

## Student Shares Story About Recent Performance at the Ansonia Theatre

In a release by the Arts Council: The attached article was written by Rebekah Chaney, a student who is participating in EbzB Production's residency at Anson New Tech High School sponsored by the Anson County Arts Council. About 130 students and other community members attended an abbreviated performance of *War Bonds* at the Ansonia Theatre as a kick-off to the two month residency. Students will develop a script after interviewing multi-generations of Anson County residents. The students will perform their production at the Ansonia Theatre in early November.

Sirens. The unmistakable sound of a World War II era blackout, two generations and seventy years later, still screams the same message: the desecration of war is headed in our direction. These were the opening notes of a symphonic story of humanity, played out in a fifty minute production by David zum Brunnen and his wife, Serena Ebhardt, and skillfully accompanied by pianist Greg Dixon.

"War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II", written by and starring the zum Brunnen/ Ebhardt duo, came to Wadesboro's restored Ansonia Theatre Monday morning, presenting to the students of Wadesboro's Anson New Technical High School and other members of the community. The show takes the form of a historical narrative, splicing songs, first hand accounts from the period, and transcriptions from personal interviews to weave the story of America and her citizens using their own powerful words.

The catalyst for the show sprung from a series of late life interviews conducted by Mr. zum Brunnen of his father, and the simultaneous exploration of a body of musical work from the period by Ebhardt. Of course, knowing the emotional connection between the performers and the time period added to the poignancy of the moment. The show was very professional, and a wonderful exposure in terms of a very artistically sophisticated program for all who had the privilege to see it.

What is even more remarkable about this couple is that their impact on our community doesn't end there. This fall, they will be working closely with upwards of thirty high school students from Anson New Tech to produce a similar show involving Wadesboro's own history. The students are being taught and commissioned to conduct and edit personal interviews with members of the community of different generations, to write or compile a script from those interviews and to create a cohesive theme for a final production that will be presented by the students on the stage of the Ansonia Theatre. By exposing not only the high schoolers, but also the wider community to the wisdom and experience of the older generations, and perhaps the inherited struggles of their lifetimes, the zum Brunnen/ Ebhardt couple holds in their hearts a goal we would all support: healing for the community.

Sometimes, the consequences of ideas passed down to us bloom among the young. Wounds of our past that the new generations are unaware of cause the festering between individuals today, and thus we all live in a community of masked disfigurement. The zum Brunnen's believe this is unnecessary - and they also believe there are ways to encourage the healing we all need - and it starts with unmasking those old wounds.

The goal of these historical productions is not really entertainment, although it certainly does entertain. It's not even really to learn about history in a creative and artistic fashion. It's to see ourselves. It's to see humanity across generations and beyond ourselves. As we learn about the people of another time period, we learn about ourselves, what we are and what we are not - and often, what we want to be. We see the great differences, and the great similarities. A portion of a letter written from a WWII soldier in the Philippines to his three year old daughter states, "Well, honey, everywhere I have been in this old war-torn world I have seen your counterpart there...". We do see the great differences - but mostly, we see the great similarities. A young child is always simply a young child, and a dying man is always simply a dying man. All the contention of our differences is erased in one sympathetic moment as we suddenly perceive that beyond ourselves, humanity - the human soul, heart, LIFE - is precious.

So the challenge of this production, and the production coming this fall from Anson New Tech, is to stop focusing on the differences, and start seeing the essential similarities. The challenge is to move past ourselves and our inherited prejudices and to open our hearts to each other.

If we can gather anything from the specific history of WWII, it is that there are patterns of redemption. Great seasons of conflict produce great seasons of growth. From WWII came the coalescence of Civil Rights, Feminism, and a new spirit of independence and national identity. The character born from WWII was tired, yes, and war-torn, but it was also a living breathing organism of courage and hope in the strength of our interconnected communities. Our character may be shaped the same way - but whether we will allow ourselves to be soft enough to undergo that shaping is very much a personal hurdle. We can all be a part of this healing in OUR community, and in our town. It can start with this high school production and grow from there. Our challenge is for you to support this production and support the healing that may be accomplished through it. But it is indeed a choice you must make. *By Rebekah Chaney*

## Wadesboro Police Will Help Citizens Collect their Serial Numbers

From the Organizers of the Wadesboro Community Watch Email Network: Did you know that an officer of the Wadesboro Police Department can come to your home and help you put together a list of serial numbers on the valuables in your home? (Available to citizens within the Wadesboro city limits.)

Police Chief Schutz would like an emphasis on getting every citizen in the Town of Wadesboro to make a list of the valuables in their home (and on their property), and to be absolutely sure to write down the make, model, and serial numbers of these items. According to the Chief, it is only with this information that the Police Department will truly be able to try and get the property back to the rightful owners.

The Wadesboro Community Watch Email Network invites all Wadesboro citizens to join the network. Members are all working together to combat crime in the community. The email address is [WadesboroWatch@yahoo.com](mailto:WadesboroWatch@yahoo.com).

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