

Friends of the Reach

Arts Camp
Summer 2010



Fall 2010

Paul Sullivan Composes for the Reach

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In the early spring of 2010, Nelson Monteith, Director of the Reach Performing Arts Center, approached Maine

composer Paul

Sullivan about the possibility of commissioning a work to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Reach. The two have decided on a piece of musical theater based on the medieval tales of *Reynard the Fox*, written specifically for the children of Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School to perform. Paul and Nelson first met in the year that the Reach was being built, when Paul's son was a student of Nelson's at the Brooklin School. For this project, Paul is composing the score and Nelson is writing the book for the musical. Production is planned for mid May of 2011. Stonington artist, Julie Moringello, has agreed to do the set design for this first ever commissioned work for the Reach Performing Arts Center. While the show is still in development, Sullivan and Monteith expect to have a 'near final version' ready for the start of rehearsals in February. As with all student productions before it, *Reynard* is a play for everyone who wants to become involved. While auditions will be held to determine the principal roles, a place in the chorus or crew is assured for any student who wants to take part, and who commits to the rehearsal schedule. Watch for more news after the holidays.

Owning the Stage with Morgan Witham

On Saturday, October 16th, community members took refuge from the torrential rain under the roof of the Reach, where they participated in the Owning the Stage workshop. Coached by Morgan Witham and accompanied by Nelson Monteith, they warmed up by learning and staging an ensemble piece from *Kiss Me, Kate*. In the hours following, the participants developed the staging for the song of their choice, with selections ranging from *If I were a Rich Man* to *Broadway Baby*.



Pam Getto tries some moves

The workshop addressed the basic challenges that face an actor performing in a musical number: Where do I stand? When can I move? Where should I move? What on earth do I do with my hands? Most of these questions are handily answered by the most important question in theater- What story am I telling? Collaborating individually with Morgan and in discussion with the group, the actors analyzed their songs as texts, discovering shifts in tone and intention. Once on stage, they could use the movement of meaning in the words and music to create their movement on stage. Each attendee was able to run their songs multiple times, averaging about forty minutes of one-on-one work per song.

Morgan, who was most recently seen playing Maria in *The Sound of Music*, grew up on Little Deer Isle, and holds a B.A. in Theater from Grinnell College. She currently works in the Learning Center at the High School.

1,000 CRANES



Have you seen our nimble-fingered students folding squares of oragami paper in beautiful paper cranes and wondered why? Well, the answer is the fall student production at the Reach. In a change from the usual fall musical, students from grades 3-9 will perform *A Thousand Cranes*, by Kathryn Schultz Miller on November 19th and 20th ,

Sadako Sasaki, was two years old when the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima. At eleven, she developed leukemia from the radiation and spent her time in a nursing home folding paper cranes in hope of making a thousand, which supposedly would have allowed her to make one wish, which was to live. However, she managed to fold only 644 before she became too weak to fold any more, and died shortly after. Her friends and family helped finish her dream by folding the rest of the cranes which were buried with Sadako. They also build a statue of Sadako holding a giant golden paper crane in Hiroshima Peace Park. Now every year on Obon Day, which is a holiday in Japan to remember the fallen ones of the bombings, thousands of people leave paper cranes near the statue. On the statue is a plaque: "This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace on Earth.

A cast and crew of thirty children are working on their lines, learning Japanese songs, exploring the differences in cultures, discovering history and the ravages of war, as well as folding more than a thousand cranes, adding their voices to the cry for peace in the world.

The role of Sadako is being played by three actors, Ali Eaton, Alyssa Chesney and Philomena Mattes. Sacha Zembruski is playing the grandmother and Elliot Nevells and Kaitlin Morey are playing her parents. Marvin Merrit is playing Sadako's friend Kenji. Tessa Larrabe plays an ancient Japanese Emperor, and Jayden LaDeau, Nicole Nolan and Brendan Penfold are playing characters who were killed in the bombing of Hiroshima. The 'hospital chorus' includes Ben Penfold, Ian Cust, Cameron Stewart and Trevor Cochran. The 'orchestra chorus' includes Katie Hutchinson , Cassidy Adams, Julie Wallace, Ella Marshall, Riley Getto, Amy Friedel, SooZin Cha, Amber Sargent and Krista Baughman. Members of the stage and tech crew are Bryce Limeburner, Orly Vaughan, Madison Eaton, Ennis Marshall, Oskar Mattes, Justin Eaton Stephen Cochran and Paul Zoefel.

The staff and students at the Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School will see a matinee performance of *A Thousand Cranes* on Thursday, November 18th. **The public is invited to performances on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 19th and 20th at 7:00PM at the Reach Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at the door, \$5 students, \$8 adults.**



The Reach Celebrates Ten Years

Whether you live on Deer Isle year round or visit during the summer months, you won't want to miss a Reach retrospective of ten amazing, theater-rich years.

Circle **July 30 and 31** on your summer calendars and plan on being our guests for an evening of musical theater entertainment. Enjoy scenes from student shows like *Oliver* and *A Thousand Cranes* and Cabin Fever Theater community performances like *Sound of Music* and *Kiss Me, Kate*. Because of your support, the Reach continues to enrich the lives of island students and its community members. Join us in July!



Jeff Brink and the von Trapp children, Esther Adams, Katie Hutchinson, Brenden Penfold, Riley Getto, Marvin Merritt, Amy Friedell, and Nicole Nolan



Esther Adams, Suzanne Ruch, and Drew Siebert in *Oliver*



Joe Babbitt and Garrett Aldrich in *Anything Goes*



Don't forget to check us out on the web:

www.atthereach.org.

Click on Contact Us to sign up for coming events emails.

Donations to the Reach are always welcome. Should you wish to support Reach programs, please send checks, payable to IEF/RPAC (Island Education Foundation/Reach Performing Arts Center), to The Reach, 249 North Deer Isle Road, Deer Isle, ME 04627

Cabin Fever Theater Invites YOU

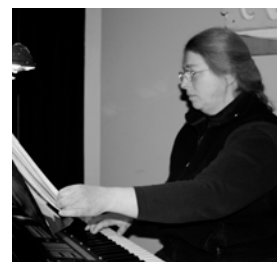
CABIN FEVER THEATER is busy planning this winter's show--Kiss Me, Kate--and invites YOU to participate. Of course we need **singers** and **actors**, but we also need: **artists** to help design and paint sets, **handy folks** to help build sets, **musicians** for the orchestra, **sewers** to make costumes, **designers** for posters and programs, **ticket sellers**, and **stage and tech crew** members.



Set designers:
Susan Moxley and Julie Moringello

PLEASE JOIN US at our sign-up meeting
Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30 pm in the Reach.

Stage crew: Anne Williams, Karen Gallella, Lis Ingoldsby, and Tess Larrabee



Accompanist:
Connie Mayo

Costume designers:
Joan Roy
and Elena Kubler



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