



**NEW KENSINGTON CIVIC THEATRE  
APRIL 2013  
CALLBOARD**



PLEASE NOTE:  
THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN APRIL.  
WE ARE HAVING A COMBINED APRIL- MAY MEETING  
MAY 2 @ 8PM AT THE WORKSHOP.

The slate of officers for the 2014-2015 will be presented and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Elections will be held at the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is very important that we have a quorum for both meetings. Please try to attend. Thank you for your support!

**Notable Notes**

Our final production for the season is “Wonder of the World.” It will be presented May 15-18 at the Forum Theatre. Matt Mlynarski is directing. Auditions were held. More news to follow in May!

The Penn State Drama Club presents, **Almost Maine**, April 10, 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> at the Forum Theatre. Curtain time is 8PM. This production is directed by Bill Mitas. Tickets are \$8.00; Senior Citizens and Students \$5.00.

**ALMOST MAINE:** It’s love. But, not quite.

My interview for April is Shawn Israel. He showed an interest in music and performing at an early age. Hence, he has much to reveal to us! It is uncut and unedited. Thank you, Shawn, for sharing your experiences with us!



## **15 Minutes with Shawn Israel**

“The warning signs were definitely present from early on that I might join the New Kensington Civic Theatre some day. Growing up in Leechburg, I exhibited an early fascination with music, was performing with local bands, and even appeared with Joe Negri on WTAE-TV several times. Later, I worked the spotlight & trod the boards with Leechburg Area High School’s drama club, under the direction of Colleen Clark-Sulava and Mark Nigro.

Attending college at Penn State, I went to the movies. A lot. Also, I hung out in the theater department. A lot. Probably both activities were utterly appropriate, considering I ended up studying Film and Speech Communication. Once in the “real world,” I began my radio broadcasting career at New Kensington’s own WKPA/WYDD. Several Pittsburgh radio stations later, I ended up a resident of the City of New Kensington, where I resided for 13 years. (Second floor walkup, a block away from Gunny’s. Nice!!)

Although I’d attended more than a few NKCT productions, it wasn’t until 2002 that I’d embraced my destiny and joined its ranks officially. Ushering, helping out at strike, & doing the occasional workshop early on, I’d finally taken the plunge and appeared on the main stage in 2008. In my four onstage appearances with NKCT, I have smoked (fake) cigars, drunk massive amounts of (non-alcoholic) beer, and pretended to play the accordion (*CampLife*). I honed my ballroom dance skills & did an attempted striptease for laughs (*The Full Monty*). I got “killed” offstage (*Wait Until Dark*). I shaved off my beard and did battle nightly with a stubborn suspender clip. (*The Underpants*). Looking back, I’m genuinely amazed at how often I’ve either disrobed or gotten dressed onstage.

As well, I served as Historian for one season, and House Chair for three-and-a-half, stepping down to manage the house at the Pittsburgh Public Theater, which I’ve done now for the past two years and counting. Back in Leechburg since 2008, I’ve been known as well to rip tickets & don party shirts during the summer at the Riverside Drive-In in North Vandergrift.

I can’t express adequately what a thrill it is to be a part of this amazing family, even if you see my mug less frequently. I’ve got a storehouse of terrific memories and am in genuine awe of the abundance of talent, good humor, irreverence, & warmth I’ve found here since day one. Thanks to everyone for your friendship & creativity. I look forward to lots more great times & shows!”

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Ansani  
Editor