



Newsy Letter

The Florentine Players

Florentine Players

APRIL 2010

Message from the President

Wow, it is actually spring! I feel like I just came out of hibernation, considering the number of days we had snow on the ground. And yet we were able to produce an Improv in February and a very successful Murder Mystery in March. Next up will be our annual melodrama which harkens back to the melodramas of the past. Written by our own Chris Carter, it is called "In the Shadow of Betrayal". The cast is in rehearsal now and if the read through is any indication, this promises to be a very funny show! So if you

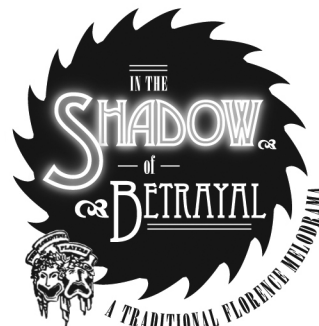
are not already involved with the show, you need to come see this one. May 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th at 7:30PM. You might want to make a day of it and come out on the 8th for the Florence Days parade, then stay for the show.

Our parent organization, The Florence Historical Foundation, has elected a new board. And that board wants to bring back the community spirit that has kind of waned over the last few years as the original members of both organizations have gotten older and are not as active.

To that end a number of joint events are in the planning stages and more information will be forthcoming.

Enjoy the spring with its wonderful weather, because the HOT summer is just around the corner!

Jim Herron



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday & Saturday
MAY 7TH & 8TH
MAY 14TH & 15TH
SO OR
7:30PM CURTAIN
Doors Open at 6:30pm
Florence City Hall 29th & State St.
Tickets: \$10
Call 871-8791 for tickets

In the Shadow of Betrayal

By Chris Carter

A volunteer (and penniless?) Sheriff Ruff Ashlar patrols the 1890's city of Florence, Nebraska, with his faithful companion Gage DuGarde in the 2010 Spring Melodrama entitled "In the Shadow of Betrayal". The handsome and vertically challenged Sheriff has caught the eye, and the hearts, of the towering Temperance O'Shay Kraus and her best friend Narcissus Falls. The audience soon finds out that when two

women love the same man ... no fire rages hotter than the fire that burns in the broken, coal-black heart of the woman that feels betrayed. In exchange for the deed to the Kraus ranch, Mortimer Cain (owner of the Stronzo Hotel de Florence) agrees to help hatch a dastardly and heinous plot designed to win back the heart of Sheriff Ruff Ashlar ... and tons of gold!!! The show is full of exciting action, acting, dancing, singing, magic,

suspense and laugh-out-loud jokes written by Milton Berle, W.C. Fields, Mae West and others! Come see the old-worldly Athol & Francisca O'Shay and the iron-willed Ida Kraus! Enjoy TWO Olio's (the first starring Waldorf & Statler and the second featuring a magic act)! Come to the show and you'll find out that "She had one that loved her, one that betrayed her and one that will marry her ... or else!"

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Melodrama Raffle Items Needed

By Char Spicl

Please everyone out there help with the Melodrama Raffle! One gift certificate or gift from a business would be great. There is a box in the fire barn marked raffle. Don't forget to put name and address of donor for our program. Thank You

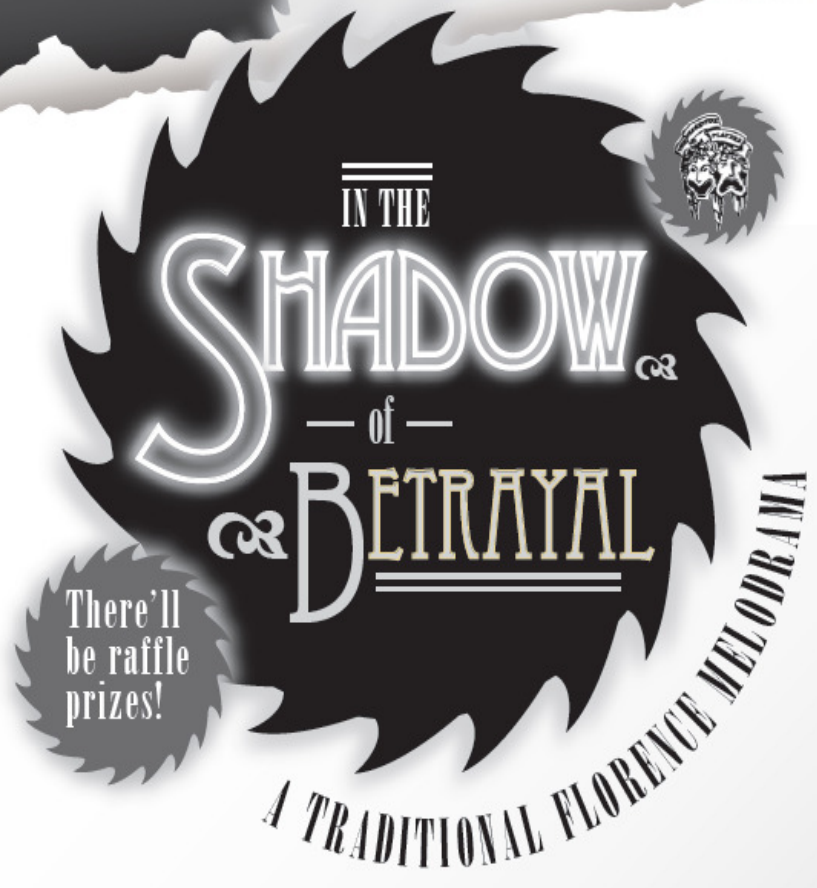


She had One to love her... One to betray her... & One to marry her... or else!

Friday & Saturday
MAY
7TH & 8TH
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14TH & 15TH

Florence City Hall 29th & State St.
7:30PM CURTAIN Doors Open at 6:30pm

Tickets: \$10 Call 871-8791 for tickets



There'll be raffle prizes!

Candidates for Florence Board

The following are candidates running for the Board in Florence. The election will be held at the annual meeting on Sunday, May 16th, 2010. The timeline for Sunday, May 16th, will be strike from 1-4PM, followed by the awards and general membership meeting from 4-6PM (w/ pizza).

If you are a current Florentine Player, your attendance is requested at the general meeting. If you are unable to attend, an absentee ballot is provided, as per our bylaws:

ARTICLE IV

ABSENTEE BALLOTING

SECTION I: Official absentee ballots shall be made available upon request to all members in good standing for the following elections: A. general election of board members; B. filling of "other vacancies" on the Board; C. election of officers and/or filling of officer positions other than appointed (absentee ballots for "C" shall be restricted to Board of Trustees only).

PROCEDURE: Appropriately completed ballots must be submitted to the Nominating Chair in advance of the stated election. "Submitted" shall be defined as mailed, faxed, or e-mailed as an official attachment AND received. An official ballot must be used. There shall be no exceptions. No verbal or phone ballots shall be accepted.



**Erin
Barker**

My Name is Erin Barker. I have been a part of the Florentine Players for 5 years. I have enjoyed every show I have performed in. I feel I would be a great asset to the board. Throughout the years I have seen the changes and feel I could bring in great ideas to better the Florentine Players. Thanks



**Molly
Byers**

I first became involved with the Florentine Players in the fall of 2004, during the children's show. It seems I caught the bug, and haven't been able to give it up. Running for the board seems like the natural next step for me. I have a degree in theatre, specifically stage management, and I think my knowledge of the process, from pre-production artistic team meetings, to the final curtain call, would be quite useful. I also have years of experience in

customer service, and in working with multiple parties in coming to agreed resolutions when disputes arise. I look forward to putting my degree and experience to use in Florence.



**Paul
Bogard**

I for one will fight for our just causes. I

am one of the original Florentine Players and have been active for well over 40 years. I seek your vote for board membership. Thank You



**Derek
Kowal**

Since I have been

on the board, I have chaired the production committee, managed the website and newsletter, and contributed to every single performance, both on and off stage. In my term on the Florence Board, I have been elected to Vice President. My focus has been and will always be putting the best product forward and making money for our parent organization. I am passionate about being in Florence and have made it a huge part of my life. I am also not ready to leave the Board just yet, so please allow me the opportunity to continue to serve. Thank you.

**Crystal
Pearon**

This is the 12th year that Crystal has been involved in the Florentine Players. She has performed in all of the Melodrama's since 1999 and has also participated in the Follies and several Murder Mysteries. Crystal has enjoyed 'branching out' and trying new tasks such as assisting with serving in the kitchen, selling raffle tickets and most recently running the spotlight. Crystal has been a nurse for eight years and will soon be graduating with her Master's of Science in Nursing. In the past Crystal has served as the treasurer for the Heartland Color Guard Association, served as a Board member for Presbyterian outreach, and also currently serves on the Nebraska Association for Epilepsy Council. She has served a three year term on the Florentine Players Board already and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to assist in making decisions and volunteering for the Florentine Players. Crystal would like to serve another term on the Board because she feels that the Florentine Players is like an extended family to her and that she has a lot of experience to offer to the organization. Thank you for your consideration!!



Newsy Letter

Parade Float

By Char Spicl

Everyone, about the float, well its for the kids, and the big kids also. I would like the little one in any costume they want and be unaccompanied by an adult wearing any Florentine Players shirt. We will meet at the city hall building the morning of the parade and ride the float to our place in the park.

we don't have our # place in the parade yet. or the exact time....yet to come.... I will let everyone know when we start decorating the float ,so who ever wants to help can..

Thanks so much

Any questions call or e-mail me...

moonbeam010406@gmail.com

Florence Days 2010

This year's Florence Days Parade marks a milestone. The event is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, and promises to be even bigger than in the past, with one of the largest groups of floats, 5 to 7,000 attendees, and 25 activities with businesses the day of the parade. The theme for this year is "Celebrate the Years: Fifty Years of the Florence Days Parade, One Hundred Years of Boys Scouts of America"

Florence Day Facts:

- Saturday, May 8th 1:00 PM
- Along Parade Route (Miller Park to McKinley)

- Food vendors
- Sidewalk sales
- Kids games
- Estate sale

Specials

Beer gardens

- Florence City Hall (Beer Garden) after parade / Mike Brock, singing / guitar

- Kelly's North Bowl

Car Show

- 2 Live bands

Beer garden

- Annual Florence Melodrama



What the Florentine Players Mean to Me

By Traci Merithew

I am choosing not to run for a second term on the Florentine players board. I am a new mother and feel I do not have the time or energy to give the Florentine players the devotion they deserve. I ask all of you to think hard about your vote for new board members. This election is not a popularity contest but an endeavor to select the people that will work diligently to make the next three years the best 3 years yet for the Florentine Players.

This is what the Florentine Players means to me:

I came to the Florentine Players as a new resident to Omaha. I only had one friend in Omaha so far and she introduced me to the group. I enjoyed the feeling of community that the Players gave me. I enjoyed having a group that sees the best in me and appreciated my skills and enthusiasm. I enjoyed giving back to the community. I loved that people I know come to the shows and compliment me on the entertainment value and good times that we provide. The Florence Historical Association is truly a good cause that we all in the Players work to support. I suggest everyone in the Players take some time to talk to some of the Historical people (Paul Bogart, Lynn or Shirley Farris, Rosemary or G W Allen just to name a few) to find out why we



exist and what we are raising money for. I appreciate all the hard work that the producers, directors, writers, music directors, players, Tech crew, costumes managers, and last, but not least, the bar and kitchen staff put into a production to make it happen. I would like to give a special THANK YOU to Sparky (Jim Herron, my President) and Rick (Q) for the sound lights and for so much more that they do.

We have a wonderful pool of talent that is like a family. Like most families, we have our difficult times, communication problems and generation gaps. I would like to encourage everyone who works the rest of the productions this year to truly engage in the spirit of the Florentine Players family. Encourage and compliment each other for all the hard work everyone does in a production. Remember to tell everyone thank you, from the 50/50 raffle ticket sellers to the lead actors. In conclusion, let's all keep up the professional work of this theater group and remember to enjoy each other as friends.

“Hint”

A Review by Red Ruffnsore – Columnist for the Florence Flogger



Every once in a while a play is performed that satisfies the theatrical palette of the audience. It is so overwhelmingly charming, mysterious and magnificent that the audience feels it is pulled into the event and is inside looking out. These are truly the great performances of our lives.

This production wasn't like that but it was pretty close.

lead pipe, a knife and several armaments were found with blood on them. Just when you had an idea who might have killed who, somebody else would get snuffed out. Then it got real intense.

The beginning of ACT III we started finding out who the killer(s) was or wasn't. There was a real plethora of people who could've perpetrated the pillaging. The scenarios all made sense, except to me. I thought Paul Bogard did it and he wasn't even in the play.

He was looking rather shifty that night.

The ending was really unique. We were given three different choices as to who the murderer(s) was or were. Honestly they performed three different endings. That's almost TMI for an old cookie brain like me but the crowd seemed to love it. In fact the crowd seemed to love about everyone in the show. I don't normally list cast's names but I think full recognition and accountability is needed. Here's a real "slap on the back" from the Red man to Derek Kowal, (he also was the director,) Rebecca Stanley, Faith White, Molly Byers Levi Perkins, Shelly Gushard, Levi Stroebel, Anna Stroebel, Ronnie Hurlbut, Andrew Knaggs, Jay Berryman, Grace Gozzola, Ben Robbins and some pathetic lunatic who played Captain Heinz. There was the usual suspects who worked the lights, sound, stage assistants, bar, tickets and food. These productions really take an enormous effort from many people. Many of whom need some serious mental evaluation. I have two for one passes to give away for use at the Florence Home of the Highly Disturbed and Critically Demented if anyone could use one.

I liked it, I loved it, I live for it and I got it. This was

one heck of a performance by the Florentine Players merry pranksters. If you missed it, you missed some real fun. But I got news for you.

The Florence Days Melodrama is coming soon. The performance dates are Friday and Saturday, May 7th and 8th and Friday and Saturday, May the 14th and 15th. Chris Carter, a local scalawag, roundabout, hooligan and all round nice guy, is directing the play. This figures to be an old time Melodrama, if Melodramas weren't old time enough. Perhaps it is something from the Triassic period. You know, dinosaurs running around with black and white cowboy hats. Could be big time fun or big time dangerous. Check the Florentine Players web site at www.florentineplayers.com for more info.

Now the mail or in reality no mail.

As a survivalist I will no longer be reading any letters that are attached to big rocks and thrown at my head as I walk down 30th street. If you have any questions for Red Ruffnsore you don't have to attach them to any spiked or sharp object and throw it at me. Try the regular frickin' mail!!! It still works and is a lot less dangerous. The P.O. knows I live in a van down by the river or just give it to any board member that will acknowledge I exist.

Until next time, this is Red Ruffnsore reporting for the Florence Flogger. Enjoy the spring and I wish you a merry Melodrama and a tempestuous Tom Collins.

TTFN

"I will no longer be reading any letters that are attached to big rocks and thrown at my head as I walk down 30th Street."

Hello everyone this is Red Ruffnsore, your talent at the typewriter and reviewer of all things brought to you by the Florentine Players. Recently I had the delight to sit through a fabulous production named "Hint." This was a take off of something but it beats me what it was. This production was the Spring Murder Mystery performed at the Florence City Hall. It's the last production before the May Melodrama. The performances were March 12th and 13th. Dinner was served for those who wanted it and what a delicious dinner it was. Thank goodness I always carry an array of trash bags along with me. I was able to appropriate several additional dinners that will serve me well in my van down by the river.

We don't call these Murder Mysteries for nothing. More people were dropping dead than there are chuckholes in our cities streets. As for the mystery, I still haven't a clue who killed who. But I do know what weapons were used. A rope, candlestick, wrench, a



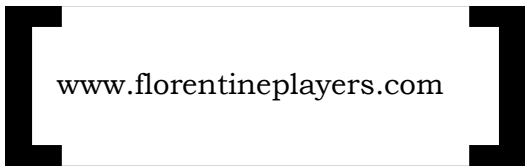


The Florentine Players

P.O. Box 12061
Omaha, NE 68112



Mailing Address Goes Here



Add The Florentine Players as a friend on Facebook! See pictures from our shows!

Membership Form

Valid May 20____ - May 20____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Renewal New Member

Membership categories:

- Headliners: \$1000 and up
- Producers: \$500
- Directors: \$100
- Patron: \$25
- Stars (family 3+ more) \$15
- Players: \$5
- Florenteenies: free (participants only, not the family)

Gift / Donation in the amount of \$ _____

Please Donate this portion of my gift to the Florence Capital Improvement Fund _____

Please mail this form to:

**Florentine Players
Membership
P O Box 12061
Omaha, NE 68112**

