



## MTW Guild 2011 Executive Board

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### Music Theatre of Wichita Guild

### Spring Luncheon

**April 7, 2011**  
**11:30 p.m.**

**Rolling Hills Country Club**  
**Wayne Bryan and Friends**

**Watch for an invitation in the  
mail.**

**Please bring a non-perishable  
snack item for the Encore Table  
(see article on pg. 5) or a small  
monetary donation. (Optional)**

# Good News !

Spring 2011

Editor: Starla Criser

## Happy Spring to all our Guild Members!

I have the privilege to be the new president of the Guild and I look forward to the upcoming year. My first task is writing a letter to the Guild members on what is happening this year and, of course, we are going to have "The Fabulous Fortieth Season."

First on our agenda this year is the Spring Luncheon at Rolling Hills Country Club on April 7th. I hope that you will be able to attend. Wayne Bryan will be speaking and sharing highlights of the upcoming summer season.

In June the real fun begins with *Music Man* kicking off our summer season, *Finian's Rainbow* is next with *Sunset Boulevard* right in the middle of the summer, then *Xanadu*, and finishing off the summer with *The Little Mermaid*, running two weekends. I know it is going to be a fabulous summer with such fun shows all summer long.

It will be a busy year as they have been doing auditions, the sewing has begun in the costume shop, soon the office will be sending out the tickets, and Sunday Night Suppers are coming into place. I am exhausted just thinking about all of it! But with the help of all our volunteers it is worth it.

I just want to thank everyone in advance for all your help and support in the upcoming year to the Guild and Music Theatre of Wichita staff. We can't do it without everyone helping out.

Sincerely,  
Dwyn Thudium  
MTW Guild President 2011

## Jester Awards

Music Theatre of Wichita is about to launch its eleventh year of the Jester Awards—a program to recognize excellence in high school musical theater. An integral part of the program is the judging of each of the musicals by volunteer judges. It is not necessary to be an experienced musical theater critic. All we ask is a willingness to see one or more high school productions, and to fill out a sheet rating a number of different production values and performances. Wayne Bryan conducts sessions to introduce people to the Jester process, and to review the process with those who have participated in the past. Please see the [MTWichita.org](http://MTWichita.org) website for information on being part of the Jester program or call Matt at 316-265-3107.

## 2011 Schedule

### April

- 1 Guild Board Meeting –Founders Room  
7 Guild Spring Luncheon-Rolling Hills CC

### May

- 6 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room  
20 Jester Awards  
23 Single tickets go on sale  
30 Rehearsal begins– Encore Table starts

### June

- 2 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room  
8-12 *Music Man*  
12 Sunday Night Supper #1  
22-26 *Finian's Rainbow*  
26 Sunday Night Supper #2

### July

- 6-10 *Sunset Boulevard*  
7 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room  
10 Sunday Night Supper #3  
11-12 Questionnaire Tallying  
20-24 *Xanadu*  
24 Sunday Night Supper #4

### August

- 5-14 *The Little Mermaid*  
5 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room  
7 Sunday Night Supper #5  
14 Sunday Night Supper #6

### September

- 8 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room

### October

- 6 Guild Board Meeting-Founders Room  
TBD Fall Luncheon-Rolling Hills CC

The purpose of Music Theatre of Wichita Guild shall be to support and promote Music Theatre of Wichita, Inc. The membership of this organization is open to any person interested in Music Theatre of Wichita, Inc.

If you are looking for more information about Music Theatre of Wichita, check out their website at [www.mtwichita.org](http://www.mtwichita.org).

## 2011 Board of Directors

<b>Auditions:</b>	Anne Yoder	267-5553
<b>Audio Enhancement:</b>	Jan Peterson	721-4103
<b>Costume Shop:</b>	Marilyn Heffner	687-6351
<b>Encore Table:</b>	Anne Yoder	267-5553
<b>Historian:</b>	Marilyn Milhon	685-9897
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Anna Mills Gracie Duncan	682-5762 838-4022
<b>Membership/Placement:</b>	Diana Dobbins	264-3974
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Starla Criser	393-8195
<b>Office:</b>	Pam Postier Carol Womack	634-0290 684-5060
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Liz Rodee	729-0477
<b>Questionnaire Tallying:</b>	Lynne Adams Jan Peterson Glenna & Duane Draving	685-7217 721-4103 722-0634
<b>Social Events:</b>	Sherry Abraham-Morrow Mary Lee Jones Diana Dobbins Joyce & John Daigh	838-6554 681-0382 264-3974 775-6963
<b>Sunday Night Cast Suppers:</b>	Anne Yoder Joyce & John Daigh	267-5553 775-6963
<b>Sunday Night Supper Decorations:</b>	Linda Dolton	681-3620
<b>Telephone:</b>	Pat Huffman Carol House	729-0622 943-0964
<b>Yearbook:</b>	Pat Kraft	722-3675

## Costume Shop

If you know which end of a needle to thread, we need you! One of the volunteer opportunities offered by the Guild is helping out in the Costume Shop. There are always buttons and snaps to sew on, hems to be put in, trims to apply, and occasionally some projects for more advance stitchers. If this is an activity you would be interested in and have not already signed up, please contact Marilyn Heffner, 687-6351, and we will add you to the list.

## Encore Table

This is a project that the Guild started last year and one that you can help with. The purpose of this project is to provide snacks for the cast and crew during rehearsal and show weeks.

We are asking for donations of snack items beginning May 30 and continuing through August 14. These items can be dropped off at the box office anytime during the day or when you come to see the show.

If you would rather send a monetary donation specifically for this worthy project, you can send a check for any amount to the MTWichita Guild, care of Jeanne McMillen 1615 Amarado Ct., Wichita, KS 67212. Please put "Encore Table" in the memo line.

Be watching for an email with suggestions of snacks to donate for the table.

## Sunday Night Suppers Sponsorship

One of the guild's biggest projects is providing a Sunday Night Supper to the cast, crew, and orchestra on the closing night of each of the five shows. This project wouldn't be as successful as it is without all of the many volunteers who help cook, serve, and clean up on those days. It also wouldn't be as successful without all the many donated cookies, brownies, and dessert goodies that are hugely appreciated by our dinner guests. If you would like to help with the dessert part of the meals and haven't previously signed up for that, please contact Joyce Daigh at 316-775-6963.

These meals also cost more money than the guild has in our budget and so we look for sponsors to help out. You can help with this by sponsoring an entire meal for \$500, or paying whatever you can to help with a meal. Contact Joyce Daigh to help, at 316-775-6963.

## "FORTY FABULOUS YEARS!"

That's how long Music Theatre of Wichita has been entertaining local audiences, and that's how long our marvelous Guild has been helping to make it all possible.

For this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, we have an amazing lineup of shows (including FOUR MTWichita premieres) and a stellar roster of guest artists.

The auditions consume us throughout March, with tryouts held in Wichita, Oklahoma City, Chicago, Ann Arbor, New York and Los Angeles. After we see hundreds of talented people, we issue the invitations to come join us, and it's always a great joy to get to know the young artists we hire each summer.

Invariably, these talented artists will take away wonderful memories of our Guild, and much the performers felt "at home" because of their efforts – from warmly welcoming them at the auditions, to feeding them during our wonderful Sunday suppers.

This year, each of our five productions will feature some guest artists who are now Broadway and Hollywood veterans, but who once spent time as part of our collegiate company. As of this writing, here are some of our former company members who plan to join us (this can all change, of course, as other opportunities arise for them):

*THE MUSIC MAN* – Jessica Wright as Marian, Justin Robertson as Marcellus

*FINIAN'S RAINBOW* – Kim Huber as Sharon, Stanley Bahorek as Og the Leprechaun

*SUNSET BOULEVARD* – Chris Peluso as Joe Gillis, Nicholas F. Saverine as Max

*XANADU* – our current company member Emily Mechler will star as Kira, before she heads to New York

*THE LITTLE MERMAID* – Chris Wood as Prince Eric, Lawrence Cummings as Sebastian, Justin Robertson as Scudder the Seagull

If you are looking for more information about Music Theatre of Wichita, check out their website at [www.mtwichita.org](http://www.mtwichita.org).

## A Special Afternoon with Kelli O'Hara



And one of the biggest events of our year will also feature a stellar alum – three-time Tony nominee **Kelli O'Hara**, Broadway's busiest leading lady. She spent two collegiate summers with us, and then returned to star in *Show Boat*. After her critically acclaimed Broadway appearances in *South Pacific*, *The Light in the Piazza*, and *The Pajama Game*, Kelli has been seen in New York in *My Fair Lady*, *Knickerbocker Holiday*, and *Bells Are Ringing*. She is bringing her own special magic to a one-performance only concert, Sunday afternoon **May 15 at 2 p.m.** in the Concert Hall.

Guest star **Damon Kirsche** (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Camelot*, *My Fair Lady*) will join Kelli for this unforgettable afternoon, and musical director **Thomas Wesley Douglas** will be on hand to conduct the orchestra. Tickets will go on sale now. In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, all downstairs seats will be \$40, and all balcony seats will be \$20.

Other special events are planned throughout the year, to enhance the shows we're producing, and to celebrate four decades of quality work, and unparalleled learning opportunities for young people.

## The 2011 Summer Season



### The Music Man

June 8-12

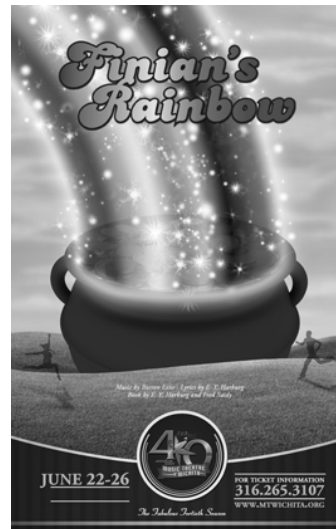
This year, with River Festival dates changing to coincide with our first production, we thought it would be wise and fun to open the season with *The Music Man*. *It's a story about a "River City," after all, and we see lots of great chances for collaboration. Parking for our patrons will be reserved in the two big lots in front of Century II!*

Our Harold Hill is scheduled to be handsome **Ed Watts**, who made such a hit with us in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and as Lancelot on *Camelot*. He's taking a four-week leave from the New York company of *The Fantasticks*, where he stars as El Gallo, to appear in both *The Music Man* and *Finian's Rainbow*.

Opposite him, as mentioned earlier, is **Jessica Wright**, former company member and now Broadway veteran, who made such a spectacular Kate in *Kiss Me, Kate*. And loveable **Justin Robertson** should be the perfect Marcellus Washburn.

The show will be guided by familiar faces – **Mark Madama** as director, **Peggy Hickey** as choreographer, and **Thomas Wesley Douglas** as musical director.

Brace yourselves for those "76 Trombones" and all the color and excitement that make *The Music Man* one of the most justifiably loved shows in the repertoire.



### Finian's Rainbow

June 22-26

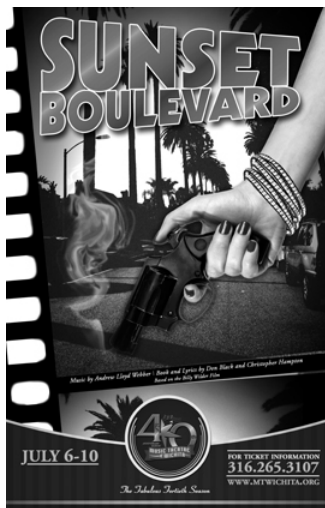
Two weeks later, we begin our non-stop run of shows we've never done before. How exciting for us, and for our audiences!

*Finian's Rainbow* actually debuted in 1947, but has never been done here, despite its popularity. A beautiful Broadway revival in 2009 reminded us of how strong a show it is,

and our audiences will revel in the wonderful score – “How Are Things in Glocca Morra?,” “That Ol’ Devil Moon,” “When I’m Not Near the Girl I Love,” “Look to the Rainbow,” and many, many more.

Our terrific cast is scheduled to feature **Ed Watts** (who was hired for the Broadway revival of the show) as Woody Mahoney, **Kim Huber** (*My Fair Lady*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Phantom*, *Scarlet Pimpernel*) as Sharon, and **Stanley Bahorek** (our Bobby in *Good News!* and Prince in *Cinderella*, now a Broadway veteran) as Og the Leprechaun. Our dear friend **John Boldenow** will play Finian, with lively support from **Betti O.**, **Tim Robu**, and other familiar faces.

I’m directing the show, and I look forward to working with the choreographic team of **Lyndy Franklin Smith** and **Jeromy Smith**, both former company members and New York veterans, who are returning to work with us in new capacities this summer. I also love the designs I’m seeing from set designer **Bruce Brockman** and costume designer **Sarah Reever**.



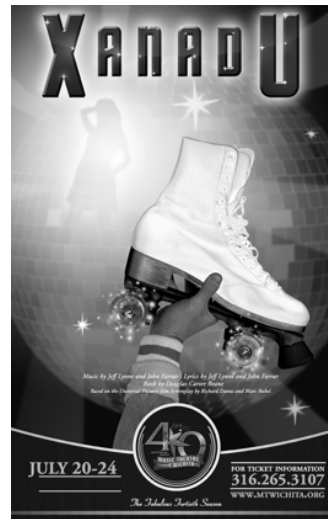
### Sunset Boulevard

July 6-10

From there it’s a winding journey into the film noir suspense of *Sunset Boulevard*, based on the great Billy Wilder film, and featuring a jazzy, sophisticated score by **Andrew Lloyd Webber**. The story of a reclusive silent film star and the secrets she holds in her ornate mansion, this is unusual musical fare, with wonderful roles for charismatic performers. Playing screen legend Norma Desmond will be **Ann Morrison**, so memorable in our productions of *Cabaret*, *Oliver!*, and *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. Opposite her, as handsome young screenwriter Joe Gillis, is **Chris Peluso**, who recently finished playing Fyero in the tour of *Wicked*, and has been our leading man in *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, and *All Shook Up*. The third major

character, Max von Mayerling, will be played by the magnificent **Nicholas F. Saverine**.

With lavish new sets by **J Branson**, and gorgeous costumes by **George Mitchell** and **Debbie Roberts**, this should be an unforgettable night at the theatre. **Mark Madama** is directing this one, too, with choreographic assistance from **Lyndy Franklin Smith**.



### Xanadu

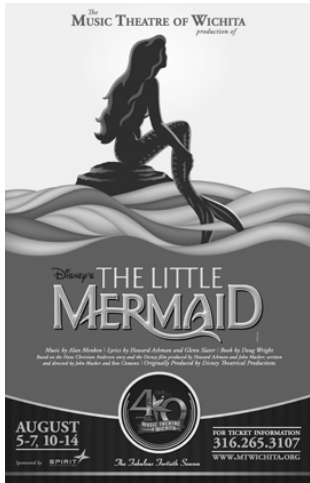
July 20-24

The fourth show of the summer is by far the silliest, but it just might be the most fun!

*Xanadu* was a notoriously unsuccessful film from 1980, which starred Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly. What a shock when it was recently turned into a successful Broadway musical! The tone of the stage version is much spookier, constantly making fun of itself.

And there’s a lot to make fun of! The plot? A Greek muse comes to earth to help a young artist fulfill his destiny – by opening a roller disco! Yes, there’s on-stage skating, magical effects, and a bountiful collection of 1980s pop tunes that have kept the legend of *Xanadu* alive all these years, including “Magic” and the catchy title song.

So put on your leg warmers and revisit the 80s, in a fun and funny way. Our beautiful company member **Emily Mechler** steps (or should I say, skates) into the spotlight on this one, with hilarious support from **Betti O.** and **Patty Reeder**, among others. **Roger Castellano** directs and choreographs the shenanigans, with scenic design by **Robert A. Kovach** (making his debut with us) and costumes by **Tiia Torchia**.



## The Little Mermaid

August 5-7, 10-14

Finally, of course, the Big News of the summer was the announcement that the Disney Company had once again singled out Music Theatre of Wichita for a regional premiere.

This time it's *The Little Mermaid*, based on the Oscar-winning 1989 film. Ariel, Sebastian, Prince Eric, villainous Ursula, and all the beloved characters will burst onto our stage, brimming with life and color. The award-winning film score includes such gems as "Under the Sea," "Part of Your World," and "Kiss the Girl," but additional songs for the stage version have proven equally memorable.

Some of the guest artists who are planning to join us include **Lawrence Cummings** (who was so much fun in Smokey Joe's Cafe last year) as Sebastian the crab, **Justin Robertson** as Scudder the Seagull, and **Christopher Wood** (currently starring in the *Spring Awakening* tour) as Prince Eric. Our marvelous Karen Robu will ooze villainy as the wily squid Ursula.

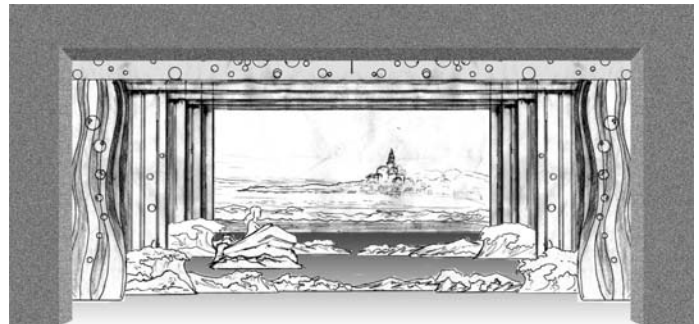
J Branson, who has designed all our Disney shows, is creating a fabulous world, both under the sea and in the kingdom, and costumes by Leon Dubkowski will be spectacular.

Because of the extra technical challenges of this show, we're opening it on Friday August 5 (instead of Wednesday) and then we're running a full extra week. There should be lots of opportunities to see this brand new production!

(And if your household includes any little princesses ages 3 and 4, they're invited to join us for the Saturday matinee on August 13. Age limit for all other performances remains 5 or older.)

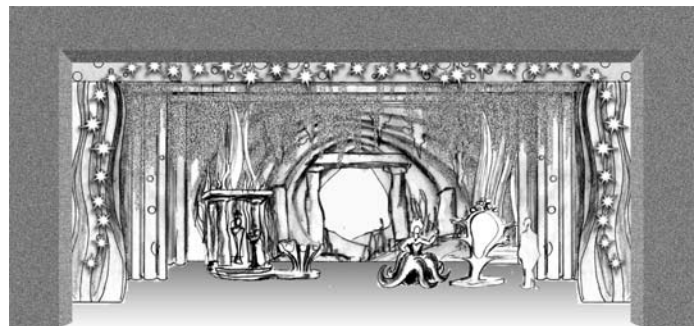
There will be a special "Under the Sea with Ariel" event for kids to attend, and there will be other memorable occasions as Music Theatre celebrates its fortieth summer.

Thanks again, Guild. We couldn't do it without you!



THE WATERS SURFACE  
MERMAID'S ROCK

ACT ONE Sc2A

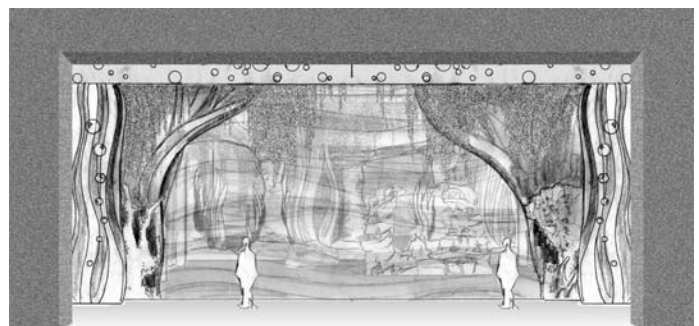


URSULAS' LAIR

ACT ONE Sc 3



REVISED 3/17/11



KING TRITONS' COURT  
SCRIM THRU TO GROTTTO

ACT ONE Sc 4 TO Sc 5



REVISED 3/17/11

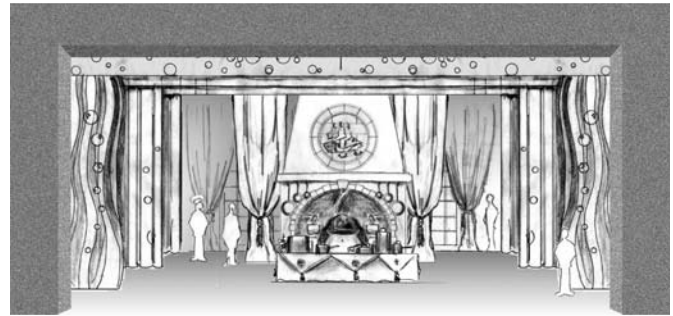


ARIEL'S GROTTTO

ACT ONE Sc 5

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
 copyright declared

REVISED 3/17/11

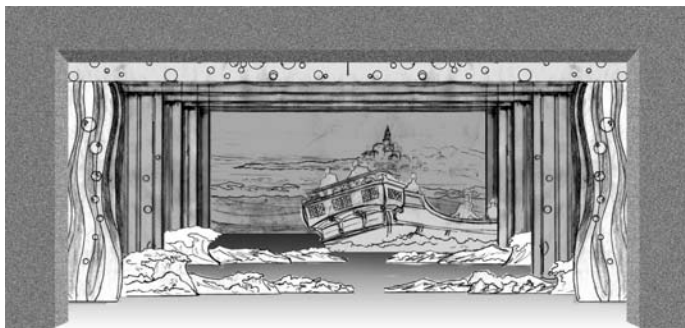


THE PALACE KITCHEN

ACT TWO Sc 3

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
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REVISED 3/19/11

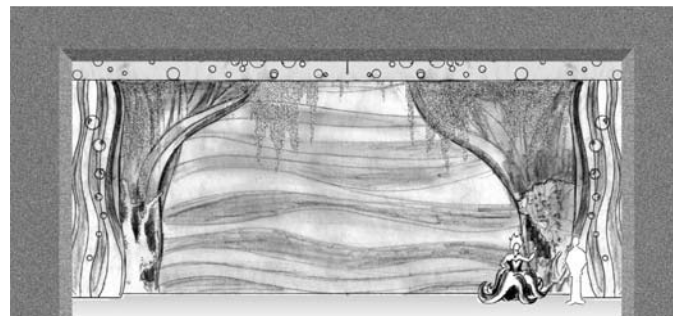


STORM AT SEA  
 ERIC'S SHIP

ACT ONE Sc 6A

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
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REVISED 3/17/11

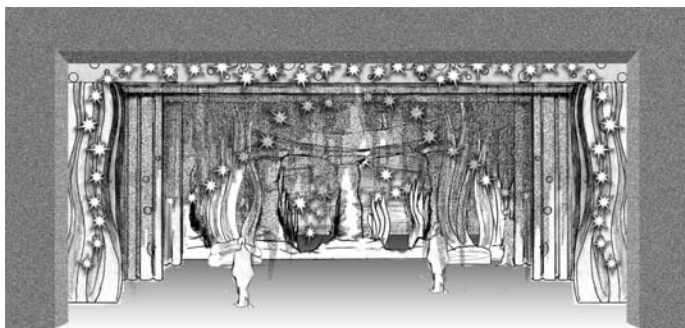


MURKY WATERS  
 YET AGAIN

ACT TWO Sc 7B

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
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REVISED 3/19/11

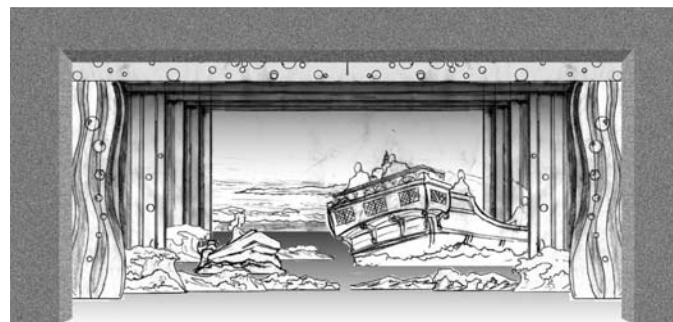


UNDER THE SEA

ACT ONE Sc 9B

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
 copyright declared

REVISED 3/17/11



THE SHIP/SEA  
 FINALE

ACT TWO Sc 10C

**"THE LITTLE MERMAID"**  
 Music Theatre of Wichita  
 Director: W. Bryan Designer: J Branson  
 Opening Aug 5th, 2011  
 copyright declared

REVISED 3/19/11

## Membership Time

Have you renewed your membership for 2011? If not, you will find an asterisk (\*) on your address label and receive a membership form with your newsletter.

If you haven't completed a membership/volunteer form or would like one for a friend, please contact Diana Dobbins at 264-3974..

Membership directories will be available at the spring luncheon in April. To be included in the directory, the yearbook committee needs your completed membership/volunteer form and check made out to MTW Guild for \$15.00 by March 26. Please send these to Diana Dobbins, Membership/Placement Chair, 1504 N. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67203.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!



## Good News!

Editor: Starla Criser  
9415 E. Harry, Ste. 603  
Wichita, KS 67207

## MTW WISH LIST

- Household Items for Summer Use—bedding, baking and storage dishes, kitchenware, and micro-waves

\*\*Contact Nancy about your donations, 316-265-3253 or by email at [nancy@MTWichita.org](mailto:nancy@MTWichita.org)

Other items of use for the rentals and inventory warehouse include:

- Plastic bins (large ones)
- Laundry supplies (detergent, dryer sheets, bleach, spot cleaning items, basic consumables)
- Plastic hangers or pant hangers
- Shipping supplies (dish-pak size cardboard boxes, packing tape, shrink wrap)
- Gallon sized Zip Lock bags
- Good sized first-aid kit, with band-aids

\*\*Contact Mary Sue Dymak about these donations at 316-261-3805 or by email at [msd@mtwichita.org](mailto:msd@mtwichita.org)