

# NCT Stage Notes

Newsletter of Needham Community Theatre, Inc.

## Crowds Attending First-Ever 'New Year's Needham' Event Treated to 'Best of Broadway' Musical Performance by NCT

On New Year's Eve 2008, area families were treated to the inaugural edition of the "New Year's Needham" celebration. Fashioned after Boston's First Night, the event featured a full day of activities and performances by local artists. Outdoor events, like ice sculpture and fire twirling, were open to all. Buttons, sold for \$5, entitled wearers to attend all of the indoor events.

As an organizational member of NeedArts, NCT was invited to perform at the Episcopal Church. We had the unenviable position of following the Longwood Opera! After only one formal rehearsal and a short warm-up, a group of seven adults and four children performed songs from Broadway shows for a crowd estimated at over 200. Undaunted, our little band brought down the house.



A huge thank you to all of our participants who took time out from their busy holiday schedules to rehearse and perform: Nick Davis; Jeremy Sutherland; Emma Nardi; Emily, Allison and Ian Hilder; Claire Lukaczyn; Jeanne Crowley; Kerrin Clarke; Jim Pugh; and Kathy Magni.

A special thanks goes out to Caitlin Holland, the ensemble's amazing accompanist. The group reports having a great time and looks forward to continuing this tradition in the future.

## Spread those Rumors! Casting Call for NCT's Spring Show

Sometimes, sharing a little gossip or passing along a juicy tidbit of news is OK. Here's one: *shhhhh!* Needham Community Theatre is proud to issue a call for cast and crew in connection with our Spring 2008 show -- the Neil Simon comedy, *Rumors*. Directing this popular 1989 farce is Hannes Klein, who played Carrisford in NCT's original musical, *Sara Crewe*.



Auditions take place February 5, 6 and 7, with performances scheduled for April 11-13. For more information, please visit <http://needhamtheatre.org/auditioninfo.html>.

## Fall Staging of *Beauty and the Beast* Delights Audiences



NCT's six performances of *Beauty and the Beast* met with wide acclaim. Great performances, lavish costumes, fun dialog and energetic musical numbers made the show a real treat -- for children *and* adults!

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Among the compliments patrons offered as they departed the shows were:

“Awesome choreography!”

“Best show I’ve seen around here in 20 years!”

“This is *community* theatre?”

“The combination of choreography and costumes makes it more alive than the movie ever was!”

“Every character was awesome!”

One Needham police officer, attending the show in a public safety capacity, was so taken with the performance that he donated the price of a ticket to NCT’s high school scholarship fund. And several adults were so convinced by the smoke and lighting effects in the play’s final transformation scene -- where the handsome prince is finally released from the spell -- that they wondered why the Beast didn’t take a bow at the end of the show!

The cast and crew of more than 70 involved in *Beauty* can be justifiably proud of the enchanted experience they created for our audiences.

*From NCT’s Presidents, Heather Daley & Kathy Magni*

**Letter from the Presidents**

Happy New Year! What a great year 2007 was for NCT and Boston sports. In the spring, NCT produced its first world premiere, *Sara Crewe*, to much critical acclaim. This was followed, in September, by a World Series win by our beloved Red Sox.

In November, NCT put together its most challenging production ever, *Beauty and the Beast*. With over 500 costume pieces to create, rent and return, a mega-set, huge cast and a large orchestra squeezed into a very small space, we certainly had our work cut out for us. For those of us helping to create the “magic,” it seemed like a miracle when the show actually came together. And what a magic and memorable show it was! Most audience members commented that this was the best show NCT had ever produced. We can’t disagree.

Now the Pats are writing history and the Celtics have been reborn. Can it get any better than this?!



**Our Best Wishes Go Out To ...**

... Lindsay Holland and Steven Hemingway on their recent engagement. They shared time on stage during *Beauty and the Beast*, with Lindsey playing Babette while Steven was Gaston. Our congratulations to the couple -- we wish them a lifetime of happiness.

### Theatrical News Clips

NCT member Maureen Adduci appears in *Love-Lies-Bleeding* at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave, Boston. For information on performances, Feb. 15-23, call Theater Mania, 866-811-4111.

A number of *Beauty and the Beast* alumni are performing in *The Sound of Music* with the Wellesley Players. Kerrin Clark (Belle) stars as Maria; Kristen Almechatt (ensemble) appears as the Baroness; Jim Pugh (ensemble) portrays Hans; and Brendan Colcord (LeFou) plays Rolf. NCT regular Noah Teplin is also in the production. Chris Roppola will again serve as Music Director. Show dates are March 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21. For more information visit [www.wellesleyplayers.org](http://www.wellesleyplayers.org).

NCT member Sharon Kivnik appears as Mrs. Dalrymple in the Weston Friendly Society production of *Brigadoon*. Shows are April 5, 11 and 12 at 8 pm and on April 6 and 12 at 2 pm. Sharon is also costume director for the Arlington Friends of the Theatre production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* which goes up April 11,12, 13, 18, 19 and 20.

After playing Cogsworth in *Beauty*, NCT member Michael Bailit is producing *The Music Man* for Needham's Temple Beth Shalom. Other NCT members involved with the show include Michael Cohen, Jane Willshire, Jo D'Angelo, Laura and Rob Sutherland, and Mark Still. Performance dates are May 3 and 4 at the Newman Elementary School.

Share your news with other NCT members by sending items to [Jack444@Comcast.net](mailto:Jack444@Comcast.net).

## Drawing Contest Winners Charmed by VIP Backstage Tours



Sound designers Mark Still (rear) and Rob Sutherland demonstrate some of the equipment used in producing the sound for *Beauty and the Beast*. Emma Healy (left) and Shira Magram, both of Needham, won VIP passes for a behind-the-scenes tour of the show when their drawings of *Beauty* characters were the top vote-getters of the many submitted.



Contest winners Shira (left) and Emma pause long enough to get a hug from the Beast (Nathan Lamont, of Jamaica Plain) during their backstage tour.

**NEEDHAM COMMUNITY THEATRE, INC.**

*Entertaining the public with over 50 years of great performances*

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Since raising the curtain on our first show in 1956, Needham Community Theatre (NCT) has staged some of the area’s finest dramatic, musical and comedic productions. We draw our members from friends and neighbors in Needham and surrounding towns, as well as and communities across the Massachusetts border in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. We welcome everyone with an interest in music, theatre, dancing, performance and community service — to join us on stage, behind the scenes or in the audience.

Traditionally, we produce two shows per year — a musical in the fall and a drama or comedy in the spring — with the chief goal of promoting dramatic arts. Through the generous support of our members and audiences, we continue bringing high quality arts and entertainment to the community.

**NCT Leadership Team**

<i>Presidents</i> .....	Heather Daley and Kathy Magni
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	Bill Quinn
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Jeff Kristeller
<i>Clerk</i> .....	Jill Owens
<i>Corresponding Secy</i> .....	Jack Jackson
<i>Social</i> .....	Trudy Valenza
<i>Membership</i> .....	Carolyn Perelmuter
<i>Patrons &amp; Subscribers</i> ...	Kathi Cotton
<i>Publicity</i> .....	Erin Stulb
<i>Outreach</i> .....	Jim Beck, Chris Carda
<i>At-Large Directors</i> .....	Sharon Kivnik, Julia Lipman, Joe Siilverman