

Curtain Call

The Wimberley Players

For Our Members and Supporters

September, 2010

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

A bold, energetic, classic musical for all

The rowdy western musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, will fill the Wimberley Playhouse stage with energy, belly laughs and great schmaltzy music starting Friday, September 24. Directed by Lee Coleé with music direction by Linda Sriro, the play brings together 37 actors in an energetic production certain to tickle your funny bone.

Adam, a backwoodsman in the Oregon Territory, goes to town to find a bride, and quickly settles on waitress Millie. They marry immediately, but when Millie returns with him to his cabin, the honeymoon is over. She finds that he has six rough-and-tumble brothers living with him, all of them ill-behaved and slovenly. Millie decides to teach social mores, manners and dancing to the brothers to help them find brides for themselves. They all head off to a barn-raising to test out the brothers' new skills, and meet six girls who are attracted to them, too. But the girls already have suitors, local loggers, who aren't willing to relinquish them. Will the six brothers be able to achieve their marital goals? The adventure continues through an avalanche, kidnapping, and a baby's birth, with lots of other mayhem in between.

The play was written by Lawrence Kasha and David Landay, with music by Gene de Paul, Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn, and lyrics by Johnny Mercer, Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn.

Millie is played by Angela Irving of Austin. Adam is John Derrington of Wimberley. The brothers, all from the Wimberley area, are Chris Martin, Eddie Foster, Jason Foreman, Chris Bruns, Reed Neal and Colin Iliff. "These men," says Lee Coleé, "had no dance ability or voice training, but they have come together to create an ensemble that is truly top entertainment." The Brides, who come from

as far away as Austin, Lockhart and Dripping Springs to be part of the show, are Juli Derrington (see PlayMakers insert), Miranda Pleschure, Lydia Kettle, Kelley Henry, Amanda Forsyth; Emily Green and Kayla King share the role of the final bride.

Suitors include Ron Steel, Tom Hodge, Sean Nelson, Leo Butler, and Matthew Schmidt, with Greg Chilcote and Jacob Thomas sharing the role of the sixth suitor. Lee Coleé says, "The suitors will bring a lot of laughs. There are a couple of old 'hams' over 65 and a few 'middles,' rounded out by a couple of young men."

Included in the cast are three children (Cassie Martin, Genevieve Hodge and Sierra Fox). Town Folk are played by Dan Williams, Cindy Forsyth, Paul Fournier, Lisa Pitcher, Marvin Carson, Cathy Pleshure, Linda Sriro, Rusti Wade, Kendra Patch, Hunter Sosby, Isabelle Hodge, and Alexandra Dishman.

"For the fight scenes," says Lee, we had professional fighters come in to teach our cast authentic wrestling and fighting techniques. The two ladies who coached us in realistic looking but safe staging are ex-Austin police officers. I find it quite funny that it took a couple of women to turn our guys into 'badasses.'" The electrifying dance numbers and grueling action sequences were created by choreographer Pam Shultz (see PlayMakers insert).

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers will run September 24 – October 17. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8:00 pm and Sunday shows are at 2:30. Tickets are \$18 except opening night (\$25, with a reception at 7:00), and may be purchased online at www.wimberleyplayers.org or by calling (512) 847-0575.



The entire cast displays unbridled energy throughout the play as shown here by (l to r) Miranda Pleschure, Colin Iliff, Kayla King, Reed Neal, Kelley Henry, Chris Bruns, Amanda Forsyth, Jason Foreman (partially hidden), Lydia Kettle, Emily Green (standing in for Juli Derrington) and Chris Martin.

Behind
the
curtain
with

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It's about all
the people who
magically transform a
starkly empty stage into a
wonderfully
performed and
produced play.

Juli Dearington...

Talent is doing easily what others find difficult

Height: 5'8" **Eyes:** Hazel
Weight: 135 lbs. **Hair:** Brunette

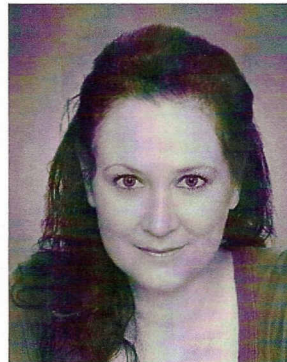
After this comes a long list of credits that would fill a book. Under **Film/Television**, there are over 10 items. Next, **Commercials and Voice Overs:** 4, **Theatre:** Over 14 items and this is the good part, most are right here with Wimberley Players and EmilyAnn Theatre. Yea!!

Professional Musical Affiliations: Lots of impressive companies, one of which is her own, An Andrews Sisters Act, 1940's.

Next is **Training:** Good stuff here also, including our own Lee Coleé Studios. Then my favorite, **Special Skills:** Dialects (British/Cockney), memorizes quickly, cry on cue, (who knew?) swims, juggles, ice/inline skating, singer (solo and harmony) dance, sports, horseback riding (English/Western), snow/water skiing, automobile (automatic & standard) and for the big finale, Passport Ready!

Wow, why would we audition anyone else when we have a beautiful young woman living right here that can do all that. But wait, there's more. Juli was born in Raymondville to a singing family with two brothers and three sisters. When Juli was 10 years old her family moved to Indonesia, where her father taught the natives to grow cotton. They were the only white people in the village, and women were supposed to be subservient... Juli was not and, consequently, was proposed to by the Village Chief! She promptly turned him down, saying she was way too young to consider marriage, even to a chief. Do you think she was already learning how to act?

Her mother was one of those Pageant Moms; she entered Juli in at least five



beauty pageants for little girls. Of course that skating skill came in handy for the talent part and mom made all the costumes. What's not to like? Lights, applause...she was bitten by the show biz bug.

The first musical she saw was "Annie Get Your Gun" and then she got a part in "The King and I" and also played Electra in "Gypsy." Then came the move to Wimberley. She needed a place to live and -- voila! -- met Shirley Marlett at Century 21...

the rest is history. Shirley cast her as Mary in "The Drunkard" at the Pioneer Town Opera House. She was then directed by Lee Coleé in "Anything Goes." She tapped and sang as Marion in "Music Man" and met John Dearington, who was working with Nathan Villarreal. Nathan invited John to see the show. It was love at first sight and they were married in a year. Juli is now playing Dorcus, a bride, in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and her husband is playing Adam, the lead. A match made in Wimberley!

One afternoon while not singing, dancing or acting, she took a spare hour and started her own film company, Dedicated Works Production. The first film is called "Ruth's Locket." Check it out on www.ruths-locket.com.

In real life Juli has a big title that helps pay for "stuff." She is the... (can you hear the trumpets?)... Clinical Engineering Services Co-Coordinator for Seton Hospital. Which means she tells the bio med techs what to do... for the entire Western Region. Yikes!

When you see her dance and sing in "Brides," that big title won't mean a thing. You'll be impressed with that beautiful, tall, dark haired woman who makes it look easy. Nothing else needs be said.



Played the colorful Ginnie in *Stop The World*

Written by Judith Driscoll

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Pamela Shultz...
“Dance, dance, dance little lady.”

Pam Shultz, I've heard that name before. Pam Shultz. Doesn't she sell real estate? Actually, she's co-owner of WSA Real Estate. Know what WSA stands for? Maybe you should sit down. “We Sell All.” Kinda says it all too, don't ya think? If you know Pam it also stands for her life story...only it should be S.D.A., She Does All.

At least that's what comes to mind if you list her credits with the Wimberley Players. Find me a playbill that doesn't have her name on it, somewhere.

Pam was born in Tulsa while Dad was in Med School. The family had to move a lot while her father was in school. Pam started dance lessons at age eleven and has been dancing in every city, ever since. She wanted to take ballet lessons but it wasn't in the cards until she got creative and “accidentally” sprained her ankle, then convinced the doctor to tell her parents that ballet exercises on the bar would be good for her rehabilitation. Must have worked because she danced in high school at the Houston Ballet Academy and with the Austin Civic Ballet (which became Ballet Austin).

Then to the University of Texas for a Liberal Arts degree in Dance & Theatre Management. In 1987, Pam worked behind the scenes at the Alley Theatre in Houston. Later in St. Louis she was a member of Actors Equity and worked as stage manager. Next a move to Connecticut, working in company management at Good-speed Opera House. Another move to Dallas as company manager for the Dallas Theatre Center. Then on to Massachusetts as company



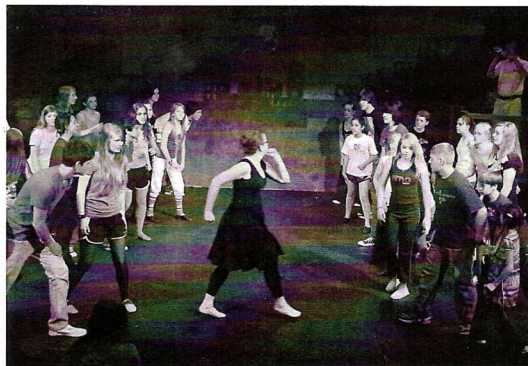
manager for North Shore Music Theatre.

Finally the last and big move, to Wimberley, where she received her real estate license in 2000 and formed WSA Real Estate with her co-owner, Adam Witko. However, selling property isn't all she's been up to. The pull of the theatre called

and for the musical “1776,” producer Jana White and director Lee Coleé took advantage of Pam's background and used her to rehearse the dance scenes. And, that's just the beginning of this story...

Pam produced “Blithe Spirit” and “Death-trap,” choreographed “Dracula” (think seductive bedroom scene with the vampire), and also “A Christmas Carol,” the Tango dancing in “Leading Ladies” and “West Side Story.” She is now with Lee Coleé again on “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.” There are some non-dancers whom Pam is turning into real dancers. The goal is to make them look as good as possible and if you have ever seen any of Pam's work, you know she does that every time. If anyone can make people look like they are flying on stage, she can. Remember she has been flying from city to city since she was born.

About that company name, “We Sell All.” It doesn't just mean property...it stands for all the shows Pam has ever worked on. And, in “Brides,” we get to see her dance routines again before she might just shuffle off to parts unknown. Keep fingers crossed that she stays tapping her twinkie toes right here at our little Playhouse on Old Kyle Road. And, please don't anyone say “Break a Leg!”



Lee Coleé chose Pam to choreograph her recent summer camp productions. As shown here, she was the center of attention for the campers.