MUSINGS OF A DISTRACTIBLE MIND / BY HOPE H. OZER

What’s the best kept secret in Phoenix?
Valley Youth Theatre.

We’re going to change that. With you. And with, to paraphrase the boys from across the pond, “A little help from our friends.”

You may have heard this before – especially if you’ve been reading my columns. It’s been almost 27 years since I took the reins of this fledgling theatre company, formed a board of directors, started accessing resources and “beating people up” for money to support what has grown into an extraordinary asset to the Valley and to the arts nationwide. “Hope’s volunteer obsession,” sayeth LH.

Indeed.

Valley Youth Theatre has produced some of the most brilliant theatre in the Valley. It has shaped stars of television, screen and Broadway, and alumni who have taken the skills learned and excelled in the practice of law, education, business, law enforcement and more. And yet, somehow, VYT still remains one of the best kept secrets in town.

How can that be?


A few months ago VYT’s Producing Artistic Director Bobb Cooper asked for their help to introduce VYT to other arts enthusiasts in the Valley. “Sometimes it feels as though we are the best kept secret in Phoenix. We have published reviews that state VYT productions are ‘better than Broadway’ and yet many people don’t know about us,” he told them.

Billie Jo proposed that they host a party. And host they did! In their fabulous home at the Scottsdale Waterfront. A most intimate party. Goals: To increase awareness of VYT as a professional performing arts organization. To highlight its extensive record of developing leadership and success skills. To extol its mission to inspire young people to be the best they can be.

Guests were wowed when entertained by some of the young stars of VYT’s upcoming production of Disney’s The Little Mermaid, opening June 10 at the Herberger Theater Center.

You! If you have never been to a VYT production – you have no idea what exceptional theatre you are missing. If you have been there – then you know you’re not going to want to miss this one! Trust me – this ain’t the “third grade play.” We’re talkin’ Broadway! Give yourself a treat! Reserve your tickets at www.vyt.com. Trust me. You do not want to miss this!

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Photos courtesy of Deanna Dent