

January 2015

Spotlight on BJ Winchester



BJ Winchester has been painting sets for BLT since director Jim Robinson gave her an opportunity to paint the Civil War desert scene in *Southern Hospitality*. Her interest in theatre began in high school when she was the student director of the high school senior play.

BJ is no stranger to performing. She sang the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as her Grape Queen contest performance and performed in an aerobic dance routine during

college. She was in the high school marching band and was co-captain of the majorettes.

BJ has a BS in communications and graduated summa cum laude in 2009 with her second degree in Information Technology. She enjoys painting with acrylics and recently made her first attempt at oil painting. She designed and maintains BLT's sister/new website at www.brevardlittletheatre.net. She also designed and graphically produced the recently released 80th season brochure. She has two sons, ages 26 and 23, but no grandchildren yet!

Exciting New Season Ahead!

By now you should have received your 2015 season brochure in the mail. If not, call or email the theatre and we will send you one. You can also check out the season offerings on our websites. (See last page of newsletter for all contact information.)

The Boys in Autumn
Jan 30-Feb 15

How Does Your Garden Grow?
March 20-April 4

Moon Over Buffalo
May 15-31

The 7th Broadway Cabaret
June 25-28

The Miracle Worker
August 7-23

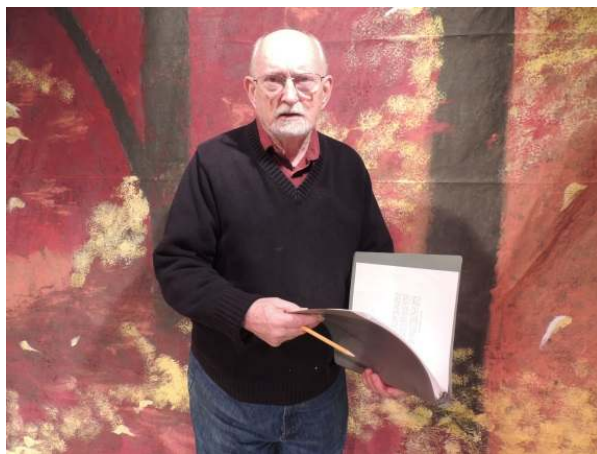
Funny Little Thing Called Love
September 25-October 11

***The Lion, the Witch, and the
Wardrobe***
December 3-6

The Boys in Autumn **by Bernard Sabath**

Our first production of the 2015 Season is *The Boys in Autumn*, by Bernard Sabath. Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn reunite in the 1920s in Hannibal, Missouri, years after their boyish adventures, hashing over the good old days and revealing surprising secrets.

The show is being directed by Al Edick and produced by Maureen Edick. The cast includes Bob Stacy, Marvin Barg, Aubrie McCathern, Abby McCall and Katlin Girnis. Performances will run January 30 to February 15 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM.



Al Edick is ready to direct his cast.



**Huck (Bob Stacy) and Tom (Marvin Barg)
reminisce on the front porch.**

Meet Your Board Members

Carla Hill

Carla has been a member of the Board of Directors for the past year. Her involvement in theater began as a result of her daughter's (Elly Leidner) passion for the stage. She has worked behind the scenes for Elly's performances as well as for those of Elly's younger brother, Connor. Carla has performed in our *Broadway Cabarets* and in the musical *Anything Goes*. She is the director of the Life Skills Center at Transylvania Vocational Services. Carla is very modest about her years of valuable service with BLT. She says, "Everything I do for the theatre is because of Elly and Connor."



Elly Leidner, Carla Hill, Connor Leidner

Annette Hobbs



Annette Hobbs joined BLT in 2011 when she directed *Annie*, which won the People's Choice award that year. She has been on the Board of Directors since April 2013. Although she had been in the drama club in high school, she didn't get the acting bug until her freshman year at Berea College, performing two small roles in *A Street Car Named Desire*. Annette spent her next three years involved in almost all aspects of college theater. Between college and retirement, she worked for the federal government for 32 years. After retirement, she worked as a consultant. During her career, Annette became proficient in a full range of information systems disciplines. She taught at Johns Hopkins University; the University of Maryland University College; and the College of Notre Dame, Maryland. Annette is a member of the Project Management Institute's Charlotte chapter and founder of the PMI Asheville satellite.

Before BLT, Annette was very active in Hendersonville Little Theater (HLT) where, in addition to acting, directing, stage managing and producing, she was the technical director from 2008 through 2012. She still splits her time between three WNC community theaters. She most recently walked the boards at Asheville Community Theater as Veda in *Dearly Departed*. In 2013, she appeared as Bitsy Hargis in BLT's *The Red Velvet Cake War*. Annette's BLT directing credits include *Annie*, *The Dinner Party*, *You Can't Take It With You* and *A Murder is Announced*. She is an award-winning director and sound designer, having won the Best Play award for *The Dinner Party* at BLT and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at HLT, and the Best Sound Design award for *Murders* at HLT.

Annette is currently a student at the Asheville-based New York Studio for Stage and Screen Conservatory where she is studying to be a voice actor. She enjoys her two dogs, Rusty and Gypsy.

BLT Has Joined AmazonSmile!

Free Money!

BLT is now registered as a charitable organization with Amazon.com's AmazonSmile program.



The program donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items (which number in the tens of millions) to the charity of your choice—and it doesn't cost you or the charitable organization a dime: The prices of the products, delivery times, etc. are the same as if you don't purchase them through the AmazonSmile program. Please support us through this great program! To have 0.5% of all your purchases donated to BLT, visit

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-6062581>. Thank you!

Your Board of Directors

Your BLT Board of Directors has been hard at work running our organization year-round. Not only do they meet monthly, they also comprise a WORKING board: Every member has several major responsibilities. At this time, there are seven members, pictured at right. At the annual meeting in March, new officers and board members will be voted in. If you have BLT theater experience and would like to view a board member job description, please contact teegeemailbox-blt@yahoo.com. Maybe you will be in this picture next year!



From left: Marianne Plunkert, Annette Hobbs, Nita Porter, Sandra Whitmore, Julie Vorus, Dick Thompson, Carla Hill

A Note From Nita

First, I wish you a wonderful 2015!

Brevard Little Theatre has a long history (1935-2015), and except for several years' interruption during WWII, it hasn't missed a beat. The recession almost shut our doors three years ago, but due to the determination of some members, we endured. However, several factors made things more difficult for us during the past year.



As of January 1, 2014, BLT has to pay sales tax on tickets and concessions sold. We did increase our ticket price a dollar to go toward the tax, but since the increase doesn't cover the total tax amounts, this has still affected us. In March, the Legion informed us we could no longer legally use their ABC license to serve alcoholic beverages; this impacts our fundraisers. Last summer, we applied for and received a one-time permit for *Broadway Cabaret*, but the problem this season will be with *Dancing With Our Stars* since we have used our one-time permit. Finally, for the second year in a row the American Legion has increased our rent, and we must also now pay for interior repairs. We are still paying a rental rate less than the original agreement when we first moved into the building, but the rent and utilities are still very costly.

Speaking of costly, plays are very expensive to produce. Costs run from royalties to playbills. Tickets barely cover the cost, even though we do not pay directors or others involved.

As I wrap up my final year as president, I thank those serving on the board and committees, those involved in productions (producers, directors, stage managers, actors, lights, sound, set designers, set construction, costume, makeup, publicity, playbill, box office, house managers, ushers, concessions, fundraisers, cleaning crew, etc.) and advertisers, donors, and patrons. It truly takes all of you to keep live theatre alive in Transylvania County, and I am grateful for your participation.

When you purchase a Season Pass you become a voting member of BLT. Please attend the annual meeting that will be scheduled in March. Also please consider becoming an 80th Anniversary supporter with a donation to BLT. My goal is for BLT to not only survive, but thrive. If you would like to contact me directly with suggestions or comments, I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you all so much!

Sincerely,

Nita McBrayer Porter

nitaporter@comporium.net

Editorial



I have served as Editor of the BLT *Spotlight* since March 2012. Since then, it has transitioned to a completely digital newsletter. I have tried to focus on changes, current happenings, and have added the *Spotlight On...* feature in each issue that showcases our many fantastic volunteers.

This month we focus on BJ Winchester who, before joining us a year ago, had never painted, much less designed, a stage set. Now she does both. That was her set design you saw if you attended *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, with thanks to the tutelage of our resident professional set designer, Steve Marsh. BJ is a perfect example of how volunteering at BLT can help you discover talents you may not have even known you possess.

I am another example of undiscovered talents. Before 2002, I had never set foot on a stage, nor could I imagine acting in any role, much less a lead role. All that changed when I walked onto the Connestee Falls stage as Doris in *The Cemetery Club*. Small roles increased over time to larger ones. With the help of acting classes and 20 additional performances, I am now completely at ease in whatever role in which I am fortunate to be cast.

You, too, may have hidden talents and be ready to explore the possibilities. We offer over 24 different and exciting volunteer opportunities. Call or write to me for more information or just to talk.

Sandra Whitmore
Editor & Volunteer Coordinator
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Ushers & Box Office Volunteers Needed

BLT is in need of ushers and box office volunteers. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sandra Whitmore, at teegeemailbox-blt@yahoo.com for more info. A benefit of these volunteer positions is that you get to see the show for free!



A Murder is Announced



Don't Dress for Dinner

**Brevard Little Theatre is the
Official Community Theatre of
Transylvania County & Brevard**

brevardlittletheatre.net
brevardlittletheatre.com

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Southern Hospitality



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever



Over the River and Through the Woods