



New Kensington Civic Theatre September 2013 CALLBOARD

We're Back! Another opening, another show! First meeting of the season is Friday, September 13, 2013 at the workshop. Much to discuss, much to reveal! We welcome you to join us!

Our 68th Season

Dare I divulge our 68th Season? Why not! It's on Facebook! Or, is it? Did you check?

The productions are:

"Nuncrackers, the Nonsense Christmas Musical"	Nov.21-24, 2013
"Boeing, Boeing"	March 13-16, 2014
"Wonder of the World"	May 15-18, 2014

Notable Notes, Quotes and Requests

Bob Stein is collecting donations for the National Parkinson's Foundation's Moving Day walk on Sept. 28 at Highmark Stadium on the South Side. (If you go on the website, you can see Bob at last year's event, dancing next to Icee, the Penguins' mascot.)

In addition, while chances last, the Stein team is raffling off four tickets to the Oct. 21 game between the Penguins and Colorado Avalanche. Cost is \$5, which gives you five chances to win based on the evening Daily Number of Sept. 20. If he has any chances left, Bob will bring them to the September general meeting.

Alyssa Bruno is looking for pictures from "Lucky Stiff;" the comedy she directed. "I would really like to see them/get digital copies for prosperity and my portfolio."

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**"NUNCRACKERS" AUDITION INFO:** *Tuesday, Sept. 10. Children audition from 6:30-7:30pm. Adults audition at 7:45pm. At the NKCT workshop on the corner of Carl Ave. and George St.*

NUNCRACKERS is "about" the Christmas spirit--sharing a good laugh, enjoying friends and family and taking a respite from worry. It's an evening celebrating the love of fun, the gift of sharing, and the joy of being alive. It's a communal experience between the actors and the audience; the fourth wall doesn't even pretend to exist. Therefore, the actors must be comfortable with ad-libbing, going with the flow and relating to the audience.

Pam Farneth is directing, Matt Mlynarski is the stage manager, Rob Stull is the music director and Lori Incardoni is doing the choreography.

## ROLES

Sister Mary Regina, the Reverend Mother (alto) -- 40s-60s; character actress; sturdy, confident - loves to spin a yarn and be in the spotlight - a great sense of humor shines through, despite her attempts to create a tough in-charge exterior.

Sister Robert Anne (mezzo) -- 30 to 50; a tough, courageous cookie with a warm heart; lives to perform; strong singer/actress who must move easily from a lyrical ballad to a raunchy belt.

Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia) (soprano w/ good belt range) -- 20s-50s; very sweet and naïve; a smile never leaves her face, still a little dizzy from the time a crucifix fell on her head and she temporarily lost her memory; loves to sing country western; very energetic and spritely.

Sister Mary Hubert (soprano w/big voice for a "gospel" solo) -- 20s-50s; second in command; not so secretly thinks Reverend Mother makes mistakes in leadership; tries to keep order where there is chaos; likes to be in charge, and is thwarted at every turn; rallies with a big 11 o'clock gospel number that shakes the roof off.

Fr. Virgil (tenor to baritone\*) -- 20s-50s; strong actor with comic timing; a priest with a bent for show biz; has his own radio show and relishes his celebrity; despite his used- car- salesman antics, he has a warm heart.

Children -- All must be energetic, fearless on stage, well behaved, reliable and focused. Strong singers who move well:

Maria, a young girl, the youngest of the cast - or youngest looking.

Billy, a young boy, age 6-10

Louise, an older girl,

John, an older boy

\*must be able to match pitch, but singing voice not a determining factor in casting.

**\*\*\*\*\*15 Minutes with Nora Ann Pastrick\*\*\*\*\***

I had the pleasure of talking with Nora Ann following our executive board meeting in August. And, believe me, 15 minutes is simply not enough time to learn about all that she has witnessed, experienced, introduced....I must begin at the "beginning."

In 1947, "The Little Theatre" presented their first production, CLAUDIA, backed by the Junior Women's Club. Monies made were used to help finance this new local theatrical organization. (Years later, "The Little Theatre" changed its name to the New Kensington Civic Theatre. Nora Ann, her husband, Stephen and other active members were instrumental in initiating this name change.)

Initially, Nora Ann was asked to perform in "The Little Theatre's" production of OUR TOWN in 1948. She was invited to join this production by Alice Klinke, the drama teacher at Ken Hi.

Rehearsals and meetings were held in the second floor of the original Parnassus Fire Hall. When the "new" Parnassus fire hall was erected, the City of New Kensington presented the Little Theatre with the "old" building. Eventually, they would move to various locations in the city: a building on Main Street, the second floor of the maintenance garage on Powers Drive and, finally, to the current workshop on George Street.

Sets were built on Saturdays and Sundays and the performances were on Mondays and Tuesdays. There were also workshops and they were formidable productions: STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE and TEAHOUSE of the AUGUST MOON. Several of the public productions Nora Ann mentioned were: STALAG 17, MR. ROBERTS, WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION AND DEATH OF A SALESMAN.

During this time frame, NKCT had 200 patrons versus the 65 we average today; community theatre was obviously in its "hey day" in the Greater New Kensington Area. Richard Devlin directed Nora Ann in the NKCT production of LIGHT UP THE SKY. Following the production of "TRUE WEST," NKCT lost patrons because of the language used in this play.

Avant garde plays were performed during the summer and people came from Pittsburgh to enjoy the productions at the church on Kenneth Avenue in New Ken. One of the most memorable plays would have had to have been "WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF;" Nora Ann and her husband, Stephen, portrayed Martha and George.

So, there you have it! A vignette of the early history of NKCT.

Thank you, Nora Ann, for sharing your memories and NKCT history.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Ansani