

# Spotlight

JANUARY 09



POWERHOUSE THEATRE 2008/09 SEASON



## Happy New Year

Well, 2009 is here and I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and I wish everyone a very healthy, prosperous and happy new year. Many of us spent most of our time during the holidays moving snow or hiding in our houses to avoid the cold, but the brave and dedicated group of members responsible for bringing the next production to the stage, have been busy building a fantastic set, gathering very unique props and creating the most extraordinary costumes.

During the holidays Dave Brotsky, Sarah McLean, Sherry Moir and a large crew have been fabricating "Heavy" stone arches, many huge doors and an amazing courtyard from styrofoam, wood, plaster and paint. They are transporting us back in time to Italy where our guest director, Bruce Hostetler, is now directing a huge cast for this hilarious show.

### Special Note: General Meeting and Social Hour

Saturday, January 24th at 2:00 pm

This is the perfect opportunity to help the executive create the kind of theatre that represents you and provides you with the optimum environment to express yourself and polish your theatre skills. Whether you appear on stage or work behind the scenes, it is very important to participate in the ongoing planning and exchange of ideas that keep our theatre alive and exciting. BRING YOUR IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND ENERGY and enjoy some casual time together in the Green Room.

I hope you will all come and see it and encourage your friends and co-workers to get their tickets soon as it is sure to be a fantastic hit. Remember, word of mouth is our best advertising and the more seats we fill the stronger our theatre becomes. If you have a moment, pop into the theatre and have a look and you will truly be inspired to spread the word.

See you at the theatre,  
Your President *Willem Roell*

## 2008/09 Powerhouse Theatrical Society Executive

<b>President</b>	Willem Roell
<b>Vice President Theatrical</b>	Monty Hughes
<b>Vice President Technical</b>	Bev Steeves
<b>Secretary</b>	Sharie Lomas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Hodgson
<b>Business</b>	Joanne Reynolds
<b>Membership</b>	Erin Pritchard
<b>Communications</b>	Jim Elderton
<b>Director at Large/ Zone Rep.</b>	Sarah McLean
<b>Director at Large</b>	Sherry Moir

Powerhouse Executive meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

**E-mail the Executive at:**  
[executive@powerhousetheatre.net](mailto:executive@powerhousetheatre.net)



# The Taming of the Shrew

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Bruce A. Hostetler

Bruce has directed opera, musicals, and plays, including numerous world premieres, at theatres from New York, New York to Santa Cruz, California. He is thrilled to be working with this wonderful Powerhouse crew on *Taming of the Shrew*. Bruce founded and served as Producing Artistic Director of The Back Porch Theater Company in Indiana; as Producing Director for the Carnegie Mellon Summer New Plays Project; and most recently as Assistant Producer for the prestigious Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. During his time in Ashland, Bruce also wrote and directed four highly acclaimed children's touring operas for Southern Oregon's professional opera company. He is currently the Resident Director of the Sun Valley Shakespeare Festival in Ketchum, Idaho, directing five of Shakespeare's plays in Sun Valley over the past five years. Bruce holds an Master of Fine Arts in Directing degree from the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We are delighted to welcome Bruce into our midst and look forward to benefitting from the wealth of knowledge he brings with him. Be sure to drop by the theatre and say hello if you get a chance.



## Plot Overview

IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE, a poor tinker named Christopher Sly becomes the target of a prank by a local lord. Finding Sly drunk out of his wits in front of an alehouse, the lord has his men take Sly to his manor, dress him in his finery, and treat him as a lord. When Sly recovers, the men tell him that he is a lord and that he only believes himself to be a tinker because he has been insane for the past several years. Waking in the lord's bed, Sly at first refuses to accept the men's story, but when he hears of his "wife," a pageboy dressed in women's clothing, he readily agrees that he is the lord they purport him to be. Sly wants to be left alone with his wife, but the servants tell him that a troupe of actors has arrived to present a play for him. The play that Sly watches makes up the main story of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

In the Italian city of Padua, a rich young man named Lucentio arrives with his servants, Tranio and Biondello, to attend the local university. Lucentio is excited to begin his studies, but his priorities change when he sees Bianca, a beautiful, mild young woman with whom he instantly falls in love. There are two problems: first, Bianca already has two suitors, Gremio and Hortensio; second, Bianca's father, a wealthy old man named Baptista Minola, has declared that no one may court his daughter until first her older sister, the vicious, ill-tempered Katherine, is married.



## Plot Overview, continued

Lucentio decides to overcome this problem by disguising himself as Bianca's Latin tutor to gain an excuse to be in her company. Hortensio disguises himself as her music teacher for the same reason. While Lucentio pretends to be Bianca's tutor, his servant, Tranio dresses up as Lucentio and begins to confer with Baptista about the possibility of marrying his daughter.

The Katherine problem is solved for Bianca's suitors when Hortensio's friend Petruccio, a brash young man from Vernoa, arrives in Padua to find a wife. He intends to marry a rich woman, and does not care what she is like as long as she will bring him a fortune. He agrees to marry Katherine sight unseen. The next day, he goes to Baptista's house to meet her, and they have a tremendous duel of words. As Katherine insults Petruccio repeatedly, Petruccio tells her that he will marry her whether she agrees or not. He tells Baptista, falsely, that Katherine has consented to marry him on Sunday. Hearing this claim, Katherine is strangely silent, and the wedding is set.

On Sunday, Petruccio is late to his own wedding, leaving Katherine to fear she will become an old maid. When Petruccio arrives, he is dressed in a ridiculous outfit and rides on a broken-down horse. After the wedding, Petruccio forces Katherine to leave for his country house before the feast, telling all in earshot that she is now his property and that he may do with her as he pleases. Once they reach his country house, Petruccio continues the process of "taming" Katherine by keeping her from eating or sleeping for several days—he pretends that he loves her so much he cannot allow her to eat his inferior food or to sleep in his poorly made bed.

In Padua, Lucentio wins Bianca's heart by wooing her with a Latin translation that declares his love. Hortensio makes the same attempt with a music lesson, but Bianca loves Lucentio, and Hortensio resolves to marry a wealthy widow. The servant Tranio secures Baptista's approval for Lucentio to marry Bianca by proposing a huge sum of money to lavish on her. Baptista agrees but says that he must have this sum confirmed by Lucentio's father before the marriage can take place. Tranio and Lucentio, still in their respective disguises, feel there is nothing left to do but find an old man to play the role of Lucentio's father. Tranio enlists the help of an old pedant, or schoolmaster, but as the pedant speaks to Baptista, Lucentio and Bianca decide to circumvent the complex situation by eloping.

Katherine and Petruccio soon return to Padua to visit Baptista. On the way, Petruccio forces Katherine to say that the sun is the moon and that an old man is really a beautiful young maiden. Since Katherine's willfulness is dissipating, she agrees that all is as her husband says. On the road, the couple meets Lucentio's father, Vincentio, who is on his way to Padua to see his son. In Padua, Vincentio is shocked to find Tranio masquerading as Lucentio. At last, Bianca and Lucentio arrive to spread the news of their marriage. Both Vincentio and Baptista finally agree to the marriage.

At the banquet following Hortensio's wedding to the widow, the other characters are shocked to see that Katherine seems to have been "tamed"—she obeys everything that Petruccio says and gives a long speech advocating the loyalty of wives to their husbands. When the three new husbands stage a contest to see which of their wives will obey first when summoned, everyone expects Lucentio to win. Bianca, however, sends a message back refusing to obey, while Katherine comes immediately. The others acknowledge that Petruccio has won an astonishing victory, and the happy Katherine and Petruccio leave the banquet to go to bed.





## Members Celebrate Christmas

A big thank you goes out to Mary and Martin Niedballa for their delightful performance of Santa and Mrs. Clause at the theatre Christmas Party. While the children crafted little snowmen provided by Debra Bob using their pictures for the faces, the adults quaffed Joanne Reynolds' delicious mulled wine and munched on goodies brought by everyone.

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions, comments, congratulations or complaints, please take the time to drop us a line at [spotlight@powerhousetheatre.net](mailto:spotlight@powerhousetheatre.net). Your letter will appear in the Letters to the Editor section of our newsletter.



Santa and Mrs. Clause bring Christmas cheer to everyone at the Theatre.



Monty Hughes asks Santa for a little something special in his stocking this year.



Sarah McLean cozies up to Santa for a quick chat.

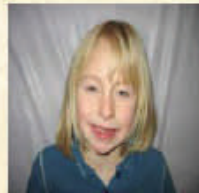
Mrs. Santa & Terri Flanagan share a giggle.



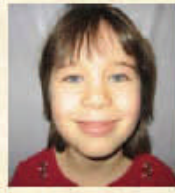
Ian Kelly, Joanne Reynolds and Joyce Hodgson share the cheer of the season.



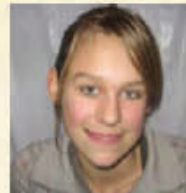
Willam's sister Elizabeth joined the party all the way from Holland.



Shae-lin Karstensen



Emily Flannagan



Jessica Karstensen



Ted Flanagan, Joan Karstensen, & Monty Hughes.