



~ 2024 WINTER EDITION ~

IT WAS *HALF* OFF!

PUTTING THE *FUN* IN FUNERAL

by Monica Dwyer

If you've ever directed a show, you know there is a lot of stress involved even on a good day. An introvert by nature, I can't help but sometimes dread meeting new people, leaving the house after coming home from work at the end of the day. Even so, directing a production is what I intentionally set out to do after initially reading *The Viewing Room*, an introspective and heartfelt play about the complexity of family relationships, redemption, and reconciliation. I believed in its themes, and I also believed, that despite my introversion, I would be OK, the production would also be OK. Little did I know then, both this production and I would turn out to be more than just OK.

The talented actors of *The Viewing Room*, Rick Fisher, Fran Kelty, Ian Grant, Jonathan Blair, Heather McGaha, Amber Stull, McKenna Sangren, John Slate and Libby Mitchell (understudy) all went above and beyond, not only in building their own characters but also working together to carefully mold the Dumbrosky family unit. They did so much more with the story than I ever thought was possible. Early on during rehearsals, I joked that my job as director was already over, as they were already doing what they needed to do (and then some) and that my only responsibilities left were to open the building and turn on the swamp coolers for them. I realized soon enough that I looked forward to our rehearsals and laughing and bonding with my actors, they were some of the best times I've ever had, hands down.

My assistant director and house manager, Nicole Johnson, helped me every step of the way, I appreciate her genuine effort in this production. I also want to extend my congratulations to Rick Fisher and Libby Mitchell, winners of the CLOTA Robe for their dedication to this production. Rick's efforts were tremendous, especially during tech days and on his custom-made casket. Although Libby didn't need to perform, she was nonetheless present at tech days, most of the rehearsals and was super helpful working a stand-in for the cast.

Two-fold it was a successful production; ticket sales were great and all, but I also ended up seeing virtually the same faces at my auditions for the Reader's Theatre production *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special!*



IN REVIEW



L to R: Rick Fisher & Ian Grant



Amber Stull



L to R: Jonathan Blair, Fran Kelty, Ian Grant, Amber Stull & Heather McGaha



IN REVIEW



*Front Row L to R: McKenna Sangren, Heather McGaha, Amber Stull
Middle Row L to R: Jonathan Blair & Ian Grant
Back Row L to R: John Slate, Rick Fisher & Fran Kelty*



L to R: Jonathan Blair & Ian Grant



L to R: Amber Stull & Fran Kelty



L to R: McKenna Sangren & Ian Grant

IN REVIEW



L to R: Fran Kelty, Ian Grant, Amber Stull & Heather McGaha



John Slate



L to R: Amber Stull & Heather McGaha



L to R: Heather McGaha, McKenna Sangren, Ian Grant, Fran Kelty, Amber Stull and John Slate

IN REVIEW



L to R: Ian Grant, Jonathan Blair, Fran Kelty, McKenna Sangren, Rick Fisher, Heather McGaha, Amber Stull & John Slate



Rick Fisher



*Center: McKenna Sangren
Back Row L to R: Fran Kelty, Amber Stull, Jonathan Blair, Heather McGaha & Rick Fisher*

IN REVIEW



Rick Fisher

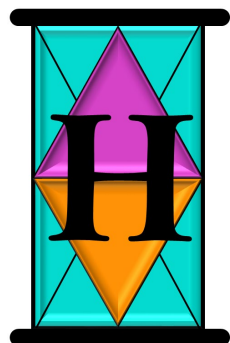


L to R: John Slate & Ian Grant



L to R: Ian Grant & Heather McGaha

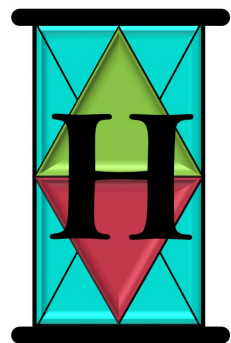
THE WINNERS OF THE CLOTA ROBE



Rick Fisher



Libby Mitchell



Bigfoot is Comin' to Town!

There's no need to go *SQUATCHING* in the woods because Bigfoot is Comin' to Town in *Ridgeview* this holiday season! The zany characters from the comedy, *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*, written, and directed by Monica Dwyer in 2023 are back for more laughs, more *WHOOOPS*, and more *KNOCKING ON WOOD* in this Reader's Theatre Christmas Show production aptly named 'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special.



SHOW DATES: DECEMBER 6TH & 7TH AT 7:30 PM & 8TH AT 2:00 PM (MATINEE)
FOR THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT, TICKETS WILL ONLY BE ON-SALE
ON CLOTA.ORG & AT THE BOX OFFICE ON SHOW DATES

WRITER / DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

by Monica Dwyer

1. Why did you write *another* play about Bigfoot?

A couple of years ago, I attended the local Christmas parade along with several friends. One of them, Ceira Hagen, brought her children and she introduced me to her son Tommy. Let's just say that he got a kick learning that I'd written a play about Bigfoot (*Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*) and that I was planning on directing it on the CLOTA stage in the upcoming months. Although he wanted to be in it, there were no parts in it for kids of his age. Long story short, I promised him I would write a Bigfoot Christmas show one day and he could be in it. Looking back, I was caught up in the moment, Christmas, Bigfoot and someone with stars in his eyes looking up at me like I could do anything.

2. Will audiences need to watch *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind* to understand *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special*?

Although *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special* features several of the zany characters from *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*, it isn't entirely necessary as I included the role of "Narrator" to bridge the gap between stories and give historical background on some of the more prominent characters. Even so, it is on YouTube (just Google it!).

3. What would you want audiences to take away from *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special*?

I'd want audiences to take away that believing in yourself is the best form of self-care you can do.

4. What did you enjoy about writing *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special*?

After writing *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*, my characters, in a sense, froze in time. I often wondered what became of them or what should become of them. I enjoyed letting my mind imagine the possibilities and write them down on paper.

5. What directing or other theater projects do you have genres,?

Perhaps a writer should spread their wings, touch on other topics or genres but I love Bigfoot and my world in the fictional town of Ridgeview. I plan to keep doing what brings me joy and if I can make people laugh along the way, wonderful!

'TIS THE SEASON TO BELIEVE: A BIGFOOT CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY!

pictures by Monica Dwyer



L to R:

Ian Bruce

Fran Kelty

Jonathan Blair

Rick Fisher

Christina Lewis

Michelle Pugh

"The Conrad Carolers"

L to R:

Rick Fisher (Musical Director)

Tommy Hagen

Travis Denning

Vincent McCourt

Michelle Pugh

Allison Mitchell

Armin Natividad

Ashley Harrington

Libby Mitchell



"The Conrad Carolers"

L to R:

Ashley Harrington,

Nicole Johnson,

Tommy Hagen,

Travis Denning





YOU'LL BE SEEING STARS...

STARFISH

KRISTA

20,000 SCREAMS
UNDER THE SEA



WANNA BITE?

ANGLERFISH

DANIEL



A PIRATE'S AFTERLIFE FOR ME...

CAPTAIN

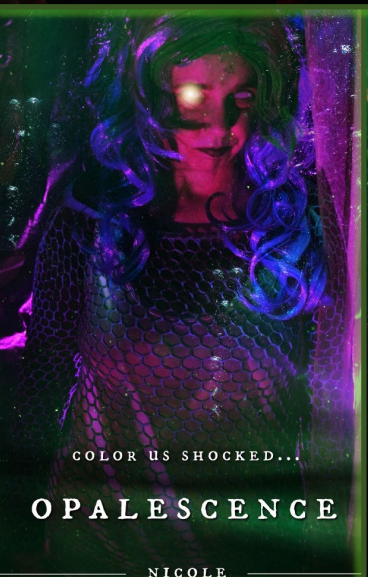
CALVIN



THE WAVES ARE SPARKLING...

CRYSTAL

MEGAN



COLOR US SHOCKED...

OPALESCENCE

NICOLE



HOPE YOU CAN SWIM...

SEA MONSTER

BRIONA



WHO WANTS A HUG?

OCTOPUS

SAVANNAH



ROUGH SEAS AHEAD...

SEA FOAM

ELAINE



HE'LL TEAR YOU APART...

RIPTIDE

TRAVIS



DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES...

FIRST MATE

DEVANNE



LOOK SHARP...

SEA URCHIN

SELAH



IT'S A REAL SHRIEK...

SEA WRAITH

OLIVIA



WHO WANTS THEIR CUT?

QUARTERMASTER

RONNIE

20,000 SCREAMS UNDER THE SEA



WANNA ADD TO HER COLLECTION?

JEWEL

JOURNEY



I KNOW JUST THE STING...

JELLYFISH

MCKENNA & CECE



JUST A NIBBLE OR TWO...

MANEATER

CHELSEA



A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN...

OIL SLICK

ELISE



GIVES YOU A REAL JOLT...

ELECTRIC EEL

MORRIE



GET OUTTA HERE, YOU SCALLYWAGS!

PIRATE CREW

LIBBY, ALLISON, BRAX,
OLIVIA, EMMA, & ABY



TREASURE EVERY BREATH...

PEARL-IN-THE-SHELL

PEARL



YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD...

DEEP SEA

DARLA



SINK OR SWIM?

DIVER

ED

20,000 SCREAMS
UNDER THE SEA

THANK YOU ALL FOR
ATTENDING SPOOKHOUSE!



The West Family



*A young and stylish
Spooky Boutique customer
shown in a knitted frog hat.*

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR MAILBOX?

Elections! It's that time of year again!

The CLOTA Board of Directors (BoD), as per the CLOTA Bylaws, oversee the welfare of the organization and perform all duties imposed on them collectively, or individually, by law, by the CLOTA Articles of Incorporation, or by the CLOTA Bylaws.

Each board member shall hold office for a 2-year term beginning at the first January Board of Director meeting of the year following their election to the Board and ending at the end of the 24th month. Board members shall be elected on a staggered basis so that no more than 5 non-appointed members are elected each year.

Also, per the CLOTA Bylaws all General Members, Life Members and Honorary Life members are each entitled to vote for members of the CLOTA Board of Directors.

A family membership consists of two (2) voting members, so those with this type of membership will receive two (2) ballots with one (1) stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **DO NOT** write your name on the ballot.
2. Cast your votes by marking the box next to the listed candidate(s) on your ballot.
3. If you'd like to run for a seat on the Board of Directors, add your name next to "WRITE IN BALLOT" section of your ballot.
4. Mail your ballot(s) in the provided stamped and self-addressed envelope by November 30th, 2024.

**** Ballots will be carefully processed by our Nominating Committee to ensure a blind tally. ****

Thank you!

AUDITION CALL: ADULTS & CHILDREN!

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Adapted by
Christopher Sergel

From the book by
Frank B. Gilbreth
Jr. and Ernestine
Gilbreth Carey



CLOTA
PRESENTS

**Directed by
Susie Hankins**

AUDITIONS: January 4th & 5th @ 6:30pm
AT CLOTA CENTER STAGE, 1425 N. INYO ST.
AUDITIONS OPEN TO AGES 8 AND UP!

SHOW DATES:

February 28th, March 1st, 7th, 8th, 9th (matinee), 14th, 15th



PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY OF WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS
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Would you rather stay *behind* the scenes, perhaps in the role
of Assistant Director or Stage Manager for this production?

If you're interested, contact CLOTA today!

THE CLOTA SPOTLIGHT

“Summer on Treasure Island”

An interview with Susie Hankins - by Monica Dwyer

1. This past summer, you spent it traveling as part of a theatre troupe with Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT). Can you describe what that entailed?

MCT sends out a number of teams throughout the USA, Canada, and overseas. Each team consists of 2 Tour Actor/Directors (TAD). The two of you travel and work together the whole tour, doing the same show week after week. The show that I toured on was *Treasure Island*! On Sunday, we'd arrive to the community that hired us. Monday, we'd hold a unique 2-hour audition and cast up to 64 kids! Right away, we have our first rehearsal on the same day. For the next few days, we TADs divide and conquer, directing different character groups in different rooms, 4 hours a day. By the end of the week, the kids have learned their blocking, memorized their lines (and given instructions to ad lib in case they forget them), learned their songs, and get to perform the whole musical in their costumes for their community. One great feature is that with an entirely different cast every week, no performance is ever the same, giving a beautiful and endearing touch to it. There is more to the job than just directing, though. My tour partner and I were responsible for writing cast letters, washing and sorting the costumes every week, preparing for rehearsals, calling ahead for details on the upcoming week's residency, building and tearing down the set, and driving the Little Red Truck all around.

2. Had you done this before?

No, this past summer was my first time doing it! I wish I had known about MCT sooner, as I would have applied when I was in college and recently graduated.

3. Will you be doing it again next summer?

Unless something throws a wrench in the gears, I most definitely plan to go on tour with them. MCT doesn't only function during the summer, they also do a winter/spring and a fall tour. They have options on what tours you'd like to apply for.

4. October marks a year since you became a CLOTA member. What have been some of the highlights?

I have greatly enjoyed the opportunities to perform onstage as well as work backstage. Theatre is my biggest passion, and it makes me happy to meet so many others who share it. I also love how it gives me the opportunity to try something new and grow as a performer.

5. What are you currently doing with CLOTA?

Right now, I am working as Assistant Director for our upcoming Christmas play ('Tis The Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special). There's a lot of work that goes into it, and I'm happy with the challenge.

6. What are your future plans with CLOTA?

This winter, I'm excited for Cheaper by the Dozen, my directorial debut. While I have directed for MCT and scenes in college, I have never directed a full-scale performance. I'm honored that after just a year of being involved, I get to take such a big step. My main goal with this show is to get more of the community interested in what we have to offer, especially the youth. Hopefully, we will have some new kids who find a talent and passion for the art, and they will keep coming back and bring friends.



Susie Hankins

CLOTA CLASSIFIEDS

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

DO YOU HAVE A **SUBMISSION** FOR
THE SPRING EDITION OF THE CLOTA NEWSLETTER?
IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SHOW REVIEWS

BRAGBOARD ITEMS

PUBLIC EDUCATION
REGARDING
THEATRE ARTS



CLOTA KUDOS

PICTURES

UPCOMING
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

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 HAS BEEN 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!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS!

Red Rock Books
Hernandez Handy Man
Greg Perry, Locksmith Safecracker
Desert Valley's FCU

Warren's Automotive
Sam's Auto Body & RV
Maturango Museum
Casey's Restaurant

China Lake Museum
S&M Collectibles
Onstott Construction

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A 2025 SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT US!

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!**






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 +

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

Brag contribution by Monica Dwyer

CLOTA member Ian Grant, who debuted on our stage in our 2024 fall production of *The Viewing Room* (see pictures below) and who will be performing as the character of *Frank* in the upcoming Christmas Reader's Theatre *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special*, played at the Five Fingers Pub in Inyokern around Halloween. Ian, pictured (right) in his costume, as the Rylan Gosling character, *Driver*, from the movie *Drive*.



Ian playing at the Five Fingers Pub



Brag contribution by Devanne Fredette

Dance, song, and flair all came out in RMES most recent show "Heart and Soul: A Musical Journey" in which the amazing actors belonging to both CLOTA and RMES showed off their talent and hard work in a unique tale of science fiction and song.

I like to bring attention to our many members learning, experimenting, and thriving in all aspects of what brings a show together.

The amount of hours you guys put in to learn lines, dances, and songs. It was amazing and I marveled at that aspect. Keep doing the amazing things from Tech to Cast. Congratulations to you all!

CLOTA IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE



RIDGECREST

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

~ UPCOMING CLOTA EVENTS ~



DECEMBER 2024

- **December 6:** *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)
- **December 7:** *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)
- **December 8:** *'Tis the Season to Believe: A Bigfoot Christmas Special* @ 2:00 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm) **MATINEE PERFORMANCE!**

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

JANUARY 2025

- **January 4:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* – Auditions @ 6:30 pm
- **January 5:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* – Auditions @ 6:30 pm
- **January 25:** The Annual CLOTA Banquet @ 6:00 pm @ Casey's BBQ

FEBURARY 2025

- **February 28:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)

MARCH 2025

- **March 1:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm) **OPENING WEEKEND!**
- **March 7:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)
- **March 8:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)
- **March 9:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 2:00 pm (doors open @ 1:30 pm) **MATINEE PERFORMANCE!**
- **March 14:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm) **CLOSING WEEKEND!**
- **March 15:** *Cheaper by the Dozen* @ 7:30 pm (doors open @ 7 pm)

