

Behind the Scenes

by Bill O'Donnell, Board of Directors, *Shadowland*

Last year we presented the history of the *Shadowland* in the issue devoted to the theatre. This season we would like to profile the people who are the present.

Sara May begins her third season as Production Stage Manager of the *Shadowland*. She received her BFA in Theater Design Technology with a concentration in Stage Management from SUNY Purchase on May 14, 2004. She was discovered by Bill Morris performing on the Homer, NY High School boards and has worked for him for nine years at Cortland and in Ellenville. She has enjoyed her "two amazing summers working at a great theatre in a great community" and expects the third to be even better.

Sara's short-term goal is to continue in her role as a Production Stage Manager at a large regional theater and expects her experience here will be of great help in achieving that goal. Looking ahead to the nearer future, Sara is thrilled to be making her professional directorial debut with Terence McNally's masterpiece "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair du Lune, which opens at the theatre on September 10th.

When you visit the *Shadowland* this summer, look for Sara to be in the Box Office, near the concession stand, or slipping into the Control Booth. She enjoys meeting patrons, so say hello, but understand if she rushes off because on show night she is juggling the countless tasks that are necessary to a successful production. When you attend a play, think of her hard work when, after another terrible joke, Bill Morris says, "Sara May, fade to black."

PS – the second show of the season, "Wrong Turn at Lungfish," a PG comedy, will feature local talent: *Shadowland's* Producing Director William Morris as Mr. Ravensival; *EHS Class of 1994* graduate Amanda Sperling, daughter of David and Natalie Slutsky, as Anita, the saucy, streetwise young woman; and Denise Moore, *EHS* librarian and local resident, in a supporting role as the nurse. ☆

MAY 28 - JUNE 13: "PROOF"

... written by David Auburn, Drama, (rated PG)
2001 winner of both the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize

The story: On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: how much of her father's madness - or genius - will she inherit?

"When we think of the great American playwrights, we think of Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neill and Lillian Hellman in earlier generations; Wendy Wasserstein and Tony Kushner, Jon Robin Bietz and Donald Margulies today; they are always writing about big ideas and wrapping them in family squabbles that get us where we live. Welcome David Auburn to the Club. *Proof* is the one you won't want to miss." *New York Magazine*

"... combines elements of mystery and surprise with old-fashioned story telling to provide a compelling evening of theatre... a smart, compassionate play of ideas." *New York Daily News*

"... surprises us with its aliveness... Mr. Auburn takes pleasure in knowledge... at the same time, he is unshowily (sic) fresh and humane, and he has written a lovely play." *New York Observer*

"*Proof* explores the complicated mathematics of human relationships." *Brendan Burke (Director)* ☆

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