



# the Lampost

an every-so-often newsletter of Lampost theatre co.

## youth production breaking new ground...

What happens when four high school students get stuck in the basement of a mortuary during a blackout? That's the premise of our new original musical-theater production, *Racing The Train*. But although it begins in darkness with nothing but a broken flashlight to illuminate the characters, the play does not stop there. As the students begin to open up and share their lives, the comedy and drama unfold as a cast of 20 enact various scenes that elaborate on their struggles. What emerges is an engaging and entertaining story of the roles we all try to play, and the need to find a group of people we can live honestly with "in the light."



## FULFILLMENT OF A VISION...

This production marks the debut of "2ndAct" -- a long-time dream of Lampost to develop major original productions performed by and for teens. The cast of 20 students from around the Cedar Valley represent 4 different high schools and a number of different churches. But they come together for this intensive experience that includes discipleship, group prayer, and training as well as rehearsals. The production also includes a live band made up of students.

The goal is to develop a creative discipleship experience for students, but also to give them the opportunity to experience ministry. Seeing their talents come alive to minister to their peers has been exciting. Together, they are growing in the very things that become thematic in the play: integrity, accountability, and the willingness to assess what is influencing our character development.

## NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS...

But the message and the entertainment of this play is not just for students. The story and the struggles become universal as the message challenges us all in the way we live. Through music, movement, comedy and tragedy, we can see ourselves stuck in the dark. This will be one of our most challenging productions to date, but the cast has risen to the challenge in delightful ways.



*Racing the Train* premieres @ lampost on September 10, 11, & 18. Tickets available online ([www.lampost.com](http://www.lampost.com)) or call (319)277-8034

the cast of *Racing The Train*

SEPTEMBER 2004

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## she looked like the average. . .

She looked like the average young adult that pops into the coffeeshop for a cup-o-joe. As I was frothing her latté and making conversation, her face suddenly changed. "Did you used to work with BASIC?" she asked.

"I still do," I replied. Some people don't know that we are secret agents on a mission from God disguised as coffeeshop baristas.

"I remember you..." she started, as she went on to recount something I had shared at BASIC six years ago. The message of this brief presentation had so impressed her, that it was influential in her going into full-time ministry.

"Now I train others all the time, and each time," she continued, "I share that same concept with them -- the thing I learned from your talk."

Who knows what ripples God can cause from little acts of obedience? I could hardly remember that event from six years ago.

What would happen if we took every opportunity to simply be obedient and share the little bit of light Christ has imparted to us? What if you, reading this newsletter, would pray His power upon us as we share little things each week at BASIC, each month in the theater, each day in the coffeeshop.

You and us together with the Maker of All Things... What could happen?

Even when it looks like just the average young adult, popping in for coffee...

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# new team members

meet our



Dylan(up) and Matt (down) supervise a youth volunteer work day

In June we welcomed a new staff team to Lampost. The Lord has blessed us with three wonderful servants with a passion for Him! As usual, we put them right to work, learning new repertoire, digging into the Word, and renovating the theater (a never-ending process!).

Much to our delight, they rolled up their sleeves and pitched right in.

**Dylan Kline** grew up in Davenport, IA and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa just before joining the team. He was an active part of our BASIC Drama/Discipleship program while in school, and brings lots of "handyman" talents to Lampost. Hmm... do we have a use for that?

**Marissa Puetz** (her last name, you might as well know, is pronounced "pits" - now you don't have to ask) came to us from Wright, WY. She was

active in drama ministry and youth leadership at her home church. She first came to know about Lampost when Todd Smith was her pastor. You may remember Todd and wife Melissa who toured with lampost in the late '80s. In addition to the ministry tasks shared by the team, Marissa will be contributing her talents to PR for Lampost.

**Matt Rittgers** will start as a freshman this fall at UNI. He graduated from Dike/New Hartford in Iowa, and will be a student intern. In addition to performance and student ministry, Matthew will be heading up some much-needed efforts in video/media production. This area has long needed some extra attention as we seek to get more training materials into the hands of more ministries around the globe.

After their initial month of intensive training, the team accompanied Jeff and Myka to **Teen Missions Boot Camp** where we trained 18 teams destined for different countries. Immediately following, they continued on to New York to train several overseas teams for **Touch the World**.

Now they are gearing up for a new Semester of campus impact and student discipleship. Really, we say that there is one month of intensive training, but the team members quickly learn that the "training" and the "intensive" go year-round :-)



Marissa on espresso

# SUMMER 2004: impact

and moving forward



Training mission teams in the Florida swamps...



...may include running the obstacle course with them @6am



Outdoor concerts connect with yet another crowd...

Pam DeJong, married 12 times in our productions of *The Wedding*, finally does the real thing — and right in Lampost's back yard!



Transforming the theater into an art gallery for a weekend gives yet another avenue for expression...

