



LITTLE THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

June 2013

Spotlight on Elly Leidner



Anyone who has ever worked with sixteen-year-old Elly Leidner at BLT has fallen in love with her. She is sweet, considerate and highly intelligent. Recently, she was accepted into the prestigious North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, North Carolina, where she will spend her junior and senior year of high school. She will be leaving Brevard and BLT and will be greatly missed.

Born in Hendersonville, she attended Immaculata Catholic School for ten years before moving to Hendersonville High School, where she is now a sophomore. She hopes to study psychology in college, but doesn't know where she wants to attend college yet.

Elly first became involved with Brevard Little Theatre in 2007, as the Goose and Announcer in ***Charlotte's Web*** directed by Sonia Arnold. After that, she fell in love with the theatre and the people. She soon branched out beyond Youth Troupe productions to regular shows like ***A Christmas Carol***, and some backstage work. Elly went to BLT's summer camp for three years, and then became an assistant teacher when she was 14. She has helped co-direct the annual Fourth of July Melodrama with Sonia Arnold for three years but still prefers acting in shows. Some of her recent appearances include Annelle in ***Steel Magnolias***, Edith in ***Blithe Spirit***, Pooh Bear in ***House at Pooh Corner***, and an ensemble member in four ***Broadway Cabaret***

productions. Elly has also performed with Hendersonville Little Theatre but will always consider BLT her true theatre home: She says she loves being at BLT and will miss everyone dearly when she is away.

When Elly is not acting, directing, or volunteering with BLT, she reads and listens to music. She loves to curl up on the couch with a good book, especially on a rainy weekend. She has been known to read a book from start to finish without ever coming up for air. But Elly is always the happiest when she is with her family, whether immediate or extended.

Elly has left an indelible mark on BLT. She will not be forgotten and is welcome back at any time for any reason. Best of luck, Elly. We see great things in your future!

Red Velvet Cake Bake-Off Winner Refuses to Reveal Secret Ingredient!

In order to introduce its current play, ***The Red Velvet Cake War*** by Jones, Hope and Wooten, BLT staged a Red Velvet Cake Bake-Off on Saturday, May 25th at the theatre during the White Squirrel Festival. The six entries were judged by a panel consisting of Erin Smith, Will LaRowe, Steve Marsh and Jerry Arnold. In a strange twist, the judges selected the cake submitted by Patty Siebert for their top award: Patty readily admitted that the cake had been donated by the Ingles Grocery Store in Hendersonville! Sandra Whitmore placed second in the Judges' Choice competition and third went to Heather Ingle.



Sandra Whitmore

The Peoples' Choice Award went to Sandra Whitmore, who plays "Jimmie Wyvette" in the upcoming play. She has steadfastly refused to reveal the secret ingredient she used to win the contest. "Come see the play to find out the secret ingredient," she says.

The second-place Peoples' Choice award went to Heather Ingle, who plays "Peaches" in the play. Third place went to Sonia Arnold who has the role of "Elsa."

Grant Awarded

BLT has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority. The application was submitted by Co-President Nita Porter to be used for publicity. Good job, Nita!



Silent Auctions Bring in Funds



A new edition to our fundraising efforts is the silent auction at each of our performances. Donated items are displayed with a starting bid, and patrons then write down their names with their own bid. At the end of the production's run, winners are notified. The last auction brought in \$530. Come check out the available items during ***The Red Velvet Cake***

War and bid--you too could be a winner! In addition to the auction, there are donated books available for sale. Thanks, Sonia, for coordinating this!

Box Office

Two of our Box Office volunteers have stepped forward to help with the running of the Box Office. Although we do not yet have a "Box Office Manager", Stephanie Goetzinger and Gail Reyes, both experienced box office volunteers, have stepped up to lead two major areas of the Box Office.

Stephanie is scheduling box office volunteers and Gail is handling ticket pre-sales. Mark Henry is the Board Liaison. Thanks go to both Stephanie and Gail for coordinating these vital functions.



The Red Velvet Cake War Underway



Brevard Little Theatre's current production, *The Red Velvet Cake War*, takes you to Sweetgum, Texas for the Verdeen family reunion. This wacky, Southern-fried comedy finds the three Verdeen cousins trying to keep it together as their family implodes, sending the gossip machinery of Sweetgum into full throttle. It starts off with Gaynelle "accidentally" driving her minivan through her husband's mistress' doublewide trailer. It culminates with a high-stakes wager on who can make the best red velvet cake, with much frivolity in the interim.

The Red Velvet Cake War is was written by the popular Jones, Hope, Wooten team that also wrote *The Hallelujah Girls* and *The Dixie Swim Club*, which were BLT award-winning plays. The director is Jim Robinson and Patrice Robinson is the stage manager.

The show opened June 6th with a sold-out Preview Night and Two-for-One ticket special. The four remaining performances are Thursday, June 13, through Sunday, June 16th. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. except for the Sunday matinee, which starts at 3:00 p.m.

Advance tickets are available at the theatre 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 13th & 14th. Or call the theatre at (828) **884-BLTR**Reservations [2587] for reservations. Tickets are also usually available at the door. Ticket prices are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students (any age), and \$5 for children (12 and under).

Click [here](#) for a video preview.

Sonia's Kids

Sonia Arnold, Youth Troupe Leader Extraordinaire, has two upcoming events on the calendar.



JULY 4TH MELODRAMA



Get the family out of the sun for a while in our air-conditioned theater during the Brevard Fourth of July Festival! Come BOO, HISS, & CHEER while you enjoy a good, ole-fashioned, American melodrama on July 4. Performances will be at noon, 2:00 & 4:00 p.m. at the theatre, 55 East Jordan Street. Admission will be free, at the door (donations welcome). Refreshments will be available for purchase. The play is directed by student director Elly Leidner and Sonia Arnold.

The story: Simon Snivelheart and his sidekick, Bungles, scheme to get the land deed to Ma Hubbards' "Rest 'n Peace Hotel"--and Nellie Hubbard in the bargain: The Hubbards are unaware that the hotel is sitting over a long-lost goldmine. Heroic Hector, Nellie's beau, manages to get the mortgage money on time, but dastardly deeds thwart the payment.

The cast includes Sandi Thompson (Miss Grumpers), Carla Hill (Miss Clutz), Erin Smith (Ma Hubbard), Jessie Nelson (Ernestine Hubbard), Maggie Jones (Prissy Hubbard), Kendall Koffman, (Nellie Hubbard), Jackie Brant (Fortune Teller), Wren Harry (Gypsy), Aubrea Holland (Gypsy), Will LaRowe (Hector Everworth), Ben Brewer (Bungles), Conner Leidner (Simon Snivelheart) and Samuel Hooper (Pa).

THE ENCHANTMENT



On July 5, 6, and 7, the BLT Youth Troupe will perform *THE ENCHANTMENT*, with an original script by Sonia Arnold. Numerous fairy-tale characters have unexpectedly been brought together and are not happy about it, especially the dashing Prince Charming (Andy Thompson). Whose conjuring brought them here? Did Cinderella's absent-minded fairy godmother (Erin Smith) do this, or perhaps the mean old witch (Aubrea Holland)? They try to figure out how they got there and how to get

back to their own times and tales. Snow White (Kendall Koffman), familiar with everyone's tale, tries to guide them in their wondering and wandering.

Other characters include Sleeping Beauty (Wren Harry), along with her favorite fairy, Bluebell (Ariel Pace); Cinderella (Elly Leidner); Alice (Jackie Brandt); Dorothy (Jessie Nelson); Jack (Maggie Jones); Rumpelstiltskin (Connor Leidner); Pig #3 (Abby McCall); B.B. Wolfe (Samuel Hooper); Little Red Riding Hood (Lucy Kaczmarek); and Fairy (Anna Lane).

The Friday night performance will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday performances will both be matinees at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door only, with special, family-friendly pricing of \$10.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for students (any age) and children (12 and under).

Reservations and Information Line:

828-884-BLTR [2587]



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

www.brevardlittletheatre.com

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