



## Director, Kelly Jeremiason Speaks “Wonkanese”

### CVFT: The Legend

#### Part III

So, as the legend goes, someone remarked the now famous remark – “Hey, let’s put on a show!” And they did – a review of sorts, celebrating the big numbers of various musicals of the time. And Jan Baker smiled. It was somewhere during the performance that Jan noticed how wonderful it was to be putting on a musical while at the same time enjoying the raucous din of dozens of screaming children. “We should form a theater group,” she thought, “one that includes all the various family members.” “And, we’ll call it, “Jonathan Family Theater” said the man wearing the curly red wig. But, of course, that name was run aground just like the old showboat and, instead, “Chaska Valley Family Theater” was born. And it was good. And the first show they produced was called, “Annie”, and among its many stars was the curly red wig, thankfully worn by someone other than the man who found it in the old trunk that belonged to the “Princess” who sang the arias up and down the Minnesota River so long ago.

#### THE END Encore Staff

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Wuzzle Answer: Downstage ... Duh.

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

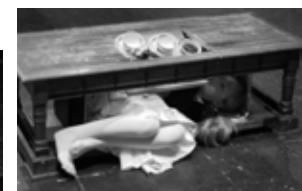
WILLIE WONKA.....	1
CINDERELLA FAREWELL.....	2
2012 SEASON.....	3
COMMUNITY NEWS.....	4
CHAT ROOM.....	4
CURTAIN CALL.....	5
DRAGONFLY CAMP.....	5
THE PIT.....	6
ACCC NEWS.....	7
COME PLAY WITH US.....	7
DONORS .....	7
2011 BOARD MEMBERS.....	8
THE LEGEND OF CVFT, PART III .....	8

CVFT proudly brings Charlie Bucket, Veruca Salt, Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee and the Candy Man himself to the Chaska High School stage in Roald Dahl’s “Willy Wonka”. Come tour the crazily colorful, mysteriously remarkable, wonderfully inventive world of Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory.

The shows run July 28th through August 7th with a cast of all ages. Auditions are to be held May 16th & 17th with callbacks on May 19th. Check out cvft.org for more detailed audition information. We will be looking for actors, dancers, singers, and even flyers. Yes, FLYERS! ZFX Flying will help us to launch a few good cast members right off the stage.

We look forward to you participating from on the stage, behind the stage or from the audience. Either way, you won’t want to miss CVFT’s presentation of Roald Dahl’s “Willy Wonka”.

Kelly Jeremiason - Artistic Director



## CVFT JOINS ACCC

At their April meeting, CVFT Board of Directors voted to join as an organizational member the newly formed Arts Consortium of Carver County (ACCC). The origins of the ACCC reach back to a time prior to the construction of the Chanhassen High School when community and business leaders gathered with District staff to help guide decisions around the planning of the theatre as a community resource. As the conversations grew it became clear, that with tightening District budgets, the arts community needed to be creative in supporting their mission. The ACCC emerged, not simply an advocate for the Arts in our community, but as a powerful collaboration between individuals, organizations and businesses.

By sharing resources, everyone gains. CVFT has gained with a stronger relationship with the District, larger theatres to accommodate the growth in tickets sales, and the higher quality lighting and sound resources available in those facilities. In the past, it was nearly impossible to schedule a performance at the high school. With a growing awareness of the importance of collaboration, the District has experienced the benefits as well.

As an organizational member, CVFT can pass along the benefit of membership in the ACCC. All CVFT members, at no cost, will have the ability to "opt-in" as members of ACCC, a \$35-50 value to CVFT members. Details will follow.

*Robert Braudt, CVFT Board Member*

## COME PLAY WITH US!

CVFT is a non-profit organization and largely self-sustaining. That is, it is able to pay its overhead expenses and produce a show with the monies - ticket sales participation fees, and the occasional grant - it makes from the previous show. Also, CVFT has been blessed with the generosity of donors, individuals, families and organizations that for a variety of reasons, see this theater group as a valuable asset to the quality of their lives and the life of their community. Add to this CVFT's partnership with the Arts Consortium of Carver County and District 112 schools it is now possible for us to have access to a variety of stages on which to mount our shows.

I am in my first year as President of Chaska Valley Family Theatre, a position I cannot quite get used to but one that I cherish. The people I work and play with are some of the kindest, most energetic folks a person could wish for as friends and colleagues, and more fun than a standing ovation. I never was much of a golfer and putting around my garden made me feel older than my years so when I retired from the business world back in 2004 the future loomed a bit dark around the edges. Getting a chance to play the role of Scrooge in CVFT's production of "A Christmas Carol" in 2005 changed everything. Suddenly all the things I loved doing - art, writing, composing, acting, directing, sharing my life with young-thinking people of all ages - was handed me with that first script. The last six years have been some of the best of my life.

So this is an invitation to anyone who ever thought they might like to paint bricks on a backdrop, play an instrument in a pit, light a stage, dance in a chorus, or get in touch with their own inner-Scrooge: COME PLAY WITH US! We are Community, Ventures, Family and Teaching. We are Chaska Valley Family Theatre and we can always use another playmate.

*C.E. Title, President CVFT*

### CVFT DONORS

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*To make a donation please visit <http://cvft.org/donate.htm>*

### "Ten Minutes Ago..."

Months of preparation and rehearsal...  
Days of performances...  
Hours to dismantle...  
The post-show void!



It all goes by so quickly, but the memories remain. If asked for happy *Cinderella* memories, the cast will mention some of those "the show must go on" moments - Cinderella having to be sewn into her ball gown because the zipper broke - someone's microphone refusing to work so that one had to be borrowed, in a not-so-gentle fashion, from another cast member. Stories of a magical table elf (or an emergency last-minute replacement table elf). All of these stories told with a smile and a hint of wistfulness.

One of the best things about being in a Chaska Valley Family Theatre production is the FAMILY that forms among the cast and crew. Those relationships continue long after the last costume has been put into storage. I've been privileged to appear on the CVFT stage three times, and now I've had the opportunity to take the role of director. With every production my theatre family has grown.

Old friends, new friends... all now family

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY HUANG

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# THE PIT



What goes on beneath the stage is every bit as crucial to our performances as what happens onstage. The contributions of musicians who give of their time and talents to community theater organizations are too often overlooked. Over the years CVFT has benefited greatly from an ever-changing group of dedicated souls who practice their art for little reward other than the camaraderie of like-minded people and the knowledge that they are influencing younger generations to pursue music careers. With great respect Chaska Valley Family Theatre salutes these artists for helping the rest of us dance and sing and bask in applause on the boards above.



Photos By  
Kelly Morton  
& Jay Huang

### CINDERELLA ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

Drew Hasty, Alice Title, Aaron Pratt, Katie Rathburn, Laura Hale, Gayle Godfrey, Deb Perry, Lisa Mueller, Kristen Lindbald, Steve Dahl, Patrick Gefre, Colleen Albani, Stephanie Bruggman, Becky Wietecha, Jeremy Koenen, Max Shinn, Johanna Bachmann, Bill Coldwell, Kristie Hatterschide, Mark Perry, Doug Schanzenbach, Virginia Miller, Alex Maiers

# CVFT PRESENTS The 2012 Season

## HOLIDAY 2011



Musical comedy right out of mid-20th century USA with very hummable, very sing-able Irving Berlin songs. The dancing, romancing, and good old fashioned patriotism will make you want to stand up and salute. Directed by veteran showman, **Bill "hit your mark" Coldwell**, "White Christmas, the musical" as staged by Chaska Valley Family Theatre hits the Chanhassen High School stage in December, 2011. Be prepared to be dazzled by the nostalgic spirit of this show and its wonderfully memorable songs – "White Christmas", "Blue Skies", "Sisters" and many, many more. Even if you weren't around in the 1940's, we promise you will leave tap dancing your way into the holidays.

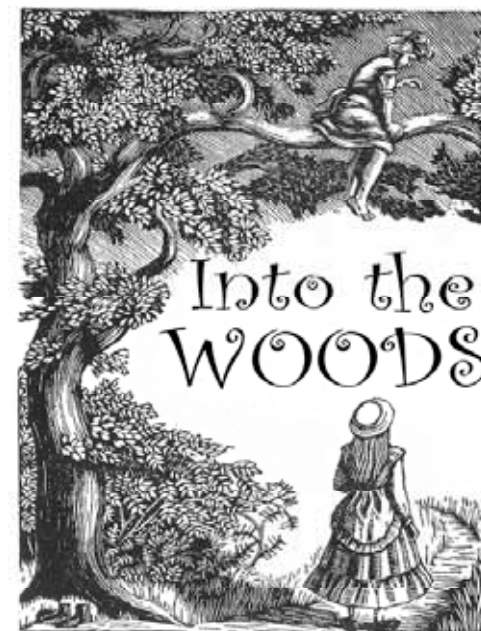
## SPRING 2012

"Consider yourself one of the family" - CVFT is excited to present the musical version of the Dickens' classic "Oliver!" with music, lyrics, and book by Lionel Bart. Opening in March 2012, this winner of three Tony awards features outstanding musical numbers including "Food, Glorious Food", "I'd Do Anything", "Where is Love?", and "Consider Yourself". **Colleen Herzog** returns to the CVFT director's chair for this production with a large cast that will be sure to please audiences of all ages. All shows will be performed at Chaska High School Theater.



## SUMMER 2012

*"Into the woods and down the dell;  
The path is straight; I know it well;  
Into the woods and who can tell  
What's waiting on the journey?"*



Indeed, the journey through Stephan Sondheim's fairy tale masterpiece is one of magic and mystery, great beauty and rollicking hilarity. Based on the famous tales of the Brother's Grimm – *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and others – "Into the Woods" purports to offer what might have happened to all our heroes after all the happy-ever-afters. Directed by District 112 teacher and drama coach, **Jim Lund**, "Into the Woods" will take you on a journey like none other. All shows are to be presented at the Chaska Community Center theater.



### SOUND TECHNIQUES

February 15, 2011 - CVFT Sound Director Tom Kocka and Auditorium Manager Barry Nelson conduct a "sound seminar" along with the expert help of Jim Christenson, Technical Director for Sauk Rapids-Rice High School and Two Rivers Community Theatre and his son, Jon Christenson, the Assistant Technical Director and Lighting Designer for the same organizations. Also attending were Andrew Hasty, Karen Stauber, Bill Coldwell and Do-Gooder, Amy Huang.



### HOOKED ON BOOKS



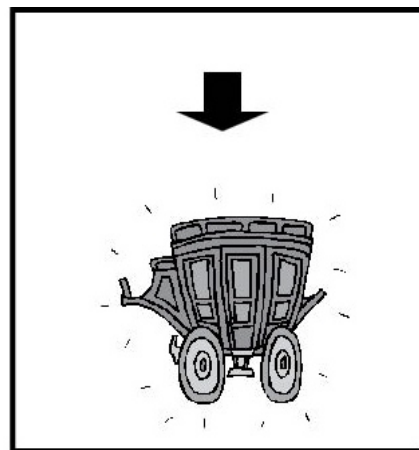
February 19, 2011 - Members of the cast and crew of "Cinderella" participated in District 112's annual "Hooked on Books" program at Chaska High School. Cast members performed numbers from the musical while others read stories to the young attendees.



**CHANHASSEN 2011 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**  
The 4th of July Parade Committee, headed up by the CVFT Do-Gooders International is proud of their participation in this Chanhassen Rotary-sponsored event. The last four years have resulted in the CVFT float being awarded prizes in various categories, many of which were themed around up-coming summer shows. This year will be no different when the streets of Chan resound with the happy chants of Oompah Loompahs as the production of "Willie Wonka" is announced. Anyone wanting to be a part of the fun and Americana that is this great parade, please contact cvft.org.

**2011 RIVER CITY DAYS**  
Plans are underway for a new and improved booth at Chaska's annual River City Days festival which takes place July 29, 30 and 31. "Volunteers to work the booth are needed as CVFT's production of "Willie Wonka" opens that same weekend and the regular booth staffers could be a bit stretched," said Do-Gooder Amy Huang. "And besides, it's really a lot of fun with lots activities for the whole family."

**DoGooder WUZZLE**  
Here is the first of a regular feature of the Encore. Try to guess the theater term hinted at by the picture below.



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**Do-Gal:** Did you see CVFT has a new "Twitter" account?  
**Do-Guy:** A what?  
**Do-Gal:** "Twitter." Like a "blog" thing.  
**Do-Guy:** OK. What's it for?  
**Do-Gal:** For our adoring public to stay in constant contact with us.  
**Do-Guy:** "Constant Contact?" Who needs that?  
**Do-Gal:** So we can be relevant. All the cool theaters, whoops, I mean THEATRES have one.  
**Do-Guy:** So, have we heard from our "adoring public" on our twitter-blog thing?  
**Do-Gal:** Jessie wrote something.  
**Do-Guy:** She's your daughter! ...and secretary on our board of directors.  
**Do-Gal:** These things take time, Do-Guy. I'm sure people will respond. Some day.  
**Do-Guy:** So what you're saying is, "If we post it they will come?"  
**Do-Gal:** And with *Willie Wonka* coming up, the digital air waves will be a-quiver with messages.  
**Do-Guy:** I hear Kelly intends to "fly" some people in this show.  
**Do-Gal:** Really. Do you think Handsome Andrew will be back to help us?  
**Do-Guy:** Who?  
**Do-Gal:** This really cool Las Vegas ZFX guy who helped us fly "Peter Pan."  
**Do-Guy:** He flew "Peter Pan?"  
**Do-Gal:** ... and me.  
**Do-Guy:** He flew YOU?  
**Do-Gal:** Well, and others as well.  
**Do-Guy:** Like who? Tammy Riesgraf?  
**Do Gal:** Who?  
**Do-Guy:** Tammy Riesgraf. She's on our Board of Directors.  
**Do-Gal:** Well, it's about time!



## CURTAIN CALL



Behind every great performance there is a great mentor – the person who taught you to move your fingers up and down the scales, to sing to the back of the house, to perform a perfect pirouette, the person who saw in you something special and was able to successfully encourage that talent. Chaska Valley Family Theater's success owes much to the good work of these dedicated teachers.

*"Get your Butt to the Bench"*  
-Dianne Prieditis

*Dianne Prieditis has spent her life teaching young people how to make music, both at the keyboard and with their voices. She and her husband, George, live in Chanhassen. They have three children and several grandchildren, most of whom are probably very musically inclined.*

**Encore:** So, where did the curtain open on the life of Diane Prieditis?

**DP:** I was born in the piano room, actually a spare bedroom, on a huge farm located between the towns of Waukon and Lansing, Iowa, in an area known as the "Switzerland of Iowa".

**Encore:** And was your family musical?

**DP:** Very musical, especially on my father's side. My older brother and sister both played instruments and the entire family loved to sing. I spent lots of time around the radio listening to shows like "The Hit Parade".

**Encore:** At what age did you discover music?

**DP:** I think I started lessons when I was about five. I took from Sister Mary Eleanor and the church organist at the Catholic school.

**Encore:** Was there a particular person who influenced you?

**DP:** My hero was my Aunt Mabel who used to accompany the silent movies at the Waukon movie theater.

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**Encore:** Do you remember your first piano recital?

**DP:** I remember that I played an arrangement of Grieg's, "To a Wild Rose". It was while I was taking lessons from the Sisters at the Catholic Church. Mostly I remember the Mickey and Minnie Mouse cake that they served after the recital.

**Encore:** When did you decide to teach?

**DP:** Generally, in those days a girl either got married, or chose a career as a secretary, a nurse, a hairdresser or a teacher. I went to the University of Dubuque and the University of Iowa at Iowa City, where I got my Master's Degree in Music Education.

**Encore:** Any memorable teaching moments?

**DP:** Actually, right now I have a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who comes to class with a great focus on music, even composing her own pieces. It's fun to find that kind of enthusiasm and talent in young people.

**Encore:** When did you get involved in musical theater?

**DP:** My first involvement was mostly in high school where I played piano for our productions. In the early 1970s I auditioned with the Chanhassen Civic Theater for a production of, "Annie Get your Gun". Some of the people I met at that time eventually helped start the "Chaska Valley Family Theater".

**Encore:** Yours has been such a musical life, singing with the Dale Warland Singers, music directing CVFT shows, working with "After Five" and the Chan-o-laires". Do you have any advice for a young person wanting to build a life around music?

**DP:** Sure. Get your butt to the bench!

**Dianne Prieditis** continues to teach piano and voice at her home studio in Chanhassen.

She can be reached at: Phone: 952-934-4737



### A SECOND CAMP PROPOSED

CVFT is considering the possibility of holding a second Dragonfly Theatre Camp for 2012 and will be surveying families to gauge the level of interest.

#### MEANWHILE...

*Andy Shuregate, Junebug McNeely, Mo Mo Sketti, Poppysed Lapinsky, Jericho Jackson and Gabby Martquz* are just a few of the Earthlings who will have a close encounter with *Sho Kay, Oh Kay, Snee Kay, Beau Kay and Par-Kay*, a few of the happy-go-lucky athletes from the Butterpie Galaxy who come to Medford, Minnesota in search of the prized Golden Orbie. Oh, and there are singing chickens as well. The songs are written and theater is booked for a fun week when **Dragonfly Camp** kicks off the summer with C.E. Title's new musical, "Race to Earth".

**When: June 20 - June 25 (2 shows, Sat. 25th 1:30 & 3:00)**

**Where: Chaska Community Center Theater  
Open to the public - FREE admission.**

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