Have you ever heard the saying, “The show must go on!!”? It’s an age-old expression often used in movies which revolve around making a movie or mounting a stage play, and it’s typically shouted in a moment of sheer desperation, to rally the disheartened cast after tragedy has struck, or the leading lady has stormed off the set... you know the one.

Well, in live theatre, there isn’t always time to make an inspiring speech to the cast when a cast member can't perform. Who will be able to jump into that dancer, singer or actors’ role at a moment’s notice? Who will be able to recall, in the space of five minutes, an entire performance that took months to put together? Well, that save-the-day performer is ‘The Swing’.

So, what exactly is ‘The Swing’? The Swing is a member of the cast who understudies every person (or sometimes a cohort of people) in the ensemble, so if for any reason a cast member is unable to make it onstage, the Swing can jump into that person's role without derailing the performance. A Swing must have the training and ability to think on their feet, adapt to any situation, and recall information on a moment's notice. It is not a job for the faint of heart.

Isabela (Bela) Hutter was cast as the Swing in our last two shows: Disney’s Newsies and Hello Dolly! Bela is a former Shooting Star who has also been training in ballet, jazz, tap, hula and gymnastics for the past five years. She has been in previous DHT shows, but this was her first time as a Swing.

The biggest lesson Bela learned during her Swing time was 1) how difficult it was and 2) how absolutely prepared you must be. As a Swing, you must take copious notes to track everyone’s staging and you must be prepared for anything and everything. And you must be ready to accept what may be the most difficult part of being a Swing---you don't have a real role in the show, and despite weeks and weeks of rehearsal, you may never go on!

Despite knowing that, Bela was always backstage (yes, Swings must be here for... CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Aloha

from DHT’s

Executive Director

I am so sick of hot weather! I can’t wait to get to New York for our DHT Broadway Bound tour in a few weeks. I am all set for colder weather and given I have accumulated an inordinate number of sweaters for someone who lives in the tropics, I will be plenty warm!

The hot weather has been more than just my personal trial to bear, however. The high temps affected everyone who sat in our theatre this summer. And for that, I apologize.

We have been very challenged by our 30 year-old behemoth air conditioners that sit on our roof. Exposed to the sun, wind and rain, they rust as fast as we replace the parts. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that our air conditioner repairmen are here every week.

to run through the all dance numbers and in less than 30 minutes, Bela had put herself seamlessly into her injured cast member’s dance track.

‘mid-show swap’ when a cast member was injured. Did we mention our Bela is just 14 years old?! Amazing.

So, as you can see, anything can happen in the live theatre, and thanks to Bela, the show did go on!

As you may have heard, we are building a new theatre (more to come on that in future Encores) so constructing additional restrooms in the short term is just not feasible.

Spending the Summer at the Theatre

Interns share their passion for theatre with the students of MTE

By Mary Calantoc

Each summer, Diamond Head Theatre is filled with kids and teens enjoying our summer Musical Theatre camps. Both the seven-week and the two-week MTE camps involve an incredible amount of organization and work. MTE staff and the DHT Education Director do a great deal, but they could not mount such a successful program without the MTE interns. The interns are the true “behind-the-scenes” magic makers of the MTE programs.

And who are they? Well, the interns are almost always teens that have been through the MTE program themselves. They have experienced MTE and looked up to their interns, want to provide that same experience to the current MTE kids.

For many interns, this is their first foray into being in a leadership role and they are eager and ready for the challenge. These are also students who have a true passion for theater and it shows. Many of them do theater during the year at school, or here at DHT. Consequently, interning for MTE turns out to be the perfect place to share that passion with other theater-loving students. And how many teens can say they spent their summer singing and dancing in a room with 50 enthusiastic kids?

Despite the obvious fun aspect, the MTE interns work incredibly hard. They are the first ones to arrive each day and are often the last ones to leave. Not only do they assist in teaching the students, helping them learn lines, choreography, blocking, and more; they are also in charge of cleaning the rehearsal hall, and supervising all breaks. Some of interns become students themselves in the afternoon teens program. Finally, during the final rehearsal week and for the show itself, the interns function as the backstage tech crew for the shows.

We are always sad to see the end of the MTE summer here at DHT for many reasons, chief among them saying goodbye to these great teens. They are a special bunch of kids and we miss them when MTE is over.
Last month marked the 23rd anniversary of our annual fundraiser, in partnership with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and it was an evening to remember! The October 8th event honored the best of the best in Hawaii’s restaurants as chosen by Star-Advertiser readers and critics.

The evening was beautiful and featured amazing and delicious culinary treats for over 500 guests. After enjoying the star-studded awards show, guests and winning chefs headed out to the grounds to enjoy delicious food provided by the award-winning restaurants along with fine wines, martinis, bourbon samplings, dancing, and more!

Mark your calendar for our 2019 ‘Ilima Awards happening on Monday, October 14th, but do know that tables go quickly! We hope to see you next year.

Death and Deceit on the Nile
Producer’s Club Members help solve the mystery and catch the killer!

It was “all aboard” for what turned out to be a very thrilling cruise on the stage at DHT (standing in for the Nile River!). The “passengers” who were invited to join Professor Dillon to view his newest discovery, which he described as the “Eighth Wonder of the World”, were in for a surprise when one of the other travelers ended up dead! But who could have done such a dastardly deed? There were almost too many suspects to count. Could it be the princess, the entrepreneur, the housekeeper, the professor himself, or the mysterious man lurking around the ship in a trench coat?

This year’s Murder Mystery dinners (a benefit of our Producers Club for the Impresario level and up) spanned two nights filled with a lot of laughter, plenty of intrigue, and surprises at every turn. The guests joined in the fun, dressing to theme as archeologists and Egyptian pharaohs and queens. There were several Cleopatras! And Director Shannon Winpenny and her cast of guilty-looking characters kept our Producers guessing until the final reveal!

A huge mahalo to Big G’s for catering a fantastic meal! Also thank you to our generous Producer’s Club members for their support.

Photos courtesy of Nathalie Walker
Each August, on Admissions Day, DHT spends the day thanking our volunteers for all that they do. There is dinner on the theatre grounds and a show (with prizes) in the theatre, ending with dessert (of course!). The DHT Staff and Board Members take on the roles of check-in, servers, and bartenders as we treat the volunteers to a night for them to relax and enjoy.

It’s the least we can do for the over 600 volunteers we are blessed to have at DHT. A big thank you goes out to Big G’s for catering the dinner, which was delicious! And to all our volunteers—thank you for your time, energy, and love—we couldn’t do what we do without you!

Thank You, Volunteers!

Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations DHT Super Volunteer, Cynthia Hytry

By Mary Calantoc

It is always amazing to hear the stories of what brings our volunteers to Diamond Head Theatre, and more importantly, what keeps them coming back! Our 2018 Volunteer of the Year, Cynthia Hytry, is no exception.

Cynthia first came to know DHT when her daughter Izzy started taking Baby Ballet class here in 2009. Just a few short years later, Izzy auditioned and was accepted into our Shooting Stars. When Cynthia’s daughter became a Shooting Star, Cynthia automatically became a “Friendraiser”. Friendraisers are the Shooting Star parents, who are asked to volunteer for DHT in a variety of areas, such as helping with the opening night receptions, working at the ‘Ilima Awards, or chaperoning the various Shooting Star performances. “Asked” is the operative word. How much they do is up to them and Cynthia made sure to do her part and more.

“Volunteering for DHT just evolved out of being involved with Izzy’s activities at DHT,” Cynthia says. One of Cynthia’s first “official” volunteer activities was rolling silverware into napkins the Saturday before the ‘Ilima event (side note: the ‘Ilimas are a huge, labor-intensive event here at DHT and we could not do it without the SS parents, aka Friendraisers). From that small task at her first ‘Ilima, Cynthia went on to chair her own subcommittee for the event and has been serving ever since.

In addition to her duties as a Friendraiser, Cynthia inadvertently morphed into becoming quite the handy costume volunteer. Cynthia remembers waiting in the green room during a Shooting Star rehearsal and Karen, DHT Costume Director, handed her a costume with seams to be ripped out. Cynthia gladly took it on and says that was the start of her Costume Shop career! In fact, helping in the costume shop has been one of her favorite parts of volunteering at DHT.

This past March, Cynthia served as one of the official trip chaperones when we took the Shooting Stars to New York City. She happily trudged through snow and cold, sat through every workshop the kids attended, and always kept a close eye on the kids. Just another volunteer job in Cynthia’s ever-expanding repertoire for DHT!

When asked why she continues to volunteer and pretty much never says “no”, Cynthia acknowledges some of her volunteering is due to being a parent and wanting to support her child. “I love being involved in the things Izzy does,” she says, “but I also believe in giving back and think it’s important to lead by example.” Her daughter has certainly learned from her example and is already a super volunteer herself here at DHT.

We love to see this amazing mother–daughter team getting so involved with DHT and hope to see them for many years to come. Congratulations, Cynthia, and many mahalos for all your amazing work!
And the winner is….

We love our subscribers here at DHT, and for several years now, thanks to Vacations Hawaii, brand new subscribers are entered for a chance to win a trip to Las Vegas. This year’s lucky winner is Sylvia Enos. Congratulations, Sylvia! Have a great trip! And, a huge Mahalo to Vacations Hawaii.

Sylvia (center) with Vacations Hawaii Sales and Promotions Manager Kevin Kaneshiro, and DHT Box Office Manager Belinda Lucas