



Fairfax Community Theatre Company

PO Box 253 ♦ Fairfax, Vermont 05454 ♦ info@fctcv.org ♦ www.fctcv.org

Dear FCTC Members & Friends,

The FCTC Board of Directors recently met for the express purpose of exploring reasons for declining attendance and to seek solutions to this problem. Among the areas we discussed were the need for an altered approach to play selection, the addition of an educational element to the company's mission and the resurrection of a holiday show. As a result of these discussions, FCTC will be implementing some new programs and policies beginning in late 2009 designed to bolster audience and volunteer participation, foster new talent and increase our presence in the communities we serve. Though more details will follow, here are some things you can expect:

SCRIPT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Consisting of 3 people (2 volunteers and one Board member), the script review committee will read all plays being proposed to the company for production. Scripts will be provided by prospective directors prior to the beginning of the annual proposal process and each script will be reviewed based upon a number of criteria. After reading, committee members will attend a meeting of the Board of Directors and share their impressions of the works (with the help of a standard review form). They will also be asked to share these opinions with the general membership at any production vote meeting.

PLAY READING GROUP

Beginning in January, FCTC begins a new monthly play reading group which will read aloud and discuss published and original plays. It will be a forum for budding playwrights to hear their work read, potential directors to gather ideas for plays they may want to stage and members of FCTC and the greater community to come together to talk about plays and theatre. Join us for our first reading on Tuesday, January 27, from 7PM to 9PM at the new Dragonfly Cafe, 18 Severance Road, Colchester. All are welcome, but please RSVP to readings@fctcv.org so we can give an approximate headcount to the cafe. The first work read will be *Dirty Work Afoot* by Terry N. DiMurro and Jerry Starks, a melodrama in the grand old style: great fun, no particular message. We hope to see you there!

FCTC CHILDREN'S PREPARATORY THEATRE PROGRAM

In an effort to fulfill our mission of being an educational entity, we plan to institute this pilot program in the fall. Running concurrently with the school year, the program will be open to pre-high school aged children and include weekly classes, a winter showcase of work and will culminate in the class' involvement in our spring production, a play or musical open to participation from all ages but chosen with an emphasis on the inclusion of young people. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the planning and implementation of this program (preferably with previous experience in theatre education or theatre for young audiences). If interested, please contact admin@fctcv.org.

HOLIDAY SHOW

In 2007, FCTC produced *An O. Henry Christmas*, its first holiday show. Given our positive experience with that and an interest in promoting a consistent positive community presence and tradition, we'll be resurrecting the holiday show in 2009 and, ideally, annually thereafter. Specific production and location is yet to be determined, but please share any ideas you have.

With set holiday and spring productions, these changes mean that there will be only two regular production slots to fill: summer and fall. We'll still be encouraging proposals for the spring and holiday slots, though, provided they are consistent with the visions for those productions. Please check www.fctcv.org for updates on all of these projects and our new season timeline.

We believe that these changes will help us to better fulfill our role in Fairfax and the surrounding communities. As always, your continued input and participation is essential as we continue to move forward in the accomplishment of these objectives.

Thank you,
FCTC Board of Directors

President: Walter Mahany *Vice President:* Kevin Christopher *Secretary:* Mary Skidmore Taylor
Treasurer: Jennifer Martin *Directors:* Margie Cain, Jennifer Carbee, Helen Soule, Jerry Starks