

# THE BOERNE COMMUNITY THEATRE

*25 years of growing with the community.*

The Boerne Community Theatre (BCT) had humble beginnings (and a different name) when they started in 1991. The late Deloris Littlejohn got together with others to put on a production or two at the Boerne Area Community Center. They performed there as the BAAC-Door Theatre and established themselves as a tax-exempt nonprofit. The first board of directors included Littlejohn, Jack Simmons, Marsha Slocomb, John Ebner, Michael Arthur and Andy Hix.

In 1997, they moved into a storefront at 981 North Main, also with a back door they used more frequently than the front. They then became the Back Door Theatre. In 2003, the theatre changed its name once again to Boerne Community Theatre to better reflect who they are.

With cramped quarters and two bathrooms shared by cast, crew and audience alike, BCT produced five shows a year and some summer drama camps for kids. Their profile remained fairly low due to the location and barely adequate signage.

In 2005, however, an opportunity presented itself when the Oneighty Club, located at Blanco and Plant, went up for sale. The group had looked at the property years before but did not have the funding necessary. A Christian pastor bought it and ran an after-school program for teens.

BCT owned two acres that had been donated by Mike and Patty Loftis, located in a business park north of town. A capital campaign to build a theatre stalled after 9-11. Interest in finding larger quarters never waned, though. When the

Blanco Street property became available again, lots of pieces fell into place.

A grant from the Kronkosky Foundation, the sale of the two acres and some creative fundraising efforts, along with financing from Frost Bank, combined to complete the purchase of the building. After some renovations to strengthen the roof and bring the building up to code, they built risers, purchased chairs, upgraded the HVAC system, painted lots of walls, put in a bathroom downstairs (for the actors) and opened their first production (Light In the Tunnel) in March of 2007. Fair Oaks resident Richard Mecke and his company, Texas Scenic, were instrumental in creating and equipping the light grid and stage curtain.

The five-production season turned into six when the theatre added a show categorized as Theatre On the Edge (TOTE). These productions tend to be a little more edgy, usually with themes and sometimes language more suitable for an adult audience.

A refreshed summer drama camp program began in earnest again, beginning at St. Peter's in their multi-purpose building and moving into the newly refurbished theatre in 2008. The three camps are full every year, with 35 children participating in each.

The two-week camps run from Monday through Friday with three performances of a musical at the end. The July camp has found a home at the Geneva School of Boerne because there was a regular season production in the theatre.



*Don't Dress for Dinner*



### *Drama Camp rehearsal*

In 2015, Youth Programs Director, Patricia Hausman proposed an after-school program. A space was rented in the strip center behind the theatre on South Plant and the Academy was born. Classes in acting, movement, and music have been offered here. Traditionally, a showcase is presented at the end of each term. For the fall of 2017, the program will be more aligned with the drama camp model -meeting once a week and culminating in a full production at the end.

Folks at the other end of the spectrum are able to be active with the theatre in ActIII@BCT, an adult reader's theatre program run by award-winning actor/directors Jerry Watson and Bill Gundry. Watson is now also a member of the

BCT board. The classes meet once a week for 8 weeks and offer a free showcase (with wine and snacks!) at the end. The performances include readings of scenes from popular plays, skits, poems and stories. No memorization is necessary, so it's a good way to "stick your toe" into acting! The program has included complete newbies to veterans who haven't been on stage for a while.

The 2017-2018 season is about to get underway with a production of Noel Coward's classic comedy, *Hay Fever*. The story revolves around a 1920's English family gone to their summer house for a relaxing weekend. Unbeknownst to each other, the very dramatic, aging-actress mother, her husband and two adult children, have ap-

parently all invited a guest to join them. When the guests arrive, the self-involved "hosts" pretty much ignore them, leading to witty unpleasanties and a hasty exit by the guests.

The remainder of the BCT season includes a poignant comedy by Texas playwright Jean Ciampi. *Potato Gumbo* opens on Nov. 3rd. The playwright and original cast of a staged reading will attend the opening night performance.

A family-friendly Christmas program will be a fundraiser for the theater, with a two-weekend run in December. Late January brings *Incorruptible*, a "dark comedy about the Dark Ages", according to its author, Michael Hollinger. The play was last presented by BCT in 2003; Christine Crowley played a bombastic nun in that production but will direct the 2017 version.

The Theatre On the Edge slot will be Donald Margulies' *Time Stands Still*, a drama about a photojournalist and a foreign correspondent who try to find happiness in a world gone crazy. May brings *The Complete History of America* (abridged), a zany comedy with three men playing all the parts. Rounding out the regular season will be *The Hallelujah Girls*, a southern comedy by





*Don't Cry for Me, Margaret Mitchell*

Jones/Hope/Wooten.

In addition to the adult programming, BCT has a very active Teen Troupe. The roster has over 50 members, aged 13-19. The troupe produces two major productions and a competition piece for the annual Youth Drama Conference sponsored by Texas Nonprofit Theatres. The teens also have an active volunteer presence in the community working with Hill Country Daily Bread, the Thunderdash, assisting at BCT fundraisers, caroling at Christmas, and performing for various fairs and festivals. They will produce *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis* in October and *Singin' In the Rain* in April.

Over the years, the nonprofit has reached out to the community for support. Financial donations are always welcome but volunteers are the heart of the theatre. All the actors, builders, painters, concession workers, backstage help and the board of governors are volunteers. The paid staff is small; none of the positions are full time.

Various fundraisers are held to provide revenue for the organization as no theater could exist on ticket sales alone. BCT began running a Mardi Gras-themed event several years ago. In 2016, the first Hill Country's Got Talent show was held; the 2017 show will be on October 14th at the Burdick Community Center. BCT also participates in

The Big Give (to be held in March, 2018) to raise funds for specific needs. The chairs are ten years old now and need to be replaced. A more detailed history of the theatre is on the website under the 'About' tab. A link to assist donors with the chair replacement effort is also on the website.

Season memberships are now on sale. A basic membership gives you six admissions to be used as you wish for any of the adult season shows, the TOTE show, and the two Teen Troupe productions. Donor level memberships offer from 10-20 tickets to be used across the season. The theatre actively seeks Co-Producers and business partners, too. Those donations help to underwrite the production costs and offer opportunities for recognition in the program, on posters, programs and the website.

BCT celebrated its 25th anniversary not long ago. The Board of Governors is currently represented by Stephan Rogers, Paul Yoder, Suzann Woodward, Robert Moritz, Christine Crowley, Diane Treusdell, Jerry Watson, Keisha McFerrin, Tiffany Fresher, Patty Loftis and Patricia Hausman. Each brings a unique skill set, helping to guide the theatre into its next twenty-five years and beyond. They would love to see you in the audience or as a volunteer!



*First Act III Showcase*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PATRONAGE  
FOR THE PAST 35 YEARS IN KERRVILLE**

**133 JONES ROAD - KERRVILLE, TEXAS**