

## The Big News...

Our circus training has already begun! Anthony (our Barnum) spent his first two training sessions learning to walk a wire – we're renaming him "Tenderfoot" – as his first session was done barefoot! He's becoming quite the expert. Other training sessions are being planned for most of the group – check the details below! And of course the most exciting thing on the horizon is that next Wednesday is Sharing Night! Family and Friends are invited to come check out what we've been working on.

## WSYT Events

**Sharing Night** will be held in the gym on Wednesday night (July 21). We begin at 7:00 and are looking forward to "sharing" with family!

Any parent who is interested in attending CARNIVAL at The Goodspeed Opera House with us on the field trip should let Kyle know. We have space available and will be looking to sell our extra tickets. And of course we do still want all of the Field Trip forms returned to make sure we're not missing any WSYT'eer to intends to go on the trip.

## Next week in WSYT

Monday – Principal rehearsal at WUC  
Anthony Y, Kassi, Amber, Nick (vocal first, then choreography with Dina)  
Tuesday – Workshop Night/Sharing Rehearsal  
Wednesday – Sharing Night!!  
Thursday – Barnum Rehearsal

## Volunteers' Update

Progress is being made! Scenery is starting to take shape in the cafeteria and our crew is hard at work making the world of the plan take shape. Come join us any WSYT night if you want to help.

Our costume Crew will meet again on Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and every WSYT night after that until the show. If you can help out please feel free to join us. No experience necessary!

## Director's Notes

While we're still focused on workshops and our company identities, we have begun some important rehearsal elements for BARNUM. First, we've been preparing a preview of One Brick at a Time for Sharing Night and our clowns have begun finding their identities. Our Monday rehearsals have begun with our principals learning their music. Be sure to check the Monday schedule to see when you're needed. We've also been working hard with Simply Circus to schedule our circus training! Our Barnum, Anthony, has already begun his tightwire work and according to Ginger, his instructor, he's a natural!

Next up, all of our Tumbler/Acrobats and our Clowns are heading to Newton for tumbling class on Friday evening, July 30. Also needed for that class are Colby, Nick and Anthony Y. Watch the Callboard for details about time. We're not sure of the time yet, but we'll let you know as soon as that is set up with Simply Circus. We are looking for one or two parents to help with driving the kids there and back, so please let us know if you're available!

Juggling class will be held here on a regular WSYT night later this summer. And a heads-up to our stilt walkers and understudies: your training will take place on a Tuesday or Thursday morning in mid-August. Again, we'll keep you posted on details as they develop.

So we're off and running and the summer is flying by! Remember to come on time, come prepared and be ready to work! Don't forget what you were asked to do this week – review your music for One Brick for Sharing Night and LEARN THE WORDS! If you're uncertain about notes, we can fix that when we're together, but you can certainly learn the words on your own after rehearsing it all together now!

## This week in WSYT

Tuesday and Thursday were spent in our individual company workshops – we're moving ahead quickly to get ready for Sharing! Wednesday we spent working on a number from BARNUM to share with everyone next week.

## Company Chat

This week in Junior Company we continued our exploration of pantomime and what make a character recognizable and believable. We also worked on our presentation for Sharing Night, putting all of our ideas on Barnum and BARNUM into a script and staging.

Senior Company is also rounding up their activities in preparation for Sharing.

Advanced Acting (AA) is wrapping up their presentations for Sharing with the use of some vintage theatre styles – as well as our self image exploration.

## Humbug of the Week - "There's a Sucker Born Every Minute"

P. T. Barnum is frequently affiliated with the famous quote "There's a sucker born every minute." History, unfortunately, has misdirected this quotation. Barnum never did say it. Here's the incredible story.

Mr. George Hull, a student of archeology and paleontology contemplated how to pull off a hoax. It seems that many an evangelist at the time had been preaching that there were giants in the earth. In June of 1868 Hull traveled back to Fort Dodge, Iowa where there was a gypsum quarry he had recalled seeing two years earlier. He had noticed that the dark blue streaks running through the soft lime rock resembled human veins. Realizing that its appearance was tailor-made for his hoax and it was easy to carve, he hired a group of quarry workers to cut off a slab measuring twelve feet long, four feet wide and two feet thick.

In November, Hull had his gypsum wrapped in canvas and shipped by rail to Chicago where he had hired a stone cutter to carve a giant. The instructions were to carve the giant as if it had died in great pain, and the final result was an eerie figure, slightly twisted in apparent agony, with his right hand clutching his stomach. All of the details were there; toenails, fingernails, nostrils, and so forth. The giant finished, Hull then had the figure shipped by rail to the farm of William Newell, his cousin, located near the town of Cardiff, New York. In the dead of night, Hull, Newell and his oldest son buried the giant between the barn and house. They were instructed to say nothing about it and that Hull would let them know in about a year of what the next stage was.

True to his word, one year after burying the giant, Hull sent word to his cousin on October 15, 1869, to start the next stage of the hoax. Newell hired two laborers to dig a new well and directed them to the

exact spot he wanted the well dug. Sure enough, well into the day, the two laborers rushed up to the house to announce their discovery: a giant turned to stone! The laborers and both Newells carefully excavated the area surrounding the giant.

News of this amazing discovery spread throughout the valley and soon thousands came every day. Among the visitors were clergymen, college professors and distinguished scientists. Before long, the expert's opinions split into two theories; one side claimed it was a true fossilized human giant and the other side pronounced it an authentic ancient statue. No one asserted that it was a fake!

About ten days after the discovery, and about the time the Cardiff Giant, as the papers had named it, started receiving national attention, Hull sold two-thirds interest in the giant for \$30,000 to a banker named David Hannum who moved the giant to an exhibition hall in Syracuse and raised the admission price to a dollar a head. Unknown to them, P. T. Barnum sent an agent to see the giant and make an assessment. The particular Sunday the representative saw the giant, the crowds were abnormally large -- about 3,000 people. The agent wired the news back to Barnum and Barnum instructed him to make an offer of \$50,000 to buy it. Hannum turned his offer down.

The Cardiff Giant was the most talked about exhibit in the nation. Rather than upping his offer, Barnum hired a crew of workers to carve a giant of his own. Within a short time, Barnum unveiled HIS giant and proclaimed that Hannum had sold Barnum the original giant and that Hannum was now displaying a fake! Thousands of people flocked to see Barnum's giant. It is at this point that Hannum -- NOT BARNUM -- was quoted as saying "There's a sucker born every minute." Hannum, still under the impression that HIS giant was authentic, was referring to the thousands of "fools" that paid money to see Barnum's fake and not his authentic one.

Hannum brought a lawsuit against Barnum for calling his giant a fake. When it came to trial, Hull stepped forward and confessed that the Cardiff Giant was a hoax. The judge ruled that Barnum could not be sued for calling Hannum's giant a fake since it was a fake after all. (courtesy of R. J. Brown – History Buff.com)

