



LITTLE THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

April 2013

Spotlight on Bonnie Whitmire

Member of BLT Board of Directors

Bonnie Whitmire, one of our newest board members, was born in Philadelphia, PA and at age 15 moved with her family to Greenville, SC. Her dad was in the textile business.

She graduated from Clemson University with an undergraduate degree in Spanish and later a Master's degree in English.



Bonnie met her husband Jerry at Clemson where he taught Spanish. Most of her teaching career was spent at the local high school in Clemson where she taught Spanish and English.

Her last several years before retirement included teaching drama and directing the school plays. Some of her favorite plays were *Dearly Departed*, *The Curious Savage*, Kurt Vonnegut's *Welcome to the Monkey House*, and *Screwtape*, which is the stage version of C. S. Lewis's novel *The Screwtape Letters*.

Her two sons were active in the Clemson Area Youth Theater which is where Bonnie first became involved in community theater. She directed her sons when they were in their high school plays.

Bonnie was a member of the Clemson Little Theatre Board of Directors until she and Jerry sold their 45-acre Christmas tree farm and moved to Pittsboro, NC. They moved to Brevard in May 2012 after finding their dream house here in the mountains

Jerry and Bonnie have always loved this area. Other than just being in the mountains, they appreciate having Jerry's family and friends nearby. Their common interests are hiking and gardening, and traveling to Capestrano, Italy each year to visit Bonnie's family and friends.

Bonnie began volunteering with BLT soon after arriving in Brevard and worked on *The Dinner Party* in 2012. This year Bonnie is directing *Blithe Spirit* which opens on April 11th.

Dancing With Our Stars **Fundraiser Successful**



1st place Jackson Wine and Amber Austin with MC Don DeBiase (right)

The 6th annual Dancing With Our Stars competition on Saturday, March 9th, featured couples consisting of one professional or very skilled dancer and a locally known person. After each couple performed their routine a box was passed and the audience voted with dollars.

The top three fundraisers were: 1st place Jackson Wine and Amber Austin, 2nd place Jimmy and Cassi Harris, and 3rd place Shannon Lopez and Ed Skravonik.

The theatre was a big winner with over three thousand dollars raised through the event. The money raised goes towards the many operating costs involved in the production of plays and renting the space for the performances. It is due to the support of our wonderful community that the theatre is able to remain in operation.

“Buy One, Get One” is Huge Success

About 150 people jammed the theatre for the Preview Night of ***You Can't Take It With You*** on February 21st. The new Preview Thursday “Buy One Get One Ticket Free” promotion proved to be a huge success, and will continue for regular season productions. Large audiences continued throughout the run with over 100 at the final matinee.



The cast of *You Can't Take It With You*



From left: Marianne Plunkert, David Gibbs, Sandra Whitmore, Scott Lothrop, Julie Vorus, Bonnie Clark, Elly Leidner

Blithe Spirit Coming in April

Blithe Spirit is a comedy by the British playwright Noel Coward written in 1941 during World War II. Britain was suffering severe casualties from the German bombings, and Noel Coward thought British audiences would appreciate an escapist comedy.

The play concerns the socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who wants material on the occult for his next book. He invites an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to his house to conduct a séance, but his plan backfires when the ghost of his first wife Elvira appears after the séance. Since only Charles can see and hear Elvira, his second wife Ruth does not believe Elvira exists until some bizarre events occur. Elvira makes continued efforts to disrupt Charles' current marriage, which result in unforeseen complications.

Performances will be Thursdays-Sundays, April 11-21, at 7:30 PM (3:00 PM Sundays). Bonnie Whitmire directs. Elizabeth Malzone is Stage Manager. Cast members include Scott Lothrop, Sandra Whitmore, Julie Vorus, Bonnie Carter, Dave Gibbs, Marianne Plunkert and Elly Leidner.

Click [here](#) to view the video promo.

Annual Meeting Elects Officers

BLT's Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday, March 16th. Mark Henry, outgoing BLT president, gave an annual report which outlined accomplishments of the organization during 2012. Then he announced the upcoming BLT officers and new board members.



Nita Porter and Patrice Robinson will share the office of President, with Sandra Whitmore as vice president. June Stacy will remain as Secretary along with Dick Thompson as treasurer.

Bonnie Whitmire, Julie Vorus, Annette Hobbs, and Sonia Arnold were elected as new BLT board members.

Annual Awards Presented



Best Play Winner, *The Dinner Party*: From left: Sandra Whitmore, Ron Barratt, Julie Vorus. Missing are Doug Huth, Tate Albert, Cheryl Walkup, and Director Annette Hobbs.



People's Choice Award, *The Dixie Swim Club*: From left: Julie Vorus, Sandra Whitmore, Nita Porter, Director Jim Robinson, Kathy Kitahata, Stage Manager Patrice Robinson, and Costumer Sonia Arnold. Missing: Adele Latell

Brevard Little Theatre held its annual awards event Saturday, March 16, at the theatre.

In addition to those pictured above, the following awards were announced:

BLT Debut Actor – Alex Fulkrod in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; BLT Debut Actress – Adele Latell in *The Dixie Swim Club*; Best Junior Actor – Connor Leidner in *The House at Pooh Corner*; Best Junior Actress – Elly Leidner in *Steel Magnolias*; Best Actress in a Character Role – Carol Hamann in *Steel Magnolias*; Best Actor in a Supporting Role – Ron Barratt in *The*

Dinner Party; Best Actress in a Supporting Role – Nita Porter in *The Dixie Swim Club*; Best Actress in a Leading Role – Lyn O’Hare in *Steel Magnolias*; Best Actor in a Leading Role – Tate Albert in *The Dinner Party*.

Fifty-Fifty Read All about It!

Brevard Little Theatre has been holding a Fifty-Fifty drawing for the past several productions. Patrons attending a performance are given the opportunity to buy one ticket for \$1.00 or six tickets for \$5.00. At the end of the last intermission (sometimes there is more than one) a ticket is drawn and the person who has the corresponding number wins half of the money collected from the ticket sales. Not only does the theater benefit, but also some lucky person leaves with more money in their pocket than when they arrived at the door. So come on everyone, buy some tickets at the next performance you attend, and you may be the lucky winner!



Reminder: New Curtain Time & Preview Night

BLT has a new curtain time for evening productions; 7:30 PM instead of 8:00 PM. Matinees remain at 3 PM.

Another new feature this season is Preview Night. For each of the five regular season productions, the first Thursday will be designated as Preview Night and there will be a special offer on tickets: two for the price of one. The official Opening Night, with a reception, remains on the first Friday of each production.



Volunteers are always needed at BLT. Contact Sandra Whitmore, Volunteer Coordinator, at sanwhitrn@yahoo.com. She will help find you the perfect position based on your life skills and interest. Get involved in your theatre!



**Brevard Little Theatre is the
Official Community Theatre of
Transylvania County & Brevard**

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