

# BELLEHERST PRODUCTIONS

2006 Newsletter

*crossing borders to communicate*

Being the kind of 'present tense' person that I am, reviewing the past seems to always be tedious for me. Nevertheless, I do understand the point of 'passing in review' the results of last years ideas, plans and escapades in order to relish the victories that came unexpectedly, or glean experience from the hindsight you wished would have been foresight. And then, I must never forget that all of **You** were not there. That's the part I like the best. Sharing my world with you (even if it's only in words and pictures) makes us family. A hundred times a year, I say to myself, *Oh, if only they could see this and experience this moment with me.* So, here it is:

## 2006 PASSING IN REVIEW



### CANDLES IN THE WINDOW

I would have to give the lead position in the parade to **CANDLES IN THE WINDOW**. The year 2006 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, famed German theologian executed at Flössenburg extermination camp in 1945, just weeks before the Germans surrendered. Dietrich, as a role model we can all emulate, and the legacy of the spiritual riches he left behind found their way onto the stage through this play 18 times this year. The year 2006 also marked the ten year anniversary of touring **CANDLES IN THE WINDOW** -- impacting a multitude through the years with the portrayal of this great man.

Having played in Edinburgh in 2005, we spread our wings in 2006 and accepted venues at the Leeds International Jewish Festival, U.K., in the Faroe Islands, Dallas, Texas at Christ for the Nations and through out Germany. We developed an interactive mentoring program in Germany called, "Project Decide" to accompany our performances in schools. We were quite stunned by the participation and expressiveness of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> level classes with whom we interacted. I was personally, so blessed by the openness with which they shared themselves with us and the freedom they gave us to input into their lives.

We will continue to book **Candles**...in 2007, and are especially targeting the U.S. and the U.K with our school program. What a privilege to introduce our youth to this man and his life.

*When it comes to classical drama, Belleherst's production, **Candles in the Window** is set to be a hit! Author and performer, Kathleen Ann Thompson, has written and performed internationally and this is a tenderly acted and moving play.* Jewish Telegraph, Leeds, U.K.



Belleherst Productions,  
Germany

In 1945 two women went up together by chance.  
...they had 7 minutes to know... and to forget.

One woman, the Jewish theologian of the Third Reich  
lands in Berlin before the war ends in a world of  
hellfire. She is a woman who has been waiting and the  
two women are women of mystery.

My friend, I remember it all as well as the Bible and this  
meeting between the two women creates a visible  
atmosphere, speaking a word stronger between them  
at quiet, but still and yet.

Author's performer, Dr. Kathleen Thompson, has  
written and performed internationally. This is a tenderly  
acted and very moving play.

Also showing Wednesday 14th September at 10pm.

Both actresses,  
Kathleen Thompson  
& Jenny Henke, will  
have just finished  
performing this drama  
in the Faroe Islands.  
They will be flying  
straight to Leeds for  
this performance.



*Not enough can be said about the fine ensemble playing of the artists...  
It only remains to wish that many more churches and schools will open wide their  
doors for this performance.* Süddeutsche Zeitung, Stephan König

*One could hear a pin drop during the performance of **Candles in the Window** as  
130 viewers followed the intense acting and dialogue in the City Cultural Hall in  
Neuenburg. Badische Zeitung, Neuenburg Am Rhein*

# THIRTY YEARS IN A BASKET



*Thank you for embracing this journey of life that we are seemingly on individually, only to realize it is the one thing we are in together. Your willingness/necessity to bridge that gap is inspiring. Thank you for sharing your life's work with us at Boca Ballet. You give a new meaning to the phrase "gift basket"! JANE TYREE, BOCA BALLET*



Second in line is ***Thirty Years in a Basket***. Anticipating my third year in Edinburgh, I picked up my basket and shoved it, me, props, costume and staging into the car (just like I always shoved 8-10 actors and musicians in my van and toured the streets of Eastern Europe) and played the musical adventure of my missionary call to Eastern Europe on the stage of the Greyfriars Kirk House. Appropriately, the experience was parallel to my life as a missionary in the arts these last 17 years in Eastern Europe; no big "hurrahs" or masses of accolades on the high platforms of the world.....just a steady coming of meaningful, valuable people who allowed me to share the deepest flow of my soul with them... and so we found unity of hearts. We are all the richer for each other. ***Thirty Years...*** continues to tour venues in the U.S..

*KATHLEEN Thompson has poured her heart and soul into this one-woman show, and we're all the richer for having spent time in her presence. An autobiographical romp through passages in Thompson's life, her tales are by turns touching and humorous.* ANDREW BURNET THE SCOTSMAN Sat 26 Aug 2006



## THE LOST PRINCESS



*Thank you for bringing this to our children. I couldn't believe that this child with ADS would sit still for 40 minutes, but she was spell bound. I feel like crying!*  
Elementary school teacher, Kuldigas, Latvia



*We never receive this professional quality of performance in the schools. Please bring us more things like this. The children need this.*  
First grade teacher, Kuldigas, Latvia



***THE LOST PRINCESS***, my adaptation of George MacDonald's classic fairy tale by the same name, is a dance theatre production for children between the ages of 6-11. The piece was produced in Poland and Latvia last year and is still touring in Latvia. ***The Lost Princess*** is an active step in bringing into reality the vision of **KEEPER MINISTRIES** (launching this year). Keeper Ministries will be focusing on impacting children with the truth of the giftedness bestowed on them by God. This charming production played to hundreds of school children, and although, many embarrassingly wonderful things were said to me about the production, none was so touching to me as that of Esther (age 5) who said to her mother immediately following the performance. "Mommy, could we invite the deer home for dinner?"

O.K. that's the parade stars, but behind them are always those large school bands...the real bread and butter of the effort.

## Polish and Latvian SCHOOLS PASSING IN REVIEW!!!

Latvia

**GRANT**- We received a small grant this year from the Latvian government to buy a CD player, a sound mixer and a much needed dance floor (we've been working for 13 years on a splintered, cracked ply wood floor and a crumbling cement slab). We are thrilled, to say the least!

**NEW MINISTRY** -The church house where the school is housed also houses 26 substance abuse men and women (plus one baby) in a fabulous drug rehabilitation program. We love these people very much and have begun an interactive program with them using the arts. Inspired by our productions, they put together their own show about their life as drug addicts before they were redeemed by Christ. You would never forget them, if you met them. They truly know the meaning of being 'born again'.

Church house and school in Latvia



A good-bye pose till spring,



# POLAND

The school in Poland closed a highly energetic and talent-rich year in August with a production called **THE CHAIR**. We targeted this production to high school students who are beginning to make life-time decisions. The show addressed the popular misconception that we can have whatever we want without accepting the congruent responsibilities. We played this piece in Gdansk for several camps of senior high youth. In interaction with the youth immediately following the performance, the experience of one of our players with a viewing youth stands as an icon for the kind of interaction which became a common occurrence.

A sullen-faced young girl with long earrings to her shoulders and a spider web tattoo that spread across her bare midriff, placing the spider directly over her navel refused to engage in any comprehensible conversation with our actress. Autistic grunts, *hums* and shoulder flexions were her only offering. After some time, our actress thought she would just politely say 'good-by' and move on. However, she didn't go far because she noticed a large tear poised on the edge of the girl's eyelid, ready to topple down her cheek. She stayed and then a few more tears fell in line behind the first one. Finally, the tearful girl spoke and said, *How did you know my life?* The discussion which followed was enlightening and in the end the girl said, *Please tell everyone in the show thank you for showing this. I want to change something in my life now.*



*Interaction with the youth after performing THE CHAIR.*



And now for some Announcemnts!!!!

## E.BELLEHERST A California non-profit corporation

After 25 years of ministry, **Belleherst Productions** has taken the big step to incorporate as a non-profit organization. We believe that this step will be a large assistance to accomplishing our mission. Although, the added book keeping and burocratic busy work is yet another straw on this camel's back, nevertheless, we believe it is an important move.

Therefore, please note that if you are submitting a donation check to Belleherst Productions, it should be written to **E. BELLEHERST**

Send to:

Belleherst c/o Burkhardt  
4106 Caminito Cassis  
San Diego, CA 92112

# KEEPER MINISTRIES:

This year Belleherst will launch Keeper Ministries. This department of Belleherst is devoted to mentoring a gift consciousness in children which facilitates the discovery of God's implanted gift within them. It also seeks to support those children and their mentors by providing structural and inspirational material to developed that gift and motivate its giving into the world.

## KEEPER OF THE GIFT

My book will be published on-line.



## EMILY DICKINSON

Emily Dickinson will re-emerge from Belleherst's most successful repertoire to make her re-appearance in Germany, the U.K. and the U.S. Two productions are being mounted for booking starting in May.

### *The Belle of Amherst* by William Luce

The *Belle of Amherst* will return to active tour this year bringing this most beloved American poetess---her life and poetry, once more onto the stage.

## KEEPER CAMP

a half day camp within the church facility for children to learn of their gift and how to be a responsible keeper of it. A wonderful children's musical play and various workshop activities teach and implant these truths in our youngest citizens of the Kingdom.

## A DVD

Introducing the **Keeper Ministries** will be available in late spring.



*An actress capable of being Emily Dickinson for two hours must not be overlooked* Welton Jones, S.D. Tribune



### Thompson and Below Present EMILY

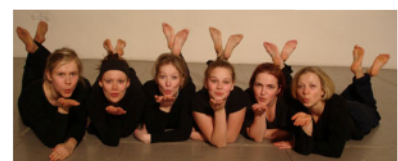
Celebrating the publishing of Emily's poetry in a new German/English translation by Grunhild Kübler, Belleherst will bring a dramatized reading in English and German of Emily's poetry. This production will be accompanied by a lecture, *THE PROBLEM OF DOUBT*, which explores Miss Dickinson's seemingly dichotomous position regarding her Christian faith.

**A huge THANK YOU to all who support this ministry.!!**

Artistic Director

*Kathleen ann Thompson*

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Bye Bye from Latvia