

Drumright's Boomtown Theater World War Salute is Adding Another War

Rotarian, Ron Dyer, introduced his guest of honor, Luann Branch of Boomtown Theater. Ron explained that Boomtown Theater is a 501(C3) with a Board of Directors. Currently serving on the Board of Directors is Larry Irwin, Ethelee Seeberger, Mike Davis, Luann Branch and Ron Dyer. Boomtown Theater was established in 1971 as a fundraiser, for a new Piano, for the Senior Citizens. The building where the Theater is today was built in 1914 and was previously used to house a clothing shop. In the early days, the cast would travel to any empty building or auditorium they could use to perform. Renovations to what is known as the Boomtown Theater took place in the late 1970's and early 1980's.



The play that started it all is the Salute to World War II. This musical containing approximately 80 songs has been performed annually for the past seventeen years to a sold out audience. This year, show times are Friday, August 5th at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 6th at 2:00 p.m. The

Saturday Matinee is sold out. However, if the Friday night showing sells out quickly, Boomtown will try to add a third showing on Sunday, August 7th.

The Salute to WWII is about life during that time, represented by the songs of that era. It was created by Luann Branch, and other members of Boomtown – each offering their different talents to the final production. Of course each year is brought back to life through the dedication of the annual cast. The first production took three months of preparation before it was ready for an audience.

Ms. Branch is now creating a Salute to World War I, to be seen by audiences during the celebration of Drumright's Centennial year. Ms. Branch has been experiencing an outpouring of emotions since beginning the creation of Salute to WWI. The work has reminded Ms. Branch of her father who served during WWI and also her good friend who helped write Salute to WWII, Helen Jones, who is now deceased. However, she is excited and already has high expectations for the production. She is working with the Drumright Museum to collect photos taken during WWI that she hopes to use as a backdrop for the musical. Ms. Branch is also working on the songs and scores that will be used in the new musical.

As of now, there will be an original song from Drumright in the show. The song was co-written by Helen Jones and is still a work in progress. "It has to rhyme", says Ms. Branch. But that didn't stop her and Ron from singing us variations of the song that are being considered.

Ms. Branch expects the new play to run approximately an hour and 20 minutes. It will be divided up in three parts, Drumright's Boomtown, War Time and Peace Time. Ms. Branch hopes to have all the songs, scores and pictures compiled by this October in order to begin rehearsal in March 2012 with an anticipated production the following August.

Watching Luann Branch light up while she talks about this new daunting project she is undertaking is wonderful. Her enthusiasm and sparkle are contagious. She has her audience swaying to the beat of a song that hasn't even been decided yet, but we are still ready to sing along. For more information about Boomtown Theater, please contact any of the Board of Directors above or Cook's Flowers in Drumright at 918.352.2236.

Our guest was Deborah Bright.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Lena Vee Deeds.

If you are interested in becoming involved in Drumright Rotary Club, or if your high school child(ren) would like to be involved in our Rotary Interact Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake,

Rotarian

