

STAGE WHISPERS

Winter/Spring, 2008

DOO WOP WED WIDING HOOD WAS A ROCKIN SUCCESS

As one theatre patron put it "Words can't describe just how good this show was". That's after seeing it 2 times and not even knowing anyone in the cast. **Doo Wop Widing Hood** directed by Dr. Millie Petersen just completed it's run of 7 shows performing to full capacity crowds.

Complete with the big bad wolf and a sock-hopping '50s score, this adventure made for happily-ever-after laughter for audiences of all ages!



BAREFOOT IN THE PARK AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Historic Fayette Theatre's summer production of **Barefoot in the Park**, by Neil Simon, will be held May 27 and 28 starting at 6 P.M on both evenings. The auditions for 4 men and 2 women will be held

at the Historic Fayette Theatre.

"A bubbling, rib tickling comedy " states the New York Times. One of Simons standout comedies, **Barefoot in the Park** will be directed By Steve Hambrick who made his directors debut with last

summer's **The Odd Couple** female Version.

The shows production dates are July 18, 19, 25, 26, August 1, 2, 3. All show times are 8:00 p.m., except the matinee on August 3, which will be at 2:00 p.m.

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HISTORIC FAYETTE THEATRE 2008 SEASON

<i>A Wedding to Die For</i> (Second Season)	January 11, 12 and 13 (mat.)
<i>Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood</i>	March 28, 29, April 4, 5, 11, 12, 13 (mat.)
Jon Kemper's Fourth of July Extravaganza	July 5
<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	July 18, 19, 25, 26, August 1, 2, 3 (matinee)
<i>Kitchen Witches</i>	October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 (mat.)
Readers Theatre: <i>Dracula</i> (Second Season)	October 24, 25
<i>Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus</i>	November 28, 29, 30 (mat.), December 4, 5, 6, 7 (mat.)
New River Youth Orchestra and Chorus	December 11
Readers Theatre Gatherings	Contact the theatre to find out which Sunday of the month they will be gathering

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HERITAGE MUSIC AND ARTS CENTER PROPOSED

In the spirit of linking cultural heritage celebration with community and economic development efforts, the Fayette County Commission has recently spearheaded a project to develop a Music Heritage and Arts Center in Fayetteville. Inspiration for the project came from the looming increased costs of operating and maintaining The Fayette County Memorial Building (in downtown Fayetteville), coupled with Congressman Rahall's initiative to establish a Southern West Virginia Music Heritage Center in the region. Over the last few months, the project has galvanized enthusiasm and support of many local community members, and has quickly blossomed into a vision of an integrated music and arts center for Fayette County residents and beyond. In essence, what at first seemed like a fantastic dream now appears to have the support and momentum to become a reality.

The project is currently in the conception and visioning stages. Ideas are being developed by a volunteer steering committee comprised of County Commissioners, the Directors of both the New River and the Fayetteville Convention & Visitors Bureaus, the Directors of the Historic Fayette Theatre, the Directors of the New River Youth Symphony and Chorus, and representatives of the local Arts community as professionals, business owners, and educators. All agree that our strength will be in our ability to form productive and meaningful collaborations (both locally and across the region) along with fulfilling the

needs and desires of the local community.

While maintaining the original spirit of the Memorial Building by continuing to provide its traditional public uses, the vision of this new effort is to additionally provide a venue for viewing music, performing, visual, and practical arts. The goal is for the Memorial Building to once again serve as a true community center – one that can also cater to the creative needs of residents and visitors alike with performances, exhibits, classes and workshops, youth programs, artist in residency programs, and more. The ultimate vision for the project, rather than it being a stand-alone venue, is to see the Center in Fayetteville become a vital component in a rich cultural and artistic network that celebrates and showcases the talent and heritage of the region. This network would potentially link artisans, musicians, educators, relevant cultural heritage sites, and other music and art venues and events throughout Fayette County and the entire region of Southern West Virginia.

Encouraging introductory conversations have been had with the Clay Center, the New River Branding Initiative (that will marshal efforts of Nicholas, Fayette, Summers, and Raleigh Counties in promoting our region), the College of Arts and Humanities at WV State University, the Coal Heritage Trail, the Historic Fayette Theatre, and the New River Youth Symphony and Chorus. Cursory support and interest

was expressed by both Congressman Rahall's and the Governor's offices. Other potential partnerships identified to ensure the ultimate success of a collective, regional effort include: the Fayette County school system, local and regional art galleries and music stores, other County municipalities, the WV Music Hall of Fame, the Appalachian String Band Festival, Tamarack, the Beckley Arts Council, Ivy & Stone, the Town of Lewisburg, and the Pocahontas County Opera House in Marlinton.

The Fayette County Music Heritage and Arts Center project has the distinct potential to *significantly enhance the creativity and therefore the quality of life* for our community, as well as the region. This culture-based economic development project aims to turn an underused community asset into a place that will nurture the creative capabilities of our citizenry, while celebrating the spirit and character that makes this region so special. By capitalizing on local and regional assets, the project hopes to give an economic boost to the area by re-vitalizing the Memorial Building's purpose to serve the citizens of Fayette County and the region by means of providing attractive cultural amenities that will make this an even better place to live and visit – all year round!

For more information, please contact the current project coordinator, Jenny Becksted, at either 970-219-6455 or jenny.becksted@gmail.com.

READERS' THEATRE TO PERFORM DRACULA

Coming this fall — **Dracula!** The Historic Fayette Theatre will present a Readers Theatre presentation of the classic horror story. For those of you who may have wanted to appear on stage but are nervous about learning lines, here is a chance to be on stage with no lines to memorize.

The **Dracula** performance will be an extension of The Readers Theatre Gathering. "We meet on

Sundays at the theatre" said artistic director Gene Worthington. "We have a good time reading different scripts, playing different characters and just having a good time." Worthington went on to explain that when there are shows going up on stage, the theatre has difficulty setting up a consistent schedule. But, the theatre will try to have the readings on the same Sunday every month.

The Readers Theatre Gathering has met a few times to read scripts. In addition, several people who are active in the Historic Fayette Theatre worked with the schools reading to students on Doctor Seuss's birthday. It was a good experience for everyone and the theatre hopes to continue this project each year as a way to serve area children.

TO VISA OR NOT TO VISA

In preparing for a new season we are once again discussing the virtue of adding Visa or MasterCard as a method of payment for our tickets. There are many pros and cons to this and we would appreciate your input.

Certainly, it would make it easier to order tickets in advance. That is the greatest advantage to offering credit card service. However, we have to think about the fact that, since we are a non-profit organization we are treated as a business when we apply for anything that is business related. The cost to our group will be the same as any other business and would add a cost for every transaction. We would have

to add almost one dollar to the cost of the tickets for people who are using credit cards.

Another issue is the time that you stand in line. On one hand, it will shorten the line if customers have already paid for tickets, but it will also lengthen the time of the transaction if someone standing in line is paying for their tickets with a credit card. This would add to the time that you as a customer will have to stand in line.

If you are in favor of this additional cost and think that it would be in the best interest of the theatre please let one of the following board members know: Jan Neal, Jean Harris, or Jeanie Todaro.

SEASON TICKETS
ARE STILL
AVAILABLE !

How about 2008
season Tickets to the
Historic Fayette Theatre!

For more information,
call HFT at
(304) 574-4655

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Spring will be coming soon. In honor of this joyous occasion, the Historic Fayette Theatre will again offer a Modeling Class culminating in a **Spring Fashion Show**. The class will be taught by Kathy Housh. Kathy has been teaching young people modeling, etiquette and poise for a number of years.

"These classes offer so much to young women," Housh stated. "Not only do they learn modeling skills, but we give young women a chance to develop their self-confidence and poise." The 4 week session of classes begins on Wednesday, May 7 and continues through May 28. The classes are held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is a nominal fee of \$50 for each participant.

On Sunday, June 1, there will be a Spring Fashion Show at the Historic Fayette Theatre at 2:00 featuring the class participants as well as the spring line of fashions available at local retail stores. The Spring Fashion Show is free and open to the public. For more information or to register for the Modeling Classes, call the Historic Fayette Theatre at (304) 574-4655.