

September 2009

Dear Parents/Friends of Odyssey Music & Drama:

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your children, families, and friends. I also hope that you are beginning this new school year with renewed enthusiasm and excitement. I spent a large part of **my** summer preparing for our 2009-2010 production of **“RAGS.”** While it clearly is an unfamiliar show to most, we are proud to announce that it will be the first high school production ever done in Western New York. The music and acting will be hugely challenging to our students, and the historical and educational aspects of the show will enlighten our audiences and all those who choose to participate. We are very excited about this production!

I've met with our directors, choreographers, and many of the parent volunteers already during the summer, and we have mapped out much of what we need to get started: scenery, lighting/set design, costumes, props, vocal, acting, and dancing needs. We have also begun work on designing our logo, the shirts, the program and poster, a new online ticketing process, and our advertising prospects.

Last year it is likely you had at least one of your children involved in our very successful production of “Footloose.” I'm happy about his/her involvement, and hope it was an enjoyable experience. We are looking forward to many of the same youngsters' involvement this year! This year, Information Meetings for students will be held the week of October 19, 2009, at which time they may bring home materials for you to look over so you can decide if he/she will again get involved. This is a year however, when we anticipate several current parent coordinators will need additional helpers to “shadow” them in their respective jobs because many will leave in June when their youngsters graduate. Additionally, there is one “opening” that must be filled soon due to our recently “graduated parents.” I would love to welcome some of you newer parents into these openings, and get you involved as we begin to plan for this year's production.

Kindly take a minute to look over the list of jobs for which we are searching new helpers. Some positions require only at-home phone calling or emailing, or only February production week efforts. Some jobs simply involve driving around the community, or perhaps making additional parental contacts. Many jobs are easily designed to be shared by a husband/wife or other two person team; it makes it easier and more fun that way! Take some time to think about these offerings, and get back to me if you are interested. We are anxious to take on some new parents!

I look forward to seeing many you at our Parents' Fall Picnic in October, and I *certainly* look forward to another Odyssey Music & Drama production and working with your child! Feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to join our team!

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Artistic Director OM&D
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PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Advertising – Mrs. Brenda Moriarty is looking for someone to assist her in contacting potential advertisers, underwriters, and donators. Her oldest is a junior this year.

Backstage Supervision – Mrs. Linda Tolentino is looking for someone to assist her in contacting parents to supervise backstage during our Production Week final rehearsals and all performances. Her daughter is a senior this year.

Cast Party – new parent Mrs. Dianne Webb has stepped into this position and is looking for someone to assist her in planning the final evening's cast party.

Concessions – Mrs. Christine D'Ambrosio and Mrs. Lauren Stoessel are looking for someone to learn how to manage the Concessions for our Production Week performances. Their children are seniors and juniors this year.

Construction/Stage Crew – Mr. Tim Moriarty and Mr. David Izzo are looking for additional parents to get involved with set and scenery design and building, as well as back stage crew for production week. These parents' children are juniors and seniors respectively. Incidentally, *they* both came on board with NO experience in set/stage design!

Costumes - Ms. Paty Cox and Mrs. Rose DiVincenzo are looking for additional parents to work on the costume crew; their children are seniors this year. There are many involved on this committee, and all share the work. Sewing is NOT required!

Paint Crew – Mr. Mike Unterborn is looking for parents to assist him painting scenery and set pieces. His children are a senior and a junior this year. Expert painting and/or artistic skills aren't required, but patience and a willingness to take direction is helpful!

Photography – Mr. Gary Elling and Mr. Eric Hoyt are looking for additional parents to assist in photography. This is a very flexible position, requiring photography skills.

Poster/Program Design – Mr. Gary Elling is looking for additional parents to assist him in the design and layout of our poster and program. Computer and Photoshop skills are helpful and/or recommended. His son is a sophomore.

Posters Distribution – Mr. Mark DiStefano is looking for someone to assist him in distributing posters, and contacting parents who can then drive around the community to deliver flyers, posters, and contact local merchants. His son is a senior.

Props – Mrs. Sylvia Baugher and Mrs. Doris Bubie are looking for one (or two) parents to assist them with this very important backstage committee. Work on props includes looking for, finding, buying, borrowing, or making, the varied items we need for productions. Their children are already graduated, and/or a senior and sophomore respectively.

Saturday Snacks – Mrs. Sue-Ellen Stacey and Mrs. Breitung are looking for someone who might consider being on this very important committee! They provide breakfast goodies, lunches, and healthy snacks to our cast/crew on Saturdays. Parents help shop, sell, and monitor this activity. Their daughters are senior and sophomore respectively.

Tickets – Mrs. Donna LeGault is looking for someone to assist her with ticket sales this year. This includes getting familiar with our **new online ticketing service** and arranging parent assistance for at-the-door sales during production week. Her daughter is a freshman.

Ushering – **This position is not currently filled. Graduated parents Dwight and Sheila Overmoyer have provided us with detailed information and are available to “coach” anyone (or two!) who volunteers to take on this job for 09-10. It is primarily a Production Week job.**