

## With many, many Thanks...

336, 016... that's the final count of patrons and guests who visited Festival during its 25th Anniversary Season. My thanks are extended to each of you who made each of those patron visits memorable ones.

With each Festival season a bit of disorganization, a hint of craziness, a mix of melancholy with visitors from the past and friends who pass through our lives just once a year, a bit of the absurd as new friends and acquaintances make their way into our lives and hearts come our way. This year was no exception. It was a pleasure to be a part of it all *one more time*. From those first tentative moments of Academy auditions and getting to know those who sought to be a part of something special, to the confession of one musician who decided, "this woman's on drugs" after studying a particularly *creative*

grid, it was a season of ups and downs, most of them up. It was a pleasure getting to know some of you better, working to bring back some faces and talents who graced our show with their presences and brought some magic to our lives, and of surviving and hall with much learned.

In the coming months I'll be calling you about your involvement in the 1996 and future seasons. Working with Gary Parker, I hope the entertainment staff at MAF will continue to pursue the fine art of entertaining with each of you as mainstays of our cast. Again, much thanks for the success of the 1995 season.

## A Bewitchingly Good Time

From Phantom's (Keith Spear) to the scary antics of castle keepers Corey Lerbs, Andy Ives and Rook, it was Halloween time on MRF properties this October. We knew that blue barn had a purpose other than end of show parties and the ghosts of past shows. Joined by a mixed cast of Actors, musicians, crafters, and CKC employees, a bewitchingly good time was had by Feast-goers and Halloween fans who trekked through the corridors of the Trail of Terror. 7,000 spooksters attended the event, still in its infancy for a MAF event. An additional Feast was added, with most evenings for Phantom's Feast sold out prior to open. For those of you who missed it, Alex Podulke brought *The Tell-Tale Heart* to life a sec-

ond year to rave reviews, and was joined by feast masters Jacquelyn America (whose dance brought down the house) and the ever-entertaining Marcus Volimus. To round off the event a new performance was added this season, *Funeral Tea*, adapted by Brian (Shakespeare) Murphy and featuring D'lis Schmidt, Melissa Kyro, Lisa Severson, Dayna Wolter, Kristin Hawbaker, and Jill Stanton. A standing ovation goes to them for long hours of rehearsal to bring another quality element to the always popular Feast of Fantasy and to the regular musicians who showed us what dedication was all about.



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## And a Very Merry Christmas...

Calls have been arriving almost at the regularity of inquiries for Father Christmas in December... and, we finally have a response. Mid-America Festivals will be producing **A Victorian Christmas** this holiday season. The location is the Mall of America Event Center, with a projected opening date of December 2. With possibilities in the air of having a stage available to us in Camp Snoopy, creating a new event to feature Breakfast with Father Christmas and a home that will allow us production of both **AVC** and **Fezziwig's Feast** in a single location, we are extremely excited about the production.

As most of you know, AVC is a more intimate show, but it's our hope to extend to each of you the possibility of becoming involved. Auditions for the production will be held allowing anyone interested in "showing their stuff". Open auditions will allow you to present a 3-5 minute audition piece. Come in costume if you like, bring your wit and your enthusiasm for a wonderful holiday experience. There will be an opportunity to audition for either/both AVC and Fezziwig's Feast. Stage acts may call Janell at the MAF offices the week of November 13 for more information.

#### **Audition Location:**

Canterbury Inn  
Shakopee, MN 3rd floor

#### **Audition Dates/Times:**

November 14 11am-4pm 7pm-9pm  
November 15 11am-5pm 7pm-9pm