



# Backstage at the Opera House

## The House At Pooh Corner ~ a perfect show for your children

Great news for children of all ages! The Horizon Youth Theatre will be presenting the delightful story..

### THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER

...October 1st through October 3rd! Directed by F. Scott Regan and Alisa Cutcher, this light-hearted play is perfect for kids and grandkids alike.

Based on the classic stories of A.A. Milne, the play follows the adventures of Christopher Robin and his friends as they try to convince his parents not to send him to school! Meanwhile, a new critter has arrived in the forest, the terribly hungry "Tigger". Yes..."Winnie the Pooh and Tigger" are in the show!

This years production is made up of very talented students from Bowling Green Junior High, St. Al's Junior High, Conneaut, Kenwood and Crim Elementaries in Bowling Green, Frank Elementary of Perrysburg, Solomon Lutheran of Woodville and Otsego High School. **Mackenzie Cherry** of Pemberville Elementary is also in the cast!

Treat your kids and GRANDKIDS to this fun-filled show.

Performances are:

**October 1st @ 7:30 pm**

**October 2nd @ 7:30 pm**

**October 3rd @ 2 pm**

Admission is \$8 per seat. Tickets can be purchased at Beeker's General Store in Pemberville-419-287-3274 or at the door.

Patrons needing assistance up the stairs are encouraged to come 30 minutes prior to curtain.

In the past the Pemberville Opera House has been proud to have hosted two other Horizon Youth Theatre productions, MISS LILLIAN and THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER. The BGSU Department of Theatre has a long history of presenting plays for young people and training students in developmental drama. HYT came about thanks to the efforts of concerned parents who wished their children would have the chance to act and dance, as well as the leadership of Dr. F. Scott Regan and Dr. JoBeth Gonzalez, director of BGSU Drama Department.

We join organizations like the ClaZel Theatre and the Wood County Public Library in hosting this talented group of young actors.

### Eastwood and Historical Society sponsor

The Pemberville-Freedom Area Historical Society along with Eastwood Schools will be sponsoring additional performances of THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER on October 1st for Eastwood's 1st and 2nd Graders!

Sponsoring educational events for our local youth is a very important part of the original mission of the Historical Society, and we are very pleased that the young actors of the show wish to demonstrate their acting abilities for their fellow classmates.

The Guild feels it is important to expose our youth to as much of the Arts as possible—and as the years go on, we will be planning even more of these special events!

If you have an idea for a children's event, magic show or musical performance tailored to children, feel free to share your ideas with Anne Michel at 419-287-4727.

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#### Special points of interest:

- *HOUSE AT POOH CORNER, Oct. 1 & 2 at 7:30 pm; October 3 at 2:00 pm in the Pemberville Opera House*
- *October 23, Pemberville's Autumn Fest on the River 9-5 pm, "Don't Get Sassy" performance at 11, 12, 1, 2 & 3 pm at Pemberville Opera House*
- *Nov. 27, Festival of Trees 10-4 pm at the Pemberville Opera House*

## “Don’t Get Sassy” Performance At Autumn Fest

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Performing at the Opera House this October during the Autumn Fest is **DON’T GET SASSY!** Directed by Kathy Barnes, this fun, rootin’-tootin’ western comedy was a great hit two years ago at the Historical Society’s *Black Swamp Saloon* event at the American Legion Hall.

Many of the talented cast members are returning to reprise their roles for this special performance! Doug Ruck will play the part of the Sassafrass Kid, the stranger who takes the role of the helpful deputy. Mike Coon plays the sheriff who has great confidence in his new deputy to “at least out last the other deputies before him”. Kent McClary plays the frazzled banker who runs in to announce that “the bank’s been robbed”. In addition to Ruck and

McClary, Ken Finley as the card player who will help if “he can only find his gun” while Mitch Freeman, our Brother Tranquility, tries to watch over his flock. Our talented singers include, Teresa Bock and Carrie Sanderson, as the dancehall girls. Finally, our talented ensemble rounds out the cast: Dale David, Jodi and Jaime Barnes, Jacob Brockschmidt and Mike Gebauer.

With the help of Cindy Lohrbach and her crew, we’ll be adding some “western flavor” to the Opera House. Cindy and other creative artists drew several cartoon “westerners” to enjoy around the House.

Shows will be every hour beginning at 11 am through 3 pm. Admission is FREE, but a suggested donation of \$1 will be welcome!

## Wedding Bells and More

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### Wedding Bells in the Opera House

In the 1920’s and 30’s, the Opera House was used for everything from musical revues to corn husking contests. Over the past three years, the Opera House has hosted a wide variety of special events, Broadway-style musical revues, patriotic and historic docu-dramas, comedies, and much more.

Did you know that there have been weddings in the old theatre? On September 25th the tradition continues with the wedding of Ms. Erin Davies to Peter Schaefer. Erin is the daughter of Nigel and Trudy Davies of Pemberville. Congratulations to the happy couple! To book the House for your special event, contact Todd Sheets at 419-287-3274.

### News from the Guild

Restoration Team ~our talented restoration team is currently constructing new sets of stairs to the stage which will make it easier for the performers to get on and off the stage.

Artistic Team ~are brainstorming the schedule for 2005 with the rest of the team members.

House Team ~recently cleaned and prepared the Opera House for the winter season.

Financial Team ~reports that finances are in good order at this time. Although, donations toward utilities, shows and restoration would be greatly appreciated.

## Fall News from Past/Present Performers

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**Carrie Sanderson** (Gershwin, Porter, Loesser, PATRIOTS OF FREEDOM) had a baby girl, Lindsay Sanderson, born this past summer (now Katie has a sister!)...**Dale David** (PATRIOTS OF FREEDOM, MOMMA’S BOYS) is busy working with PasticciOhio, a local community theatre on their next production, *SOUTHERN FRIED MURDER*, a dinner theatre comedy on November 12 & 13...**Jody Madaras** (Gershwin, Porter, Loesser, PATRIOTS OF FREEDOM) is heading to the Florida Rep in Ft. Myers performing in *SURVIVAL GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS*...**Camille Dierksheide** lives

and works in Washington DC...**Kent McClary** (MOMMA’S BOYS,) is preparing for a performance in the Black Swamp Players production of *CHRISTMAS TUNA*...**Eastwood High School** will be performing Irving Berlin’s patriotic musical comedy *CALL ME MADAM* in April under the direction of Anne Michel and Jody Madaras...**Kate Guyton** (Loesser) is teaching acting at the NYU in New York...**Marc Kessler** (Loesser) continues performing with the “Rhythm Kings” and Tommy Tune...Music Legend **Jimmie Rodgers** has moved to California, perhaps he wants to make a recording comeback?

# Opera House Stories

By Kathy Barnes

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It stands at the corner of Front and Main Streets, this beautiful red building, with the sunlight gleaming off the windows. For over 113 years the Historic Opera House has been the focal point of Pemberville's "high society". It housed wrestling matches, basketball games, graduations, quilting bees, weddings and much more. Sadly in the 1940's the attraction of these houses started to wane and then the "talking movies" became more popular and telephones more prevalent so gatherings were not needed as much. In the 1940's it was used more for storage and started to go into a sharp decline.

I remember as a young person growing up in Pemberville wondering what the upstairs looked like. I still remember it as the Pemberville Library before it became the Village offices. In the 1970's a group of dedicated "historians" saved the town hall from being torn down. They rallied together and went to the council and fought to preserve this beautiful building.

In the 1990's at one of the Autumn Fest events the upstairs was open for tours, finally after many years of wondering about the upstairs I got to see what was up there. As I walked upstairs for the first time I was overwhelmed with the thought that this build-

ing had been here for over 100 years and that my ancestors had walked up these stairs too. However, as I walked into the hall I was...well, stunned, by the condition of this once magnificent Opera House. Paint was peeling, water had brought down parts of the ceiling and stained the walls. The lighting was a few bare light bulbs and there were "bats in the attic" (for real). But all I could see was what this once beautiful house must have truly looked like in 1892.

I was one of the lucky ones that joined a group of dedicated volunteers (there were many throughout the years from 1970 on) who received a grant from the State of Ohio to start the restoration. We began in 1998 and on October of 1999 we reopened the house. Underneath all that white-wash paint the original colors and designs were still very prominent. We were able to copy the stencil designs and colors and it was truly restored to the look of 1892. The beautiful fresco ceiling was totally painted by volunteers and after a year was sealed for preservation.

Thanks to the strong spirit of our volunteers we can truly enjoy this beautiful Opera House!

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## History Comes Alive

It was January 1890 when the proposition to build a town hall was adopted by council, but it wasn't until 1891 that the votes were cast in favor of the project. The contract to build was awarded to Alex Dawson with a bid of \$6083.75. Of course, the cost did go over some, but finally on July 5, 1892 the council took possession of the hall. It wasn't dedicated until October of 1892 and opened for business. In 1931, Clara Augusta wrote "The first production in the Opera House was **Jephthah and His Daughter** in 1893".

As the years went by during the 1940's it became storage until

1998 when volunteers began restoration, not remodeling, but restoring the grand old house. Finally after the dedication in 1999 our first show, in the newly restored house, was a Gershwin musical revue, which was sold out. Following that has been more sold out revues, outstanding plays and piano recitals. Join us in continuing the dream of community theatre and historic events.

*Share your stories of the Opera House! Write them down and send them to Kathy...*

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## On the Mailing List?

If you would like to be on the mailing list of the Opera House Guild "Backstage at the Opera House" just send in your address to PFAHS, Box 802, Pemberville, OH 43450.

Thanks for your patronage at past Opera House events!





**PEMBERVILLE-FREEDOM AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 802  
Pemberville, OH 43450  
Phone: 419-287-3274

***Pemberville's Historic  
Opera House***

We're on the Web!  
[www.pembervillelibrary.org/pemlinks/historical/newsletters](http://www.pembervillelibrary.org/pemlinks/historical/newsletters)

Upcoming Events

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***Pemberville's Upcoming Events:***

***"Don't Get Sassy"*** ~ During this year's Autumn Fest, the Opera House will host the rootin'-tootin' Western comedy, "Don't Get Sassy". Catch one of the shows on October 23 beginning at 11, 12, 1,2, & 3 pm. Sit back and watch as the well-meaning townfolks try to catch the bank robber with the fuchsia saddle! Free but donations will be welcome!

The **Festival of Trees**, Saturday & Sunday, November 27-28, will feature holiday musicians, beautiful holiday trees and more. This year will feature "the tea room", a selection of light refreshments downstairs in the council chambers.

Bring your best voices and join us for the **Village Tree Lighting** service in front of the Town Hall, on Sunday, November 28 at 6:30 pm

Mark your calendar for **Christmas in the Village**, on November 27 & 28. Enjoy the day

shopping, trying tasty candies and old fashioned wagon rides!

**Candlelight Tour of Homes** will be held December 4-5. Don't miss the chance to see these beautiful decorated homes! Tickets are \$9 and available by calling 419-287-4012, at the Pemberville Public Library.

**Become a sponsor**

Have you seen the shows at the Opera House and wondered how you can help support events? Here's how you can help: In the past the Opera House Guild has produced plays, musical revues, recitals, art and wedding gown displays you see each year. The Guild has been very proud of the support and volunteers that have helped to make this all possible. The best way you can help is to sponsor a show or just to contribute to the Opera House Fund, please mail to Opera House Fund %PFAHS, Box 802, Pemberville, OH 43450. If you have ideas for a show or event write or call Anne Michel at 419-287-4727 or email