



CLOTA



NEWSLETTER

~ 2024 SPRING EDITION ~

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2024 CLOTA season is starting off rather rosy with the romantic comedy *Two Dozen Red Roses* written by Kenneth Horne from the Italian of Aldo de Benedetti and directed by Larry Lier.

Our summer production will be the Shakespearian comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which will be directed by Olivia Holm and scheduled as our fall production is the dark comedy *The Viewing Room* written by Mark Edward Smith which will be directed by myself, Monica Dwyer.

I'm happy to report that we received a bounty of directorial pitches and we look forward to incorporating new directorial talent to our pool of experienced directors in our future productions.

Last but not least, 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!

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

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE FOR 2024



Kenneth Horne, from the Italian of Aldo de Benedetti





The CLOTA Board of Directors for 2024 has two new members. WELCOME A-BOARD Heather McGaha and Juli Townsend! We look forward to *assimilating* them both into the CLOTA *collective*.

Heather is no stranger to the CLOTA stage with over 20 years of acting and theater experience including dramas, musicals, comedies, operas, and Reader's Theater, as well as CLOTA's annual Christmas shows and *Spookhouse* fundraising events. Most recently, audiences saw her perform on the CLOTA stage as Madeline Conrad in *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*. During this time she has taken on such roles as actor, assistant director, stage crew, set painter, and set dresser.

Juli pursued theater where she became equipped to perform productions, from full stage to studio theatre to new playwrights' forums to Reader's Theater and improv. She became the first drama teacher at the Shine Art Center and was the director of a monthly multi-media kids' program. She gained backstage skills while her daughter was with the Spokane Children's Theatre troupe which included props, acting coach, stand-in stage manager, runner, and green room mom.

CLOTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2024

Monica Dwyer, *President*
Olivia Holm, *Vice President*
Amber Stull, *Treasurer*
Heather McGaha, *Secretary*

Tristan Riden

Janis Kunz

Marian Murdoch

K. Pearl Woolam

Steven Dwyer

Juli Townsend

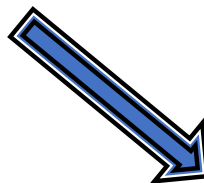
CLOTA CENTER STAGE

1425 N. Inyo St.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

CONTACT US AT:
www.clota.org **OR**
(760) 446-2411

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IN REVIEW

'Twas the Night Before Christmas
by Daniel Stallings

Our CLOTA holiday fundraiser show was a wonderful success this year. Titled *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, the Reader's Theatre whisked audiences to a theatre troupe at the end of their season and the Director trying to cajole a Christmas show out of her exhausted cast. Why? To have one final chance to say goodbye to the adopted parents she lost that year. As the actors reminisce about their family legends of holiday gift-bringers around the world, they reflect of the importance of family in all its shades and why stories bring us together. The cast and crew were marvelous, and closing night was sold-out. We had laughs (when else can you use an inflatable cow onstage?), hugs, and tears of nostalgia. One audience member called it a new holiday classic. Thank you so much to the cast and crew of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* for helping make our holidays absolutely magical.



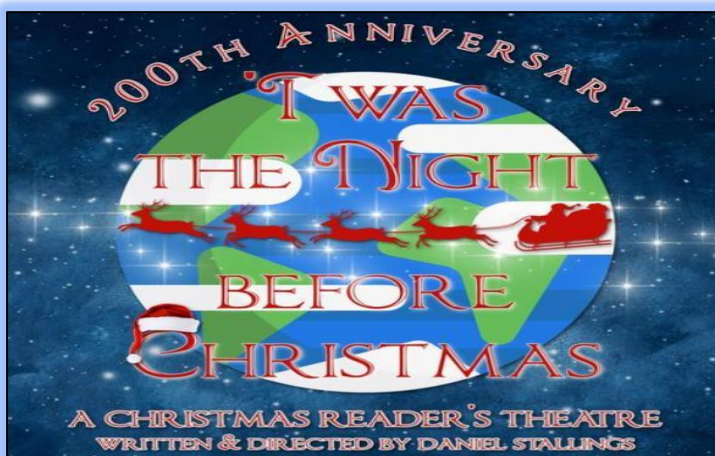
Fran Kelty as *Nonna*



From L to R: Heather McGaha, Jonathan Blair, Susie Hankins, Shiana Tyler, Devanne Fredette and Genevieve Welsh



Susie Hankins
as *The Director*



Davis Kunz as *Santa*



Devanne Fredette,
CLOTA Robe winner



Shiana Tyler and Devanne Fredette



Anton Patchin as *Papa Noel* &
Jonathon Blair as the gator handler

DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

Larry Lier, *Two Dozen Red Roses*

by Janis Kunz & Monica Dwyer

Why did you choose *Two Dozen Red Roses*?

Larry: This was the second time that I directed this play for CLOTA, first back in 2003. It seemed to me, to be a good choice at this time. It is a fun play to put on and funny.

What made you want to stage it at CLOTA Center Stage?

Larry: I have been with CLOTA for over 20 years, directed a dozen plays and dozens of fundraising events. As well as being involved in at least 90% of the productions in one capacity or another. So, why would I go any place else?

What do you want audiences to take away from *Two Dozen Red Roses*?

Larry: People today are all wrapped up in their complicated lives. I want to give them the opportunity to relax, leave the world outside the door and laugh, have fun and enjoy a good family type show.

What do you enjoy about directing in general, and *Two Dozen Red Roses* in particular?

Larry: As anyone who knows me will tell you, every production I have directed on stage has been a comedy. Even the scripts I have written over the years were designed to make people laugh. Whether it was for CLOTA, the Garlock Gunslingers or other venues. People need to laugh. The world is crazy these days, people need to take time out once in a while and laugh. That is also why I chose *Two Dozen Red Roses* for this production.

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

Larry: *Spookhouse* is always a favorite of mine. Maybe I will dust off my old script of *Neighbors* that I wrote and put on the stage of the USO Building back in 2006. Maybe even bring back a Variety Show like we had in the early days of CLOTA. Who knows? I plan to be around for a while yet.



CLOTA PRESENTS

2024 SEASON



TWO DOZEN RED

R SES

Kenneth Horne, from the Italian of Aldo de Benedetti

Directed by Larry Lier

- SHOW DATES -

**February 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, March 1st & 2nd at 7:30 pm &
Sunday, February 25th at 2:00 pm**

Tickets can be purchase online at clota.org or at Red Rock Books starting January 16th.

SUMMER PREVIEW

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

by Olivia Holm

Have you ever wanted to be a fairy frolicking through the forest? Or linger in the loving arms of your forbidden lover? This summer, fantasy, mischief, and mayhem are taking over CLOTA Center Stage.

As the newest director to CLOTA, I, Olivia Holm, am taking a new fresh and modern spin on William Shakespeare's most fantastical work - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Between modern songs for dance numbers, new takes on characters, and some well placed slapstick comedy, I am revolutionizing Shakespeare. There are a total of twenty-one unique characters in this play, all of which offer various acting opportunities. Anyone and everyone is welcome to audition no matter their age, experience, or background.



Auditions are Saturday, March 9th and Sunday, March 10th from 3pm-6pm. Dance Call for fairies is 3pm-4pm, where performers wishing to be fairies will learn a small portion of the choreography for auditions. Actor readings will be done from 4pm-6pm, where actors will read excerpts from the play. Actors are not required to partake in the dance portion of auditions, but if they are looking for any of the fairy specific roles, it is definitely recommended. I hope to see you there! Let mischief and mayhem rule the stage!

CLOTA presents

2024 Season

William Shakespeare's *a midsummer night's dream*

AUDITIONS

Saturday, March 9 and
Sunday, March 10, 2024

3 to 6 p.m. at CLOTA Center Stage
(1425 N. Inyo St.)

*Dance Call for Fairies: 3 to 4 p.m.

*Actor Readings: 4 to 6 p.m.

*Performers wishing to be fairies will learn a small section of choreography during the auditions.

*Actors will read selected passages from the play.

*Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary.

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SHOW DATES:

May 31, June 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 at 7:30 p.m.
June 9 at 2 p.m.



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 +

If you wish to make a donation, please contact us at info@clota.org.

Thank you!

RCC

Farmer's Market

Fresh

Local

Unique

CLOTA will be at the RCC Farmer's Market on February 10th. Stop by our booth and mention you've seen this ad in the CLOTA Newsletter and you'll be entered into a raffle for a free ticket to see "Two Dozen Red Roses" on the night of your choice!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

THE ANNUAL CLOTA BANQUET

by Monica Dwyer

CLOTA Members gathered together on January 20th, 2024 at Casey's Restaurant for an enchanted dinner, activities, and the highly anticipated presentation of the CLOTA Annual Awards. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge those individuals who have served the CLOTA organization with distinction.



The CLOTA Cake
designed by Monica Dwyer



Monica Dwyer opens the banquet alongside a slideshow of the 2023 season, introducing the new board members and thanking Josh Cotterell and Jonathan Blair for all their hard work.



From L to R: Calvin Johnson and Joseph Hunter perform a scene from *Two Dozen Red Roses*.

CLOTA MEMBER PERSPECTIVE

by Daniel Stallings

There's so much joy in sitting around a table with all your friends, new and old. The banquet this year felt buoyed by all the fresh blood CLOTA had this past year. Angie's slideshow, photos backed by dazzling auroras, added extra enchantment alongside the beautiful table décor. It was a delight to sit with our theatre family away from the rigors of rehearsal and just bond as friends. To tell stories, joke around, laugh, make memories, celebrate each other, and so much more. I had fun working and playing the CLOTA-themed What's My Line? game and finding out just how well people remembered lines from past shows. Thank you to Larry Lier, Joseph Hunter, and Calvin Johnson for staging a scene from *Two Dozen Red Roses* for us. And thank you to the banquet organizers who gave us a truly enchanted evening.

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

by Monica Dwyer

The most important role of a theater director is being the primary visionary and unifying force behind a theatrical production, the director is responsible for shaping every aspect of the final performance – from the actor's performances to the setting and design choices. That said, these awards were rightfully earned.



Monica Dwyer

Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind



Daniel Stallings

Steel Magnolias



Angie Sonia-Pritchard

Clue: The Musical

THE CAROLE VENTURI AWARD

by Olivia Holm

This award is presented to one individual, per calendar year, who expresses a “can do” attitude and selflessly volunteers for any job required by CLOTA and performs tasks for the sake of helping the organization further its mission.

Our winner for this award has thrown herself into every position possible in CLOTA and has made a valiant effort to bring CLOTA into a new age. She stepped into her role as President this time last year and has already made a lasting impression, between directing her very own stage production, *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind*, straightening out committees, helping out in each show and fundraiser, as well as working tirelessly each and every day so that every person who enters CLOTA is welcomed with open arms. She has never failed to take on a task needing completion, and always helps those in need, either personally or professionally. Her never ending efforts kept this wonderful program alive and well. We thank you for all your efforts.

Congratulations Monica Dwyer.

THE KIM HARRIS FIRECRACKER AWARD

by Monica Dwyer



This award is presented to one individual to honor a newcomer who bursts on the scene by working on nearly everything during the year; productions, committees, work days, etc. Its intent is to allow special recognition of a newcomer who has been involved in CLOTA no more than two years and who has demonstrated devotion and enthusiasm.

Audiences first saw him perform on the CLOTA stage in 2022 as Sir Wilfrid Robarts in *Witness for the Prosecution* and in the Christmas Radio Show *The Gift of the Magi*. In 2023, he performed in *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind* in the dual roles of Officer Dixon and his cousin Frank. In *Clue: The Musical*, he performed as Mr. Green. He was involved in CLOTA's annual Spookhouse *Here There Be Monsters* where he scared visitors as Mothman and performed in the Christmas Show *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. In between, he's lent his time and effort to tech days and clean-up days and even served as a board member in 2023. Not only did he bring his devotion and enthusiasm through our doors and onto our stage, but he also brought his talent as well as his much-needed spark. Congratulations Jonathan!



Jonathan Blair

THE SPECIAL AWARD

by Monica Dwyer

This award is presented to an individual or business that has helped out during the year and who the Board of Directors feels deserves special recognition not covered by the other awards. Although this award has been available for some time now, no one has fit the criteria until now.

CLOTA has been blessed, for many years now, to have as its media representative, a local award-winning columnist, attend its dress rehearsals and write positively heartwarming reviews of CLOTA's productions for The Daily Independent, which in turn helped to fortify the bridge between the community and our community theater. Unfortunately, for us here in CLOTA and for the community as a whole, she's no longer with the Daily Independent. We will undoubtedly feel her absence from our dress rehearsals, we will undoubtedly feel the deep void of having had such an enthusiastic member of the press in our audience and we will undoubtedly miss reading her outstanding content and seeing her amazing photography.



Jessica Weston

In recognition of her outstanding dedication and her positive contributions to our theater, on the behalf of the CLOTA Board of Directors and on the behalf of our CLOTA members, thank you Jessica!

THE FLORENCE GREEN PRODUCTION AWARDS

by Monica Dwyer

This award is presented in recognition for contributions to the technical aspects of production or one singular technical area for which that person is solely responsible. Usually the recipient has worked in most production areas toward getting the “show in the boards”. This year, we have TWO winners!

Working initially as Stage Manager for *Steel Magnolias*, Olivia also embraced the position of Assistant Director for *Steel Magnolias* (where she received the CLOTA Robe). Most recently, designing and coordinating CLOTA's annual *Spookhouse Here There Be Monsters* as well as contributing her skillful crocheting talents to the Spooky Boutique (a supplemental fundraiser to *Spookhouse*) where many of her creations were sold (see pictures below).



Olivia Holm

Accomplishing so much since she joined CLOTA in early 2023, Marian wasted no time getting to work designing and coordinating the set painting for *Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind* (where she created a memorable nighttime forest scene), followed by *Clue: The Musical* (where she received the CLOTA Robe), *Steel Magnolias* as well as CLOTA's annual *Spookhouse Here There Be Monsters* where she painted a forest of birch trees, creepy trees, and also created the belled buzzard. She also contributed her skillful crocheting talents to the *Spooky Boutique* where many of her creations were also sold (see pictures below).



Marian Murdoch



CLOTA ROBE WINNERS

CLOTA “Gypsy” Robe is presented to an individual or group during each production in the cast or crew that has stood out throughout the production period. It is awarded by the Director on opening night. The tradition was started many decades ago on Broadway and was known then as “The Gypsy Robe”. It has since then been adopted by CLOTA and has been awarded for many years.



Daniel Stallings

Close Encounters of the Hairy Kind



Marian Murdoch

Clue: The Musical



Calvin Johnson

Clue: The Musical



Rachael West

Clue: The Musical



Daniel Stallings

Clue: The Musical



Olivia Holm

Steel Magnolias



Devanne Fredette

'Twas the Night Before Christmas



WAY TO GO!



FAREWELL OLD FRIEND!

by Monica Dwyer

For many years, there was an RV parked behind CLOTA that was utilized as the green room for our actors. In 2022, work began to build an honest to goodness green room within the walls of the CLOTA building. With that work completed and no future plans for the RV, we decided to take the necessary steps towards finding it a new home. As it turns out, in spite of the mass of on-line interest, it wasn't at all easy considering the existing tires would need to be replaced and a path would literally need to be carved through the overgrown desert foliage before it could be towed out of its nest and as far as its roadworthiness was concerned, well, let's just say, no comment.

At long last, we found someone to take it off our hands and it was no easy feat for them to haul it off the property. Let's just say, again, there was a trip or two to the DMV, several tires were replaced and lots of fiddling was done under its hood. After several days of overseeing this grueling project, CLOTA

board member Steven Dwyer saw to it that the RV was successfully relocated to its new home (and without incident along the way). As it turned out, it was someone who was in need of a home after their own burned down several months ago. It brings us joy here at CLOTA that we were able to give back.



The RV nestled comfortably behind CLOTA



The RV on its way to its new home

COSTUME CLOSET CLEAN-UP DAY

**WE NEED
VOLUNTEERS!**

The CLOTA Board is seeking volunteers to join our Clean-up Committee as one of our main goals this year is to, yes, you guessed it, clean-up our sea vans and organize our costumes and props. If we can't find it, we can't use it right?

CLOTA members will earn CLOTA Points!

Our next Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Sunday, February 11th, from 9 am – Noon at CLOTA Center Stage, 1425 N. Inyo St.

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- **FEB 10th:** CLOTA Booth at the Farmer's Market @ 9:00 am
- **FEB 11th:** Clean-Up Day at CLOTA @ 9:00 am
- **FEB 16th & 17th:** *Two Dozen Red Roses* @ 7:30 pm (Doors open @ 7 pm) **OPENING WEEKEND!**
- **FEB 23rd & 24th:** *Two Dozen Red Roses* @ 7:30 pm (Doors open @ 7 pm)
- **FEB 25th:** *Two Dozen Red Roses* @ 2 pm (Doors open @ 1:30 pm) **SUNDAY MATINEE!**
- **MARCH 1st & 2nd:** *Two Dozen Red Roses* @ 7:30 pm (Doors open @ 7 pm) **CLOSING WEEKEND!**
- **MARCH 9th and 10th** – Auditions for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Dance Call for Fairies: 3 – 4pm, Actor Readings: 4 – 6 pm

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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China Lake Museum

S&M Collectibles

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please contact us at info@clota.org.

