



StageLights



VINCE CARNEY COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

November 2021

2021 Season—Issue 1

VCCT Hosts 6th Annual Winter Gala and Fundraising Event on December 4, 2021

It's that time of year when holiday lights spring up all over town, Christmas trees appear in windows, Chanukah candles find their way onto the mantel,



and stores entice shoppers with year-end holiday sales. It's also the time of year when Vince Carney Community Theatre (VCCT) hosts its annual Winter Gala. This year's event will be held at the newly-remodeled Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle. The evening will feature a show, a dinner, and a silent auction. This is VCCT's big annual fundraising event, and you are invited to dress up and join us for an unforgettable evening.

This year's gala will feature the classic "A Christmas Carol" presented in the style of an old-time radio show. Directed by Kimberly Ekes, the show takes a familiar tale and reimagines it as a radio show, complete with actors playing multiple roles, a sound engineer, and live sound effects.

Dinner this year will be catered by Rochelle's very own Flight Deck. The menu includes a buffet filled with roasted chicken, ham, green beans, potatoes, and salad. Appetizers before and assorted desserts afterward will round out this delicious meal.

Before dinner and all the way through intermission, a wide variety of items will be available for patrons to bid on in a silent auction. Items range from candlesticks to vacations, from globes to pies, and everything in between. Winners will be announced after the show so they can pay and take their winnings home with them.

Tickets for this annual fundraising event are \$60 each and include dinner, the show, and admission to the silent auction. This will be the first gala to be held in VCCT's new venue, which will be decorated for the holiday. Parking is available in the lot just north of the building, with additional parking to the west. Tickets must be purchased online by November 30. No tickets will be sold at the door.



Visit VCCT's website (vcctrochelle.org) to purchase tickets. Note that the organization is utilizing a new ticketing system, so you may be asked to verify your email address. If you have questions about the event, you can call VCCT at 815-513-VCCT (8228).

SANTA WATCH

Have Your Pet Photographed With Santa!

What's more fun than having your photo taken with Santa Claus? How about having your pet's photo taken with Santa! Cute alert! On Sunday, December 5, you can bring your pet to the Lincoln Arts Center and have his or her photo taken with Santa. The photoshoot is just \$20 and includes one 4x6 print and an edited digital copy.



Use the digital copy to order mugs, calendars, t-shirts, or whatever you can find online! Imagine how excited your friends will be to receive a gift that includes a delightful photo of your pet with Santa! You will need to schedule your appointment ahead of time on our website, and the \$20 is due at the time of booking. Visit our



website (www.vcctrochelle.org) for complete details and to schedule your appointment! Space is limited, so book now.



Pet Photos
December 5
11am until 3pm
Appointment required!

Santa at Lincoln Arts Center

We all know that Santa tends to hang out at the malls at Christmas time, and thousands of children visit him there to have their picture taken with the jolly fat man. This year, there is no need to travel all the way to a mall. Santa will make an appearance at the Lincoln Arts Center on December 11, 12, and 19 from 1pm to 4pm.

Visit Santa
December 11, 12 & 19
1pm until 4pm
No appointment necessary!



While there won't be a photographer, parents are welcome to snap as many pictures as they'd like with their fancy smart phones (or the old fashioned way with an actual camera!) No appointment necessary. Stop by during these hours and tell Santa what you want for Christmas. Be sure to enter through the main entrance in the front.

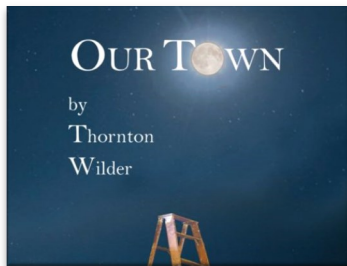
VCCT Announces its 2022 Season

VCCT is excited to announce its 2022 season! Now that the organization has its very own theater home, the plan is to present five shows as part of the regular season. In addition, the organization will host a number of events throughout the year and will conclude each year with its annual Winter Gala.



The 2022 season will kick off with a revival of the very popular musical, “A...My Name is Alice” featuring five seasoned VCCT actresses. This show

was originally presented in 2014 to critical acclaim, and the revival will include four of the original five actresses, plus nearly the entire original crew. Reprising their roles are Amy Frank, Debby Katzman, Jeannette V. Mingus, and Amanda Claire Page. Joining the cast is Lindsey Lancaster, last seen in the VCCT production of “The Last Five Years.”



In April, founding member Carol Wiedmann will direct “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder. The play tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's

Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens.

Tickets for all VCCT productions are available on its website, vcctrochelle.org. Tickets generally go on sale approximately one month before the show opens.

The license for our summer show has been



applied for, but has not yet been approved, so we can't announce it yet. We hope to have the rights approved in the

next couple of weeks and will make a big announcement then!



In August, be prepared to laugh as VCCT brings you the final installment of the Tuna series, “Tuna Does Las Vegas.” This roaring comedy will feature the

talents of Terry Dickow and Terry Camplain, who portray all the characters in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas. If you can't imagine either Terry dressed as a showgirl, then you won't want to miss this!



The final show of the 2022 season will be “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,” a dark comedy/drama made famous with the 1975 movie starring Jack Nicholson. This story follows Randle Patrick McMurphy as he tried to

evade justice by doing his time in a mental institution. However, he meets his match in the now-famous Nurse Ratched.

www.vcctrochelle.org

VCCT Reopens to Sold-Out Audiences!

After being shuttered for over a year, VCCT was excited to finally open again this year. Two shows have been performed in the newly-remodeled Lincoln Arts Center. Opening this season was “Four Old Broads” featuring an ensemble of actors and actresses who have been with VCCT for decades. The “four old broads” were played by

new venue with all of these amazing talents, and was so appreciative of having most every performance nearly sold out.

In October, the story of “Frankenstein” finished out the regular season. This fresh look on Mary Shelley’s story was directed by John Whitaker and Michele McClane. The gripping tale of Dr. Frankenstein, played by Terry Camplain, and his creature, played by J. V. Mingus, showed Dr. Frankenstein interacting not only with his creation, but also with Mary Shelley, his creator. VCCT’s Kimberly Ekes did an amazing job transforming a lovely actress into a hideous monster.



The cast of Four Old Broads, from left: Terry Dickow, Dianne Jenner, Jane Prunty, Carol Weidmann, Sally Sawicki, Michele McClane, J.V. Mingus.

founding members Carol Weidmann and Jane Prunty, and long-time members Sally Sawicki and Dianne Jenner. Another long-time member, Terry Dickow, held his own against the “broad” and entertained the audience with his wicked Elvis impersonation. Rounding out the cast was Michele McClane and J. V. Mingus. The show was directed by VCCT President Amy Frank and the very well-known Terry Camplain. VCCT was thrilled to open its



The cast of Frankstein. Back row from left: Gary Mason, Sydney Webster, Amelia McClane, Zach Crabtree, Terry Camplain, Amanda Page, Norm Reed, Alex Cremeans, Wendy Tritt, Michael Hynek, William Sunderlin, Jessica Garrison. Front row: Michele McClane (director), J. V. Mingus, John Whitaker (director).

Upcoming Events

- 6th Annual Winter Gala December 4, 2021 @ 6:00pm
- Pet Photos by K9 Training December 5, 2021 from 11am to 3pm
- Visit with Santa December 11, 12, & 19, 2021 from 1pm to 4pm
- Annual Meeting and Elections December 15, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Introducing the Lincoln Arts Center

After three years of renovation, VCCT is very excited that the new Lincoln Arts Center is finally open and operational! Under the direction of master carpenter Steve Frank, a host of volunteers worked tirelessly, giving up many weekends and even some weekdays, to turn an old abandoned elementary school into a beautiful theater venue complete with a proscenium stage, a full lobby, a multi-purpose room, and a green room (the room



The house and stage during "Four Old

where actors prepare before taking the stage), and a box office.

The building, formerly the old Lincoln elementary school, was donated to VCCT by Rick and Doris Kennay. Four banks in Rochelle—Holcomb, Central, Stillman, and First State—combined resources to provide a building loan so that the renovations could begin. The very first project involved removing asbestos tiles. Then all new heating and air conditioning was installed, electrical updated, new water lines were run, and a total of five new bathrooms were built. The old gym was gutted and a new stage was erected. The

exterior was restored, including the ornamental decorations over the old main entrance. Volunteers helped with tiling in the lobby, carpeting in the house, painting throughout, and building rooms.

VCCT extends its deep appreciation to those who donated to the building project and to help pay the mortgage payment during our shutdown. We'd like to recognize the following:

- Jerry & Annette Johns (\$25,000)
- Union Pacific (\$15,000)
- Landmarks Illinois (\$2,500)
- City of Rochelle Tourism (\$5,000)
- Loves of Rochelle (\$2,000)
- Rotary Club of Rochelle (\$7,000)

If you haven't seen the amazing work that was done to this facility, visit us during any of our shows or events to see what all the fuss is about. For more information about upcoming events, visit our website, or check out the "Friends of the Historic Lincoln School" page on Facebook.



Multi-purpose room



Lincoln Arts Center

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Visit us on the Web
vcctrochelle.org



WWW.VCCTROCHELLE.ORG

Have you Visited the VCCT Website Lately?

What can you do on our website?

- Get information about upcoming shows
- See pictures and details from past shows
- Purchase tickets
- Get information about auditions and special events
- Pay your membership dues
- Find directions to the theater
- Get information on how YOU can get involved!
- Find out who is currently serving on the Board of Directors

