

Opening weekend

Production week essentially started the Thursday before Thanksgiving, as we had no rehearsal last Wed. and Thurs. for the obvious reason. Well, we didn't have Wed. rehearsals period due to the church being used that night. I have to say that those rehearsals left me drained. We were there until after 11, and with my sleep troubles and having to be up for work- well, let's just say that I didn't always maintain a good handle on my frustrations. Not that there were any blowouts or even close to them, just periods of anti-social me. The biggest struggles were moving sets around. There is no stage crew, so we all chip in with moving set pieces and props around. Between some scenes there are a **lot** of changes.

On to the topic, we opened this past Friday to a sold out crowd. Saturday was sold out as well. I should add that the small church only seats about 140, so it is actually not hard to sell out. In fact, at least one more performance is completely sold out and a couple others have less than 10 seats available. Not bad for a theatre in a church, eh? So Friday night we performed after a two-night break and I had two spots where I messed up. One minor, one not-so. For some reason, there is a set of lines I constantly struggle with. An excited Dr. Campbell runs out to George and excitedly informs him that the Building & Loan will keep going and that in fact there is a special treat for George (which *he* doesn't think is so great, but that's beside the point). Well, with the excitement and my slow brain, I tend to fumble some of this. Even after going over it in my head several times during the day. Sigh. The not-so-minor messup was me not making it out in time for the start of act II. I don't know what happened- I *heard* the one-minute call, but it just didn't register. I realized the problem when I heard the start of the scene and rushed up there. Too late. Well, my role was very minor with one line that wasn't really necessary, so it

wasn't as bad as it could have been. Still...

Fortunately the next night I did much better. I don't know if we as a whole did much better (the second act dragged Friday- we were told it lasted 15-minutes longer than it should have!) but I would be surprised if we didn't. Anyway, I don't know if there will be a pickup rehearsal or not, we'll see. Otherwise, next performance is this Thursday.

By the way, you may have noticed I wrote "Dr. Campbell" above. In addition to Mr. Gower I play three other roles (two others really- I combined a couple of them). Mr. Partridge is the third. His first name became Charlie, the fourth role.

My Stressful Job

Hmm. In the last month I had exactly two posts about my life. I tend to write longer posts, so I just felt I never had the time for such a post. I'd like to say I will start writing more often with shorter posts, but knowing me if I make that commitment I will break it, so...we'll see. Last week was a terrible week, especially Friday. One of the workers moved to Arizona, so we (myself and the two trainees) had to cover all his stores plus two more. The first two days were really bad- Tuesday I had to work until 8:00 to appease an angry manager, causing me to miss rehearsal. Friday was supposed to be a short day, then rest. Except there was a crisis at another store. Another photographer and I were supposed to cover for someone who had to take off for court, only he only was able to shoot two out of the dozen cars they had while the first store I was at had twenty cars (some disappeared so I didn't actually have to shoot twenty, but what I had still took time) so I wasn't able to make it there

at all until after sunset. The manager was furious and ready to fire us, but two of us (yep, me included) spent a few hours Saturday stickering cars. Thankfully he didn't want us taking photos, my guess because there were so many customers around, so it wasn't an all-day affair.

This week, I am letting one of my trainees work two stores by herself, so that will remove most of the pressure this week.

Drivin' a wagon

No, not that kind of wagon- though I freely admit my first vehicle was an 80's Chevy station wagon. What other kind of wagon can one drive? If you're a creative couple, this kind:

