

The Young Footliters Youth Theatre

www.youngfootliters.org

June 2009

The Young Footliters are affiliated with the Iowa City Community Theatre
And the Iowa City Recreation Division

A note from the Board

What a great ending to another theatre year! We performed five shows in three different venues. Our shows included two musicals, Disney princesses, fairy tale favorites and villains, an elf who thought he was Elvis and a little mouse who was more human than rodent. Each of these shows had a cast of 20 to 30 actors, which means the Footliters organization served over 130 youth in the 2008-2009 season! We had to cancel our plans for a summer show—we just ran out of time and lacked a director. We plan to take this opportunity to focus on the upcoming season.

Look for details in this newsletter regarding the 2nd Annual Footliters Picnic. It was loads of fun last year and we hope for more of the same this year!

We are very excited to be returning to the Englert Theater when our Act 2 Teen Theatre brings *Footloose* to the stage in October! We have other exciting shows (see below) in the works for our younger actors, so keep an eye on our website and newsletters for additional information.

As you know, the Young Footliters is a non-profit, parent-run organization. We are all volunteers; no one receives payment for what we do. The only exception is the Directors, who receive a small stipend (probably just enough to pay gas expenses to travel to and from rehearsals). The volunteer board works hard year-round to bring the best possible theatre experience to our young people—scheduling shows, finding directors, getting a show up and running, fundraising, keeping the organization going, etc. With a membership of more than 200 families, it's no easy task for us 12 members of the Board! We truly appreciate all the help and support we get from our families during a production. Without you, the shows wouldn't be as successful as they are. But we can use more help! Do you have any special skills that you're willing to share? Perhaps fundraising, publicity, music, dance, art, directing experience? Would you like to research and read potential scripts? Are you computer-saavy and would like to help with newsletters? Are you interested in helping plan special events (such as the picnic)? If you would like to get more involved in Footliters, please contact one of the board members. Remember, this is a volunteer, non-profit organization; it will not be successful without the help of everyone.

UPCOMING SHOWS FOR ACTORS ENTERING GRADES K-8

There are two shows actors entering grades K-8 can choose from this fall. Because rehearsals will overlap, you may only participate in one show. Watch future newsletters and/or the website (www.youngfootliters.org) for further information as it becomes available.

DR. DOLITTLE

- Friday, November 20, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 21, 2009 @ 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 22, 2009 @ 2:00 PM
- At the Iowa City Community Theatre Building, Johnson Co. Fairgrounds

CHRISTMAS SHOW (Title TBA)

- December 4-6, 2009 (3 shows, exact dates/times TBA)
- At the Hoover Presidential Museum in West Branch

Actors Entering Grades 7 thru 12
Auditions for Footliters Act 2 Production of



Tues., July 28, 2009 7:00-9:00 PM
Wed., July 29, 2009 7:00-9:00 PM

Call backs if needed
Thurs., July 30 7:00-9:00 PM

All at the Coralville Public Library
Schwab Auditorium, lower level

Directed by Marc Hammes

Stage Adaptation by DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE
Music by TOM SNOW Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Presented through special arrangement with R&H Theatricals: www.rnhtheatricals.com

- Auditions will be competitive.
- Participation fee is \$50; due at the first rehearsal.
- Bring a copy of the completed audition form, available at www.youngfootliters.org.
- Bring a list of all conflicts.
- All actors must complete one drama class per year to be eligible for our shows.
- Actors do not need to prepare a song in advance. Actors will be taught a song from the show & audition in small groups. Wear comfortable clothing for dancing.
- First cast meeting will be Mon., Aug. 17 @ 7:00 PM (location TBA)
- Rehearsals will be held M-F from approximately 7-9PM beginning Aug. 24. Expect to be at rehearsals 2-5 days a week, depending on your part.
- The last TWO WEEKS of rehearsals are MANDATORY. If you cannot commit to this, please audition for a later show.
- For additional audition information, check our website www.youngfootliters.org or contact Marc Hammes (319-389-2216; mhammes13@gmail.com) or Becky Dagle (338-5999; beckydagle@mchsi.com).

Show Dates:

Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17, 2009 at 7:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday, October 17 & 18, 2009 at 2:00 PM
At the Englert Theatre

YOUNG FOOTLITERS TO PERFORM AT CORALVILLE LIBRARY

A group of Young Footliters actors will be performing the Witch trial portion from *Fairy Tale Courtroom* as part of Coralville Public Library's Wonderful Wednesdays summer series. The event is June 24 at 1:00 PM in the lower level Schwab Auditorium. This particular series is geared for youth in grades 1-4 to earn a Summer Reading Program t-shirt (through the Library), although you do not need to be signed up for the program to attend the performance.

2ND ANNUAL YOUNG FOOTLITERS PICNIC

- When: Sat., July 11, 2009
Where: Harvest Farm & Preserve (same location as last year), 3106 Rochester Ave
Meeting: 3:00 PM annual meeting & election of new board—entire membership invited
Food: 5:00 PM food served; all food & beverages provided by Footliters
Directions: Harvest Farm & Preserve is located in the northeast corner of Iowa City. The landmark barn is located on Scott Blvd., between 1st. Ave. & Rochester Ave. Parking is provided near Laguna Linda, directly across the street from the Landmark Barn. We will try to post signs.



If you are interested in helping set up and tear down for the picnic, please contact Herb Loops (herb52317@aol.com; 626-6337). Also, check out the Harvest Farm & Preserve website at www.harvestpreserve.com.

YOUNG FOOTLITERS SUMMER DRAMA CAMP

Since we couldn't get a summer show up and running, we're working hard to finalize details for a week-long summer camp. Here's the details we do have. Additional information will be posted on our website and emailed out as soon as we can.

- Dates: July 27-31, 2009
Where: Riverside Festival Stage (outdoor theatre at City Park)
Instructor: Carrie Fattig (she taught our camp last summer)
Times: yet TBD, possibly younger actors in the morning and older actors in the afternoon (the dressing rooms are air conditioned in case of extreme heat)
Cost: \$85

If you have questions or would like to sign up for the class (even though we're still working on details!), please contact Mary Loops (maryc52317@aol.com; 626-6337).

How Footliters Works... because we have so many new families, we've outlined below how our organization works. It can also serve as a reminder to our veteran families.

The Young Footliters is a non-profit, parent-run organization. We rely on the help and support of each and every parent for a show to go on. Parents are required to volunteer for every show their child(ren) are in. Young Footliters works because of that parental involvement. No matter where your strengths lie, there will be a fulfilling opportunity for you. It may be with costuming, prop gathering, set construction, set painting, publicity, ticket sales, concessions, backstage work, Board of Directors—the list goes on. You have the opportunity to sign up at the parent meeting prior to each show for the area(s) that you are most comfortable with. The more time you can give to the organization, the more fulfilling experience you and your young actor will receive in return.

We try to announce auditions at least two weeks prior through our website and email. We ask that parents accompany their actor to auditions to fill out important paperwork. You do not need to stay the entire time, but a few minutes at the beginning is all we need. Of course, you're welcome to sit in the back of the room and observe. . We send home a note containing important show and contact information with each actor who auditions, but sometimes those notes get lost between auditions and home, so make sure you pick one up.

During the first day of rehearsal for each show, we hold an information meeting for parents/guardians. The goal of this meeting is to enlist your help in putting on the show (see first paragraph) and to answer any questions you may have. We also collect necessary fees during this meeting. Fees include:

1. Membership Fee (paid yearly per family)
This fee covers many costs including the storage space where all costumes, props, etc. are stored, insurance, mailings, maintaining our website, and other costs. Fee is not refundable.
2. Play Participation Fee (paid per play per actor)
This fee helps defray production costs associated with the play (script and royalty fees; costume and set expenses; publicity; theatre rental). If for some reason your actor drops from the play, the participation fee will be refunded as long as it is within the first two weeks of the rehearsal period.

Performance week is known as Tech Week and is crunch time for the Young Footliters. Tech week is mandatory so if you cannot commit to being there the entire week, consider auditioning for a later show. In some cases (especially musicals), the last two weeks are mandatory. The set needs to be constructed (this is a big one as we have only a few hours to get this done); backstage monitors are needed for every rehearsal and performance; we need ticket sellers and ushers; people to sell refreshments, to be in charge of the director's gift, organize the strike party/cast potluck. Tech week is also the first time the actors rehearse on the actual stage they will be performing—quite different from the rehearsal spaces. It's also the first time they wear their costumes and make-up; lighting and sound effects need to be worked out. All this takes additional time, so rehearsals during Tech Week are longer than usual.

After the final performance on Sunday, we need help to strike (take down) the set, wash costumes, and transport everything back to storage. Then we get to enjoy a family potluck to savor our success. It is an extremely busy week!

So, when the volunteer coordinator calls asking for your help, be generous with your time. The Young Footliters is a wonderful experience for our youth. Together we can keep it going!