

Curt Wollan freelance director

biography

Office (612)333-3302
Fax (952) 345-3309
Cell (612) 940-7757
E-mail curt@curtwollan.com

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Curt Wollan graduated from Luther College with a degree in Speech and Theater with an emphasis in Directing. He went on to receive an M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Iowa. He is currently the President and Executive Producer of Troupe America, Inc., a theatrical production company located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Troupe America, Inc. produces theatrical productions for Twin Cities area theaters and the national touring circuit. In past seasons, Curt directed the national tours of A CHRISTMAS CAROL, THE 1940'S RADIO HOUR, MR. PICKWICK'S CHRISTMAS, BIG RIVER, PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES, DRIVING MISS DAISY, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, OIL CITY SYMPHONY, ON GOLDEN POND and Stephen King's GHOST STORIES. He produced three national tours of FORBIDDEN BROADWAY with Big League Theatricals of New York, three tours of Dylan Thomas' A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES, six tours of Victor Herbert's classic, BABES IN TOYLAND and the world premier tours of MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET, THE MUSICAL, and SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! based on ABC's Emmy Award winning cartoon series. He also co-produced and directed the national tours of THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI with the Lamb's Theater Company in New York, THE ODD COUPLE starring Jamie Farr and William Christopher, MOON OVER BUFFALO starring Gavin MacLeod, LOST HIGHWAY (THE HANK WILLIAMS STORY) starring Jason Petty, THE SUNSHINE BOYS starring Dick Van Patten and Frank Gorshin, SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR starring Mackenzie Phillips and Adrian Zmed. In addition, Curt has produced and/or directed five productions in Atlantic City for Troupe America Inc. including the hit Musical, FOREVER PLAID at the Palace Theatre within the Claridge Casino/Hotel.

In the Twin Cities area, Mr. Wollan's productions have been seen at the Theatre-in-the-Round, Chimera Theater Company, Children's Theater Company, The Stagecoach Opera House, Post Productions, and the Venetian Playhouse. Since 1979, his work has been seen most frequently at the Plymouth Playhouse where he produced and directed such long-running hits as A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD/ A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE, PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES, DIAMOND STUDS, A CLOSER WALK WITH PATSY CLINE, COTTON PATCH GOSPEL, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE, the regional premier production of NUNSENSE, and Plymouth's popular musical, HOW TO TALK MINNESOTAN THE MUSICAL based on the best-selling book by Howard Mohr, RING OF FIRE, the area premier of the new musical comedy, CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES and it's sequels, A SECOND HELPING, AWAY IN THE BASEMENT, A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR BASEMENT, and THE LAST POTLUCK SUPPER.

Mr. Wollan makes a yearly summer pilgrimage to the Dakota Badlands where he produces and directs the Medora Musical. The 50 year old summer long musical is an outdoor wild-west country music extravaganza complete with cowboys, horses and a cast of 30 set at the gates of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

As a free-lance Director, Curt has directed TV's Gary Sandy in COTTON PATCH GOSPEL at Nashville's famous Ryman Auditorium, CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES starring William Christopher at Kansas City's New Theatre Restaurant, and the 50th Anniversary National Tour of the musical SINGIN' IN THE RAIN. Each Holiday season, Curt directs for Dollywood Entertainment and most recently their production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and starring Dolly as a Hologram Ghost. He has also directed the Parton family in MY PEOPLE also written by Dolly, and BABES IN TOYLAND which received a nomination for the prestigious "E" Award and was the first runner up in the million dollar category.

A "pet" project of his is as co-author and director for a series of musicals recounting the fictitious careers of The Lovely Liebowitz Sisters from 1945 to their "come back" engagement in 1963. The first production entitled LIVE FROM THE KRAKATOA LOUNGE, 1945, opened in the fall of 1988 at the Hennepin Center for the Arts in Minneapolis, and continues to play nationally. The second production, entitled A KRAKATOA HOMECOMING, opened in January of 1992 along with the annual holiday show, A KRAKATOA HOLIDAY. The Liebowitz Sisters have been seen across the country from San Diego to Rochester, New York, with lengthy runs in Kansas City at Tiffany's Attic Dinner Theater, in St. Louis at the Sheldon Auditorium, Detroit at the Gem Theater, Columbus at the Capitol Theater, and in Minneapolis at various venues. The Lovely Liebowitz Sisters have toured the San Francisco Bay Area with Phyllis Diller, and have appeared at Harrah's Casino and The Tropicana in Atlantic City.

Mr. Wollan appeared in the supporting role of "Paul Whiteman", the famous bandleader of the late 1920's and 30's in the film, BIX, for Duea Films of Rome. Directed by award-winning Italian film director, Pupi Avati, the film, the story of jazz trumpet player Bix Beiderbeck, went to the Cannes Film Festival in 1992, and was released in Europe. He also appeared in another film for Duea Films and Mr. Avati entitled THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND.

Curt is the recipient of the Twin Cities Drama Critics Circle "Kudos" Award in Directing, Luther College's Distinguished Service Award, The American Legion's "Patriot" Award, and is listed in Who's Who in America and American Entertainment. He is a former board member of the Northern Sign Theater for the Deaf as well as a former board member and secretary of the Twin Cities Tourism Attractions Association.