

THE UP & COMING

Announcing the 2nd Annual Home-spun Film Fest.

Ever dream of putting your ideas into a video? Now's your chance! Lampost will once again co-sponsor this opportunity for amateur videographers to answer the question "Why Am I Here?" in 30 seconds to 30 minutes. Entries due in March.



The Guatemala Project.

In February, Marsha will be traveling to Guatemala along with a group of medical professionals. While the doctors are providing health care Marsha will be training and leading missionaries in the use of drama for outreach and evangelism.



THE END IS NEAR!

The end of the year, that is. The IRS has strict rules about giving - so if you still want to make a 2006 contribution to Lampost, it must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Lampost is a 501(c)3 organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible.



THANKS FOR HELPING US FULFILL OUR CALLING IN 2006.

God has been gracious, and it was a fruitful year!

PLEASE PRAY FOR WISDOM, VISION, AND IMPACT FOR THE KINGDOM IN 2007!

THE LAMPPOST

THE EVERY-SO-OFTEN NEWSLETTER OF LAMPOST THEATRE & COFFEE CO.

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So What?

"Okay, you're putting on a play. So what?" It's the question that reverberates in our imagination so often. All sorts of groups produce plays -- from grade schools to universities to community theaters. Why add another one? What makes a Lampost production worthwhile?

Our recent production of *Pirates!* reminded us of the answers to that question...

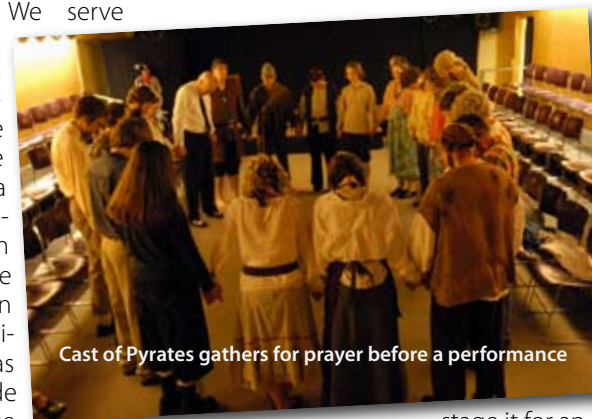
Creation. We serve an infinitely creative God. The first picture we have of God in the scripture is a God who creates through His words. We have been called to imitate Him, as creatures made in His image.

We have a drive to create new things that communicate His goodness to the world.

Community. The production process becomes an ideal place to experience discipleship-style community. Twenty-some people - most of them strangers to one another - are thrown into an intensive setting. They must become vulnerable with one another as they create. They fail in front of one another, they lift each other up. They learn to depend on each other. For two months, they focus all their spare time and efforts on a single goal. They pray together, laugh together, panic together, and discover together how God comes through to make up for

their weaknesses. All this for the purpose of sharing His message with others.

Spirituality. People enter a cast to act and have some fun. When it becomes hard work, unpleasantly stretching them, they make a choice. Will they deny themselves for the sake of the goal? As the actor next to them offers a hand for prayer, another choice is made: will I lean on Someone greater than myself to accomplish this?



Cast of *Pirates!* gathers for prayer before a performance

At this point, rehearsals become a journey in seeking God and examining our own hearts. The script becomes a message we must discover in our own lives before we

stage it for an audience.

Outreach. Day after day people trudge through the "same old things." But they enter the theatre, and suddenly they are transported to another world. For two hours they are participating in this parable that not only speaks of truth, but that demonstrates truth impacting the lives of the characters. The audience - church people and non-church people alike, sit side-by-side. We laugh at ourselves, we cry with compassion -- not for some actor, but for how that character and his story represents you and me. Then they leave with a story that lingers in their mind - and hopefully in their hearts. A story of how God cares about our lives.

Pirates

Lampost's latest production spanned generations, combining history with fiction to tell the story of our universal search for identity.

Pirates! was clearly our most ambitious production yet. Employing a cast of 25, most of whom played multiple parts, the plot unfolds simultaneously in both the 17th and 21st centuries. To accommodate this dual plot, we divided the theatre down the middle for playing space, and placed separate stages on each end.

"I can honestly say *Pirates* was a life changing experience..."

Sometimes people just say "that changed my life" but don't necessarily mean it. I do, though. This was my first year at UNI and so I wasn't involved in a lot of activities... This gave me an instant group of friends... You become part of a "family" ...And one of the most powerful parts of this family is the power of prayer.

Coming in to this show I hadn't done a good job of keeping my faith. My senior year of high school I stopped going to church, mainly because I was so busy.... this also caused me to lose sight of what really matters.

This show makes people think about where their identity lies and it definitely did the same for me. And I know that this show has helped me find it. This production got me back on the right track, showed me that (to quote the play) God's love is always and everywhere.

Also, I had a friend come see the show, it left him thinking for weeks about where he had put his identity and why he hadn't trusted God and His plan for him. I was amazed by how the show impacted him. It is an amazing feeling to know, I'm helping others, as well as helping myself, by doing something I love and have fun doing.

-Adam Haselhuhn
Member of the Cast of *Pirates*



'TIS THE SEASON...

While *Pirates* was still in performances, we started the Christmas production.

This year we brought back *Christmas and the Cardboard Committee* - marking 15 years since we first wrote this musical-comedy. It still seems relevant with it's message about the fine line between absurd accidents and wondrous miracles. When a committee's agenda is interrupted, God finds room to move "outside the box." We are reminded that the whole Christmas story is an absurdly real and loving gift.



"I am a mother of 2 students at UNI. Both say Lampost is one of their favorite places..."

"Recently, it was my privilege to visit [Lampost]... Not only was the food great and all the service with a smile, I sensed a willingness to be an instrument in sharing the truth of Jesus Christ..."

Thank you for your commitment to the youth and providing a "safe" and welcoming place for them to gather. A place where they can be encouraged and challenged in their walk with Jesus Christ."

Our resident staff continues to serve on campus, in performance, and in the coffeshop.

Shun-Luoi Fong (left) will be leaving at the end of this year as he prepares for marriage to Dawn Olson (formerly of Navigators). Krystal Halvorson (far right) joined us in May, and takes flight nightly in the Christmas production. Sarah & Dave (middle) are getting to be veterans around here. All four labor enthusiastically as they continue to invest in the lives of students and the growing number of post-college adults that find community at Lampost. This "forgotten age-group" has become a key focus in their ministry here.



"It is a great thing God has done through you for the community..."

"...with Lampost and all the people that help run it... Lampost is genuinely one of the best places in the Cedar Valley for me to meet and fellowship with other post-college age Christians."