

# A Short Intermission

WOW! This show is definitely number two on my list! The audience reaction each show gets better and better! We had 124 in the audience for a Sunday matinee which is tremendous! The boos get better and better each time! "We love to hate your Potter!"

After the curtain, we had our cast photo taken then we had to make room for another school concert tomorrow night by moving the sets and props backstage. We also had to take the steps leading from the stage into the house. Poor "Clearance" missed the low ceiling sign and whacked himself on the lip of the stage. **OUCH!**

I also learned of next season's attraction. It starts in March with *Curious Savage*. I told Dawn (who is directing and has been involved with each of the three shows I have been in this year) that I would love to try out but it conflicts with my nephew's Confirmation... sorry, Dawn.

Just in time for Halloween, the Village Players are presenting the immortal *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Perhaps we can encourage another Holmes fan to audition for that... hint, hint. I know I am anxiously awaiting that one!

Finally, the TENTATIVE Holiday production will be *Babes in Toyland*. That would be a LOT of fun.

So... lots coming up. But first... the second week of *It's A Wonderful Life*. Still not too late to check out the final three shows. Thanks again to the fantastic cast, crew, and director and the fabulous audiences!

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# A Show And A Cop In A Mall

Before the curtain went up on night two of the play, I got to watch the hilarious escapades of *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. The film finds officer wannabe and quite agile mall security man Paul Blart (Kevin James of "The King of Queens") up against a group of high-tech robbers on Black Friday. I must congratulate the writers of the piece for setting the action at the end of the busiest shopping day of the year... what a coup that would be! The bad guys take a number of hostages including the object of Paul's affection. The security officer takes it upon himself to not only defend and protect his mall but also rescue the hostages. Several laugh out loud moments abound. I also loved the use of 80s tunes throughout, including "I Can't Hold Back" by Survivor. I also found Paul's "Detroit Rock City" on Guitar Hero very entertaining. A hilarious movie that was a much more family oriented take on *Die Hard*.

Night two *It's a Wonderful Life* was great! Dan and Carla were up from Sandusky. After the show, Dan told me that I rivaled Lionel Barrymore (who originated the role in the classic movie). Quite a compliment from someone who watches the film annually. Over 100 people were in the audience so while only filling about a third of the seats, a great turnout. For some reason, I got more boos at curtain call that night one. And several audience members told me how evil my performance was.

After intermission, there was a drawing for a free ticket to a show next year (something that was forgotten Friday night... sorry). I could have sworn that the name ShelBY Shaffer was announced. However, two things are wrong with that. One, I don't think she could win since she is part of the show. Two, she did not sign up for the draw. The winner was Shelly Shaffer (no relation).

So for a good time... check out *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* and come to

one of the final four productions of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Incidentally, I did watch the last half hour of the movie after returning from the performance.

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## A Wonderful Opening

It really was a great premiere. Not sure how many audience members we had but on a Friday night during basketball season... Mr. Potter is definitely now high on my favorite character list. I love doing evil!

Admin and Taylhis sat in the front row but with the lights on stage, I would have never known... not that I would try to look! Beth (another game nighter) and her sister were in the audience. The game nighter's significant other was in another show... I do not believe successful human cloning is yet possible.

Jeff brought the three little ones. After the show, they came to congratulate me. Noah had gone under after the first act. Elizabeth enjoyed it but Joshua stated that he did not have a great view... was he sitting behind a pole?

A Wonderful show a Wonderful cast, Wonderful fans (which someone is always quick to acknowledge... thanks pal! just wish my special one was still here, but know she was in spirit), and 5 more Wonderful shows to go. So glad we have two weekends. One is not nearly enough for this show... and two might not be (it's been awhile since I have gone 2).

And a shoutout to my great Goon who finally was able to wheel me on and off every time.

Kudos also to the genius behind the 7.30 curtain time. It

allowed some people to stay and chat longer! Just the right time.

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## **Driving Through The Snow And Ice**

Who knew that the weatherman would be right for a change?! We indeed got our wintry mix. On the way to rehearsal, it was just beginning. Starting out as a bit of rain, the freezing rain, and snow. At intermission, I peeked out the window to see a mess. Oh, boy what fun it will be to laugh and sing all the way home. Not so much singing nor laughing. After pulling in at home, I told Shelby that she could either stay here or call and have her parents pick her up in their 4WD.

But everything is so near audience-ready. Isn't it typical to have cast members not show for the next-to-last dress rehearsal? Seems to me that it is. That aside... this show is GOONA ROCK!!! YES, I meant to have "GOONA" I am soooo anxious. One cast member was counting the number of rehearsals/performances we have left. WWWWHHHAAAAT! Not sure what that was all about but... whatever.

So... hopefully, ol' man winter gives us a break just a bit. It is supposed to turn to all rain overnight. I'm all for a white Christmas, but after December 25th, it can go bye-bye.

HOORAY! I DID IT!! And it only took a couple years!

I'm currently watching an old Bill Bixby Hulk Movie. Before the big screen 'block busters', we had Bill and Lou as part of the Banner/Hulk duo. The eyes turn green, the shirt rips and somehow he can keep the same pants buttoned.

No animation here, just one very big man in green makeup. I liked these shows when they first were first on the air. I liked the stories they wrote, and I liked the acting in the show. The show holds its own even after 20 years. That is a tribute to good writing, directing and acting.

After starting to watch this show, I am hoping to see some of Bill Bixby's other shows. My Favorite Martian, The Courtship of Eddie's Father and The Magician. I will have to look see if I can find DVD's of these other shows. I wonder if they will hold up to the test of time.

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## Two To Go

Everything is falling nicely into place... of course, there are a few minor details to be worked out before Friday's opening, but I would be even more surprised if there were not. I definitely have found a role that rivals even the visitor from another country in terms of ranking. It is so funny that fellow cast members who were at the audition site told me that I nailed the role of Henry F. Potter right then! Am I really that good at playing evil? There's that oxymoron again. I did get my ears lowered this afternoon. I don't think a man in the 1920s-40s would have long hair, particularly a gentleman of stature. I noticed that my goon, admittedly, was looking rather shaggy tonight as well (not to mention his attire). It is rather late in the game so there is really no

chance of finding a replacement. I must say that good help is so hard to find!

There was a photographer taking shots for the paper tonight. She noticed my character and mentioned that if this kept up, I would become typecast. Why? Well... you will just have to come and see for yourself.

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## The Holiday Season Can Now Begin

I have seen *Miracle on 34th Street*... not the 1947 classic, not the made for TV redux, nor the most recent big screen treatment. Tonight, I treated my sister and her two little angels to a live production. I absolutely **LOVED IT!** The entire cast was magnificent... from the smallest child, to the briefest cameo, to the big guy himself. The set was a stroke of genius. The entire production flew by. Everything that makes the classic film such a treasure was in place along with a few added bits that were pure delights.

Since purchasing the tickets on-line Tuesday, I had been overwhelmed by shrieks of anticipation by a certain 6 and 4 year-old. Finally, the night arrived and I treated everyone to McDonald's before going to the theatre. A miracle in itself was that the girls actually were done eating BEFORE the time I said we had to head out.

During the show, Sydney was on my lap the whole time and was totally enthralled by the magic on stage. Alyssa, on the other hand, was asleep before intermission. After going down to the "confession" stand (as the 6 year old calls it), Sydney began to share her M&Ms with Megan and I. How cute was

that? And on the other side of me, Alyssa was again sawing logs.

After the show in the reception line, I told the girls to go sit on Santa's lap but they wouldn't... until I apparently moved down the line. I didn't see it.. I saw some fans in the audience who asked why I was not on stage and I put in a plug for a little show coming up in a mere 5 days. **I CANNOT WAIT!!!!**

Once again... brilliant job one and all. You created the Christmas spirit in everyone in the audience and made us all believe. **BRAVO!** My favorite part as it is in the movie... I just love the little Dutch girl who hasn't a friend but sits on Santa's lap and they begin singing a song from her native land.

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## New Edition

Ok... play on words. [\*It's a Wonderful Life\*](#) is about to get even cuter. I know that this has been planned for a while, but tomorrow night will be a rehearsal for a children's choir that will perform prior to curtain time... if there are any eavesdroppers who have elementary-jr. high students who would be interested (6pm at the Huber Opera House. Now if we get 100 kids there, we know who to blame ☹ ). I think this is a brilliant move! It will not only provide LIVE pre-show entertainment, but will hopefully fill even more seats. I have already been approached by people in E-town about what show I am in this Christmas (if any). I immediately exclaim that I am the sinister Mr. Potter (not to be confused with the boy wizard). Many people from the numerous churches in town (so many for a town this size... long story that I will not get

into) have apparently been making plans to get groups together. Nothing on my own church, but who knows. I had at least 3 customers today who are making plans!

We also have an extremely gifted artist in the cast. Our own George Bailey has produced at least one painting depicting a scene from the show that I am assuming will be on display and signed pieces will be available for purchase.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be part of this GREAT show and the fun and wonderful cast and the director and [producer](#) ain't bad neither ☐

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## Tech Sunday

WAIT A MINUTE! Isn't this a week early?! We still have another full week and a few days before curtain. Weell... that may be but the Huber is always in a bind this time of year: school programs, civic gatherings, etc. So, we must share the space with others. Mr. Potter would definitely find this situation downright despicable. But, I guess we will make nice. Yes, we did have the lights and mics going for the first time four our nearly 4 hour rehearsal... which was to be expected. However, it went rather well for the first time on stage, off book, all the way through with lights, sound, and set thrown in. I was pleasantly surprised how well I did with the lines. There was only one spot I really noticed where I forgot a line but the same is repeated only two lines later, so I will just pick it back up Thursday night.

Poor George... I'm not entirely sure that I would like to be in his shoes. All those lines. I have a great many, but.. OH, MY! In one of our scenes together, he asked me why I did not have my script. It was in the house being used for prompting.



I am also happy that I have been able to come up with my full costume... minus a hat... in my own personal wardrobe. I had to take my jacket to be cleaned, but that is to be done by Tuesday afternoon... good to go!

I must say that I think we have another heart-melting, scene-stealing little tyke on our hands. It's a good thing Mr. Potter and Zuzu do not share time on stage because I'm not sure I could keep the mean demeanor.

So... another 12 days before curtain. Just need to keep reading over my lines, getting my cues in order. I did get a new line tonight... added from the movie

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## Evilness IS Greatness

I believe we are now in our fourth week of rehearsals and still in the modified crampness that is the Huber's costume shop. BUT, we get the stage tomorrow night... **HOORAH!!!!** Tonight, we put everything together... blocking and lines, the whole show start to finish. Not too bad. Travis was very pleased with our efforts. One piece of advice was some of the casts dancing around on stage... which is always difficult the first couple times through... especially when it is a non-musical, non-dancing production. However, this comment did not apply to me for obvious reasons that will be made quite clear when you come see the show the weekends of December 11 & 18..

Personally, I am quite pleased with my evilness so far. I constantly hear references to "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and Scrooge... I still think Mr. Potter is even more sinister. I have one line that I just love and cast members have commented on my delivery. However, I need to look at my long

passages. I get on a devilish roll and then blank out on a line, but I **AM OFF BOOK!**

Still needs work but once we get on the stage it will all come to greatness! And the [Village Players](#) NEW website is up and running... so check it out.. Although, I need to point out that on the online ticket ordering, only the first weekend is up.... something which [Webman](#) and I discovered A small glitch I forgot to mention to the director. Oh, Travis...

I almost forgot to mention the lovely drive home in the fine London fog that has only gotten worse as I make my way to watch the hilarious *I Love You, Man*. Good luck with the drive in the morning or the delay whichever comes your way.

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## Week The Third

Ok... former director and current fellow cast member, this is for you (I expect a comment, btw ☺ ) Tonight began the third week of rehearsals and there was A LOT GOING ON! We have posters to distribute and I grabbed enough to paste all over E-town. We were all informed that Hicks-TV (or is it HIX=TV?) is going to be by tomorrow night to film a piece on the show. My aforementioned former director/current fellow cast member mentioned that this was her least favorite part of her directorial debut? I thought my debut on the news was a blast. Even Travis said it was very humorous as I threw the interviewer for a whirl. Here is a [link](#), Beth... just for you (you can have something to watch as well as read). I must also commend our director in his continued efforts to step into multiple roles for missing cast members... male and female alike.

As for rehearsal, it is coming along quite nicely (which is

subjective... I don't think nice is a good way to describe Mr. Potter). Apparently, my evilness is improving but he said I need to slow down a bit... which I have heard before. Well... as soon as my goon decides to show himself, it will be easier to make my entrances and exits. But even going through the scenes, I am developing even more ideas and with just under a month to go...

Oh, yes. On the way to my car following rehearsal, I was flashed by said cast member and she had her young son with her as well... SHAME ON YOU! I AM SHOCKED! ☐