



Serious about comedy

BIGFORK COMMUNITY PLAYERS

BACKSTAGE

Bigfork Community Players on the Move

The Bigfork Community Players (BCP) have a mission to marshal the acting talent available in the Bigfork area and produce plays that will entertain and delight the residents of the area. And, even though the BCP is relatively small in size, as community theater companies go, it has considerable storage requirements for the props and set pieces necessary to produce its shows. Recently, finding its storage facilities no longer met its needs, the BCP decided to make a move.

“It wasn’t so much a matter that our storage was full,” clarified chief set designer Michele Shapero, “but that it was in the wrong place and difficult to organize properly. We’ve been building our sets in Charlie Rate’s shop in Ferndale; moving pieces to and from our Woods Bay storage took a lot of effort. Now our supplies are right next to the shop.”



David Vale checks a pillar for plumb.



Michele Shapero fastens decking to the loft.

“Michele leased two storage lockers from Charlie at Ferndale Storage and helped develop plans for how to build them out to maximize their utility,” added BCP President David Vale. “So Charlie let us tear out the wall between the units and we bought some lumber and constructed a second level of storage in the back.”

“The fact often goes unnoticed,” he continued, “that creating the set you see onstage for a play is very similar to creating the interior of a real room. It takes a lot of structural and decorative pieces to do that. And since we can’t afford to build every set from scratch, we have to store and recycle the pieces we have.”

“We’d had a second level in one of the Woods Bay lockers,” said Shapero, “but the access was essentially a ladder and I was scared every time I climbed it. The new loft has a real staircase.”

Shapero declared Saturday, August 15, move-in day. About a dozen BCP members brought cars, trucks, and trailers to the Woods Bay facility and transported almost everything to Ferndale. “We left the Broadway-style flats behind,” said Shapero. “We’ll be replacing them with more modern Hollywood-style flats this year. We donated all of the old flats to another local group that can still make good use of them.”

Of course, as is often the case with storage spaces, the new space looked a lot bigger until it began to fill up with stuff. “We were in something of a quandary figuring out where to put our steps and our spare lumber,” said Shapero. “But then Charlie dropped by and changed the game by donating an old moving truck a tenant had forfeited some 15 years earlier.”

“It was almost the size of another storage locker,” marveled Vale, “and it had wheels.” The latter comment drew a grimace from Shapero. Apparently the idea of loading it up and taking the show on the road had already been discussed and dismissed.



Duane Herriges rides shotgun during the move.