

August 2008



Mesmer Eyes

Can you guess
who this is?



Scanning the PAC for all the news that's NOT fit to print!



SET AND LIGHTING HELP STILL NEEDED

Oh yes, we're begging for help again. We need to do a big push to get the set on stage for the fall show, *Meanwhile Back on the Couch*.

If you can spare a few hours, PLEASE come and help! Contact Angela at (708) 408-5338 or email her at theatregirl25@gmail.com. You can also email Anne Kowalczyk at AnneKowalczyk@gmail.com

In addition to getting walls and stairs up, we'll also need help on smaller projects.

DATE.....	TIME
Fri, Aug. 29	5-10p
Sat, Aug. 30	Noon-10p
Sun, Aug. 31	Noon-10p
Sat, Sept. 6	Noon-10p
Sun, Sept. 7	Noon-10p
Sat, Sept. 13	Noon-10p
Sun, Sept. 14	Noon-10p

Start times subject to change, so please confirm with Anne or Angela!

PROGRAM AD DEADLINE SOON

Don't forget: We still need program ads to help pay for *Meanwhile Back on the Couch*. If you need an ad contract, see pages 5 and 6 in the [online edition](#) of the *Jury Rat Rag*.

All ads and payment(s) are due by Friday, September 5, 2008. Break-A-Leg-A-Grams™ and payment(s) are due by Monday, September 8, 2008.

In Virginia, there is a state law prohibiting "corrupt practices of bribery by any person other than candidates."

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GLOSSARY OF LIGHTING TERMS HEARD IN THE PAC (the ones suitable for publication anyway)

CABLE: Common term describing any number of types of electrical connecting devices. All cables employ some type of conductor, usually stranded copper wire, and some type of insulation to protect it.

CIRCUIT: An electrical circuit. In theatrical lighting terms a circuit usually refers to the part of a lighting circuit which extends from the dimmer to the lighting unit. In permanent installations where this is a fixed relationship (dimmer-per-circuit) the terms dimmer and circuit are often used interchangeably.

CONNECTOR: A plug. A device that allows the fast, safe, and convenient connection and disconnection of electrical equipment. We use 3 pin twist locks in the PAC.

COLOR FILTER / GEL: Color media placed in front of a lighting fixture to alter the color of the light produced. Originally made of thin sheets of dyed gelatin, color filters are now made from dyed polymer plastics. Dyed filters work by absorbing unwanted colors and passing desired colors.

FLAG: Passing your hand in front of the beam of light of a lighting unit. Handy when focusing two units at one time, you can tell which pool of light on the stage is coming from the lighting instrument you are presently focusing.

FOCUS: The process by which a lighting unit is either manually or remotely positioned to light a specific part of the stage.

FUZZ THE FOCUS [PAC Specific Slang]: Adjusting the position of the barrel of a leko so that the edges of the pool of light are blurred.

GOBO: Also called a *pattern, template, or cookie*, a gobo is commonly an etched steel cut-out placed at the gate of a leko. It produces a pattern of light and shadow in the beam of light.

LAMP: A light source such as an incandescent, halogen, or fluorescent lamp. A lamp is sometimes called a "light bulb".

LEKO: Nickname for an ellipsoidal reflector spotlight. See page two for more info.

LIGHTING INSTRUMENT: Often called a *luminaire, lighting unit or lighting fixture*, a lighting instrument is a device that is minimally comprised of a lamp, lamp housing, reflector, and some type of clamp to attach it to a mounting structure.

LIGHT PLOT: A drawing which shows the hanging position, unit type and circuiting of each lighting instrument used for a particular show.

SHUTTER: A metal plate or cutter placed at the gate of a leko that allows a portion of the beam to be cut away or eliminated.

TWO-FER: An electrical connecting device which allows two lighting instruments to be combined into one cable or circuit.

WATTAGE: The measurement of the amount of power used by an electrical device. Lamps are rated in terms of wattage. Dimmers are rated in terms of their maximum load capacity in wattage. Wattage=Amperage x Voltage.

WATTAGE IN THE COTTAGE [PAC Specific Slang]: The sum total of all the wattage your light plot is consuming.

- Fill your mouth with Reddi-wip to soothe the burn on the roof of your mouth from hot pizza.
- Apply Reddi-wip to wet skin as a substitute for shaving cream.

Ponderisms: Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?



**HEADLINES FROM
THE YEAR 2029**
submitted by Janice
Hinkeldire

- Spotted Owl plague threatens northwestern United States crops and livestock.
- Baby conceived naturally! Scientists stumped.
- Castro finally dies at age 112; Cuban cigars can now be imported legally, but President Chelsea Clinton has banned all smoking.
- George Z. Bush says he will run for President in 2036.
- Postal Service raises price of first class stamp to \$17.89 and reduces mail delivery to Wednesdays only.
- 85-year \$75.8 billion study: Diet and exercise is the key to weight loss.
- Average weight of Americans drops to 250 lbs.
- Scientists have created a camera with such a fast shutter speed they now can photograph a politician with his mouth shut.
- Massachusetts executes last remaining conservative.
- Supreme Court rules punishment of criminals violates their civil rights.
- Average height of NBA players is now nine feet, seven inches.
- New federal law requires that all nail clippers, screwdrivers, fly swatters and rolled-up newspapers must be registered by January 2030.
- IRS sets lowest tax rate at 75 percent.
- Florida voters still having trouble with voting machines.

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Michael Hofer Presents
A Night of Bluegrass and Barbershop

American Roots Music

Saturday September 20th 7pm

Sandwich Opera House • Sandwich, IL



Come enjoy an evening of live entertainment in the grand setting of the historic Sandwich Opera House!

TICKETS ON SALE at the Sandwich Opera House, priced at **\$15.00 for 1 or 2 for \$25.00.** Bring a friend!

"A show the whole family can enjoy!"

SANDWICH OPERA HOUSE

140 E. Railroad Street
815.786.2555

Call to purchase your tickets or pick them up before the show

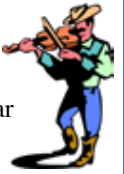
BOX OFFICE OPEN:

Monday thru Friday,
8am-12pm and 1pm-4:30pm and one hour before the show.

Fully handicapped accessible.

Bluegrass Shadows Band

A top notch ensemble, performing traditional and current bluegrass. All seasoned musicians, well known throughout the region. Speed and precision, bluegrass at its best! Featuring Dale Farthing on mandolin and fiddle, Dave "DK" Kolar on Dobro, Sam (Sammy from Miami) Byerly on guitar, Doris Clayton on upright bass and Michael Hofer on five string banjo.



The Convertibles



The Convertibles quartet performs a wide ranging mixture of music throughout northeastern Illinois. The group has its roots in four-part barbershop harmony, but ever since The Convertibles formed in 1997 they've grown musical branches in new directions. Audiences are likely to hear a mixture of ballads from the Forties, doowop music from the Fifties, pop music from the Sixties, a few jokes – and a few surprises. Featuring Lou Gonzales, Ron Welch, Tom Weidenhoefer, and Glenn Kersten.

KNOW YOUR LIGHTING INSTRUMENTS



There are six basic types of lighting instruments, or fixtures that are used in modern theatres today. They are: Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight, Fresnel Lens Spotlight, PARcan, Ellipsoidal Reflector Floodlight (Scoop), Border Light and Follow Spot. We'll "focus on" the ellipsoidal for this article.

ERS is an acronym standing for Ellipsoidal Reflector Spotlight. These are more commonly known by their brand names, especially Leko, short for Lekolite, the name given to them by their inventors, Joseph Levy and Edward Kook (figures a guy in theatre would be named "Kook").

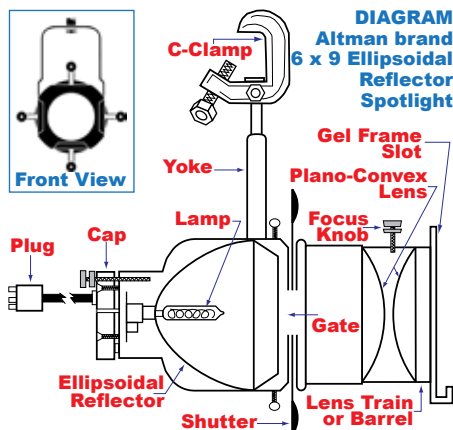
A leko produces a hard edged, controllable pool of light. In the back of the unit, there is a elliptical reflector, typically made of aluminum. Two plano-convex lenses set inside the barrel, positioned as shown in the diagram, are what produce the crisp circle of light.

Most lekos are referred to by the diameter of the lens and the length of the barrel. A 6 x 9 indicates that the lens is 6 inches in diameter and the barrel is 9 inches in length. The differences in barrel length produce a smaller or larger pool of light when measured from the same hanging position. The sneaky part is that a 6 x 9 makes a larger circle than a 6 x 12.

Each unit has four adjustable shutters which you can use to shape the light. These are very useful for cropping the light off set pieces or, in our case, the steps leading up to the stage. The flexibility of the leko allows them to fulfill the bulk of the lighting roles in the theatre, from area lighting to close specials to long throws from the back of the house.

There is a bracket in front of the barrel that will accept a colour or gel frame. In addition, there is a slot just behind the shutters that will accept a gobo or pattern, which can be projected on the stage.

The Kindig Performing Arts Center uses Altman brand ellipsoidals. More popular are a type called Source Fours, which are even more flexible than the trusty Altmans.



Theatre Creatures

Do You Recognize Anyone???



The Wanderer

The actor or actress with a bad case of impaired spatial relationship syndrome. Yes, the usually minor character you block upstage-right to get them out of the way, and who somehow still manages to wind up center stage at the denouement. These folks can cause more traffic jams than a six-car pile-up in downtown Manhattan.

The Voice of Experience

When an actor or actress begins most sentences with, "In my high school drama class we..." your show has been infested with the Voice of Experience. These "pearls of wisdom" will be dropped into the interval between one director's note and the next. Unfortunately, most state game commissions still ban the hunting of these creatures, despite their overpopulation problems.



"We did it better at Goshawful Players"

This pervasive pest has a nasty case of "rose-colored" hindsight. Looking back on the nostalgic days of yesteryear, they are quick to point out that things were always handled better at the last community theater group they were a part of. Of course, after listening to them for more than two rehearsals or cast parties, one always get the idea that their last theater group bought them a one-way ticket to your town and you start to wonder what you ever did to the Goshawful Players.

The Fallen Star

This is a sub-species of the "We did it better at..." listed above. Prone to name-dropping and statements that end with, "Of course, we got paid there," this creature is always on the verge of finding a "new" agent and flitting off to New York or L.A. Most often, the closest this type has ever come to Broadway is balcony seats at the road show of Les Miz. Unfortunately, paying their fare to New York or L.A. is not only prohibitively expensive for a small theater group, this species also has at least a dozen reasons why "now is a bad time."

Bachelor(ette) Number One!

Single or newly divorced, this character shows up looking for love in all the wrong places... backstage, in the green room, at the makeup area, and especially at cast parties. Saltpeter works well.



The Party Animal

"I hear you guys have great cast parties!" This creature, thinking there is no higher humor than the whoopie cushion, quickly becomes "cast clown." This one is often responsible for other actors breaking character or having hot flashes after eating the mints on stage. If your drunk gasps loudly and turns red in performance, chances are there was real whisky in his "whiskey" and your cast clown is backstage, rolling on the floor. Remember to count to a zillion and remove all sharp objects from the theater before discussing "professionalism in community theater" with your actor.

Now starring in the Late-Late Show...

So they were late to auditions... maybe they had trouble finding the theater. Then they were late to the read-through. "The dog was playing with my script... She was so cute, couldn't bear to take it away." Then it was the first rehearsal. "7:30? I thought you said 8!" As rehearsals continue, you hear that bankrobbers kidnapped the actor's mother, his car caught fire "for no reason at all," suspicious characters were following her and she had to "shake them." Finally, you had to make cast call for performances an hour early to make sure he/she showed up on time! Masters of the creative excuse, if they could put half that creativity into their characters, they'd be being late on Broadway instead of disrupting your rehearsals.



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MEMORABLE DIALOGUE

NORA CHARLES (Myrna Loy):

"They say you were shot in the tabloids."

NICK CHARLES (William Powell):

"They never got near my tabloids."

- THE THIN MAN, 1934

OTIS P. DRIFTWOOD

(Groucho Marx): "It's alright, that's in every contract. That's what they call a sanity clause."

FIORIELLO (Chico Marx):

"You can't fool me! There ain't no Sanity Claus."

- A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, 1935

OSCAR MADISON (Walter Matthau):

"I can't stand little notes on my pillow! We are all out of cornflakes, F.U. It took me 3 hours to figure out F.U. was Felix Unger!"

- THE ODD COUPLE, 1968



Take baby powder to the beach with you and sprinkle some on when you are ready to leave and the sand will slide right off.

There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

IN HONOUR OF STUPID PEOPLE...

The spotlight on the corner buzzes when it is safe to cross the street. I was crossing with a co-worker and she asked me if I knew what the buzzing was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"

She is a probation officer in Wichita, KS.

I Believe...

...that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you are down will be the ones to help you get back up.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT US

with any article, photo, want ad or idea at:

✉ RatRagStaff@yahoo.com ✉

I monitor this email and will respond to all. - Ro

Cereal Trivia



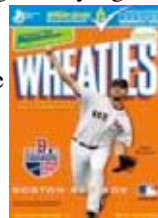
The 1984 Miss America commemorative Corn Flakes Box featuring Vanessa Williams, is one of the most collectible cereal boxes.

In the 1950s, Wheaties stopped using athletes on their boxes and started using Disney figurines. Sales dropped 15%. General Mills decided to recall their sports stars. The Disney boxes are valuable today.

In 1981, General Mills



featured a box with a Bela Lugosi Dracula wearing a 6-point star pendant. A religious group objected to what they felt was a "Star of David" and the box was recalled.



Fun
Websites



www.Stealthnotes.com

Send self-destructing emails.

www.Addcaptions.com

Online sign generator. Create your own billboards, road signs and more.

A Nifty Tip

When you buy a container of frosting from the supermarket, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. Not only can you double it in size, you get to frost more cupcakes with the same amount, thus reducing the amount of calories and sugar you eat! WIN-WIN

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Bizarre Holidays in August

August is National Check Out Bizarre American Holidays Month

4th is..... Twins Day Festival

8th is..... Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night

13th is.... Blame Somebody Else Day

27th is.... Petroleum Day

30th is.... Toasted Marshmallow Day

If you don't talk to your cat about catnip, who will?



Instructions:

Buckling Up Baby



Actual notes left for the Shropshire milkman in the United Kingdom

- Dear Milkman, I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- Please leave an extra pint of paralyzed milk.
- Cancel one pint after the day after tomorrow.
- Please don't leave anymore milk. All they do is drink it.
- Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.
- Milkman, please could I have a loaf but not bread today.
- Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.
- Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I have been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.
- Sorry about yesterdays note, I didn't meant one egg and 12 pints but the other way around.
- When you leave my milk, knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.
- Please knock. My TV's broken and I missed last nights Coronation Street. If you saw it will you tell me what happened?
- My daughter says she wants a milk shake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle.
- Please send me the form for cheap milk for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.
- Milk is needed for the baby. Father can not supply it.
- From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk at all.
- When you leave the milk, please put the boiler on the coal, let the dog out and put the newspaper inside the screen door. P.S. Don't leave any milk.
- Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.

MILKMAN, cont.

- My back door is open. Please put milk in the fridge, get money out of the cup in drawer and leave the change on the kitchen table in pence please. We want to play Bingo tonight.
- No milk. No milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice.



Brain Teaser #1574

See if you can figure out what these words have in common...

Assess
Banana
Dresser
Grammar
Potato
Revive
Uneven
Voodoo



Did You Know That...

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature, can not take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or the flat ground, all it can do is shuffle around helplessly until it reaches some slight elevation and can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash!

PAC Rat Meeting Fall / Winter Schedule!

The next PAC Rat meeting will be **FRIDAY, October 5th @ 7:00pm** in the PAC Lobby. (Location subject to change)