

Encore!

Diamond Head Theatre

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All That Jazz!

Two Decades of DHT's Broadway Jazz Class

Twenty years ago, John Rampage was approached to teach a musical theatre dance class to adults—and our Broadway Jazz class was born. John has since become DHT's artistic director, directing and choreographing many of our shows. However, he still teaches Broadway Jazz—one of our most popular classes, always at maximum capacity with a waitlist.

What goes on in Broadway Jazz? John starts each class with a bit of stretching and warm-up, followed by technical dance moves and actual choreography. Each session, he picks one song to choreograph. A bit of new choreography is taught every week, adding on to what came before. By the end of the 10-week session, voila! The class has learned the choreography for an entire number.

To pick the song, he browses types of music (such as 1940s swing or 1960s style) for the perfect catchy tune that also offers varying sections of slow and fast tempos so the choreography is interesting to learn. He

owns an extensive collection of Broadway music, from the popular to the obscure, including movie soundtracks and albums. He might pull out recordings by Linda Eder or Judy Garland, or even a rare disco album by Ethel Merman. John loves to introduce the students to music they might not have heard but would inevitably enjoy enough to purchase online for their own collections.

Who knew that Broadway Jazz would diversify the mix on your iPod! Whatever he chooses, the music is always energizing—and John is always full of quick-witted comments



"Don't look at the floor—that's what mirrors are for!"

that add laughter to each class.

One of the remarkable things about Broadway Jazz is that it appeals to all ages, talent levels and backgrounds. We've had

Inside This Issue

All That Jazz	1
A Look Back in Time	2
Executive Director's Message	2
An Evening of Mystery	3
Tlima Awards	4
In the Spotlight	5
Transitions	5
We Have a Winner!	5
MTE Summer Program	6
Mahalo, Volunteers!	7
Tinsel 'n Tickets	8

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



A Look Back in Time

Paint Your Wagon


Diamond Head Theatre has embarked on a project to sort out our archives (with the help of Tisha Love Bryant). In the process, we came upon a show with a lot of familiar names and some fun facts and photos.

The show was *Paint Your Wagon*, and it opened August 12, 1953. One of the leads was Ed Kenney, whose son Ed Kenney III owns the very popular Honolulu restaurants Town and Downtown @ the HiSAM. At the time, Mr. Kenney (pictured below left) was home for the summer from the



University of Oregon and the playbill noted he had been in many DHT (then HCT) shows even while attending Punahou. Mr. Kenney went on to Broadway and is best known for the role of Wang Ta in the original Broadway production of *Flower Drum Song*.

Some other familiar faces were found in the newspaper clippings from opening night: Indru and Gulab Watumull. Mrs. Watumull currently serves on the DHT Board, so obviously the Watumulls have had a longtime affiliation with DHT.

Finally, this publicity shot for the show caught our eye. *The Honolulu Advertiser* reports that “downtown traffic was momentarily snarled just before noon by the sight of a mama donkey and her two-month-old daughter strolling casually along the busy business-district streets.” Wonder who thought up this gimmick to promote the show? We’re guessing it was none other than the public relations advisor listed in the playbill: Hal Lewis, aka J. Akuhead Pupule, or Aku! Sounds like him, doesn’t it? 

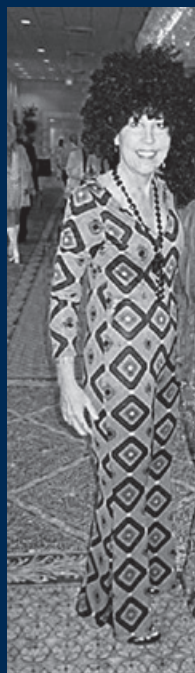


2

Aloha from DHT’s Executive Director

Are you a Halloween person? I struggle with it. I love the holiday for the kids—but for me, dressing up? Not so much. Sometimes, though, I’m pressed into attending a costume event, and when that happens, I head right to our costume shop here at DHT. It’s the best place on the island to rent costumes—and not just at Halloween, but year-round. Here’s the proof—me, in costume, for a charity event!

Now, I *am* a Thanksgiving person. I grew up on the East Coast, so Thanksgiving meant chilly weather, a big family dinner with turkey and all the trimmings, and a talent show by



the cousins. Calling it a “talent” show might be stretching things, but our parents and aunts and uncles applauded enthusiastically (maybe there was something in the cider ...).

Thanksgiving is also special because it reminds me to be grateful. And I am. Grateful to have a job in a thriving theatre surrounded by people who, unlike my cousins and myself, *are* talented. Grateful to have a performing arts program so successful that kids are lining up to enroll.

Grateful to have the support of our Board of Directors and our community, making it possible for us to once again end our fiscal year in the black. And grateful to have hard-working staff that pulls together and makes it all happen, despite long hours and limited resources.

And I’m grateful for you—people who love Diamond Head Theatre. We’ll soon be asking for your support with our annual holiday appeal, and I know I can count on you. Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

Encore! is published by Diamond Head Theatre, 520 Makapuu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816.

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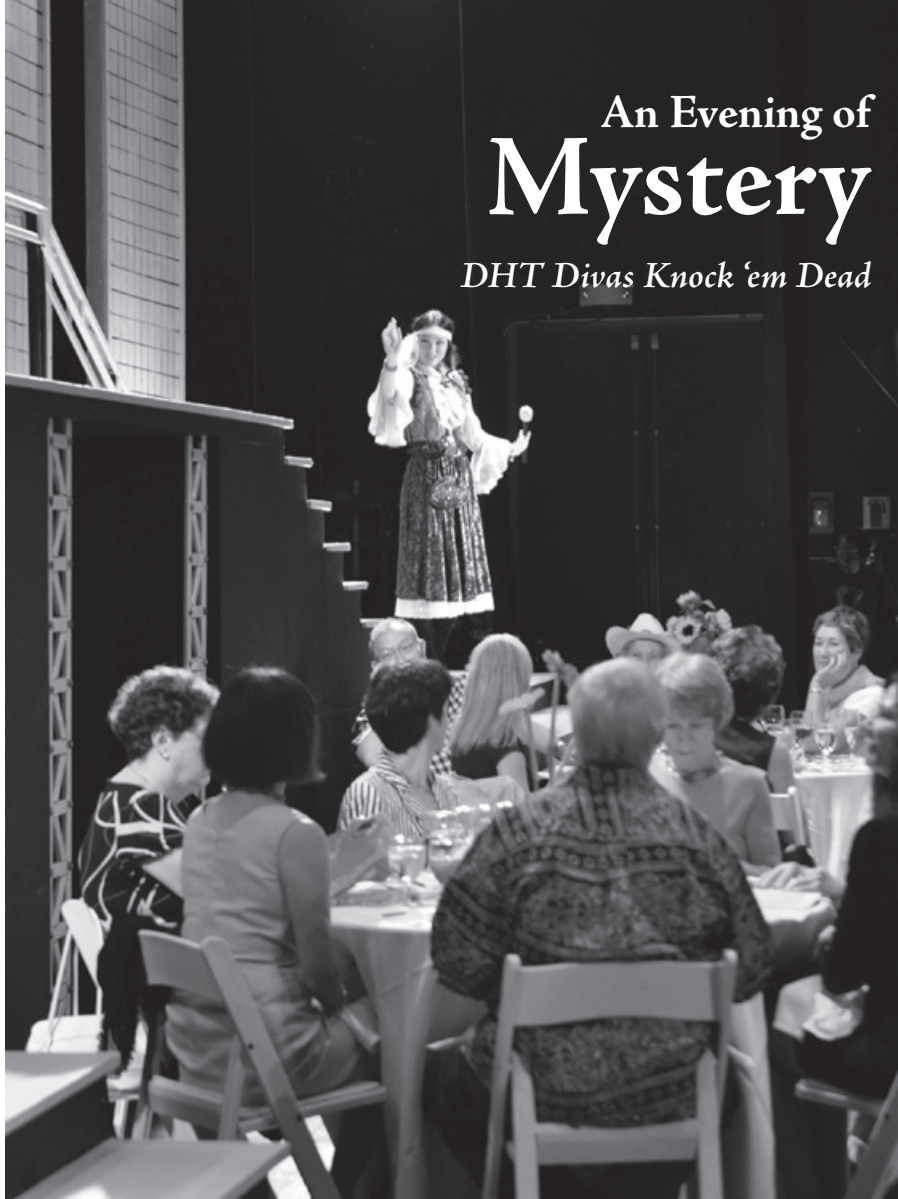
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Our Mission Statement

Established in 1915, Diamond Head Theatre is the Broadway of the Pacific, producing the best live community theatre entertainment and advancing the theatre arts through education in Hawai‘i.

An Evening of Mystery

DHT Divas Knock 'em Dead



Whodunit? Three divas, a piano player and an obnoxious heckler were among the prime murder suspects during DHT's annual Murder Mystery Dinner, hosted by DHT in honor of our Angel and Impresario Producers.

The three divas included a country/western diva named Marion Haste, played by Lisa Konove; a spiritual/New-Age diva named Augusta Wind, played by Kathryn Lee; and a glam/over-the-top diva named Royal Payne, played by Tricia Marciel. Each diva had a following of loyal fans for the evening, played by our very own Producers who attended the dinner. In support of their diva, the Producers and their guests dressed or accessorized according to the diva's theme. Cowboy hats, peace-sign necklaces and feather boas added to the evening's atmosphere.

Joining the divas were the piano player, played by Scott Francis Russell; the obnoxious heckler, played by Garrett Taketa; and the talent agent/emcee, played by Jose Ver. Their hokey character names, such as Stan Back, Rusty Pipes and Don Kashane set the stage for a comical and entertaining evening. At the end of the night, bragging rights went to Robin Johns and her guests for being the first to solve the mystery. And the murderer was ... Rusty Pipes (Garrett)! 🍷

3



DHT's 2011 Honolulu Star-Advertiser 'Ilima Awards Fundraiser

Sold out! Those words are always good news in regards to our signature fundraiser, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* 'Ilima Awards. This year's event raised more than \$200,000! Congratulations to our hard-working committee, and thank you to all who attended.

The 'Ilima Awards honors Hawaii's top chefs, who are voted for by critics, readers of the *Star-Advertiser* and patrons of DHT. The event took place at our theatre, and the awards were bestowed onstage with a very entertaining restaurant parody revue directed by John Rampage. Everyone commented that it was "the best show ever"—and we agree.

Following the show, over 500 event patrons spilled onto the DHT grounds, which had been transformed into a glittering outdoor ballroom overflowing with fine wines, ice-cold martinis, micro-brewed beers and samplings from 26 award-winning restaurants. The evening was filled with music, dancing and plenty of mingling.

Mark your calendars for next year's 'Ilima Awards on October 8. We hope to see you there! 📅

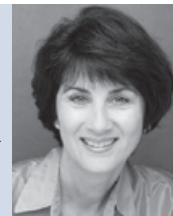


In the Spotlight

Meet Members of Our Board

Diamond Head Theatre is honored to have 40 community leaders and theatre buffs serving on our Board of Directors. We would like to introduce several of these special individuals to you and thank the entire board for their enthusiastic support.

Nancee Jenko Crispin Board Member



On the Board

1 year as Director and 1 year as a Community Advisory Board Member

Occupation

Real estate broker with RE/MAX

First Job

While in high school I worked part-time at the Dairy Queen. I was the counter person and also responsible for dipping the Dilly Bars in chocolate.

Last Book Read

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a novel written in a series of letters documenting how the citizens of Guernsey coped during the World War II occupation of their island.

Favorite Travel Destination

Italy—from Bolsano to Napoli, and from La Cinque Terre to Venezia. I love the Old World architecture, the boisterous energy in the corner cafes and the Italian style in everything ... and of course, the pasta!

Favorite DHT Moment

I have always loved attending the 'Ilima Awards and am happy to now be one of the supporters. Last season's productions were epic—the sets, costumes and star power of *The King and I* were incredible.

Jeanette Magoon Board Member



On the Board
1 year

Occupation
Community volunteer

First Job
Shorthand typist in London, England; then, at 24 yrs old, moved to the US (Florida) and worked as a secretary for AAA

Last Book Read
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Favorite Travel Destination
Switzerland—especially Lausanne and Geneva

Favorite DHT Moment
Going on Broadway Bound to NYC with Deena and seeing the Broadway shows and meeting others in the group. Also, attending all the shows at DHT—I especially loved *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Rick Chong Board Member



On the Board
1 year

Occupation
Lighting designer and electrical engineer

First Job
Bag boy at Food Pantry in Waikiki

Last Book Read
Private by James Patterson

Favorite Travel Destination
Whistler, to bomb the slopes!

Favorite DHT Moment
Working the followspot [spotlight] at the Hawaii debut of *A Chorus Line*, and learning all the lyrics to every song and developing our own lyrics to the same songs with the other follow volunteers; and when, in the middle of the show's "What I Did for Love" solo one night, a humongous gecko dropped from the rafters almost onto the actress then scurried off upstage—heaven forbid if it had scurried up her legs!



Transitions

This fall we bid fond aloha to our longtime Box Office Manager, Melanie Garcia, who has moved with her family to the Mainland, and welcomed our new Box Office Manager, Belinda Lucas. Belinda, our Assistant Box Office Manager Cathy Cannon and part-timers Andrea Lopes and Loke Simon all look forward to ensuring your DHT ticketing continues to go smoothly.

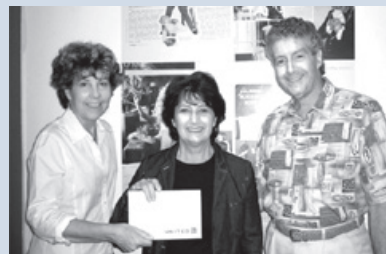


Belinda Lucas

In the meantime, we've heard that Melanie has landed a job at the Trinity Rep Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island. We wish her the best.

We Have a Winner!

Congratulations to George and Susan Engebretson, who were entered into our contest for referring new subscribers to DHT and selected as winners. The prize? A roundtrip ticket on United Airlines. DHT won, too: We're thrilled to have 320 new subscribers, and they're still coming in!



2011 MTE Summer Program



This year's Musical Theatre Experience (MTE) summer program was a magical journey for 86 students, ages 7 to 16. In just six weeks' time, all of their training in singing, dancing and acting led up to a dazzling final performance. The theme, "Tony, Tony, Tony," took the entire audience on a journey to the illustrious "Tony" Awards. Students had a blast performing tributes to award-winning musicals, including *Billy Elliot*, *Hairspray* and *Chicago*. Many of the kids also enrolled in MTE II—a two-week intensive course in which students further their knowledge of musical theatre and refine their talents. Congrats to all of our MTE students on superb summer finales, and a big mahalo to the MTE staff. 🙏

6



Mahalo, Volunteers!

DHT Toasts Volunteers at 2011 Volunteer Picnic

The DHT lanai and lawn were the perfect setting for our annual Volunteer Picnic on August 19.

Our dedicated volunteers showed up in droves to party. From actors and actresses to ushers, tickets takers,



The costume shop volunteers, together with DHT staff, are the key to our onstage costume magic.



Bar volunteers Steve Davis and Jacinta Chen-Davis enjoy the catered picnic dinner.

concession teams and costume and set volunteers, we had them all! DHT employees, Board Directors and Community Advisory Board Members staffed the check-in, the food service and the door-prize giveaways, and the



DHT's FriendRaisers, all volunteers extraordinaire, join in the celebration.



DHT's lower lawn fills with folks enjoying festive food and drink.

Shooting Stars put on a great show as always.

We so appreciate our volunteers at DHT—they're the backbone of our theatre and we wouldn't be able to operate without them. Mahalo! 🙏



Showtime flows smoothly thanks to box office volunteers like Robert and Gail Longstreth.



DHT employee Sabrina (far left) and Tammy (far right) work the food service line alongside DHT Director Gabe Lee and DHT Advisory Board Member Scott Nishimoto.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students who've never taken a dance class before alongside students with professional backgrounds in ballet, hula or modern dance. Some students have been enrolled since that inaugural class two decades ago, and others have just cleared the waitlist this year. Some take the class just for the exercise, while others use it to prepare for auditions or shows.

No matter what level of talent or onstage ambitions a student brings, John makes Broadway Jazz challenging for everyone. For those who want to dance



John puts students through their paces.

onstage, being comfortable in auditions is key. He hopes these students learn technique and overcome the fear of choreography—and of course, have fun.

Some of the fondest and funniest moments for the students seem to revolve around pirouettes. From one student: "After eight years of class, I did my first double pirouette; [unfortunately] John didn't see it." Another student remarked, "John is very entertaining

throughout the class, but the best moments were when, after his knee surgery, he tried to convince us that his knee hurt in proportion to how terribly

we did our pirouettes!"

What really makes Broadway Jazz unique is the camaraderie. The students have grown accustomed to seeing familiar faces week after week, year after year. By the end of each session, they've not only developed friendships, but also increased their strength, balance and joy of movement. And, as the class waitlist shows, they're always eager to enroll for the next session.

Two decades later, thanks to talented instructors like John Rampage and the tremendous enthusiasm from our dedicated students, DHT's Performing Arts Program not only still offers Broadway Jazz, but also has expanded to include a wide variety of classes perfect for anyone with a love of theatre. 🙏



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