

The Big News...

The Circus is coming to town! Circus Smirkus that is! Their performances are at Fountain Park on Friday July 30th (1:00 & 7:00) and Saturday July 31st (2:00 & 7:00). We encourage you all to attend one or more of their performances. These are young people from the ages of 12-18 who are trained in the circus arts and spend their summers touring New England with the circus. We may also be putting together a group of WSYT'ers to see the show. Stay tuned for more details on that next week! Information about their performances is available on their website - http://smirkus.org/htm/tickets/ma_wilbraham. The sponsors of Circus Smirkus are also in search of families who would be willing to house 2 of the performers in their homes for the evenings they are in town. Contact Lynne Quintin at quintin@stcc.edu if you are able to do this. They arrive on July 29th and would stay through the 31st.

This week in WSYT

Tuesday we revealed the play Barnum to the whole company by viewing a DVD of the London production starring Michael Crawford. It was our first WSYT Movie Night – sure to become a new tradition. It was also planned fortuitously to coincide with the record breaking heat wave!

Wednesday night was company night and Thursday we began our first rehearsal for our Sharing Night preview number.

WSYT Events

Sharing Night will be here before we know it – this year it's on a Wednesday night (July 21). Don't miss it!

And another "gentle" reminder – **we're still missing a lot of Field Trip forms** – please make every effort to bring them in next week.

Next week in WSYT

Monday – Principal rehearsal at WUC – *see*

schedule on back for required attendance

Tuesday – Workshop Night – Split Companies

Wednesday – Barnum Rehearsal

Thursday – Workshop Night – Split Companies

Director's Notes

Now that casting is complete, the real work begins! Our first priority is One Brick at a Time so we can preview it at Sharing Night. And Monday rehearsals begin next Monday, July 12. Monday rehearsals are **7:00 – 9:30 at Wilbraham United Church**. Sometimes you will only be needed for part of the night, so watch times closely. Mondays allow principal singers to learn their music and blocking/choreography so we can devote our regular WSYT nights to the larger numbers and scenes. Later on, Mondays are used to work on specific numbers or with specific ensembles to tweak and fine-tune things. **The schedule for Monday rehearsals appears in the callboard each week so be sure to read it to know when you are needed!**

Company Chat

This week in Junior Company we took a stroll through some theatre history and learned about VAUDEVILLE and the concept of punctuating words with movements. And we learned what SCHTICK is and how it plays in BARNUM!

Senior Company continues to work its way through Viewpoints, focusing on Repetition, Spatial Relationship, Shape, and Gesture. We learned how simply changing the distance between actors or pitting one against many can suddenly change the dynamic of a simple scene. We also discovered what can happen when we stop thinking of "gesture" as being only with our hands, but with everything from our eyebrows to our toes.

Advanced Acting (AA) has been working on a little bit of self exploration this summer on top of our acting work – so we spent a time in arts and crafts designing frames for our portraits. It always helps to have a true sense of yourself before you have to transform into another person for the stage.

Volunteers' Update

Our Set Crew will be working just about every night putting together scenery, painting etc. Please plan to be there and help out whenever possible. There's a lot to accomplish and it's always a lot more fun if it's done earlier rather than later!

Our costume Crew will meet again on Wednesday next week, July 14th.

Just a reminder to our Parent Volunteers to watch The Callboard for weekly updates on our work progress. You can also check the Staff Blog on our website. Work dates will also be posted there. And if you are a volunteer who wants to get the word out to others you can email Deb at dtrimble@massmutual.com before Thursday morning to have information added to The Callboard.

Whoops!

We printed the wrong number to order Barnum tickets last week – the correct number is (413)592-0928.

Humbug of the Week - The Brick Man

Barnum knew the power of mystery. An unemployed man came to his museum and asked Barnum for a job. Barnum handed the man five bricks and instructed him to solemnly place the bricks in various places around the outside of the museum. As he went from spot to spot, he was to replace the brick at each spot with another one that he was carrying. He was to answer no questions, speak to no one, and seem to be deaf and dumb. Once an hour, he was to enter the museum, walk right next to the ticket taker, seem to pay the fee, and then proceed through the museum and out the door. A crowd began to form, watching the man and wondering what he was doing. Many of the crowds followed him into the museum just to see what was going on. In fact, the police had to ask Barnum to stop the man, because the crowds that he was creating were stopping traffic. *(Courtesy of the PTbarnum.org website)*

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Monday Rehearsal Schedule for July

This Monday, July 12 - 7:00

Anthony Y
Olivia
Nick (done at 8:30)
Amber (done at 8:30)

Monday, July 19

Kassi
Nick (vocal first, then choreography with Dina)
Amber
Anthony Y

Monday, July 26

Sarah H.
Colin G, Michael, Meghan, and Celine
Colby
Anthony Y.

August Mondays TBD

Carolyn's Chit Chat

It was soooo hot this week, wasn't it!? One of the things you learn as a working actor is that no matter what – the show must go on! I've been in shows where actors are sick, or injured and still they continued with their performance. It's surprising what you can get through with a little perseverance (and maybe a bottle of cold "wet" water!) At WSYT we have traditionally worked through heat and humidity – in full costume and under the hot stage lights. This is just a little bit of advance training!

Did you know?

July 5, 2010 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of PT Barnum! How cool is it that we're producing BARNUM this year! His hometown of Bridgeport, CT planned a big celebration to mark the occasion and then two weeks ago, a tornado blew through Bridgeport, leaving the museum with serious damage – broken windows and glass and debris throughout the exhibition areas. But in true show-must-go-on fashion, many hands pitched in to make sure all was repaired (somewhat) in time to honor Bridgeport's favorite son on his birthday. The celebration featured entertainment, special exhibits, live music, circus clowns, stilt walkers and a huge cake big enough to feed 500 people. AND Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus donated \$10,000 to the museum to help them continue to educate and entertain! Happy Birthday, Mr. Barnum!