

Theater program brainstorm meeting

Four of us were there: Mike, Melissa, Bev, Megan and Patti Jo. A handful of folks who were planning to come couldn't come at the last minute.

These were the items we talked about:

1. The new Touchet Valley Performing Arts website, linked to a Facebook page and the theater's YouTube channel. This has been created by Mike and Heather Kaas as a virtual portal for sharing creative energy and projects with each other while we can't meet together. It could stay up as long as it's needed. There were suggestions to link Blue Mt. Art Guild to this site. Lorna Barth has created a YouTube channel for that group. Bev will send Mike the link to it, and he'll follow up with Lorna. Other ideas were to have a theme each month for the site, to encourage and inspire participation. If someone set up a talent show, e.g., and helped put it together, this could be announced on the site and FB, and people recruited to be a part of it. We could have art themes, reader's theater theme, music month, etc.
2. The Little Theater in WW has put together four weekends of outdoor radio drama events. They are doing it in their parking lot on Saturday and Sunday evenings. They have set up their ticket portal for reservations, but it is free of charge and they will accept donations. DoH has worked with them to set up a total of 14 "pods" (of one to four seats each) and the reservations are made by pod. First come, first served. Mike will call Sarah Thomson, one of their board members, to see how they recruited cast for this, and what material they used. We discussed doing something like this. We could either put on an outdoor performance, or record it and offer it for free or for charge if we chose. With a current gathering limit of 10 persons, we can put on small plays.
3. Mary Luce has shared some of the drama service books she has collected. They are available for perusal for all kinds of plays and musicals. Megan mentioned a play called "Gilligan's Island" for 6 persons.
4. We briefly touched on the rising cost of the fall musicals, and the burden of labor involved in doing them. It has been suggested that in the future we might consider a series of two or three smaller shows in the fall, rather than one big one. We have "Sound of Music" paid for and reserved for fall, 2021. We also have this year's variety show scheduled for March, assuming all of the cast are still available to prepare and perform it. Peggy James would need a partner to help bring it together. Megan's melodrama has also been reserved and is scheduled for May, 2021.
5. We discussed the possibility of using Patreon as a possible program to use. Patreon is a way for artist's fan base to support their work through memberships at different levels. Sundae and Goessl, for example, use Patreon for support memberships. Paying members then have access to merchandise or shows, depending on how much they pay each month.
6. Also discussed was the need for quality videographer services if we are going to record plays or music for website presentation.

Current show season:

- Fall musical Nov/Dec
- Bev's comedy Jan
- Reader's Theater Feb
- Ebony & Ivories Feb
- Variety show March
- Melodrama May
- Summer Children's Enrichment Program (SCEP) June-August (includes low-cost summer kids films, MCT and other elements we bring in)