

Subject: Actors need to be more responsible

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*From: Diane Senffner <***@***.***>*

To: <mspt@goldfishpublishers.com>

Mark,

Read your review of Fountain Hills, "What the Butler Saw." You made a comment about the show possible being better if Ross Collins had been able to direct it instead of also being in it. Probably true. But there's always something going on behind the scenes and I want to make you privy to it and send out a message to actors at the same time. Ross had a terrible time casting that show. People committed and then dropped out from the onset. One fellow even started coming to rehearsals and then had a 'silly me' moment telling them that he didn't know why he committed, he couldn't do the dates.

I know Ross would have preferred to just direct the show. This is but one example of a local show that has had a revolving door cast because of the flakiness of its actors. I know most of the shows in town are a volunteer gig, but c'mon. Every show I have been a part of here in the last 11 years with one exception has had one or more actors drop out because they found something better or had another lame excuse. I had an 'oh dear' moment last year when I said 'yes' to a show that I didn't really want to do. But I did it - because I said I would and I know what a bind it would have put the director in if I dropped out.

Also distressing are the actors that can't make it to rehearsals or perpetually come late or have a crisis of the day that prevents them from learning lines or being 100% at rehearsal. There's just no excuse. It's an insult and an inconvenience to everyone else in the cast.

Even in the world of community theater, a commitment is a commitment. There are times when family emergencies, work issues or personal health can take actors legitimately away from that commitment, but just deciding that the show down the road is going to be better or your friends have suddenly planned a weekend trip over the dates of the show is just not good enough in my book.

Thanks for letting me vent.

DIANE SENFFNER

Diane,

I completely agree with your comments. I believe that the way people act in volunteer situations is reflective of their personality and character. I understand that every once in awhile things come up and people have to bow out, but when actors who have proven to be untrustworthy complain about being blackballed, they should put themselves in their director's, ensemble's, and company's shoes. There are plenty of talented actors in the community willing to make the commitment. I'm only sorry you couldn't mention the names of the actors who dropped from the production!

I regret that things went so poorly for Ross, and I thank you for taking the time to vent. I wish some actors in town would take your words to heart, but I suspect this situation will continue *ad nauseum*.

Cheers,

Mark S.P. Turnim