

www.cvft.org  
**Encore**

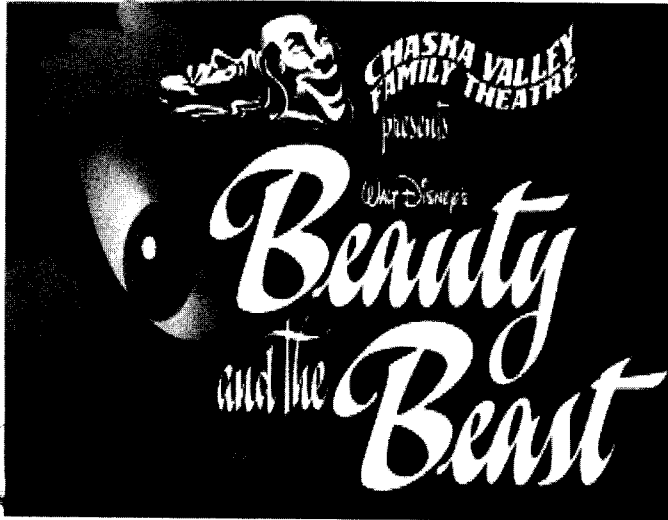
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*Providing opportunities for families to participate together in producing affordable, high-quality theatrical performances for the citizens of the Chaska valley region.*

## A Peek inside the Preparation for CVFT's "Beauty and the Beast"

by Robert Braudt, Artistic Director



**February 12, 14, 15, 16, 17,  
21, 22, 23, 24**

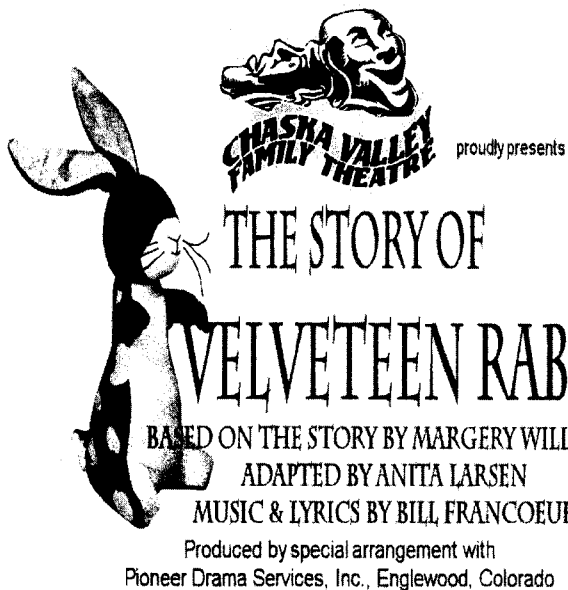
*All performances at the  
Chaska High School Theater*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Beauty and the Beast .....	1
Velveteen Rabbit.....	2
Cody's Corner.....	2
CVFT Celebrates Youth .....	3
Larry Schroeder .....	4,5
Technology Update .....	6
Sound Seminar.....	6
Beauty & the Beast Tickets.....	7

Peel back the layers of this timeless tale, and you will find a story, not much unlike your own, where in our desperate pursuit of happiness, we realize what is most important only when we are on the verge of losing it. Whether you are the Beauty, unhappy with her common life only to find uncommon love in the most unexpected of places; or you are the Beast, driven by his selfishness and vanity discovers his own salvation only when he is willing to make the greatest of sacrifices; or you are the servants in the castle, losing control over their own lives only to realize that their influence could change the course of events for all; you are part of the story.

It has been an absolute pleasure digging in to the story of "Beauty and the Beast!" For those who know me best, or have seen productions that I have directed in the past with CVFT, while we will stay true to the script and the story, we will bring our own twist to this stage production. For instance, consider a couple of questions behind the story: Did the Enchantress choose this Prince for a particular reason? Did she know he was selfish before her visit? If so, how did she know? If there is a prince, where are the King and the Queen? Where's Belle's mom? One of the surprises in our production will be the role played by the Enchantress. You will have to look close, because she might just pop up in other scenes along the way. Costumes, scenery, lighting and special effects will all come together to enhance the telling of the story. With over 100 people in the cast and performed on the stage at Chaska High School Theatre, "Beauty and the Beast" will be a production of epic proportions! Make sure to invite your friends and encourage them to purchase tickets well in advance. We are anticipating the performances will be sold out and we would hate seeing disappointed patrons of the performing arts! Tickets can be purchased online through [www.CVFT.org](http://www.CVFT.org), or traditionally utilizing the ticket order forms. We look forward to your feedback, and thank you...without your support, we would not be able to continue to bring quality family oriented theatrical experiences, both onstage and audience, to our community.



## Cody's Corner

### Light of Love

Hundreds of people go to a small window and purchase tickets to sit in a dark room across from strangers pretending to be people and things that they are not. When this pretending is over the people sitting proceed to push their hands together producing sounds of thunderous applause. What causes all of this noise and appreciation in a small dark room? It's because the love of the community watching collides with the love of the community on stage filling the room with light of love.

Hey Everybody! My name is Cody Braudt and I am the new Youth Representative for the CVFT Board of Directors and I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am. I remember 10 years ago being a five year old coming to Chaska for the first time because of my dad's job. He and I decided to audition for a production of Oliver at CVFT with no idea what we were getting ourselves into. What I now realize is I was getting myself involved in one of the best organizations in the Twin Cities area. Through this theatre company, I have made great memories, a love for theatre, a love for my community, life long family-like-friendships, and the opportunity to be involved in professional quality shows. The amazing people I have met here have helped me realize my passion for theatre and have molded me into the little light of theatre I am.

A month ago I attended a production of "A Special Trade" at The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. I was having a conversation with a staff member about an upcoming production and she asked me, "Which theatre company is this at?"

I proudly responded, "It's at Chaska Valley Family Theatre."

I was elated when she replied, "I can't even believe that they are a community theatre. The productions they put on are of professional quality and they are just great!"

WE ARE SEEN IN THE MINNESOTA THEATRE COMMUNITY! I owe so much to this organization, and I am glad I am getting the opportunity to give back as the Youth Representative! I started my journey over a decade ago as "Baby Bumble," expanded my experience as a technician, and now have the opportunity to be the ASSISTANT DIRECTOR in the upcoming production of "Beauty and the Beast!"

Lets make lots of light in 2008 at CVFT!

*"I hope the magic does come to you, Rabbit."*

*- Skin Horse*

From the littlest rabbit to the tallest tree, And every toy in the nursery, Andrew, Nana, the family too, Skin Horse and Velveteen, A big

### THANK YOU!

Just as fast as Velveteen turned from a plush stuffed animal into a real rabbit, so has our show come and gone. Nine shows in four days.

WOW! This could never have happened without such a wonderful cast and crew: the amazing talents on and off the stage. What wonderful sets, what amazing costumes, and what fantastic support from everyone in the true spirit of family theatre and the holiday season. Not only was this show magical onstage, but offstage as well with how smooth it all came together. We had wonderful visits from Santa Claus and incredible support from

The Library Foundation of Carver County, luncheons and book exchanges, and lots and lots of fun. It is a memory that I will not soon forget and I Thank You all for that.

Kelly Jeremiason – Director

"The Story of Velveteen Rabbit"

**"Perhaps all children remember. Good bye, children" - Velveteen Rabbit**

## **CVFT Bids a Fond Farewell to our 2007 Youth Representative Matt Huang**

The CVFT board is a great opportunity not only for a young actor but a young business person, philosopher or even tech support person. Being on the board has helped me explore the opportunities in theatre much more than just standing in the spotlight on stage. The young actor can find his/her niche by looking into the "new production workshop" and finding inspiration in brand new shows put on by the theatre. These shows may look at first odd and unpromising, but with insight into the author's mind and the vision of the director, one can see the deeper meanings and expression that helps one's understanding of scriptwriting and the overall acting experience. The young business person may be intrigued by the technical workings and economics behind supporting the community that we all know and love. The economics require care and meticulous planning to get the perfect wording, whether on a grant or in letters to the community center that hosts our many venues. The philosopher might be intrigued at the workings of a board and the democratic system that is portrayed through the "Motions" and "Seconding" that keep all the power checked. Finally the tech support person can look to our new website in awe, and wonder at how it was all put together. They would drool over the new ticketing system that is in the works. However great these things may be, the most important of all is the emphasis on family that permeates the very fabric of the organization. There is always a sense of how the kids can be involved with the shows and what a great experience it is for all of them. Now as I pass the mantle of student representative on to the next in line I can feel like I have truly gained experiences and lessons from my time on the CVFT board.



### **CVFT's Youth Bring New Life to our Productions**

CVFT has a long history of providing opportunities for the youth in our theater family to develop and share their talents on stage. Recently, however we have begun to give our youth the opportunity to share their gifts in the many technical areas of production that have, in the past, been filled only by adults. Our recent productions of *Tom Sawyer* and *The Story of Velveteen Rabbit* are prime examples. Anna Stauber (Gr 12) and Matt Huang (gr 11) stepped up to the plate and did an amazing job of choreographing some of the dances in last summer's production of *Tom Sawyer*. Megan McCloskey (gr 10), an experienced Irish Dancer, and Rachel Olson (gr 11), a member of Chaska High School's Dance Team, used their expertise to choreograph our Holiday production of *The Story of Velveteen Rabbit*. Jack Nebel (gr 9) served as the sound technician for our Holiday show. His ability to problem solve and remain calm when there were issues with the microphones, made him an invaluable asset to our technical team. In the upcoming production of *Beauty and the Beast*, Cody Braudt (gr 10) will serve as assistant director. Cody's vast stage experience will help him bring many exciting ideas to the *Beauty and the Beast* production team!

These young people have taken on an incredible challenge and proved that they are every bit as capable as adults. We are proud to have them as members of our growing production team!

## Larry Schroeder, one of "CVFT's Unsung Heroes"

The "unsung hero" is a strange little turn of phrase, but an especially fitting title when applied to one of our own here in community theater-land. CVFT's unsung heroes include the people who put in many hours on tasks that require skill, organization, logic, technology, and most important, *CRUNCHING NUMBERS!*

Larry Schroeder came on Board in 2002 as CVFT's second Treasurer. Founding Treasurer Mary Jo Williams was a firm believer in crunching the numbers the old-fashioned way, in neat columns, BY HAND. While doing finances that way worked for us in the first years, the need to update our system became a priority as we continued to grow. Larry inherited a great deal of work, including updating our tax exempt status, dealing with the IRS, going over schedules and bills, all the while trying to keep the artistic personnel from spending exorbitant amounts of money. He has been the little voice on the Board that whispers "*but do we really NEED that?*" and "*how are we going to pay for THAT?*" The voice of practicality is what I called it.

The Schroeder family has been a fixture at CVFT since its second production, "The Music Man" in 1996, when Larry made his CVFT stage debut as Mayor Shin. He has played many roles with us since then, as well as appearing in several Chaska Civic Theater productions. From my experience, Larry is truly a character, whether onstage, backstage, or at Board meetings (and I mean that in a GOOD way!) It is always fun to work and perform with him. Plus he is always around, checkbook in hand, to pay the bills when a show closes. What a guy!

Larry provides an excellent example of enjoying the onstage opportunities that CVFT provides, while giving back to the organization in services and skills and most importantly, time.

CVFT owes its existence to people like Larry, and on behalf of all our members and friends I would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service. The good news is that he is now considered a "charter" member of CVFT (a rare honor!) so I fully expect to see him around in the future, onstage and off!

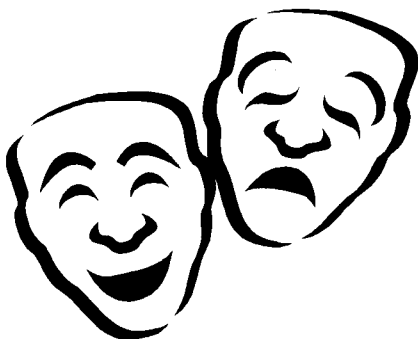
Paula Atkins  
President



## It's Not Really Good Bye.....

It has been my great pleasure to participate as an active member on the board for CVFT as the treasurer the past six years. I have watched a great many people put their heart and soul to bring great musicals to our area for the enjoyment of many. My role was to make sure the group was solvent and there were several times when the funds were pretty thin. But, we always prevailed and have even thrived statistically longer than most community theaters. I have watched as the 'bar' was raised a little higher at each production, while still affirming the idea that this is 'family' theatre. I have seen young actors who have now become professionals in their own right and have moved on to greater roles. I've seen people get the 'acting bug' and become great contributors in bringing our many productions to life on the stage. I would like to thank the wonderful people who have graciously contributed money to keep us stay solvent and helped pay for our many equipment needs. We are grateful to the community that came and saw our productions. This future looks bright for CVFT. Though my term as a board member has come to an end, it is my wish to still be an active participant in a small way to the future success of CVFT.

Larry Schroeder/ Treasurer



## We'll Miss You, Larry!

As editor of the Encore for the past 4 or 5 years (I've lost track), I have had the duty and pleasure of **stretching** 2 or three of Larry's sentences into a Treasurer's Report that would fill half a page. Larry, your tribute ALMOST fills your space. Just like your replacement... they will ALMOST fill your space. You have been a dear friend, protector and mentor to me, and I will miss you dearly.

Jane McCloskey

As Mr. Twain mentioned in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer ... "Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do ... Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do". Thanks Larry, for the good "Work" and the mighty fine "Play".

See ya, around.  
Charlie Title

When I asked Larry to be CVFT Treasurer, I told him we needed someone who was really good with numbers, and he said "Bill, there's three kinds of accountants in the world, those that can count, and those that can't." I never really figured out which kind Larry was. Happy retirement, Larry. Don't go too far.

Bill Coldwell

"Treasurer: It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it and you've done it well! Thanks Larry!" -

Paula Atkins

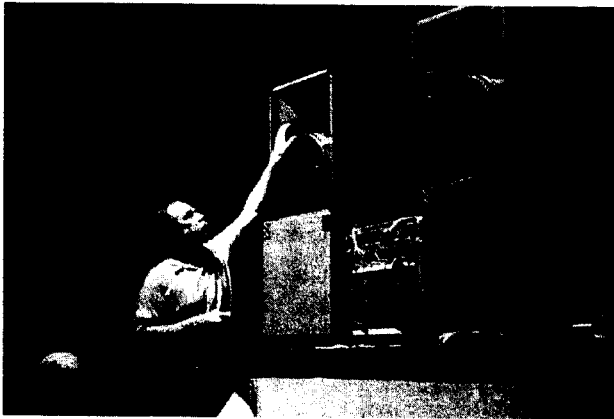
## Technology Update - Bill Coldwell

Ten years ago, in the early days of CVFT, if we told people we had a web site they'd say "yeah, so?" Fast forward to today, and if an organization doesn't have a web site, you have to ask if they are really committed to what they do.

And so it is with CVFT. We're committed to affordable, family-based community theater, and to make sure our audience knows this, we've developed a new and improved web site. The web-site task force (Joan Joyce, Dianne Strandberg, Robert Braudt, and myself) enlisted the services of Froom Studios to redesign the site with all the essential elements needed, but with a clean, uncluttered look. Take a minute to check it out at [www.cvft.org](http://www.cvft.org). You'll find information on upcoming shows & auditions, purchasing tickets, history, and how to get involved in CVFT. Tell your friends that [cvft.org](http://cvft.org) is the "go-to" place to "get connected" to CVFT!

While you're surfing, you may also notice you can now purchase tickets on line! This is a result of our partnership with Nova systems and Tix.com, a national e-ticketing service for small and mid-sized organizations.

Beginning with our production of *Beauty & the Beast*, you'll be able to select seats and pay by credit card for your tickets on-line. Of course, the old ways of ticket purchasing are still available - by phone or mail - but this gives people one additional, easy way to get tickets to see a CVFT production! Getting the new system up and running has been a big effort - thanks to Carrie Lindon for all her hard work!



### CVFT Hosts Sound Seminar

Last November, CVFT members were able to participate in a sound seminar, hosted by Mike Eder, Pastor of Chaska Moravian Church. Mike, and experienced sound technician and long time Chaska resident, generously shared his expertise with CVFT veteran sound techies, as well as some of our talented youth. Thank You Mike for an informative and exciting day!



### Upcoming Season

Beauty and the Beast  
Garage Sale  
Quilters