



CLOTA



NEWSLETTER

~ 2024 SUMMER EDITION ~

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our summer production is the Shakespearian comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which will be directed by Olivia Holm along with her assistant director Juli Townsend. Take it from me, if the rehearsals are any indication, this show is going to be both stunning in scenery and lighting, as well as amazing in talent!

Our fall production will be the dark comedy *The Viewing Room* written by Mark Edward Smith which will be directed by myself, Monica Dwyer along with my assistant director, Susie Hankins.

Auditions for our upcoming shows are open to everyone! Honestly, where else could you be encouraged to act out? If you have trouble memorizing lines, don't worry! We got you! We're planning several Reader's Theater fundraising events! We'd love to have you join us on the CLOTA stage!

However, if acting isn't quite up your alley, we have other volunteer opportunities! Please check out our new **CLASSIFIEDS** section on page 10 for more information! Don't forget that CLOTA Members will earn CLOTA Points! Not sure what a CLOTA Point is? No worries! This issue explains what they are and how to earn them on page 9!

Be sure to check out *The CLOTA Spotlight* series on page 11 which will focus on CLOTA members who go above and beyond while behind the scenes in order to bring out the best in our productions. Also check out *The CLOTA BRAGBOARD* on page 13 for special shoutouts.

Thank you all for your continued membership, we couldn't do what we do without your support.

Best regards,

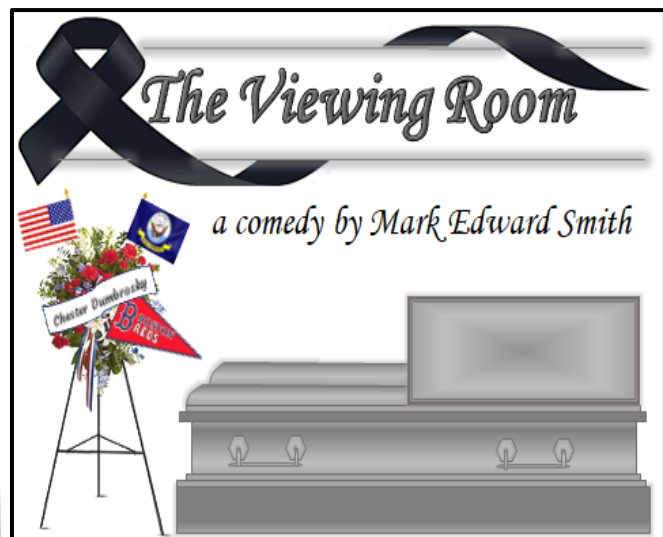
Monica Dwyer

President of the CLOTA Board of Directors

COMING SOON!



COMING THIS FALL!



IN REVIEW

Two Dozen Red Roses

by Monica Dwyer

CLOTA's spring production of the romantic comedy, *Two Dozen Red Roses*, written by Kenneth Horne (from the Italian of Aldo de Benedetti), showcased an amazing mix of talent. Speaking on behalf of the show's director, Larry Lier, I'd like to thank the cast for their hard work and dedication which was evident as they performed tirelessly and brilliantly throughout all seven shows. Joseph Hunter, came back to CLOTA after a long hiatus and was remarkable as *Alberto*. Priscilla Witman chose our stage for her stunning debut and she was an absolute natural as *Marina*. Calvin Johnson, a true hero to CLOTA, came on board the production later in the game and performed wonderfully as *Tomasso*. Susie Hankins was a sweet breath of fresh air as *Rosina*. Jonathan Blair did what he flawlessly does best as *Bernardo*. CLOTA is ever so thankful for this group of immense talent and we look forward to when they will grace our stage again. Bravo to the cast and crew of *Two Dozen Red Roses*!



JOSEPH HUNTER
as ALBERTO VERANI



PRISCILLA WITMAN
as MARINA VERANI



CALVIN JOHNSON
as TOMASSO SEVELLI



SUSIE HANKINS
as ROSINA



JONATHAN BLAIR
as BERNARDO

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE SHOW!



The cast picture as taken in the Verani Apartment.

Top row from L to R: Calvin Johnson, Jonathan Blair and Susie Hankins. Bottom row from L to R: Priscilla Witman and Joseph Hunter

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Victorian era, red roses were often used to symbolize deep love and respect, and were given as a gesture of devotion.



L to R: Jonathan Blair as *Bernardo*, delivering a bouquet of red roses to Joseph Hunter as *Alberto Verani*



Priscilla Witman as *Marina Verani* on the phone with her cousin Tina



L to R: Joseph Hunter as *Alberto*, sharing a tender moment with Priscilla Witman as *Marina*



L to R: Joseph Hunter as *Alberto*, sharing a tense moment with Priscilla Witman as *Marina*



L to R: Priscilla Witman as *Marina* and Calvin Johnson as *Tomasso Seveli*



Calvin Johnson as *Tomasso Seveli* seemingly counting the minutes until lunch time



L to R: Priscilla Witman as *Marina* and Susie Hankins as *Rosina* inspecting the rose bouquet delivery

DID YOU KNOW?

The rose is the national flower of England
- the red rose is the symbol of the
British Royal Family.

IN REVIEW

Two Dozen Red Roses PICTURES



L to R: Priscilla Witman as *Marina* with Joseph Hunter as *Alberto*, sharing a tender moment



L to R: Joseph Hunter as *Alberto* and Priscilla Witman as *Marina* contemplate their future

DID YOU KNOW?

Red roses contain compounds that may help to lower blood pressure and reduce stress. Ah, I feel at ease already!



L to R: Susie Hankins as *Rosina* and Priscilla Witman as *Marina* have a rosy conversation



Priscilla Witman as *Marina* startled by another delivery of red roses



L to R: Susie Hankins as *Rosina* and Jonathan Blair as *Bernardo* contemplate a future marriage.



Congratulations to Steven Dwyer,
winner of the CLOTA Robe for
Two Dozen Red Roses!



THE CAST PERFORMING THEIR FINAL BOWS

From L to R: Jonathan Blair, Calvin Johnson, Joseph Hunter, Priscilla Witman, and Susie Hankins

DID YOU KNOW?

The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love, and is often associated with romance and passion.

DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

At what point did you decide you wanted to direct a CLOTA production?

After working on *Steel Magnolias* as the Assistant Director and Stage Manager, and taking the lead on *Spookhouse* in 2023, I felt a confidence I'd never felt before and it encouraged me to direct. I've been in theater and on stage since I can remember, and after all these years, it was finally time to run the show.

Why did you choose *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

I've always loved Shakespeare and I've been in previous Shakespeare productions. After reading *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, childhood fantasies of frolicking in the woods with dreams of fairies, music and fun dancing with the wind pleasantly plagued me in my adult life. The sheer open-ended nature of Shakespeare's writing led me to pick this one. I don't need to be constrained by reality or words as written, when all I have to work with are the words on the page and the names of the characters. All my creative whims and dreams can be made into a reality for excitable audience members to devour.

What made you want to stage it at CLOTA?

The enclosed intimate nature of CLOTA has always intrigued me and after performing on said stage for *Witness for the Prosecution*, I was dying to put something on such a dynamic stage. When in a space as intimate as CLOTA, it makes it easier to draw audience members into the story. With a story as mystical and beautiful as Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, it was an easy choice.

What do you want audiences to take away from *AMND*?

I want them to remember their first youthful love-falling into a naive sweet love that brings sparkles across their eyes. I want them to feel childlike again, remembering when magic and chaos ruled their imagination. I want them to play as if it was their last night on earth and nothing else exists beyond the walls of CLOTA. Nothing is more important than a person's love and imagination, and this show is to remind them never to let that go.



AMND Director, Olivia Holm

What do you enjoy about directing in general and *AMND* in particular?

I am falling in love watching everything come together. It's like watching a fantastic dream come to life before my eyes. The simple ideas I had floating in my head miraculously appearing before my eyes from actors and from the amazing tech crew is a mind boggling concept. I spend a lot of my time daydreaming, and seeing those dreams come to life is something I never once dreamed (lol) of actually seeing in reality. That is something I don't think I am ever going to get over when it comes to theater.

What directing or other theater projects do you have planned for the future?

I'm looking into another one of Shakespeare's comedies, *Much Ado About Nothing*. I'm also delving into dramatic pieces, such as Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* which has been adapted into a stage play.



The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, featuring director Olivia Holm and assistant director Juli Townsend.



Janis Kunz in costume as *Lotus*.



**SHAKESPEARE'S
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
A SNEAK PRE-VIEW**

Moth, Cobweb, Mustardseed, and Peaseblossom
(played by Devanne Fredette, Elise Bechtel,
Chloe Wetzel, and Rachel Wetzel) pose against
the set painted by Marian Murdoch.



RIDGE-CON

FANTASY FESTIVAL

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT

MAY 4TH, 2024
10AM-5PM
DESERT EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE FRIENDS OF THE FAIR NON-PROFIT TO HELP SUPPORT OUR FAIRGROUNDS, & CREATE AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY EVENTS.

**CLOTA
WILL BE AT
RIDGE-CON!**

**WE'LL SEE
YOU THERE!**



CLOTA PRESENTS

The Viewing Room

a comedy by Mark Edward Smith

directed by Monica Dwyer

- AUDITION CALL -

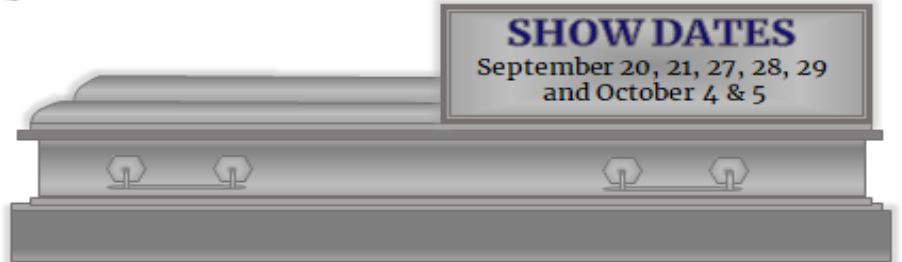
Friday, June 21st & Saturday, June 22nd

5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at CLOTA Center Stage, 1425 N. Inyo St.

Actors will read selected passages from the play

SHOW DATES

September 20, 21, 27, 28, 29
and October 4 & 5



SYNOPSIS OF "THE VIEWING ROOM" - Stern patriarch Chester Dumbrosky has decided to make amends. Unfortunately he waited for the day of his 'wake' to do so. Lots of angst and laughs as his dysfunctional family tries to heal old wounds.
- Mark E. Smith

CLOTA POINTS!

CLOTA Points can be earned for volunteer participation in a wide-range of CLOTA activities. Every activity has a point value that is based principally on the amount of time and effort given towards that particular activity.

Points are earned by taking part in activities such as:

- CLOTA Board/Officer
- Productions (Director, AD, Actor, etc.)
- Clean-up days
- Tech days
- General Meeting attendance
- Box Office & Concessions
- Committee involvement
- Fundraising

A POINT TRACKER WILL BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS TO KEEP TRACK OF THEIR POINTS!

PINS ARE AWARDED ANNUALLY AT THE JANUARY BANQUET CEREMONY

POINTS ARE CUMULATIVE!

THERE IS NO END TO THE OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN MORE!



Want to see what our current volunteer opportunities are?
Check out our **CLOTA CLASSIFIEDS** on the next page!



CLOTA CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED VOLUNTEERS FOR CLOTA TECH DAYS

Do you have a knack for hitting the *nail* on the head?

Would you say you're on the *level*?

Have you ever wanted to climb the *ladder*?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP
BUILD SETS FOR OUR PRODUCTIONS!



WANTED PLAY SUGGESTIONS

Want to have a say
on what you see on our stage?

Be a part of the drama, from
the beginning!

**YOUR PLAY SUGGESTION COULD BE
ON OUR STAGE IN 2025!**



CLOTA



WALL OF STARS



CLOTA generously receives donations from individuals who see the art, beauty, and hard work we do within our community theater as well as the promising future that we help pave for generations to come. These gracious benefactors have assisted us for the past 50+ years and we look forward to what they will do for us well into the future.

Donations are pivotal to us and should not go unnoticed, hence, the establishment of the CLOTA Wall of Stars.

Based on the amount of each donation, a personally engraved Bronze, Silver or a Gold star will be placed on our theatre walls where your generosity can be appreciated by our community for all time.

The star type depends on the amount donated during the calendar year:



BRONZE STAR: \$51 - \$249



SILVER STAR: \$250 - \$499



GOLD STAR: \$500 +

**DO YOU HAVE A SUBMISSION
FOR THE FALL EDITION OF
THE CLOTA NEWSLETTER?**

IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

THE CLOTA SPOTLIGHT

“LIGHTS”

by Monica Dwyer

Perched atop the second level of CLOTA and opposite the stage, rests the ETC Color Source AV Console (in layman's terms, the lighting control system). To some people, like me, the countless buttons and faders/bumps (in layman's terms, doohickeys/thingamabobs) seem a bit intimidating. Even so, I volunteered to run the lights during last summer's production of *Clue: The Musical* and by the end of it, I'm proud to say that I plunged the actors on stage and the audience into accidental darkness only once.

It was during my stint as light board operator that I realized there was a difference between running lights and actually programming them. Combined with the fact that too few of our volunteers had the extensive knowledge to actually do so, we could potentially suffer from a single point of failure. When we recently found ourselves with one remaining CLOTA member with that knowledge and with the summer production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the horizon, learning to program the lights would become a high priority as well as a joint collaboration between as many volunteers as we could muster.

Hands-down CLOTA's most esteemed member, Richard Jackson, was more than eager to help, bringing his wealth of knowledge dating back to his first show with CLOTA in 1983. Rich gave several members of the board of directors an initial orientation of the lighting control system, complete with lighting diagrams with a multitude of helpful information. He then went into ample detail with Olivia Holm (director of *AMND*) and Steven Dwyer (light board operator for *AMND*) which gave them both a running start to begin programming lights for the show together.

Considering that *AMND* has a cast of well over 20 actors and dancers, the lighting requirement proved quite extensive, requiring all available lights (18 of them to be exact) and when it was all said and done, Olivia and Steven were able to program with 16 static playbacks and 4 sequences of lights to correspond with Olivia's 3 pages of light and sound cues. Of the 16 playbacks, Olivia's two favorite are a rainbow wash (composed of 7 different light colors) and a simple playback amusingly called the “*asshat*” to correspond with the character of *Nick Bottom* being transformed into a donkey by *Puck*.

Kudos to this trio! Rich for his willingness to pass on his knowledge and serve as a mentor to his fellow members. Steven for going the extra mile and learning how to download the light set of the show onto a USB drive for back-up purposes. Olivia for being *extra* and learning how to synchronize a light set to a music set. *AMND* is going to be *brilliantly* spectacular!

In conclusion, I'm happy to report that we now have sufficient training material which we can pass on to future volunteers in order to keep the stage lights on at CLOTA for years to come!



Richard Jackson at the helm of the CLOTA light booth



From L to R: Steven Dwyer and Olivia Holm

THE CLOTA SPOTLIGHT (continued)



L to R: Steven Dwyer and Olivia Holm,
training on the thingamabobs



L to R: Richard Jackson with
Steven Dwyer at the helm of the
CLOTA light booth



Olivia Holm gazing proudly at
her beautiful set

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Red Rock Books
Hernandez Handy Man
Greg Perry, Locksmith Safecracker
KP Productions
The Flower Shoppe
Desert Valley's FCU

Warren's Automotive
Sam's Auto Body & RV
Maturango Museum
Casey's Restaurant
China Lake Museum
S&M Collectibles

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT US!

CLOTA CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE: www.clota.org PHONE: (760) 446-2411

E-MAIL: info@clota.org

ADDRESS:

CLOTA CENTER STAGE
1425 N. Inyo St.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X @ RCCLOTA



THE CLOTA

BRAG BOARD

by Monica Dwyer

CLOTA members Amber Stull and Jonathan Blair took part in the 30th Annual Ridgecrest Star Follies directed by Don Hertel. Both Amber and Jonathan were part of a group of dedicated volunteers organized by the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce. This entertaining lip-syncing event supports its programs as well as funds scholarships for local individuals.

Amber shook it to the musical numbers *Country Girl Shake It*, *I Feel Like Dancing*, and *Bang Bang*. Jonathan danced to *I Feel Like Dancing*, *Uptown Funk*, and *Tearing Up My Heart*. Both sang its opening number *Brand New Day*, *The Party Rock Anthem*, as well as its final number, *God Bless the USA*. All in all, it was a wonderful show for an equally wonderful cause.

Amber also serves on the CLOTA Board of Directors (as Treasurer) and Jonathan is a former member of the board and also the winner of the Firecracker Award for 2023. CLOTA is elated to see its talented members contribute as much as they do to our local community.



Jonathan Blair



L to R: Amber Stull and Jonathan Blair on stage during their performance of *I Feel Like Dancing*



Amber Stull

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

MAY

➤ May 4: CLOTA Booth at Ridge-con @ 10am – 5pm

JUNE

- June 1: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm) **OPENING NIGHT!**
- June 2: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 2 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm) **SUNDAY MATINEE!**
- June 7 & 8: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)
- June 9: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 2 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm) **SUNDAY MATINEE!**
- June 14 & 15: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm) **CLOSING WEEKEND!**
- June 20 & 21: Auditions for *The Viewing Room* at CLOTA from 5pm – 8pm)

CLOTA presents **2024 Season**

William Shakespeare's *a midsummer night's dream* Directed by Olivia Holm

6/1
6/7, 6/8
6/14, 6/15
at
7:30 p.m.

Matinees: 6/2, 6/9 at 2 p.m.
at CLOTA Center Stage 1425 N. Inyo St.

Tickets on sale at Red Rock Books and online at clota.org

CLOTA
would like to
extend a special
thanks to our
poster artist,
Devanne Fredette

