

The Curtain Rises

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MATINEE MEALS

Matinee Meals have been a success again this year. Thanks to all who have participated and supported this vital function. You can still make cash donations or drop off non-perishable items to the kitchen that can be prepared by others.

If you would like to coordinate a meal for *Poetry of Pizza* or *Hank Williams-Lost Highway* or bring food, please contact Yvonne Rivers at 337-0278 or phoebemg@aol.com

To support a meal coordinator, you may offer to bring entrees, vegetable dishes and casseroles (for the vegetarians in the cast), green tossed salad and salad dressing, and deserts. The meal coordinator needs members to provide 3 different meal entrees, 3 vegetables, green salad, 3 desserts, sodas and bread.

If you are ushering on a Saturday, it is a great opportunity to bring a dish and leave in the kitchen. Please make sure your dish is in the kitchen by 5:30 p.m. and that your name and phone number are on any dishes you want returned.

USHERING

Thanks to the Ushering Task Force for contacting all volunteers to remind them of their scheduled usher dates. Ushering is a vital role of the Associates in making the Virginia Stage Company patrons welcome and comfortable. If you have not signed up to usher or would like to add more days, please contact the House Manger, Janelle Burchfield at jburchfield@vastage.com or 672-6988 ext. 336. We are in need of ushers on the following dates. Please contact Janelle if you can help on any of these dates.

Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Remember, if you have signed up to usher for a specific date, please show up on time, UNLESS you get a phone call or email asking you to serve another time. If you cannot usher as planned, please let Janelle know as soon as possible so you can be replaced. You can bring a guest to help usher and introduce them to the Associates

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the following new members: **Claire Daugherty and family, Larry and Madge Stampe, Frances Sattes, Cecelia Dawe-Gillis, Selma Lindsay, and Stella Kearse.**

We now have 146 members.

If you have friends or family that are interested in joining VSA, please have them contact Mary Hormell at 261 E. 40th Street, Norfolk, VA 23504 or maryalice@whro.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Associates,

We have made it through six months of a truly wonderful theater season. We hope that all of you have seen all the plays. It has been a new experience working with all of you. I have met many of you over the phone and others personally at potlucks, matinee meals or ushering. I want all of us to get to know one another.

We have had a successful usher turnout with the ushers receiving comments from the Stage Company that this has been the smoothest running season so far with ushers. We thank you. Bring a friend to acquaint to the Associates. Remember that when you signup for a particular date to usher, we are counting on you for that date UNLESS you get a call saying otherwise.

WOW! The matinee meals have been a hit. All the casts have showered thanks and appreciation to all of the Associates who have helped. Remember that this is a wonderful opportunity to meet the cast and fellowship with other Associates. Bring prospective members to introduce them. Don't just drop off dish and leave, come back after the show and share in food and fun. We have received a thank you card from the cast of *Doubt*, signed by the Cast. *Man of La Mancha* lead actor, Philip Hernandez, put thanks on his website and newsletter about the Associates. The cast of *Christmas Carol* and *Piano Lesson* were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of the Associates. Come join us during *Poetry of Pizza* and *Hank Williams -Lost Highway, if you can.*

We ended 2007 after receiving over \$2,500 from Festevents with a contribution of \$6,000. We now have contributed \$8,500 to the Virginia Stage Company. The Restaurant Raffle was a success with \$4,500 raised in spite of a challenge to get ticket sellers during the Christmas season. Thanks so much to John Kingry and all the ticket sellers. The drawing has been held and gift certificates sent to winners. It is only because of you we are able to do what we do.

We are winding down the Norfolk Florist Flower fundraiser. All members that have been selling tickets must have money or any remaining tickets to Janet Kane, Treasurer no later than March 7, 2008. Send all money/tickets to Janet Kane 905 Cranston Drive Chesapeake, Va. 23320 757-373-2834.

We have our new fundraising project suggested and being created by Janet Kane. A quillow or wall hanging with pictures and playbills for the entire VSC 2007-8 season to be made into a 6 x 4 foot quilted wall hanging. We are still deciding how to auction, sell sponsorship or raise money for the Stage Company with it. It is simply beautiful. We will keep you informed.

Associates, on a personal note, I will be proudly representing the Virginia Stage Associates at the CAVORT Conference March 13 –16 in Pasadena, California. At this conference of volunteer theater associations, I expect to gain some exposure and ideas to bring to Virginia. I thank all of you for your support with a portion of my expenses.

An issue that is a matter of importance. We can only be successful and unified as a group if we are all one and for the same purpose. There are challenges and difference in all groups. I have been tasked as your President to address any and ALL concerns. I can not help or solve a problem if I do NOT know. Anytime you want to know anything, call me at 757-337-0278, I am accessible and approachable. If I do

not answer, leave a message and I will return your call. We have had some instances in which some Associates have become frustrated or angry about some situations, unbeknownst to me, UNTIL, it becomes a problem. Trust me, I take my position seriously and I am prepared to go to 'bat' for the Associates, but I can not and will not if I am 'left in the blind'. Let's share and show we care.

Jennifer Taylor is the new development director replacing Marilyn Richardson. She will also have an assistant, Bonnie Farmer, joining the VSC in March.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!
Peace and Blessings

FESTEVENTS

We will participate in Festevents again this year. We will have 2.5 shares of revenue generated. This is one of our big fundraisers each year to support Virginia Stage Company.

The dates for our participation in Festevents were drawn in February. Our dates will be: TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) on Friday, May 2, 2008 from 5:pm -9:00 p.m. and Harbor Fest on Friday, June 6, 2008 from 11 am-11pm.

Please place these dates on your calendar and indicate NOW if you would like to help. It's great fun, a great opportunity to work and get to know other Associates, and we raise money too!

If you would like to participate in these events or working Festevents in general, contact Yvonne at 337-0278 or phoebemg@aol.com

THE SPIRTED SOIREE (An Enchanting Evening with the Ghosts at the Wells Theatre)

Virginia Stage Company will hold a gala fundraiser on April 26 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at The Wells Theatre.

Tickets are \$100 per person with proceeds to benefit Virginia Stage Company. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, and dancing on stage to the music of High Society. There will also be a live auction of some very exciting and wonderful items. Spirited cocktail attire is encouraged.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Kimberly Johnson at 627-6988 ext. 342.

POETRY OF PIZZA

Don't miss this great play!

American professor Sarah Middleton arrives in Denmark to teach at the University of Copenhagen, only to find her life irrevocably thrown off course when she stops by the Vermundsgade Pizzeria one night for a pizza. She falls suddenly and unexpectedly in love with the pizza maker, who wins her heart with his pizzas. This unlikely courtship arouses the curiosity and passions of everyone around them.. The result is a smart comedy about love transcending even the widest of cultural divides. The play runs from February 26 to March 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR VSA MEMBERS

February 29 Opening Night *Poetry of Pizza* -
Curtain 8:00 p.m. Wells
March 15 Last Matinee Meal for *Poetry of Pizza*
March 25 VSA Board Meeting, 6 p.m. VSC
Conference Room
April 4 Opening -Night *Hank Williams -Lost
Highway* Curtain 8:00 p.m. Wells
April 5, 12, 13 and 19 Matinee Meals for *Hank
Williams -Lost Highway*
April 22 VSA Board Meeting 6 p.m. VSC
Conference Room
April 25 Opening Night—*Lost in the Stars* –
8 p.m. Attucks Theatre
May 2 TGIF work at VSA booth 5:00-9:00 p.m.
May 25 VSA Board Meeting 6 p.m. VSC
Conference Room
June 6 Harborfest—work at VSA booth 11:00
a.m. –11:00 p.m.
June 24 End of Season Potluck Party 4:30 p.m.
Wells Theater

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for another day of mask making. This will be part of Family Day at Attucks Theatre on March 29 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. We are looking for about four volunteers to help the children making masks.

This activity was very successful last time. We also received some feedback from volunteers on how to improve the activity. We will be incorporating this feedback for March 29. If you want to help, contact Domenick Danza at ddanza@vastage.com or 627-6988 X312..