

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble to return to College of DuPage

By ERIC SCHELKOPF
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The Buffalo Theatre Ensemble will return this fall as a resident theater company at the College of DuPage.

The majority of COD trustees at their April 21 meeting voted to support a plan to bring the theater group back to the campus. Chairwoman Deanne Mazzochi was the lone no vote. Trustee Erin Birt was absent from the meeting.

The Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, founded in 1986, previously had operated out of the college's McAninch Arts Center. The group in May 2014 was told it would no longer get any in-kind support from the college, including subsidized rent and front-of-house services, as the college sought a more financially viable presence for the MAC.

Although the ensemble is a non-profit equity theater group featuring professional actors, students had the opportunity to learn about the productions and help with them, including as assistant stage managers and crew members.

Mazzochi was pushing a proposal that would give the ensemble a \$130,000 subsidy for one year. In return, the theater group would have to demonstrate that it would generate – before the first proposed performance date – paid ticket sales totaling 5,850 seats assuming an average revenue of \$25 per ticket or 600 fully paid three-show subscriptions, or demonstrate that revenues expected to be generated from all paid ticket sales will be at least equivalent to 90 percent of the board funding requested for the first year.

COD would determine in January whether to subsidize the ensemble for a second year.

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“This was a thoughtful process done to try to make this work,” Mazzochi said. “What we are trying to do is set up an infrastructure and a donor base.”

Other trustees said they could not support the proposal.

“I think the bar is impossible to overcome,” trustee Charles Bernstein said. “I would like to set the bar at a reasonable level.”

Bernstein favored a proposal written by Diana Martinez, director of the McAninch Arts Center, with the input of theater faculty Connie Canaday Howard and Amelia Barrett. Under that proposal, Buffalo Theatre would receive a financial commitment from the college of \$131,422 for the first year of operation, with an estimated total contribution from COD of \$250,444 for the first two years of operation.

At the end of the two-year period, the program would be evaluated to see if it is likely to reach the projected goals of 60 percent earned revenue and 40 percent contributed revenue. As part of the proposal, the ensemble will be required to establish itself as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization for fundraising purposes.

Trustees endorsed that proposal, with the exception of Mazzochi.

“I think this substitution gives BTE a chance to succeed,” trustee David Olsen said. “It sets standards that we are going to fund this for two years.”

Champagne steals the show

PAWS CHICAGO

Champagne is a 2-year-old Pekinese mix who spends most of his days dreaming of his future loving home, preferably situated on a quiet, tree-lined street shielded from the noise and chaos – and critters – of the everyday. He has a lot of love to give and just needs to find the perfect home that will help him blossom.

Champagne has never met a person he didn't like, and people are powerless against his good looks. However, he doesn't like most dogs and cats he meets. Champagne would need to be the only pet in the household. For now, a secluded, moderately active home with kids 15 and older would be ideal to help Champagne succeed.

To adopt Champagne, call 773-935-PAWS, visit www.pawschicago.org or stop by PAWS Chicago Lincoln Park Adoption Center, 1997 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago.



Photo provided by Amstaphy

Champagne prefers to be the center of attention. He loves people but not other pets.

OBITUARIES

BETTY H. KARNES

Betty H. Karnes (nee Hooks), age 84, of LaGrange. Beloved wife of Michael M. for 60 years. Loving mother of Nona (Gary) Massengill and John Karnes. Devoted grandmother of Christian and Daniel Massengill. Cherished sister of Patsy Lemmond and sister-in-law of Audrey Hooks, Celia Prince and Karen Miller. Dear aunt to many.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents John Braxton and Nona Hooks, and her siblings Edwin, Sadie, Steven, Stanley and Paul.

Visitation Thursday, May 19, 9:00am until time of an 11:00am funeral service at Hollowell & James Funeral Home 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Interment Fairmount-Willow Hills Memorial Park.

Funeral info: (708) 352-6500, www.hjfunerals.com

CLAUDIA JANE KLOTZ

Claudia Jane Klotz, 76, of Crest Hill formerly of Downers Grove and Hodgkins. Beloved wife of Walter. Loving mother of Robin (Michael) Pietrini, Donna (Paul) Kralovec and Jeannine (Dan) Allen. Devoted grandmother of Michael (Andrea) Pietrini, Jr., Brian Pietrini, Ashley (Curt) Brooks, Nichole (Scott) Bocek, Matthew, Andrew and Christina Kralovec, Daniel Allen, and great-grandmother of Justin Pietrini. Dear sister of Marion (late Victor) Latham and the late Judith Bailek. Fond aunt of many.

Celebration of Life Service 11:00am Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1310 Shepherd Drive, Naperville. Private interment was held at Clarendon Hills Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to

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any Christian organization of your choice appreciated.

Arrangements entrusted to Hollowell & James Funeral Home at 708/352-6500 or www.hjfunerals.com

MARY L. SZYDLOWSKI

Born: March 9, 1924

Died: March 22, 2016

Mary L. Szydowski (nee Zdrojewski), age 92, a 24 year resident of Manistee MI and long-time resident of Cicero IL, passed away peacefully in Manistee MI. Beloved wife of the late Valentine Szydowski, fond daughter of the late Mae Pruchniak and Walter Zdrojewski, sister of the late Walter Parker. Mother of Ronald (deceased) (Linda), Sharon (the late Peter) Casarez, Michaelene (James) Holub, Denise (Craig) Brown, Robin (deceased) (Peter) and Jill (Robert) Albano. Mary is also survived by 16 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Fond Aunt of many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on May 21, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, IL. Final private interment will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside IL.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Jude Children's Hospital would be appreciated.

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