**It’s a Family Affair**

*Deep Roots at DHT for the Wakabayashi Family*

Jill knew we operated on a tight budget, so she decided to help by putting her sewing and crafts skills to work. For several summers now, she has helped with the costume and prop design for MTE’s finale performances, most recently designing costumes for the Shootings Stars' version of *Hairspray*. But her commitment to Diamond Head Theatre doesn't stop there. Serving as co-chair of the Décor Committee, she has also helped to make our ‘Ilima Awards fundraiser a great success. And she still manages to find time to support Shooting Stars events, plus volunteers at our opening-night receptions. It was an easy decision when we selected Jill as our 2011 Volunteer of the Year.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**
Aloha from DHT’s Executive Director

Sometimes I get caught up in the small stuff. When that happens, life has a way of reminding me about what’s important. Health, family, good friends, a fulfilling job or hobby. Those are the important things. Money? Certainly nice to have, but it shouldn’t be the first thing on my or anyone’s list.

That said, I’m always glad to have money come in to DHT—it’s my job! Luckily for us, the money did come in this past holiday season. Cinderella was a terrific success—and not only that, we completely sold out of our sparkling wands: all 2,000-plus! I found the wand sales success heartwarming, especially when adults bought them. It told me two things: 1) adults still like having a little magic in their lives; and 2) they love DHT enough to buy a trinket. A nice trinket, but a trinket after all. I was pleased as punch.

On our fundraising side, another success: Our annual fund drive made 110% of our goal. People responded to our story of what our summer program means to the children who attend—and what it means to their parents. I’m so proud of this program I could burst, and now, in addition to the money raised, many more people know the good work our MTE staff and instructors do.

Finally, the President of the Board of one of our year-end grantors, The John R. Halligan Charitable Fund, informed us that despite the continuing financial and economic difficulties in our country, they would maintain their very generous $30,000 grant to us. Such great news!

Yes, the money does matter. But it’s best when given with an open heart, and those Cinderella patrons, wand buyers, annual fund donors and Halligan Fund Board trustees did just that. They have our unending gratitude.

And now we begin the new year. Bring it on!

A Look Back in Time

The Sound of Music

DHT Executive Director Deena Dray recently visited New York City and called upon several of the royalty houses from which we license our shows. One of our favorite royalty houses is Rodgers & Hammerstein (R&H). We have a great friend there, Bert Fink, who is the senior vice president of communications.

Bert loves R&H musicals, of course, but he’s an especially big fan of The Sound of Music. Recently, Bert emailed Deena with the following:

“Shortly after you left, I was going through some old program files and found a playbook for The Sound of Music that caught my eye, since it was from Hawaii—specifically, Honolulu Community Theatre. The date: October 1961! Was HCT an antecedent of DHT in some way?” [Yes, Bert! Diamond Head Theatre was formerly Honolulu Community Theatre.]

He then outlines several fascinating tidbits about this 1961 production at our theatre:

- The production date of October 1961 was less than two years after the musical opened on Broadway, and indeed, while it was still running on Broadway;
- The director’s note recalls “… that exhilarating day when we received the wire giving us the world’s first non-professional rights to the show”;
- The program contained a facsimile of a lovely message from Mary Martin [who starred as Maria in the original Broadway production] to the cast;
- A “technical advisor” on the production was Hedwig von Trapp, of the real Trapp Family Singers [that’s Hedwig in the photo, with the actors who played the von Trapp children];
- The licensing credit reads: “The Sound of Music is presented through special arrangement with Reinheimer and Cohen, 11 East 44 Street, New York, New York” [Reinheimer serves as R&H’s lawyer for many productions].

Bert’s final comment: “How cool to think that the very first amateur production of The Sound of Music ever done was in Honolulu!”

We think it’s cool, too! We feel blessed that over the years, Diamond Head Theatre has had so many opportunities to present fresh-from-Broadway shows. And it’s hard for us to believe that that wonderful first production took place more than 50 years ago! How time flies.
The most wonderful time of the year was also the busiest for all 45 of DHT’s Shooting Stars. They spread the holiday cheer at events such as Breakfast with Santa at Neiman Marcus, C. S. Wo’s holiday celebration and a special event at the Halekulani.

Shooting Stars
Rock the Holidays!
Our Season

Our 96th season began on September 1, 2010 and ended August 31, 2011. We opened with *Crazy for You*, one of our most popular shows ever (last produced in 1998), and this production more than duplicated that success. Guest artist David Spangenthal reprised his role as Bobby Child to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. Local actress Kathryn Lee played Polly Baker. She also did a superb job, winning a Po’okela Award (Hawaii’s version of the Tony Awards) for her performance.

Christmas brought *Little Women*, a delightfully heart-warming show that was just the ticket for the holidays. The story of the March girls was a wonderful ensemble piece that really touched upon the values of family, home and being true to oneself.

*I Hate Hamlet* followed shortly after and was our one play of the season. A comedy, this show was blessed with not one, but two actors playing the role of John Barrymore. Paul Mitri began the run and director Rob Duval finished it. It was a remarkable experience to see the unique interpretations of the role brought by these two fine actors.

In March 2011, we welcomed *The King and I*—and what a hot show that was! We knew it would do well, but it totally exceeded all expectations. The talented and charismatic NYC guest artist Paolo Montalban played the King of Siam and the very capable local actress Tricia Marciel played Miss Anna. Together they truly created magic. Their genius, plus stellar performances from an extremely gifted ensemble, made it the best-selling show of the season. Kudos to guest director Greg Zane.

We then completely switched gears from classic to contemporary with *Altar Boyz*. Guest director Tammy Colucci arrived with a professional resume and lots of experience with this show, and she elicited spectacular performances from all the “Boyz.” It was such a departure from our usual type of production at DHT (it was set to be like a concert) that we weren’t sure how audiences would react. They loved it!

We ended the year with *Hairspray*, a show John and Deena had been trying to land for several years. Randl Ask, a DHT alum now living in NYC, played the role of Edna, and his performance was a show-stopper every night. Former DHT Shooting Star Stacey Pulmano was the perfect Tracy Turnblad, and another fine ensemble filled out the magnificent cast. It was an outrageous production with sets and costumes to match, and the energy was infectious. *Hairspray* was the perfect show to top off a very successful season, with overall season single-ticket sales beating budget by $35,000!

Education

Education is a big part of our mission, and we’re happy to report once again that our performing arts education program is flourishing. Classes and workshops at Diamond Head Theatre offer diverse programming throughout the season, from baby ballet to hip hop and adult acting. Our full-year catalogue (which encompasses 52 class modules) continues to be popular, giving potential students a visual picture of the year ahead and showcasing our very talented teaching staff.

DHT’s Musical Theatre Experience (MTE) summer school program is also thriving, to say the least! In 2010 - 2011, the youth “camp” filled up and closed enrollment on its very first day, with the teen program following shortly thereafter. MTE I ran for six weeks, followed by two weeks of MTE II, a master class. Every year, MTE brings in new instructors with specialized skills to share, keeping the curriculum fresh. Its success is a wonderful testament to everyone’s hard work. With the generous support of the John Young Foundation, DHT was pleased to award eight lucky students with MTE scholarships. We
are truly grateful for their continued support. Under the direction of DHT Artistic Director John Rampage, our Shooting Stars program continues to grow. The Stars performed a *Hairspray* revue in the summer, and many of the mainstage actors from DHT’s *Hairspray* came in to mentor and coach the youngsters.

**Development**

Raising money is a necessary part of life at Diamond Head Theatre, since ticket sales still only cover less than 45% of our actual costs. Our primary source of development revenue in 2010 - 2011 continued to be individual gifts via our membership and annual fund drive. Our annual fund drive came in 49% over budget, and our Producers Club membership hit a record high with 110 members!

We provide great benefits for our Producers Club members, including an opening-night reception catered by the Sheraton Waikiki. Sheraton donates the food and beverages, making these receptions one of the most popular opening-night parties in Hawaii. Our Murder Mystery Dinner for the Impresario and Angel levels of membership continues to be very popular as well, with a catered dinner on stage and a murder mystery enacted right amongst the diners.

DHT’s sole fundraiser for the season, the ‘Ilima Awards, took place on October 11, 2010. We’re pleased to report an uptick in table sales and donations for the event. We raised $181,000, an 8% increase over our 2009 fundraiser. One development area, however, did not do as well as expected. Our corporate show sponsorship program dipped below projections for the period, reflecting the effects of a lingering weakness in corporate giving, but we’re carefully planning each and every step. (Fortunately, our corporate fundraising for the 2011 - 2012 season has done better.)

**Volunteers**

Volunteers are the backbone of Diamond Head Theatre. We simply could not operate without them, as volunteers participate in literally every aspect of our theatre operations. We held our annual Volunteer Thank You Picnic on August 19, 2011 to shine the spotlight on these special folks.

Our volunteer mahalos would not be complete without mentioning our dedicated Board of Directors. We thank you, one and all!

**Staff**

We recently bid farewell to our long-time box office manager, Melanie Garcia, who moved with her family to the Mainland, but were pleased to hire Belinda Lucas to take over the position. We’re grateful to have such hard-working employees on our staff, who continue to make magic with limited resources.

**Facility**

In 2009 - 2010, Diamond Head Theatre followed the Site Development Plan with the beginnings of the Environmental Assessment and Permitting Process utilizing the firm of Helber, Hastert & Fee. We’re happy to announce that this summer, after a rigorous and competitive bidding process, we have hired the architectural firm Urban Works. Realistically, a new building is five to seven years (and many dollars) away, but we’re carefully planning each and every step. We will soon be holding meetings to keep you, our donors, subscribers and sponsors, informed.

**Financial**

Building DHT’s budget is always tricky—and our 2010 - 2011 season was no different. We monitored the ups and downs all year and kept a close watch on expenses. With strong support from our ticketholders and donors, we were thrilled to be able to post another surplus, enabling us to build inventory in preparation for what we have anticipated will be another challenging year: 2011 - 2012. The charts below detail our revenue and expenses. Please feel free to call us if you ever have any questions about our financial condition or wish to review our audit.

As is always the case, by the time we complete our audit and can report our finances to you (in this review), the close of our year and season is long past. Thus, some of this information may feel like old news. Still, we feel it’s important that you, our “shareholders,” have access to this annual summary of our many activities Diamond Head Theatre. We continue to value your friendship and support.
# 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.

## Dean Shigemura
**Board Member**

**Occupation**  
Treasurer/Senior Executive Vice President, Bank of Hawaii

**First Job**  
Delivered fruit baskets to hotels in Waikiki

**Last Book Read**  
*The Big Short* by Michael Lewis

**Favorite Travel Destination**  
Anywhere I’ve never been before

**On the Board**  
2 years

**Favorite DHT Moment**  
I don’t know if I would call it my favorite DHT moment, but the most unusual moment was convincing my 10-year-old son to attend the opening night of *Sunset Boulevard* with me. My wife was not able to make it, and since BOH was a sponsor, I had to attend opening night. I was not able to find another person so I asked my son to attend. Not the best show for a 10-year-old to see (a bit dark!).

## Alan Hoffman
**Board Member**

**Occupation**  
President, Hoffman Communications

**First Job**  
Stock clerk at a book warehouse in Minnesota

**Last Book Read**  
*Steve Jobs*, a biography by Walter Isaacson

**Favorite Travel Destination**  
Sydney, Australia

**On the Board**  
3 years

**Favorite DHT Moment**  
Last Christmas, during the run of *White Christmas*, Hawaiian Airlines had purchased the house for their employees. There was a torrential downpour of biblical proportions, and I had serious concerns about the rain joining the falling snow inside the theatre. Nevertheless, everything held together, and it was a great evening for everyone at DHT and in the audience.

## Paul Tremaine
**Board Member**

**Occupation**  
Retired from Attco, Inc.

**First Job**  
Working in tobacco fields in Massachusetts

**Last Book Read**  
*The Litigators* by John Grisham

**Favorite Travel Destination**  
Ski resorts (Salt Lake City, Utah)

**On the Board**  
34 years

**Favorite DHT Moment**  
After a long day of filming the movie *Ride the Wild Surf* out at Waimea, we had to get back to the theatre to perform in *The Devil’s Disciple*, then to the scene shop to build sets until 2 a.m. After two hours of sleep, it was back to Waimea for filming. After a week of that schedule and very little sleep, I dozed off waiting for my cue. I woke up in the Green Room to the rustle of the intercom, raced up to the stage, crashing over furniture, and found Jim Hutchinson (playing the English general) ad-libbing about going by British time instead of the town clock. I burst onto the stage with the line, “Thank God I was in time!” and brought the house down in what was supposed to be a rather solemn moment.

# Calling All Stories

In three years (specifically, April 2015), Diamond Head Theatre will celebrate its 100th anniversary! In anticipation of that occasion, we’d like to feature stories from you—our readers—about your affiliation or history with our theatre. We’ll publish as many stories as we can right here in future issues of *Encore*, up to and through our anniversary year.

E-mail your stories to encore@diamondheadtheatre.com or send them via traditional mail to Diamond Head Theatre, 520 Makapuu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816. Or, give us a call at 733-0277 to tell us your ideas. We’d love to hear from you! 📧
Not to be “upstaged” by Jill’s efforts, Keith has also been a valuable contributor to our productions. As DHT’s summer 2011 production of Hairspray grew closer, we needed to build a tremendous set in limited time and with limited resources. Enter Keith! And that was just the beginning. Keith participated as a technical-crew volunteer for our complicated Sunset Boulevard set, helping to move the giant pieces during each performance. He enjoyed it so much (and finally understood all the theatre terminology his daughters had been using) that he decided to return as technical crew for the very next production: Cinderella. Yes, the same production that featured his own daughter.

This fall, Kami will be heading to Manhattanville College to pursue a degree in theatre education. Jayla will be entering high school. We hope they’ll be back on our stage someday soon. Meanwhile, we look forward to continuing our wonderful partnership with Jill and Keith.

We’re so lucky to have the Wakabayashi family here at DHT. In fact, families like theirs are one of our greatest treasures. They’re the intangible connections that link generations of theatre lovers and supporters, keeping DHT’s forest growing strong.
Cheers to You!

The entire staff of Diamond Head Theatre would like to offer our best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful year to come. Thank you for being part of our family!