

January 2024

Imagine Performing Arts starts 2024 with a Home



IPA President Cindy Perez and members of the Board receive the keys to 406 Central from Kate Thurston, editor of the Connersville *News-Examiner*.

Imagine Performing Arts presented its first show, *Barkley Bigelow's Hullabaloo*, in 2014, followed by *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Since then we have worked with children at the Summer Discovery camps, sponsored Open Mic nights, and collaborated with TV3 on a long-running musical show, in addition to producing other plays.

We did it without a place to call home. Until now.

Connersville Publishing has donated their campus at 406 Central, the longtime home of the *News-Examiner* and WCNB, to Imagine Performing Arts.

"We're grateful to Connersville Publishing for this generous gift," said Cindy Perez, President of IPA. "We're mindful of this building's rich history, and we look forward to continuing its tradition."

The building has housed multiple businesses and community organizations in the past. The second floor was a theater before it was converted to radio station offices. The Odd Fellows and other lodge groups used to meet on the fourth floor, where there was also a ballroom.

"We'll need to do some renovating right away," Perez stated. "For one thing, there's only one functioning bathroom."

Outbuildings on the property are slated to become scene shop, design and "maker space."

"We hope to make this campus a hub for small businesses and the arts, with facilities for podcasting and virtual reality," Perez added, "in addition to continuing our traditional theater productions like our recent production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*."



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The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!



Cast photo

With one last chorus of "Let There be Joy," the cast of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* brought the show to a successful close. Directed by Ruthanne Munger, 35 adults and children brought us the story of the Herdmans, "the worst kids in the world," who helped us all see Christmas in a different light. The show played to a full house almost every night. Special thanks to our parent support team, to makeup artist Anna Leyes, and to Grand Avenue Methodist Church for hosting us.

Love and Laughter, an evening of short plays, is scheduled for February 9 & 10. Auditions are scheduled for Jan. 5 at 6:30 and Jan. 6 at 1:00. Audition cuts are available at the Fayette County Library or at imagineperformingarts.com. *Gary the Bold* and *Rosa and Leo* only audition on Friday.



Titles include

- *10...9...8* by Guy R. Newsham, directed by Linda Ward
- *An Answer to their Prayers* by Hank Kimmel, directed by Christina Barnes
- *Binged There, Done That* by Ken Preuss, directed by Carla Beard
- *Gary the Bold* by Ron Burch, directed by Scott Caldwell
- *Path of Love* by James McLindon, directed by Ruthanne Munger
- *Rosa and Leo* by Adam Szudrich, directed by Kathy Clopper
- *Stealing a Kiss* by Laurie Allen, directed by Cindy Perez
- *Undiscovered Country* by Dana Leslie Goldstein, directed by Carla Beard and Gilda Lewis

Imagine Performing Arts dues for 2024 are still only \$25. Send your check to P. O. Box 540, Connersville, IN 47331. For membership and donations online: imagine-performing-arts-109854.square.site