for our students to learn and grow. MacGuffin shines as the only theatre in Philadelphia to offer young people a place to experience the entire acting process of theater and film through classes, productions and performing troupes. The new space allows MacGuffin to eventually expand programming options for students, offering classes after school as well.

A sneak peek at Fall:

- Classes in comedy, drama, musical theatre and film...of course!
- Based on your feedback, classes will be scheduled after school, on Saturday

mornings and Sunday afternoons for added flexibility

- New class for 3 and 4 year olds!
- Special classes for all kids who want to work on their confidence or learn how to speak and interview in front of others. (This is a great way to involve friends who may not want to be actors, but still need the valuable skills you learn at MacGuffin!)
- A new work/study program for teens in need of scholarship funds...helping us maintain the theatre. It's a great way for students to learn how a theatre company works, too.
- FILM project
- Open Mic nights begin again in October and continue on the 1st Saturday of every month

Mark your calendars...dates TBD

October: MacGuffin's 1st Masquerade Ball
December: Holiday Bash
January: Shakespeare Awards
May: End of the Year Celebration

MacGuffin teachers John Rea, Liz Fredette, Lauren Rooney, Brian Cowden, Sarah Bonner and Mwazhuwa Kuretu look forward to working with all of you!



Our new main space at the Adrienne Theatre.

Board of Directors MacGuffin Theatre & Film Co.

At MacGuffin Theatre and Film Company, we grow actors! We give young people a place to experience the entire acting process of theater and film, performing original and adapted works that speak to the challenges that face our students and community. Our inclusive education and producing company creates a supportive, dynamic space for students as they discover their identity, gain self-confidence, and become advocates for the arts.

Staff

John Rea, Artistic Director
Liz Fredette, Company Manager

Board of Directors

Barbara Klock, President
Judy Leone, Vice-President
Monica Lawrence, Secretary

Members

Julie Czarnecki
David Horwitz
Lynn Welch

Remember, it's never too late to make your contribution to MacGuffin.

If you participate in a United Way giving program at work, your contributions can go directly to MacGuffin--just reference MacGuffin's United Way #12768.

Our current wish list:

Refrigerator, microwave, dance mirrors, book shelves, office furniture like couches and chairs for our waiting area, folding tables

Please contact 215-922-1141 if you can help.



Julia Hopkins, Anna Flynn-Meketon, Brooke Goldner, Elsa & Sarah Schieffelin at an Open Mic Night

Newsletter contributions
by John & Stacey-Kyle Rea

What's Your Role?

Looking to play a challenging role? This season offers a host of exciting characters that will stretch your talents. We expanded our production schedule, and a **film** project has been added. On November 21 and December 12, we will be starting a new program called a *Play in a Day* where we rehearse and perform a play in one day. More information on the production schedule and character breakdowns can be found on our website www.MacGuffinTF.com in late August.

- **Fully Committed**, the uproarious comedy by Becky Mode will take place on November 21st. It's about a frantic reservations manager in an upscale restaurant as he tries to book all the crazy people who want to dine there. To be a part of this show, simply register online. This is one of our Play in a Day productions for teens; youth with approval from director.
- **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying** A concert version of Frank Loesser's (*Guys and Dolls*) musical satire of the business world will go up November 13-15. Auditions for actors between 10 and 18 will be on Monday, September 14th from 6-8 PM. Actors should prepare a song from *Guys and Dolls* or *How to Succeed...*
- **The Arabian Nights**, the classic drama by Mary Zimmerman will be performed on December 12. The entrancingly beautiful Scheherazade weaves a series of fantastic stories that are romantic, funny and enchanting to stave off her death. To be a part of this show simply register online. This is one of our Play in a Day productions for teens; youth with approval from director.
- In March 2010, we will present 3 short musicals by John Rea including: **The Cruel Sister**, **The Tale of Orpheus** and **The Skeleton Woman**. **The Cruel Sister** concerns a young woman who pushes her sister over a cliff to claim her fiancé. Revenge is sweet for the fallen sister. **Orpheus** is about a man who braves the darkness of hell to bring back his dead wife. **The Skeleton Woman** is a love story about a girl who comes back to life with the help of an unwitting fisherman. Auditions will be on Monday, November 16th from 6-8 PM. Actors should prepare 16 bars from a Broadway show. Please choose a song that shows off your voice. Youth (8-11 yrs.) will be performing *The Cruel Sister*. The Teens (12-18 yrs) will be performing *Orpheus* and *The Skeleton Woman*.
- In April and May we will finish out the season with film production of a television episode of **Seinfeld**, **Friends** or **Saturday Night Live**. It is highly recommended that actors who wish to be cast in the film take a Film Acting class with MacGuffin. Auditions are TBA.

Our Summer Camps will be held in our new space at the Adrienne, with our performances on the main stage at Plays and Players Theatre. The Musical Theatre Camp will feature **Guys and Dolls** (youth) and **Grease** (teens). Advanced Musical Theatre Camp will feature Jason Robert Brown's hit musical, **The Last 5 Years**. Our Crash Course in Comedy will again feature sketch and improv comedy. Our Film Acting Camp will feature training in making music videos and feature films. See www.MacGuffinTF.com for more details.

The 10th Annual Shakespeare Awards

On January 25, 2009 MacGuffin held its 10th Annual Shakespeare Awards ceremony at the Prince Music Theatre in Philadelphia. This special anniversary was a formal event and we celebrated our first ten years as a non-profit. The Shakespeare Awards honor MacGuffin actors who have made personal and performance achievements in acting. The 2008 Season included productions of *Hairspray*, *High School Musical II*, *The Tale of Orpheus*, *The War of the Words*, *Santaland Diaries*, *The Breakfast Club* (film) *Godspell* and *Chicago*. Also in the running were the improv comedians from This Side Up Comedy Improv Troupe. Four actors were nominated in each category. Our special guest alumni presenters included: Liz Santaniello, Tara Bowler, Tim Chawaga, Nina Starner, Shane Gillern, Anna Elliott and Rebecca Bokeko. Also presenting awards were MacGuffin instructors: Liz Fredette (also co-host) Brian Cowden, Lauren Rooney, Jessica Bender, Joy Orlemann, Stacey-Kyle Rea, Mwazhuwa Kuretu and Sarah Bonner (also an alum).

The ceremony featured performances from *Hairspray*, *High School Musical II*, *Godspell*, *The Tale of Orpheus*, *Chicago* and This Side Up. We premiered clips from our summer film camp production of *The Breakfast Club*. We also had videos featuring highlights from the 2008 productions, and clips from our 10 years of over 65 productions. We had a Senior Farewell for our 10 graduates, 5 of which will go on to study acting in college. It was a night to remember!

Below are this year's winners.

- **Best Cameo**
Emma Johnson - *Godspell*
- **Best Character Development**
Susannah Holub - *Santaland Diaries*
- **Best Comedic Performance**
Rhett Mason - *Hairspray*
- **Best Comedy Improv Performance**
Samantha Evans - This Side Up
- **Best Supporting Performance in a Musical**
Isabel Rieser - *The Tale of Orpheus*
Eli Epperson - *Chicago*
- **Rising Star Award**
Jenny Ruymann
- **Emerging Youth and Teen**
Youth – Maya Zarate-Ramirez
Teen – Brooke Goldner
- **Best Performance in a Play**
Ian Sparks - *Santaland Diaries*
- **Best Supporting Performance in a Play**
Kate Leone - *Santaland Diaries*
- **Best Leading Performance in a Musical**
Tom Hopkins - *Godspell*
Samantha Evans - *Chicago*
- **Best Ensemble for the Entire Season**
Godspell
- **Lifetime Achievement**
Annie Westphal



Top to bottom and left to right: The Shakespeare Awards - Susannah Holub & Samantha Evans - Allison Boyle - Ben Horwitz & Michaela Shuchman - John Rea - Liz Fredette & Liz Santaniello - Kate Leone - Isabel Rieser - Jenny Ruymann - Ian Sparks - Shane Gillern - MacGuffin Seniors: Ian Sparks, Annie Westphal, John Feldan, Emma Johnson, Samantha Evans, Grace Agnew and Meredith Antioian - Michaela Shuchman, Marshall Woodruff, Kevin Kulp, Alex Frazier, Ian Sparks, Alex Giganti, Tom Hopkins, Georgia Puhl & Sarah Schieffelin



The New Fall Schedule

Saturday Classes

from Sept. 12 - Nov. 7*
8 weeks of classes (1 hour in length)

Little Twisters 5-7 yrs.

9:30 AM Great Acting Adventure

Youth 8-11 yrs.

9:30 AM Intro to Acting

10:30 AM Acting in Plays

Teen 12-18 yrs.

10:30 AM Intro to Acting

11:30 AM Intro to Broadway Voice

11:30 AM Moving & Acting

12:30 PM Adv. Broadway Voice

12:30 PM Acting Shakespeare

1:30 PM Intro to Comedy Improv

1:30 PM Comedy Improv

2:30 PM Intro to Film Acting

Tuition: \$175

*No class on September 19th

Open Mic Nights

The 1st Saturday of most months
from 7-9 PM. For folks 12 and up.
Parents are welcome.

October 3
November 7
December 5
February 6
March 6
May 1



Michaela Shuchman, Emily Featherman
& Anna Flynn-Meketon at Open Mic Night

Sunday Classes

from Sept. 13 - Nov. 8
8 weeks of classes (1 hour in length)

Youth 8-11 yrs.

2:30 PM Musical Theatre 1

Teen 12-18 yrs.

3:30 PM Musical Theatre 1

There are 3 levels to this course. Each level offers different training, so you can take them out of order.

Tuition: \$175

Sunday Rehearsals starting Sept. 20
4-6 PM Singin' Bohemians Cabaret Troupe

Auditions for The Singin' Bohemians
Wed., Sept. 15 from 6-8 PM
Actors should prepare a Broadway song.
There will be a dance audition, as well

6-8 PM This Side Up Comedy Improv Troupe

Auditions for This Side Up
Tues., Sept. 15 from 6-8 PM
Actors will perform improvs with the
current members

Play in a Day

Yep, that's right! We rehearse it and
perform it on the same day. The 1 day
show has rehearsal from
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

The performance will be at 7:30 PM.
For teens; youth by approval of director

Saturday, November 21

Fully Committed

by Becky Mode
(Comedy)

Auditions for those enrolled will be on
Sunday, November 1
from 2:30-3:30 PM

Saturday, December 12

The Arabian Nights

by Mary Zimmerman
(Drama)

Auditions for those enrolled will be on
Sunday, November 22
from 2:30-3:30 PM

Scripts will be handed out at the
auditions.

Tuition: \$150

Weekday Classes from Sept. 14 - Nov. 9

All weekday classes are for teens 12-18 from 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Monday	Building the Confidence You Need to Succeed
Tuesday	Comedy Improv 1*
Wednesday	Musical Theatre Dance 1*
Thursday	Stage Combat 1*

*There are 3 levels to this course. Each level offers different training so you can take them out of order.



Students from
The Great Acting Adventure

Storytelling Adventures

September 16 - November 4

For ages 3-4

Wednesdays from 11 AM - 12 PM

Students and parents act out fairy tale stories in costume with stage props! Fun takes center stage, while students learn the basics of singing and dancing.

The complete schedule will be posted in calendar form at www.MacGuffinTF.com in mid-August.

News in Brief

MacGuffin actress and leading lady, Michaela Shuchman just landed the part of Chava in the Walnut Street Theatre's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, going into rehearsal in April or 2010 and performing May 18 - July 18. It is likely to be extended. Michaela has performed in *A Christmas Carol* at the Walnut for the past two years and created a great relationship with the casting director. Congratulations Michaela!

MacGuffin seniors are off to college...

- Grace Agnew (*Rent, Cinderella Story*) - taking a year off in Australia then returning to attend Ithaca College as an acting major
 - Meredith Antoian (*Back to the Future, Godspell*) - New York University, studying acting
 - Samantha Evans (*Chicago, Godspell*) - Emerson College, studying acting
 - John Feldan (*Rent, Godspell*) - University of Pittsburgh, studying bio-engineering
 - Emma Johnson (*Rent, Godspell*) - University of Pennsylvania, studying neuro science
 - Nate Krasner (*Happy Birthday, Godspell*) - Oberlin College, studying liberal arts
 - Ian Sparks (*Godspell, Santaland Diaries*) - University of the Arts, studying musical theatre
 - Annie Westphal (*Chicago, Mischief Manor*) - Ithaca College, studying acting
-

Alumni Sarah Bonner is now choreographing her 5th Musical Theatre Camp. She has also choreographed three numbers for the Cabaret Camp. Sarah is a graduate of New York University with a Bachelor's in Acting.

Alumni Nina Starnier and Samantha Evans have been assisting John Rea and Liz Fredette at Musical Theatre Camp this year. Nina has also choreographed 'Steam Heat' for the Cabaret Camp.

MacGuffin actors Ben Horwitz, Jake Westphal and alumni Shane Gillern and Jacob Todd auditioned for an independent film called *Funny Money* starring John C. Reilly (*Talledega Nights*) and written and directed by Alison Standefer (*Buffalo 66* with Vincent Gallo).

Artistic Director John Rea met his musical theater idol Stephen Sondheim on February 21st at the Kimmel Center. Sondheim was interviewed on stage by famed *New York Times* theatre critic, Frank Rich.



Stephen Sondheim & John Rea

Getting You the Best Seats in the House

In our new space at the Adrienne, we need new comfortable seats for our productions and risers so that you can see and enjoy everything. Starting with our summer camp productions of *Annie* and *Once on This Island*, we will be conducting a new fundraiser to help us purchase these necessities. At our productions and events through December our actors will be holding envelopes at intermission and following the show. On the front of the envelopes will be a number between 1 and 200. If the number you choose is 100, then you put \$100 in the envelope. If the number you choose is 5, then you put \$5 in the envelope. We are encouraging everyone to participate - from parents, friends, relatives and our own actors. Once all the envelopes are returned, we will have enough funds to buy the comfy seats you deserve. If you'd like to donate now call 215-922-1141.

-- SAMPLE --

17	MACGUFFIN THEATRE & FILM COMPANY		
	Your Name		
	Address		
	City	State	ZIP
	Email address		

Masquerade Ball

Save the Date!

On Friday, October 30, MacGuffin will hold it's first Masquerade Ball in our new space. It will be a fundraiser for us. Tickets will be available in September. MacGuffin students and friends are invited. All attendees will be required to come in costume. MacGuffin Board Members Julie Czarnecki and Lynn Welch are currently planning the event. More details about the Masquerade Ball and our Holiday Bash in December will be available online in September.

The Wisdom of Seniors

Samantha Evans and Annie Westphal are two of MacGuffin's accomplished and talented graduating actors. Here is a peek into what's on their minds.

How did acting come into your life?

Samantha Evans: Coming from a very artistic family, performing was something that I was always encouraged to do and enjoyed doing. I think that my first role in a show was in second grade as a moth in *The Emperor's New Clothes* at school. Not really sure where the moths came in, but that was my stage debut.

Annie Westphal: My first experience with performing was when I was 3 in a Ballet Class. My Mom saw how much I loved the recitals so she signed me up for an acting class with you, John, at the Walnut St. Theater and the rest is history. I couldn't get enough.

Name 3 things you consider important to your acting training at MacGuffin?

SE: First of all, MacGuffin provided a really great environment, with people who care about acting as much as I do, so I felt safe in taking risks and doing things outside of the box. I was also introduced to the mechanics of acting, such as making specific choices in order to create a clear and well developed character. Finally, I was introduced to a discipline and professionalism, where it was understood that there are no excuses for not giving 100% when it comes to the business.

AW: 1: always bring a pencil 2: never EVER be late 3: don't be afraid to be stupid. (I find it's the basics that end up mattering the most. I fall back on those three rules like...every day).

What's the funniest MacGuffin memory you have?

SE: It would definitely have to be when the neighbors called the cops, who came and crashed our This Side Up rehearsal during an overenthusiastic game of Judgement. As far as I remember, that was the last time we played that game. Or maybe it was the time that I saw a turkey outside the window at TSU rehearsal. Good times, good times...

AW: Steve saying "I got some peanuts," in *Mak and the Shepherds*.

Where are you going to college and what are you planning to study?

SE: I am going to the BFA Acting program at Emerson College in Boston.

AW: I am planning to Major in Acting at Ithaca College.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

SE: Doing what I love, with people that I love, with excessive amounts of chocolate.

AW: I don't need every moment to be perfect, because that's not perfect happiness to me. I love riding life, so as long as I'm passionate about what I'm doing and I'm surrounded by people I love, it just doesn't get better than that. Happiness isn't about never being uncomfortable, it's about doing something about it when you aren't.

What is your favorite word?

SE: Yes. Lederhosen is a good one too.

AW: LEGENDARY.



Top to Bottom: Samantha Evans & Annie Westphal at the 2009 Shakespeare Awards - Chicago - Cinderella Story

Name the character you enjoyed playing the most.

SE: I'd have to say Roxie from *Chicago*. In playing Roxie, I was able to experiment with comedy and drama in a musical, while working with other MacGuffin actors, who are all as passionate as I am. Not only did we pull it together with well developed characters, we did it in less than 6 weeks. It was a pleasure to work with such committed and serious actors.

Plus, my mom told me that I made a pretty darn convincing floozy.

AW: Mother in *Cinderella Story*. She is so fun and complex and is beastly with a sword. I learned so much from Mother. I'll probably always carry a bit of that character in my own personality.

Which living person do you most admire?

SE: I admire Joe Biden. Not only has he made hair plugs work for him, he is only lightly reprimanded for the stupid things he says, while being super knowledgeable about foreign policy.

AW: I can't pick one because the two people I admire the most are my parents. The program they ran for my brother with autism took herculean strength. They continue to inspire me and challenge me to do my best every day while providing a forever supportive environment. I am extremely lucky to have them in my life.

Which talent would you like most to have?

SE: I think it would be so cool if I could solve a Rubik's cube with my eyes closed. Pretty pointless, but a good party trick nonetheless.

AW: I would love to be able to see a vision of what I want to happen in the future for either myself, or others, and be able to make that a reality. My Dad has this ability and it never ceases to amaze me. I admire that and aspire to that every day.

What is your most treasured possession?

SE: Pearl earrings that were my grandmothers. I wear them everyday.

AW: My Grandmother's Opera glasses. She never got to go on the Opera tour she was planning on, so now it's my job to do that for her.

Which living person would you like most to meet?

SE: I would like to meet Steven Colbert. I think dinner at his house would be quite amazing. Who's the man behind the Republican facade?

AW: Baz Luhrman. His films are incredibly beautiful and original. I would love to know how his brain works.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

SE: I really wish I could run without looking like a chicken.

AW: My habit to self-censor. Fortunately, that one is totally in my power to change!

If you could fix one thing in the world what would it be?

SE: Frankly, there's too much ignorance in the world. I would love to reduce it, starting with myself.

AW: Hate. There is so much hate and anger out there, it's really amazing. I would love to help everyone in the world to live their lives with a little more love and acceptance. I think, more than anything else, that would fix most of the world's problems.

Now that your student time at MacGuffin is over, what advice would you give to younger actors?

SE: Okay, there are a few basic things you need to remember to succeed. Bring a pencil everywhere you go. And a few extras with a sharpener, just in case. And your resume too. Always raise your hand no matter what. Remember lines when you need to and make friends. These are some of the best people you will ever meet- have fun!!

AW: Work hard, be present in everything you do, and HAVE FUN! Stress is for never.

Santaland Diaries

Cast of Santland Diaries
(in alphabetical order)

Abigail Andrews
Rachel Barg
Maureen Bowler
Nicole Hindley
Susannah Holub
Lily Lawrence
Kate Leone
Shannon Long
Ian Sparks
Natalie Torpey
Maya Zarate

From left to right & top to bottom: cast of Santaland Diaries - Ian Sparks - Susannah Holub & Abigail Andrews - Natalie Torpey - Ian Sparks & Susannah Holub at St. Luke's - Kate Leone & Rachel Barg - Singin' Bohemians Michaela Shuchman - Brooke Goldner - Julia Hopkins - Allison Boyle, Julia Hopkins, Tom Hopkins, Ian Sparks, Kevin Kulp & Anna Flynn-Meketon - Nicole Hindley, Lily Lawrence, Ian Sparks, Abigail Andrews, Kate Leone, Maya Zarate & Shannon Long

Assistant Director
Lighting Designer
Director

Liz Fredette
Mwazhuwa Kuretu
John Rea

Our fall production was David Sedaris' comedy classic *Santaland Diaries*. In the play, Sedaris recounts his hilarious experience becoming an elf at Macy's during the holiday crunch. Usually the play is performed by one actor, but we decided to break it up to include 11 actors. It came off smashingly. We rehearsed in October and November of 2009 at Friends Select School. The set and costumes were simple, as one can tell from the pictures. There was a lot of laughter when we first tried on those elf outfits. The play was performed on November 21-23 at Plays and Players Theatre in Philadelphia.

On the Thursday before our run, Ian Sparks and Susannah Holub performed a 2 person version of the play at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Devon. It was a great experience and the audience was delighted by the show.

Act 2 of the evening was a performance from MacGuffin's new cabaret troupe, The Singin' Bohemians. They sang Broadway hits from *Rent*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Just So*, *City of Angels*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Hairspray*, *Wicked* and *Once on This Island* just to name a few. Solos, duets and group numbers enhanced the mix. The event marked their first performance as a troupe. (See page 9 for more on *The Singin' Bohemians*)



OUR 5TH ACTING FESTIVAL

In February 2009, MacGuffin produced its 5th Acting Festival featuring 2 shows: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare and adapted by Lois Burdett and *Mischief Manor*, an improv musical by John Rea. It was performed at the Playground at the Adrienne.

Mischief Manor is my 9th original musical. The inspiration for it came from Chicago comedian and old friend, Phil Aman. His improv troupe in college performed a long form improv based on a murder and the wacky interviews conducted by the detective assigned to the case. This was one of those projects that has been in the drawer for over a decade. After directing my own improv troupe for 5 years (*This Side Up*), I finally figured out how it could work. I basically took short form comedy improv games and mixed them into a longer story, adding comedy songs. It's the first show I've written where *all* the songs are comical. It was a challenge. The next step for this show is to develop it further as a touring production for schools. It will be performed by 4 adult actor/instructors from MacGuffin. Our cast has been wonderful. Many of the jokes in the piece were created in rehearsal by the actors. We had a great time. I thank them all for their hard work and dedication to "finding the funny".

- John Rea, director

"Shakespeare can be fun!" That's what adapter and author Lois Burdett calls her Shakespeare for Kids series. And it's true, Shakespeare CAN be fun. It's all about making Shakespeare manageable. Burdett uses rhyming couplets and similar sentence structure to that of Shakespeare's works, but she uses words that kids understand more readily. She keeps all of the plot twists in place, but uses her student's illustrations to help kids navigate the action. And we did have fun, especially as the comedy of our story was brought to light through the acting. We had many interesting conversations about how parts of the play reminded us of things in our own lives. My hope is that these plays can inspire another generation of kids to become lovers of Shakespeare, to delve into the language; the hidden meanings and jokes in his words; and to see the universal and timeless stories.

-Liz Fredette, director

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Egeus/Moth	Kate Bender
Hippolyta/Titania	Eliana Chalphin
Flute/Mustardseed	Hannah Cramer
Demetrius	Amy Danoff
Hermia	Alex Frazier
Snug/Cobweb	Bea Gerber
Lysander	Alex Giganti
Snout	Journey Jones
Bottom	Lily Lawrence
Starveling/Peaseblossom	Fiona Tagliente

Quince	Natalie Torpey
Theseus/Oberon	Taylor Wheeler
Puck	Eva Whittaker
Helena	Maya Zarate

Directed by Liz Fredette

Mischief Manor

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Dr. Augustus Finch/Seymour	David Dimitruk
Hannabel	Emma Ditnes
Millhouse/Clyde	Trey Gregory
Brenda/Melon-E	Susannah Holub
Det. Martin Smiley	Leo Koorhan
Lilly/Chef /Camera	Shannon Long
Tia/Monotony	Sarah Schieffelin
Breck/Max/Barney	Jake Westphal
Annel/Arms	Annie Westphal

Directed by John Rea



Top to Bottom & Left to Right - David Dimitruk & Leo Koorhan - Jake Westphal & Trey Gregory - Emma Ditnes, Leo Koorhan, David Dimitruk, Annie Westphal - cast of Mischief Manor w/ John Rea- Hannah Cramer - Maya Zarate & Eva Whittaker - Sarah Schieffelin - Annie Westphal & Leo Koorhan - Taylor Wheeler-Yard - cast of Midsummer w/ Liz Fredette - Natalie Torpey



Comedy & Cabaret



This Side Up Comedy Improv Troupe just finished its 5th season of hilarity, directed by John Rea. This year, the troupe featured the comedic talents of Maureen Bowler, David Dimitruk, Samantha Evans, Susannah Holub, Ben Horwitz, Stephen Kent, Aidan Ryan and Jake Westphal.

A MacGuffin community outreach program, This Side Up brings laughter to places and people who need it the most! This year, the troupe performed at Old Pine Community Center and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Rehearsals for two hours on Sunday nights allow the troupe to work on creating characters, split-second comedic timing, and setting up wacky scenarios. They perform many of the games found on the hit TV show, "Whose Line is it, Anyway?" as well as some of their own creation. MacGuffin's new instructor Lauren Rooney introduced several new improvs to the group, including 185 and Phone Booth. Every rehearsal boasts a roller coaster ride of hilarity, with an occasional dismal dud in the mix. But these comedians "find the funny" in it all, learning new and exciting areas of comedic expression along the way.

We always need an audience - we're great and unique entertainment for office parties, community centers...and even your own birthday party! We cater our performance to the particular audience. Kids 11 and under get a silly, more physically funny performance, whereas teens and adults experience situations and characters that are edgier and thought-provoking. And with improv, every show is a new show...so you never see the same performance twice! (Consider them collector's items!)

We sadly send off senior Samantha Evans this year. A This Side Up veteran of two seasons, she embarks on a new journey to Emerson College this fall. We wish her well!

Auditions for This Side Up will be held on Tuesday, September 15 from 6-8 pm at the Adrienne. Students ages 12 and up are invited to come out and audition to show us their funny!



The Singin' Bohemians Cabaret Troupe celebrates its very first season in song! Just like This Side Up, The Singin' Bohemians take their show on the road to bring Broadway singing and dancing to the community. We first performed in November, after the Santaland Diaries performance at Plays and Players Theatre. We sang and danced for many audiences: Friends Select School, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Church, and every MacGuffin open mic night! Directed by John Rea, The Singin' Bohemians features the talent of Meredith Brandt, Allison Boyle, Emily Featherman, Anna Flynn-Meketon, Brooke Goldner, Julia Hopkins, Tom Hopkins, Kevin Kulp, Elsa Schieffelin, Sarah Schieffelin, Michaela Shuchman, and Ian Sparks. Choreography by Liz Fredette, Lauren Rooney and John Rea adds the final touch.

The Singin' Bohemians rehearses for two hours on Sunday nights, from October to May. Each cast member prepares two solos and participates in all the group numbers, helping them learn and grow individually and honing their skills as part of an ensemble. They perform songs from a wide range of musicals, from classics to new favorites. The repertoire includes two shows: a Disney show kids and a non-Disney for all audiences.

We sadly send off senior Ian Sparks this year. A charter member of Singin' Bohemians, Ian will continue his studies at University of the Arts in Philadelphia this fall. We wish him well!

Auditions for Singin' Bohemians will be held on Wednesday, September 16 from 6-8 pm at the Adrienne. Students ages 12 and up should be prepared to sing a Broadway song that shows off their voice! There will be a dance audition as well.

This Side Up and the Singin' Bohemians will bring unique entertainment to your next party, dinner, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, holiday celebration, birthday party, etc. We have a nominal charge to cover expenses, but we are free to non-profits.

Call 215.922.1141 to schedule your event!



Top to bottom & left to right: This Side Up, Stephen Kent, Jake Westphal, David Dimitruk, Ben Horwitz, Susannah Holub, Aidan Ryan & Samantha Evans - Ben Horwitz, Susannah Holub & David Dimitruk - Stephen Kent & Jake Westphal - Meredith Brandt - The Singin' Bohemians: Julia Hopkins, Michaela Shuchman, Kevin Kulp, Meredith Brandt, Emily Featherman, Tom Hopkins, Anna Flynn-Meketon, Brooke Goldner, Ian Sparks, Allison Boyle, Sarah & Elsa Schieffelin

Little Women in Concert

In May, we performed a concert version of the new musical, *Little Women*. With music by Jason Howland, lyrics by Mindi Dickstein and book by Allan Knee, the story is based upon the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott. This production was a new venture for us because we experimented with double casting all the lead parts. We rehearsed both casts equally for 6 weeks. Each lead performed twice but not necessarily with the same cast members.

On May 8, cast 1 performed in the Playground at the Adrienne. May 9 at 2 PM, cast 2 performed in the Mainstage at the Adrienne. That evening everybody went out to Shannondell Theatre in Audubon, PA for a 7:30 PM show. Then on Sunday, cast 1 performed at the Mainstage. Because of a scheduling problem, we had to perform in the Mainstage on the set of another show. The set had only one entrance and we needed two. We had to improvise. Needless to say, both casts were spectacular in adapting to all of the theatres. We played to full houses and everyone had a great time.

After we completed the show, we convened one more time to talk about whether we should ever double cast again. The hard part about double casting is the amount of rehearsal time devoted to each cast. After we would block a scene, the second cast would then have to jump in and learn it. Choreography took twice as long. Actors had to adapt to different acting styles. The acting really had to be flexible and that was fun to try. We were surprised to discover that there were no jealousies between the actors. It's a compliment to our actors that there was such amazing support for the entire cast. Some actors thought that only leads should be double cast. Some thought that it should depend on the show. Some thought that we should lengthen the rehearsal schedule and times. Our experiment came off very well and we will only double cast in the future if the show can allow it.

This coming season, we are moving our concert series to the fall. We will be performing *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, music and lyrics by Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls*). The Pulitzer Prize winning musical comedy had a long revival run on Broadway with Mathew Broderick not long ago. Here's the plot - Finch, a young but bright window-cleaner buys a book - "How To Succeed In Business" and following its advice joins the multi-national but poorly-connected "World-Wide Wicket Company". Starting from the mail-room, he rises to VP in Charge Of Advertising, using sneaky and dubious ways so that the person above him gets either fired or moved to another section of the company. He also starts slowly falling in love with secretary Rosemary. Meanwhile, the president of the WWWC, J.B. Biggley, tries to have an affair with gorgeous bubble-head Hedy LaRue, but she becomes a weapon used both by Finch and Bud Frump, Biggley's brattish and annoying nephew who believe that he should get all the breaks and not Finch. Can Finch rise to the top or will it all go down in flames...



Cast Women	
Meg	Emma Ditnes
Jo	Julia Hopkins
Beth	Michaela Shuchman
Amy	Allison Boyle
Marmee	Brooke Goldner
Aunt March	Mira Nathanson
Mrs. Kirk	Sarah Schieffelin
	Maryanne Cosgrove
	Anna Flynn-Meketon
	Elsa Schieffelin
	Sam Evans
	Kate Leone
	Lily Lawrence
Men	
Professor Bhaer	Tom Hopkins
Laurie	Jake Westphal
	Kevin Kulp
Mr. John Brooke	Ben Horwitz
Mr. Laurence	David Dimitruk
Chorus	
Clarissa	Rebecca Blaich
Braxton	Nikki Adeli
Rodrigo	Ana Ramirez-Lee
Rodrigo 2, Head Troll Knight	Maya Zarate-Ramirez
	Mia Copeland-Brock
Hags Trolls/Monks	
Marcelene Sutter (featured Hag), Camilla Barcan, Hannah Cramer, Molly Sutter, Fiona Tagliente, Nicole Hindley	



Open Mic Nights

Donors 2008/2009 Season

MacGuffin Theatre & Film Co. is incredibly grateful to these folks and organizations for their support. We thank you for partnering with MacGuffin in its mission to grow actors!

MacGuffin held three **Open Mic Nights** this past Spring at the Old Pine Community Center at 4th and Lombard. They were a huge success! In Act 1, MacGuffin actors and friends performed Broadway songs in groups and as solos. In Act 2, we performed comedy improv led by This Side Up.

Next season, we will continue the program starting October 3 and continuing on the 1st Saturday of most months. Actors between 12 and 17 are welcome to try out a Broadway song or monologue they are working on, a short scene or join in our comedy improv. The atmosphere is casual. Parents and friends are welcome. After the show everyone is welcome to stay for the reception where we eat and chat. It's a great way to get performance experience and to meet new friends. It's free! If you wish to perform, call John Rea at 215-922-1141 and he'll put you on the list.

See you on October 3 at 7 PM at the Adrienne.



Top to Bottom & Left to Right: This Side Up - Grace Agnew, Sam Evans & John Feldan - Susannah Holub & Ben Horwitz - Ben Horwitz, Brooke Goldner & David Dimitruk - Sarah Schieffelin, Lauren Rooney (instructor) & Julia Hopkins - at the reception - Michaela Shuchman, Julia Hopkins, Allison Boyle & Anna Flynn-Meketon performing 'I Enjoy Being a Girl'



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Fay Wright

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Robin & Gary Bonner
Bill & Martha deHeyman
Jamie Hurley
Christine Paul
Lynn & Jim Welch

The Real MacGuffin Summer 2009

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The Wisdom of Seniors
The Shakespeare Awards
and much more...



MacGuffin

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