

THE LOOP

- December 2010 -

Standing O Productions

...where life imitates art

Our Mission Statement:

Standing O is a risk-taking theatre company dedicated to presenting lesser-known masterpieces paired with area premieres to engage the community and inspire discussion.

The Scoop from The Loop

Happy Holidays from Standing O! We hope you enjoy our final newsletter of 2010, which includes information about upcoming shows and events, as well as a look back at the many successful performances we've enjoyed in the past few months. We send warm wishes to you and yours this holiday season and hope to see you soon!

A Christmas Story

This holiday season, Standing O brings the hilarious tale of A Christmas Story to the stage. In the stage version, we meet the older version of Ralphie Parker as he tells the tale of his childhood growing up in the midwest in the 1940s. The story follows 9-year-old Ralphie in his quest to get a genuine Red



Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher, and even Santa Claus himself.

The consistent response:

"You'll shoot your eye out."

Don't miss your chance to get into the holiday spirit as Ralph Parker reminisces about Christmas past. Get your tickets today for this popular holiday classic.

The Gist

What: *A Christmas Story*

When: Friday, 12/10 – 8 PM
Saturday, 12/11 – 2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday, 12/12 – 2 PM & 8 PM

Where: **Chesapeake Academy
Black Box Theatre**
1185 B & A Blvd. Arnold, MD.

Who: Michael Harris, Rebecca Hurley, Rebecca Kenton, Finian Meagher, Tom Newbrough, Tanya O'Malley, Jen Skarzinski, Jack Venton, Aidan Wang, Jay Williams, Seamus Woods.
Directed by Christina Enoch Kemmerer

Cost: \$18 (Adults)/\$15 (Students, Teachers, Seniors 65+, Military)



After The Dance Preview

It's 1939, and the generation of Bright Young Things are still carrying on like it's the Roaring Twenties. They're that "lost generation" that missed World War I and are trying desperately to deny the looming threat of the next war. David and his wife, Joan, cannot stop looking back to a time and place when the bright lights shone on them. When a young couple enters their lives, however, it seems to signal the party might be ending. After its premiere in 1939, Terrence Rattigan's masterpiece virtually disappeared for sixty years, but is now being hailed by critics as the definitive play of British restraint.

"The growing shadow behind the glittering light has never been so trenchantly and movingly explored...a quiet masterpiece."

The Gist

What: *After The Dance*

When: Friday, 2/4 – 8 PM
Saturdays, 2/5 & 2/12 – 8 PM
Sunday, 2/6 – 2 PM
Thursday, 2/10 – 8 PM

Where: **Chesapeake Academy
Black Box Theatre**
1185 B & A Blvd. Arnold, MD.

Who: Dann Alagna, Nick Beschen,
Ron Giddings, Christina Enoch
Kemmerer, Molly Phillips, Zarah
Rautell, Jordan Silver, Alicia B.
Sweeney, Fred Taylor, David
Thompson, and Kevin Wallace.
Directed by Carol Youmans

Cost: \$18 (Adults)/\$15 (Students,
Teachers, Seniors 65+, Military)

The Artist's Corner Featuring Finnian Meagher & Michael Harris...

Will the Real Ralphie Parker Please Stand Up?

This fall I have had the pleasure of working with two actors who have a lot in common. They are both very dynamic and energetic performers with a great knack for comedic timing and, in Standing O's upcoming production of *A Christmas Story*, they're even playing the same character... almost. 7th grader Finnian Meagher is making his Standing O debut playing the role of America's favorite Ralphie Parker. Michael Harris is making *his* Standing O debut playing Ralph Parker as an adult, who happens to be the narrator of the play. Directing these actors has been a delight. This Thanksgiving I was thankful for being able to introduce them both to you in this newsletter.

How did you get started in theatre?

FINNIAN: I got interested in theatre by performing as Student #2 in the Second Grade play and watching my brother perform.

MICHAEL: I wore Nerf horns while playing Ferdinand el Feroz in a 6th grade Spanish class musical. If that humiliation didn't stop me nothing would.

Can you tell us your favorite or funniest moment on stage?

FINNIAN: My favorite moment on stage was when I was Hades in *Persephone a One-Act Comedy*, I was supposed to throw an apple of stage but instead I hit a fellow actor in the head with the apple, and he fell off the stage.

MICHAEL: They all happened during a production of an early Chekhov play called *Wild Honey*. Many things happened. A guy shot me (blanks!) when he wasn't supposed to. Twice the same guy missed an entrance at the end of the play. I improvised a speech to cover, then he screamed from backstage, "I'm coming." But the biggest moment was we had an actress catch a 103 degree fever during the last week of the show. One of the other actresses called her daughter who was on the way to the theater, and told her to come

**For tickets and other information, please call 410-647-8412
or visit us on our website: www.standingOproductions.org**

back stage. They gave her a highlighted copy of the script and had her play the missing actress' role. It worked alright until we got to the point where I was supposed to kiss her on the cheek. I went to kiss her and she screamed and fell back trying to dodge me.

This is your first show with Standing O, describe how your experiences have been so far?

FINNIAN: My experiences so far have been good; it has been really fun, but not so much for my parents when they have to drive me.

MICHAEL: Great. The kids are full of energy, and Chris is doing an outstanding job balancing out different skill levels.

This show is all about sharing favorite stories of Ralphie's childhood at Christmas, what are your favorite or funny holiday stories as a kid?

FINNIAN: My favorite Holiday story was probably when my two cousins Hannah and Sarah caused havoc the whole night. While Hannah was trying to flush our hand towels down the toilet, Sarah was peeling pepperoni off of her pizza and laying them on our new couch.

MICHAEL: First time I told my wife I loved her was on a Thanksgiving night when I was in Cambridge, MA and she was in Texas. It was also the first time in my life I got drunk, but that was after I told her. I swear.

Did you know A Christmas Story pretty well before this show? Is it challenging to portray a role that so many people know and love?

FINNIAN: I knew *A Christmas Story* well enough before the show that I knew what was going on, but I had not seen it in a couple years, so I had forgotten some parts.

MICHAEL: I know the movie. Loved it. Who doesn't? The Narrator's voice in the movie is perfect. So, I can only ruin it for people. Makes you want to rush to the show, huh?

Do you currently or have you worked with other theatre companies around the area? Any other upcoming productions?

FINNIAN: This is the first theatre company I have worked with, and I do not have any other upcoming productions.

MICHAEL: I'm the Executive/Artistic Director of Baltimore Improv Group, and I recently performed in Samuel Beckett's play *Endgame*, which could not be more opposite from *A Christmas Story*. I'm hoping my brain doesn't pop.



STAND UP FOR STANDING O

We deeply appreciate your commitment to supporting the arts and showing your appreciation for Standing O Productions. We welcome all gifts and donations. However, if you cannot donate this year but can support us by coming to our many exciting events and productions, please consider becoming a subscriber for the 2011 Season.

*Please make checks payable to:
"Standing O Productions"*

*Checks can be mailed to:
P.O. Box 579
Severna Park, MD 21146*

On behalf of Standing O, I wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday. We hope to see you in the new year!

Cheers,

Christina Enoch Kemmerer

Standing O's Board of Directors

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