

Birthday Wishes To The Best

Since he so kindly listed several of us in a post proclaiming us as THE BEST, I thought it only fitting to return the favor. I'm sure I have said most of this in previous entries, but it bears repeating. He is just the best director, co-actor, playwright (well the only one I have known personally... but he is a darn fine one), source of encouragement, and most of all, friend that anyone could ever ask for. It is really astonishing that I have known him for only about two years but it seems like forever (and I mean that in the best possible sense). I met him at auditions for our theatre's production of *Grease* and I remember the first thing he said to me. "I know you from somewhere." I was working at Wal-Mart at the time. "That's it."

During the course of the show's run, he made a point of asking if I was going to audition for the next show, *The Odd Couple*. I really was not sure because I had not done a non-musical show in years. It really did not take long to decide after I spoke with my other source of encouragement that very night about it. She told me that if I did not she would hunt me down and kick my posterior (not that word but I try to run a family-friendly blog here). Anyway, I was cast in the role of Vinnie to my great satisfaction and I was told by the actor who played Felix that I stole some of his thunder. And my involvement with the theatre only increased.

Chris has just been so great to work with through his excellent direction and professionalism. I have been privileged to be cast in two shows that he has written himself: *The Clinic* and *Idol Night at the Karaoke Place* (the second one... which I know some people get tired of hearing me go on about as well as allowing our Liswathistani friend contribute to this blog for time to time). As well as his direction and roles in *School House Rock* which was memorable for several things not the least for it being my first lead

part ever. I know it sounds silly but every time I have been in a show and Chris and his wife are not involved, it is like there is something missing (something I guess I need to get away from).

Much more important is his role as a great husband, father, and friend. His family has always come first and he is not afraid to share time together with his family and his friends on our weekly game nights. After all, he is a big kid at heart himself. So... Happy Birthday, my friend and may you have many more.

.. whatever age you may be.