

MINUTES OF THE MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATER
General Membership Meeting – March 11th, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Claudia McEwen at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 24 members in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda: approved with amendments. Some of the committee reports moved up due to upcoming rehearsal time (VP Production, Playreading and Cinema).

Approval of the Minutes: approved without changes.

Playreading: Alicia reported that committee members are still reading plays and expect to be closer to finalizing a schedule within the next couple of weeks. If anyone has a fabulous they would like included in the short list, please let Alicia know immediately.

VP of Production: Alicia reported that the first two productions were very successful and the third is under way. The fourth show (Rumors) has just gone into rehearsal.

Cinema: Alicia reported that the cinema committee now has regular monthly meetings. They are working on ironing out small problems, which were mainly due to lack of communication. One of the main goals is to redo the job descriptions for the movie theater, which has not been done since 2001.

Staff Reports:

General Manager's Report

- Season ticket sales for the 2008-2009 season are 356. This compares to 323 for the 2007-2008 season and 329 for the 2006-2007 season. *(There have been no complaints about the cost of tickets).*

- Other ticket sales comparison are as follows:

2008-2009 season to date

The Amorous Ambassador	1042
Steel Magnolias	1541
Company (to date)	996
Rumors (to date)	229

2007-2008 season

2006 – 2007

season

California Suite	921	You Can't Take It With You	1234
The Smell of the Kill	1659	Goodbye Charlie	1764
Me & My Girl	2392	Gigi	1743
Cactus Flower	752	Clouds Over the Sunshine Inn	653

Considering the current state of the economy, MCT is doing well.

- New volunteers continue to join and sign up to work. I currently have a core group of approximately 30 who work consistently performing a lot of different tasks. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please call or email me.

- The *Seven Artists* art show, which hung during *Steel Magnolias*, sold 12 paintings totaling approximately \$2200. 20% is given back to MCT. *(This has been one of the best selling shows in quite a while!)*
- The FKWS show currently hanging is a judged exhibition. FKWS held a reception here this past Sunday evening with approximately 180 people in attendance. Awards were given and three paintings have been sold to date. *(Concessions made about \$300 during the reception).*
- Marianne Motches will be the featured artists during *Rumors*. Marianne will host a reception on Sunday, May 3. Details to come....
- The Henry Flagler historical monologue was a huge hit. Friday and Saturday nights were both sold out with extra people sitting around the balcony. The Sunday matinee performance sold 107 tickets as well with a total of over 400 tickets sold. Feedback was very positive and the history and educational element was very well received! *(Some patrons actually stayed for 20 minutes after the show for Q&A with "Flagler"!)*.
- I am currently calling for submissions for future brochure covers from artists. I hope to have entries to submit to the board by the May meeting. If you know of anyone who is an artist who may be interested in submitting an entry, please have them call me for details. *(Submissions deadline is May 1st).*
- The decision was made by the board to move forward with "Tah-Dance," a dance performance featuring our own MCT dance students. The production will be held on Saturday, June 20 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$12 and a donation of goods to be made to the Domestic Abuse Shelter. Items will be suggested in the advertising information. "Trade-show booths" will be set up in the gallery to inform and invite the public to join MCT dance classes. *(Auditions will be held on May 25th).*
- MCT will have a presence at the Seafood Festival this coming weekend. We will be selling popcorn and coolers and giving out flyers and information about MCT. Please stop by our booth. *(This is the first time MCT will be at the Seafood Festival. Volunteers will be doing 2-hour shifts. Help is needed Saturday to put up the tent that was donated by George Steinmetz. Arnie was volunteered to put the tent up and also lend his truck to get MCT equipment to the Festival).*
- There are still a few chairs to be painted to complete that project. CJ & John Thomas re-constructed the K1 and K2 seats to eliminate the corner that was a tripping hazard. J1 & J2 will get the same treatment, but the seats will be removed permanently to avoid patrons getting a bad view.
- The bricks & mortar grant is currently being reviewed to see if we may have a qualifying project to submit.
- The TDC Cultural Umbrella grant application form is available as of today. They will be holding a workshop here at the theatre on Monday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

- A membership list is available at your request, hard copy or via email. This helps me avoid being directory assistance. If you do **not** want your name or email distributed, please let me know. *(MCT currently has 215 members – this is more than we have had since Loretta has been with MCT).*
- Please remember to check the alarm lights before entering the theatre. Check with a director or Loretta if you are unsure of the procedure for entering at times when no one else may be here. Loretta's cell phone is 305-797-1704.
- Please remember anytime you are using the theatre, make sure the A/C, lights, etc. are not left on unnecessarily. Our utilities are expensive! Pick up, clean up, lock up. *(PUT THE LIGHTS OUT!!!!!!!!!!)*
- I am available at 743-0408 any time with any questions or concerns.

Arnie mentioned that another advantage of the Flagler event – it brought people here that had never been here before!

Seats hazard – Lauren mentioned the possibility of putting a “fence” in, which would be more visible than currently.

President's Report: Claudia mentioned the seat/safety hazards, which were addressed above. She also asked the new members at the meeting to introduce themselves: Allan and Ann Andrews: Allan just joined the cast of Rumors. Bill Ross: is going to be assistant stage manager for Rumors. Bill has been a staunch supporter of MCT, both in presence and financially, and is now getting involved! Welcome to MCT!

Committee Reports

Finance: Lauren reported that paid membership, body count and ticket sales are increased in Playhouse and Cinema over this time period last year. With additional monthly mortgage payments on the principal, we have reduced our mortgage debt to under \$59000 – from the original amount of \$350000. MCT's total cash balances in eight income accounts are approximately \$100000. We not only have maintained our safety bottom line, but also decreased debt!

By-Laws: Gail reported that she would be announcing a committee meeting next month.

Stage and Sound: Claudia, reporting for Tom, mentioned that he has been busy changing light bulbs.

Building: Paul reported that the man from Stevens roofing dropped by again to check the roof. He said he would be doing this anytime he is in the Keys. He mentioned the existence of a few small pitch pockets that might need work. He also put some extra screws in through the ceiling in preparation of hurricane season. Bob mentioned the squeaky ceiling/floor over the balcony area when a lot of people are there, as something to be put on the list to take a look at.

Entertainment: Pat reported a great opening night party for Company, with a lot of help and food for the party.

Nominating: C.J. reported on the board members whose terms will be up for election/reelection. Gail ends her 6-year term – thank you! Those with 2-year terms (Paul, Fred, Alicia, Pat, Lauren, Arnie and C.J.) will be contacted to see if they will be available for serving again – they were all present AND committed to serving again!! Those with 1-year terms (Kathryn, Kay, Mike and Paula) will also be contacted. Paula mentioned that she would not be running for reelection. Kay has moved away. Kathryn is taking time off. There are a total of 11 spots up for election.

Historical: – Any old programs and posters that you don't want to keep can be brought to Paul. Loretta mentioned that she would love to see “someone” come in and look through all the stuff we have and organize it... it would make a good project!

Membership: Suzanne reported the good status of membership had been mentioned above. The General Membership Meetings for 2009 are: June 3rd / September 2nd / December 2nd.

Other:

Claudia mentioned that we should pick a date for the Pampered Palms award party. Suggested dates were June 6th or June 13th.

Lauren mentioned that Kathryn, who has directed the chorus for the last 8 years, is no longer going to be able to do it. Lauren asks that if anyone has interest or is willing to help, please feel free to do so!

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Marianne mentioned that Larry Benvenuti was voted No 1 photographer in Marathon!

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Rickett, Secretary