

The Privy Councilor

Spring/Summer Newsletter

June, 1994

All for Fun, and Fun for All
Welcomes You Back

■ Jim Peterson, Owner

Greetings, Minnesota Renaissance Festival Participants! 1993 turned out to be a hot year. Despite seven days of rain, the 1993 Minnesota Renaissance Festival came within 1,000 people of setting an all-time record. After the heat of the 1993 Renaissance Festival run, the entire staff found itself heating up to an even higher degree. In fact, it became so hot that our offices burned to the ground, giving the Festival staff a whole new challenge to deal with. In the predictable fashion of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival staff, everyone immediately stepped up and became enthusiastic problem solvers. We currently find ourselves officing in what once was a racquetball and aerobic club, with desks and files where aerobics once existed. Actually, there is now more energy flowing through this building than when it was a health club, and everyone has done an absolutely remarkable job of stepping up and taking on a new challenge with enthusiasm.

We welcomed new staff members and said good-bye to some, and we are excited by the changes and challenges of 1994. As new General Manager, Bonnie Jacobson has demonstrated the kind of energy and care that she has devoted to Castle Kitchens for years. We congratulate

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Sponsors, Slogans and Such

■ Shelley Dahl, Marketing Representative

We are hard at work on the 1994 Minnesota Renaissance Festival advertising, promotions, and sponsorships! Starting on the right foot, we have secured and increased the Coca-Cola, Inglenook/Blossom Hill, and Grand Casino. We are enthusiastic about obtaining many more sponsorships including Anheuser-Busch, Continental Airlines and McGarvey-Cof-

fee. The Marketing Department is faced with many new and exciting challenges, some of which may involve your participation. As details progress, we may contact you for assistance. With our 1994 brochure in process of being mailed, we are busily working on program and merchandise designs. Plans are underway for a new and improved Food Festival... including a

seating area, a larger array of food sampling and more! Also in the works... The Children's Area will be redesigned and constructed. We are in the process of creating a spectacular marketing campaign... which involves ALL FOR FUN AND FUN FOR ALL!!!

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Fact or Fiction

MAF Offices Destroyed in Fire

Details to Follow



It was a cold and snowy night. The wind howled across the landscape of the Minnesota River bottom. Suddenly across the horizon a bright light seemed to glow, a beacon in the otherwise dark sky. Animals scurried into the dark woods of the river bottom, escaping the blaze. Faster and faster it ate at the old farmhouse, faster and faster the air crackled, heat meeting the cold, darkness light.

Makes for pretty dramatic reading. But, fact is fact and fiction is fiction, and even in the rumor machine that grinds through every Renaissance Festival, both mix with casual frequency, and both require now and then a bit of "sifting out".

Fact. On Saturday morning, March 12, the offices of Mid-America Festivals were partially destroyed in a fire which investigators later found broke out in the back offices at MAF. The apparent cause was electrical malfunction. The portion of the building not razed by fire was heavily smoke damaged.

Fiction. The entire MRF site burned to the ground? Reminder. MRF site sits approximately 1/2 mile from the office. It would have been one tremendous fire to have fed on winter-dried prairie to make it all the way to the site. A fire it was, the blaze of the century it wasn't.

Fact. A number of irreplaceable items were lost in the fire. Both the personal items of staff members, like Brian Kenkes' drafting table, and more historically significant items, like MRF artwork including prints by Bruce Loeschen, were regrettably lost.

Fiction. A rumor grew out of the fire that we had lost most of our business files, our book-keeping, and the very material that makes MRF

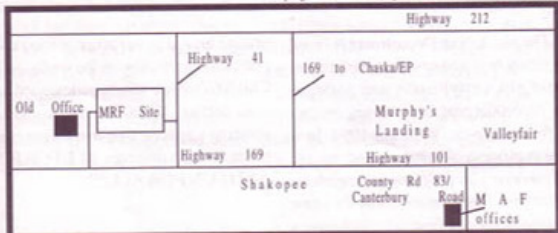
possible. Most of our paperwork, including departmental records, accounting records, and other records were on backup. Many files were recovered, most were recovered on our "computer backup". Slowly, we are reconstructing the files, getting things back in order, and making our records more efficient and organized than ever.

Fact. MAF / CKC offices are up and running. While the fire took its toll in a loss of time and energy, disrupting the usual workings of MRF, we are at home in our new offices east of Shakopee, and are busily preparing for another great year of Minnesota Renaissance Festival. If you're in the area, stop and visit us at our temporary office space. We're looking forward to seeing you in the coming months.

New Office Location:
600 Canterbury Rd. (County Road 83)
Shakopee, MN

Mailing Address:
3525 W. 145th Street
Shakopee, MN
55379

Office Phone:
(612) 445-7361
Shop Phone:
(612) 445-3120
Site Numbers:
(612) 445-2753



1994 Weekends of Fun for All

August 13-14
Family Pleasures & Treasures

August 20-21
Wine Gala

August 27-28
Mid-East Mirage

September 3, 4, 5
Tournament of Kings

September 10-12
Image Courtesy of the Art of Hands
September 18-19
Rediscover the Romance
September 24-26
Faire Folk
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Who's on First?

The phone rings and someone answers it. Is this... no doesn't sound like... how about... no. Who is this anyway? Yes, once again MAF has had some shifts in personnel. It is the MRF/MAF office you've called for years... well, sort of, but that's another story. And yes, you do need someone to answer your questions about crafts, campground information, entertainment passes and a thousand other tidbits that help you plan and prepare for seven weeks of MRF. But, who to talk to? Who is this anyway?

Who's on first will be one of our two lovely, vivacious administrative assistants, Carol Ann Ince or Cookie Bennett. Carol Ann's gotten her feet wet at MAF this year by doing trade shows and representing MAF at various events. Cookie's never far from the front desk where she greets visitors and keeps track of the comings and goings of other staff members.

Lisa Miller recently came on board as our Office Manager. With a background in business, Lisa's able to help with your questions concerning worker's comp laws and a variety of other business related issues.

Lois Hendries, back for her 21st year, is MRF Craft Administrator and the resource for all questions concerning the Craft Program, MRF history, or life in general. We all look to Lois for the nitty gritty on many issues. Assisting Lois this

year at Craft Assistant and doing double duty as Special Projects Coordinator is Janell Stevens. The marketing department consists of several people whose job is to sell the show, puts us all in their debt. Dina Voit oversees the marketing department and deals with corporate accounts and sponsorships; Shelley Dahl, remains in charge of the Food Festival and Games program, as well as working with msc. sponsorships and promotions, and Steve Sohre deals with special events and is the department "author". Kathy Pedersen, Grounds and Props Manager, is responsible for how great our site looks when you arrive in midsummer. In addition to planning and planting, Kathy's also busy supervising crews who decorate booths, install banners, display foods in our CKC booths, pick up garbage, maintain the site, and provide props for both Festival and Special Events.

Arnie Erp, Site Manager, deals with issues on buildings, operations, and maintenance of MRF properties. From overseeing building of craft booths, to monitoring MRF buildings, to making sure electricity needs are taken care of, Arnie and his crew are instrumental to making MRF work.

Gary Christenson is the new Controller at MRF. Formerly with the Chicago Bears, Gary and his assistant, accounts receivable / payable clerk, Cindy Weikle, will be able to answer

your questions on financial matters.

Tottie Shults is the glue that keeps CKC running. Personnel Director, Tottie runs the inservicing for CKC employees, hiring and supervising over 400 employees during the run of MRF each year. Tottie is also in charge of food independents. Tottie and her assistant, Stacy Bloom, are available through the summer for information on employment.

Kurt Schneider is new to MRF this year, taking over the task of Event Manager. His years of business experience promise to assist MAF in expanding their holdings and service to patrons.

Ron Patterson, best known for his expertise as Chef Extraordinaire at the Feast of Fantasy, has begun work as Special Events Coordinator, working closely with staff to expand our base of operation to include more events year-round on and off Festival site.

Dennis Erp, CKC, works closely with the Food Service Director to provide direction to area supervisors and commissary personnel during the run of MRF.

Michelle Pattyn comes to the MRF Sales Department with four years of sales/promotion experience. Committed to excellence, Michelle's work in sales and her professional, friendly approach to clients has made her popular. Michelle's on first when it comes to Corporate Sales. Assisting her are Ann Benson, who specializes in bus groups and is currently taking Feast calls, and Jennifer Quinn, who deals with advance tickets, new accounts, and a new program "One Royal Night".

Jeanne Bautz, Costume Designer, uses her costume background to answer your costume questions, whether they concern historical accuracy, appropriateness in selection and design, or assistance needed in finding fabrics, notions or stitchers.

Not new to MRF, but new to the General Manager position, is former Food and Beverage Director, Bonnie Jacobson. Bonnie's reputation for professionalism and excellence in direction of personnel will carry not only MRF, but MAF forward to another quarter century of exceptional entertainment.

Jim Peterson, MRF's first Controller, is on first as the controller and operator of MRF. With Jim's job to expand all our views of the world and what it has to offer to our employees and patrons, we rely on his knowledge of a true entrepreneurial spirit.

Gary Parker, Entertainment Director, works to mold the event that each year brings to our year and year again. Gary's passion for the festival in theatre that makes MRF exceptional. This year he is assisted by the irrepressible Stephanie Delk.

Welcome Back

(continued from p. 1)

late Bonnie on her promotion and on her many efforts to keep us running at top speed and quality. Gary Christenson has become the new Controller. Gary's background includes running the office for the Chicago Bears. When you meet him, ask to see his Superbowl ring. Our new Sales Coordinator is Michelle Pattyn; assisted by Anne Benson and Jennifer Quinn. We have a new person in the role of Office Manager, Lisa Miller, who has been doing an outstanding job of both running the office and puzzling out how the entertainment business really works. Lois Hendries has stepped up for additional craft duties as well, and Dina Voit has accepted many of the marketing and promotion responsibilities. Currently answering the phones and doing individual promotions are Carol Ann Ince and Cookie Bennett. The foods department with Greg Jacarella and Feast of Fantasy chef Ron Patterson, promises new and exciting additions this year. Whereas last year the festival brought almost 320,000 through the gate, the 1994 show promises, from all appearances and indicators, to do even bigger numbers with greater quality. Last year the Festival provided our patrons with the finest assortment and quality of crafts, and the best entertainment value for the dollar. Our show is not only an enduring tradition of excellence, but an ever-changing experience. The Festival's high standards and vigorous creativity ensure a predictably terrific encounter for our patrons for years to come. I hope it is evident that Mid-America Festivals is going onward and upward and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival should set unprecedented records both in numbers of patrons and in the quality of our participants.

Image Courtesy of
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Costume Shop Hours and Services

Jeannie Bautz, Costume Director

"I do costumes for the Renaissance Festival," is a claim that many people can make. After all, nobody does it all and there are contributions of many people whose talents or history with MRF far outdistance that found in the MRF Costume Shoppe. I do costumes for the Renaissance Festival. I'll create over 150 new costumes this year - not personally, but I do design, oversee construction and direct those costumes. They vary from bustles to chemises, spats to doublets, and then onto banners, Medieval costumes and more. In 1994 we are centralizing the costume shops for all MAF/Festival Inc. holdings, putting even greater demands on the MRF site. As such, organization becomes of greatest importance here "at home".

Your part in organization comes from early application for approval on your costume for the 1994 Festival. If you arrive on site the day of preview or during Festival, and you're questioned about your costume fabrication, appropriateness of design or selection fitting your "station" on site, please understand that much ado

could have been avoided by simply getting pre-approval. Pre-approval is necessary for all participating costumes worn on site. Whenever building a new costume, simply send a sketch of your idea with fabric swatch selections to our office, and you'll receive a letter with approval, or suggestions for changes to bring your costume in line with policy or appropriateness. If you are uncertain if your costume is "on file", simply send a photo or sketch and note explaining your character/craft, date costume was created, and any other information you'd like to share.

What happens if a costume you have isn't appropriate for MRF wear? Some choices made in the past were poor ones simply because the Costume Guide, published to assist participants in ease in costuming, isn't read carefully. It is one of several recommended sources for costuming, and should be referred to because it has particulars that are "applicable" to MRF site. If the error is made, remember that your costume might be reworked for other shows you do, might be fixed with some simple changes, or

might be "worked out" through borrowing from the Costume Shoppe or other sources to create a more appropriate costume. We are not the Costume Police. We are merely the technical experts who have the task of quality control in this one area of Festival. Please, bear with us while we attempt to improve quality across site.

Services the Costume Shoppe will again provide in 1994 are:

- Consultation
- Patterns for Simple Designs
- Resource for Findings
- Class & Stitches Info
- Costume Chats
- Troubleshooting for Stitching
- Historical Resource

Shop hours are 7 a.m. - 3:30 M-F, or by appointment.

Ed. note: Jeannie Bautz holds a degree in Costume Design from U.M. She is a Milliner by trade, with design lines to her credit.

Decorating with Style

The easiest way to strengthen your building's image is by paying special attention to its edges - the places around the window and the door openings, along the roof line and structural members, such as posts, within the wall and gable panels, fences and railings, and where the walls meet the ground. Here are some quick ideas for immediate results:

WINDOW & DOOR OPENINGS: shutters, mullions, decorative trim, stained or leaded glass inserts, flower boxes, gargoyles, arches, columns, fabric swags, banners....

ROOF LINE, POSTS, or STRUCTURAL MEMBERS: flags, hanging baskets, fabric swags, painted patterns, cutout curves or shapes at rafter ends, scalloped or daggered trims....

WALL & GABLE PANELS, FENCES, and RAILINGS: half-timbered effects, vines, sunburst array, designs or patterns using diamonds, hearts, spades, clubs, diagonals, squares, rectangles, circles, and more banners....

WHERE THE WALLS MEET THE GROUND: flower beds, logs or boards cut at varied lengths and placed on end, pedestals with plants on top, vines, rock gardens, benches, shrubs, stones, barrels, half-barrels or boxes with flower pot inserts.

Think Bright! Think Happy! Be Creative! Contrary to popular opinion, the Renaissance color scheme wasn't necessarily drab and boring. It was a discovery and enjoyment of color and flourish. Imported, handmade trims and tapestry flourished. We have many ideas to share with you. Let us know when and how we can best help your booth look like a chapter out of History!



Northward Ho... Expansion takes MAF in new directions

Dina Voit, Marketing Director

IRRRB, What is that?!? Mid-America Festivals has engaged in a new adventure! The Iron Range Resource Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), has recently accepted the MAF proposal to manage IRONWORLD USA in Chisholm, MN. IRONWORLD is an entertaining and educational experience for the whole family. IRONWORLD is a celebration of traditions and of immigrants from throughout the world who create the unique heritage of northeastern Minnesota's Iron Range.

Image Courtesy of
Faire Folk
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May I See Your Pass, Please?

Photo ID Program Information & Dates, '94

License Agreements.

Every participant must present a valid pass to the guard on duty at participant entry gates to gain admission to site on show days. The staff person in charge of your area of participation will tell you whether you are eligible for a Photo ID or if you will use a different type of pass. The following information applies to holders of Photo IDs.

Returning Participants - To be accepted by a gate guard, a Photo ID validated in 1993 must bear a 1994 validation mark.

If you still have your Photo ID, turn it in now, regardless of condition.

There will be a \$6.00 charge to replace a Photo ID not turned in for validation.

New Participants - Entertainers, Castle Kitchen Employees, and Food Independents - Photo IDs will be issued at your specific meetings as listed below. Staff authorization is required to receive a Photo ID at any time other than your scheduled meetings. There is no charge for a first time Photo ID.

Entertainers - New entertainers will receive a free Photo ID. Any entertainer who had a Photo ID in 1993 and for whatever reason did not turn it in for validation will be charged \$6.00 for a replacement. All entertainers will have Photo IDs made at Renaissance Academy on the dates listed in your Academy schedule.

Castle Kitchens Food Independents - Meeting Thursday, August 4, 7 PM, at Bad Manor.

CKC Employee Orientation - Saturday, July 30th at B Gate on Festival Site.

New Crafters - Will receive free IDs in accordance with

PHOTO IDSCHEDULE Photos to be taken at Festival Site

WHERE	DAY	DATE SCHEDULED	HOURS
B Gate	Sat/Sun	July 30 -31	11 AM - 3 PM
	Sat/Sun	Aug 6 - 7	9 AM - 4 PM
	Friday	Aug 12	1 PM - 9 PM
NO IDS ISSUED WITHOUT STAFF AUTHORIZATION			
C Gate	Sat	Aug 13	1 PM - 4 PM
	Sun	Aug 14	1 PM - 4 PM

NO IDS ISSUED WITHOUT STAFF AUTHORIZATION



Site Hours 1994

Summer

June 5-July 26

8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Sunday

Pre-show

July 27 - August 12

8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday - Sunday

Campground

Open: August 1

Closed: October 3

Registration begins June 1

Back Gate

Open Friday 7 a.m. - Monday 2 a.m.

Inner Gate

A & B - 7 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

C - 7 a.m. - Midnight

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Out of Site

■ Kathy Pedersen, Grounds Manager

Spring is here. On site that means the sounds of birds... and hammers... the buzz of bees... and activity, as the site is raked and made rubbish free, pruned and planted. Even seeding the grass and clearing the flower beds is underway. 150 plats of flowers are started for late summer movement to site, and planter boxes that grace Bad Manor and the main gate are underway. Just as many of you begin prepping yourself for MRF in the winter, the grounds crew occupies themselves with the design, selection and preparation of plantings that will make the site beautiful. To keep it that way, we once again ask your patience and support.

As usual, we'd appreciate no driving on site. While we recognize some crafters' difficulty in getting their merchandise to their shops, the need to keep the grass healthy for our patrons' enjoyment of a beautiful site is foremost

in managements mind. Therefore, we remind, scold, and sometimes push to keep the grass free of automobile traffic. Again this year, the roads will be sprayed. It's a necessity to keep dust down, but is toxic enough to kill the grass. All tires should be washed once you are off the main roads. Cables will limit access to site. Please respect our attempts to protect the work and expense that goes into renewing turf each year, and do not take cables down or go through them.

Dogs should be kept on leashes behind shops, not tied on site or to trees so that they block walkways, damage plantings or violate your neighbors' rights.

Weather conditions will determine our use of sprinklers and the water cannon for gardens as well as grass growing.

When working on your shops, please keep recycling in mind. No wood may be put in the dumpster, by order of the disposal company. There are recycling bins (labeled) to help us all do a better job with saving the environment. Rebuilding? Construction materials should be piled off-site and off roadways.

With some help from everyone, our grounds stay beautiful and appealing for everyone, patrons and participants alike, from August to October. We invite you to decorate your booths and areas, making your surroundings as beautiful as the crafts and culinary delights you offer to our patrons. Cindy Gess, Nancy Schultz and myself are available for consultation on your shop or booth's period look, anxious to help in the effort to make MRF a showplace of Festivals.

Castle Kitchens Accepting Applications Now!

Spread the word throughout the Realm! Castle Kitchen's search for enthusiastic, ambitious peasants to serve up a delicious array of the King's favorite morsels has begun! A unique employment opportunity for students, families, teachers, homemakers, and retired individuals to earn extra \$\$\$ (Applicants must be at least 15 years old by August 13, 1994.) For information, please contact: Tootie, Personnel Coordinator, 445-7361 (M-F 8:30 - 5:00).

Needed

Workers for Games Area
Children's Area, Foods

Responsibilities may include hawking, accepting money, monitoring the play of game/ride, assisting children in crafts, maintenance & restocking of supplies, supervision of children, working in food sampling, area maintenance.

Who's On First

Continued from P. 2

Greg Icarelle, our newest addition, comes to the MRF Food and Concessions program, as a manager willing to go the extra mile. With impressive credentials, Greg is a welcome addition to the MRF family.

Germaine Delaney, sign painter, is responsible for the style that comes to MRF site in giving direction to visitors and participants alike. Finding that *Baked Potato* booth easily can be credited to Germaine, whose artistic talents are often challenged in making the ordinary unique.

Brian Kemkes, Artistic Director of MRF, is in charge of the visual look of MRF, from the development of special projects to the graphics on MRF brochures and merchandise.

Joe Monnens, Joe Frey, Harry Kittleson, and Brent (BJ) Jones are our capable and creative Site Crew. Experts at everything from electrical to soil erosion, each is a valuable member of the MRF team.

Also on site crew, but in a different department, you'll find **Cindy Gess** and **Nancy Schultz**. While Cindy's talents bend more toward horticulture and props, Nancy is our Site Decorator. Both use their talents to enhance the Renaissance picture that is MRF.

Marilyn Hagermann is our MRF Wedding Consultant, as well as our contact on what's happening in the entertainment and convention business.

Vincent Taylor, MRF Computer Expert, is the man who keeps the office running into the 20th century. Programming and maintaining an office of high tech equipment is Vince's realm.

Faire Folk
Wherever you may be, if you are looking for MRF offices or requesting assistance on site, on First is your needs, requests, and concerns. Our staff anticipates another year of working with you to present a quality Festival!

Renaissance Trivia

Take the Challenge, and learn some Renaissance History, too!

1. What explorer first sailed around the world?
2. What nationality was St. Patrick?
3. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
4. What scientist dropped weights from the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
5. In what country was the bagpipe invented?
6. What's Mona Lisa's last name?
7. Who first said the world was round?
8. How many parts are there in a suit of armor?
9. What was Johan Gutenberg's greatest contribution to printing?
10. What established Europe's first observatory?

Answers on Page 8

Campground Rules

A list of the new and improved camping rules were included in one of the 1993 Privy Councilors received during the run of show. In case your copy has been lost or no longer readable, you may request a list of rules when making your reservation. A \$20.00 camping fee will be charged per registration. \$10 is refundable when the registered camper checks out, providing that the campground site is clean. The remaining \$10.00 will be directed to campground improvement. There is a \$75 service charge for electricity use. **NO ELECTRICITY MAY BE RUN TO TENTS.** Electricity permits will be issued at the Festival Site Office only, located on C Road near Festival's east entrance.

Camping reservations will be taken by completing a Campground Reservation form this year. NO phone reservations will be accepted, but you may call for a reservation form. Any space must be paid by August 1 and occupied by noon, August 12. Prepaid fees are forfeited if the space is not claimed by August 12. Reservations for specific spaces may only be made directly through the Campground Director only.



Parades

Jennifer Quinn is coordinating parades in '94. Tim Quinn is the on-site parade leader. They will deal with sign-in and sign-up for parades. Our first parade was the Grand Old Days in St. Paul on June 6th. Call the office if you're interested in taking part in our fun-filled events!

Prep in Progress for Quarter Century of MRF

If the pictures at left look familiar, two things are evident. One, you have a great memory, or two, you have an interest in history! Minnesota Renaissance Festival offices will be looking forward to the upcoming season in the months to come, but they have an eye on the future - particularly on the 1995 celebration of their twenty-fifth season. Due to the fire that destroyed MAF offices this past winter, we're looking for donations of MRF memorabilia, from photos to news clippings to artwork. If you have old programs, posters, or other memorabilia that you would be willing to have displayed or used in promotions next year, please contact the MAF offices.

Let's test your historical and practical knowledge of MRF and have some fun in the process.

Remember the first MRF site? Twenty-four years ago, MRF took place on two weekends just north of Chaska, on property at Lake Grace in Jonathan...

Although King Henry, played by the talented and historical George Hermann, has been with MRF for several years... do the names Michael Brandt, George Coulam, Brian Voul, anderson ring a bell? All are past members of the royal family.



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Ooooo Scary...

The Many Sides of Crist Ballas

Most of us see him with one foot dragging, rummaging women's purses, flinging boogers and being uniquely, genuinely the Village Idiot, aka Pastorius. "Gross..." "Cool..." "Disgusting..." "Fascinating..." They're all terms that patrons use in describing Crist Ballas' Festival character. It might also be the range of emotions that describe one's reaction to Crist Ballas' "real" life off MRF site.

When he was three, Ballas watched *Frankenstein* on television, telling his mother "I want to make monsters." When she replied, with usual motherly wisdom, "That's nice, How?" Crist asked, "Where's the graveyard?" Crist's mom passed away while he was still struggling with setting up Plague Industrials, his self-styled special effects company, but her tolerance and support well prepared Crist for undertaking dozens of unusual projects.

Self taught until five years ago, Crist's childhood was a page out of Harold and Maude. "Neighbors would seclude their children from me because my love of special effects often played themselves out in acting," Crist, a one time student of St. Paul Central, an Arts Magnet school, thought for a time that the only way he could satisfy his love of technical theatre and special effects was through acting. Roles in children's theatre, commercials and other venues left Crist still feeling that his real goal wasn't being met. Five years ago all of that changed through a course entitled Advanced Professional Makeup Effects taught by the innovator in the field, Dick Smith. Crist comments that "Dick's example has helped advance the state of the art." With *Amedeus*, *Little Big Man*, *Ghost Story* and a volume of

works to his credit, Smith for many in the field is the expert. "It's an exclusive course," Crist comments, "...not for everyone." For those at Crist's level of interest and skill, Smith however has been the model of mentorship.

HBO's *Mr. Elk* and *Mr. Seal Show* and *Dracula Unleashed*, a CD ROM game for Viacom are two of Crist's favorite personal projects. He counts as some of his best and most enjoyable work was completed for *Dracula*, a project which included a complete body replica of *Dracula* complete with impaling, severed heads, and "lots of blood". For Crist, the childhood wish of making monsters has come true. Plague Industrials combines his talents and stretches his knowledge of makeup, hair, mechanics, engineering, chemistry, anatomy, dentistry, sculpture, mold making and puppetry. The list of what he needs to know for his craft continues to grow, as does Plague Industrials' list of credits. Working with local production companies, such as Mystery Science Theatre Hour on the Comedy Channel, making commercials including one for Treasure Island Casino, as well as production work for photographers and movies, is the mainstay of the growing company.

Crist's personal life might be just as scary for those who only relate to him as Pastorius. Married for four years, Crist met his wife Rebecca at MRF on an off year from his duties as Pastorius. "It was the one year I worked in the Feast and I needed a costume," Crist's journey to the Costume Shoppe introduced him to Rebecca, someone who he comments he shared "an incredible relationship" with. "Having someone in the same field," Crist vows, "helps tremendously." Indeed the Ballas' personal and professional relationships often merge, allowing them to combine their talents on several projects a year. Rebecca is also a costumer at the Minnesota Opera. The newest addition to the Ballas' operation is Matia, born January 31. "She's the best kid I've ever experienced," Crist says of his baby daughter. He does admit, however, that the thought of Matia being 15 and on Ren Fest site is scary. He vows to lock her in a closet.

And what does the *Master of Scary* say about his alter-ego Pastorius? "He's hideous, yet there's a cute vulnerability to him that's slightly attractive.

More of a glint in his eye." There are certainly things, Crist admits that Pastorius gets away with that Crist Ballas would never allow himself to attempt. As a child Ballas created the character in order to get away doing the special effects that so intrigued him. Today, Pastorius proves "...there are no boundaries. The makeup is a mask in that I couldn't do what I do without it. I'd be too embarrassed to let people watch me do those things in my normal face or in a normal costume. People see us (himself and character partner the Ratcatcher) as a bad car accident, a morbidly curious event. People want to turn their heads, but they don't. They can't believe what we're doing." It is, however, a perfect blending of Ballas' talents. Festival is a very small part of Crist's life. Career and family come first.

"Gross..." "Cool..." "Fascinating!" Crist's real life has many sides and like a mask of his own invention, each allows him to be something he always imagined, but never hoped to achieve. He, like few of us, carries the visions of his youth and invents a world of fantasies.

1. Sebastian Del Luno, one of Magellan's men who assumed command after Magellan's death in the Philippines. 2. He was a missionary from England. 3. Taking into account the numerous traces and treaties, the war lasted 116 years by some accounts. 4. It was Vincenzo Vitelli, not Galileo. 5. 13th Century Italy. 6. La Gioconda. 7. Three men actually claimed the world was round. Aristotle, Pierre D'Ailly, and Pope Pius II. Columbus merely believed what these gentlemen said. 8. "Nineteen. They are the cres, skull, visor, beaver, gorget, shoulder guards, pauldrons, rerebraces, elbow caps, vambraces, gauntlets, breast, laces, baret, cuisses, knee caps, jambas, and solesets." 9. Not the printing press, but the invention of movable type. 10. The Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe.

Trivia Answers



Image Courtesy Of
Faire Folk®
The creative genius of Crist Ballas
www.faire-folk.com

1994 Entertainment Schedule



Veteran Meeting	Saturday, June 25, 10 - 12 a.m. Macalester College
Auditions (new)	Saturday, June 25, 1 - 5 p.m. Mac Monday, June 27, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac Tuesday, June 28, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Auditions (Vets)	Wednesday, June 29, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Academy, Week 1	Tues-Thurs, July 5-7, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Academy, Week 2	Tues-Thurs, July 12 -14, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Academy, Week 3	Tues-Thurs, July 19 - 21, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Academy, Week 4	Tues-Thurs, July 26 -28, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Academy, Week 5	Tues-Thurs, Aug 2-4, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
On-site Rehearsal	Sunday, August 7th, 12-4 p.m., FESTIVAL SITE
Academy Week 6	Tues- Thurs, August 9 -11, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Mac
Festival	Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day. August 13 - September 25, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. (7 weekends, 15 days, 150 hours)

Auditions and Academy sessions will be held in the Macalester College Student Union (SW corner of Grand and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul).

Hauntings on MRF Site

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from October 5 through October 31, keep your calendars open and be ready for *Hauntings*, the MAF version of Trick or Treat.. Complete with a Trial for the Damned, the spirits of Bakery Stage, and various

characters of the night, the event promises to make Halloween history in the TC area.

Interested in being a part of this fun-filled event? Auditions for entertainers and information on craft

concessions will be available in upcoming *Privy Councilor* issues. Watch for this on news stand in your area. For more information or to share your ideas, you may contact Ron Patterson or Janell Stevens, event organizers.

New on Site in '94

A moat, a Knight School and the beginnings of a miniature play village will highlight the Children's Play Village this season. Designed by our resident artist, Brian Kemkes, the area is sure to delight the village children, as well as those who frequent our village each Festival season. The craft participation that has been a mainstay of the program in the past will be enhanced by weekly visiting artists and volunteers who will assist in make and take activities. Patterned after one of the most successful programs in the country, the Kansas City Renaissance Festival's *Wee Folk Adventure Glen*, MRF hopes to work toward producing a well-designed, interesting, and entertaining play area for children that is functionally safe and aesthetically unique.

Also on site in '94 will be additions to the Hall of Masters and Folkestone Hall. A reproduction collection of armor as well as the Renaissance of Dolls Collection will open at MRF, then tour other sister shows this winter and next summer. The exhibit will be added to over time, with plans for it to be the largest of its kind. Like the CAP collection, it is a program that will be representative of quality in art work. Anyone knowing of someone interested in participating in the program, whom you believe would be appropriate, should contact MAF offices.



Artist's Rendering of the CPV, '94

Wedding Chapel Gets a Face Lift

Part of a Two Year Plan

Picture this... the bride is presented to her groom, much as she would have been in Renaissance times, accompanied by her Mother Superior. The groom has arrived, encircled by his groomsmen, the cleric and the official of the village. The bans are read and all proceed to the chapel. Ceremony, theme

and the beauty of Renaissance Festival grounds all come together as MAF moves to make weddings a summer-long event on MRF site. They won't be the \$100,000 extravaganzas promoted by Disney, but on a smaller scale the move the MAF is making to beautify the Chapel, potentially add a re-

ception area, and more work toward promoting weddings is one that makes a Renaissance Wedding a true Feast of Fantasy. This year note the changes to the Chapel area. Kathy Pedersen's crew and Brian Kemkes have done it again, providing us all with a beautiful, unique area on site to be proud of.