

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

## Longtime volunteers help Meadow Brook Theatre celebrate 50th Anniversary

When Thom, SECS '74, '70, and Maryann (Chorzempa) Foxlee, CAS '71, retired about a decade ago, they didn't expect to pursue new theatre careers immediately. But that's what happened when Maryann decided that one good turn deserves another.

The Foxlees – who met as Oakland University students and volunteered as ushers at Meadow Brook Theatre during their school days – returned after careers in teaching and engineering and this year will join actors and directors alike in celebrating the theatre's 50<sup>th</sup> year.

While she and Thom raised four children, Maryann, a high school English and drama teacher, believed drama programs helped her students build self-esteem and confidence.

Like many, the theatre remains a constant in the Foxlees' lives. Maryann is back on campus as a member and past president of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild, and Thom, a retired product manager and strategist for the Ford Motor Company, is president of the board of directors.

The Foxlees recently collaborated on a book celebrating the theatre's golden anniversary this year. "Fifty Years of Meadow Brook Theatre" documents the theatre's early days as well as its spinoff from OU in 2003 to become the "Theatre Ensemble," a nonprofit professional theatre. (The Theatre now rents the space.)

The Meadow Brook Theatre box office is now open for individual ticket sales for the 2015-16 season. The new season opens Oct. 7 with "The Explorer's Club," by Nell Benjamin, and includes comedies, musicals and four Michigan Premieres.

November marks the 34th annual holiday production of "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, running Nov. 15 – Dec. 24.

Visit [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com) for additional information on Meadow Brook Theatre. Meadow Brook Theatre is a non-profit, cultural institution serving southeast Michigan for 50 years.



*The Foxlees met while volunteering at Meadow Brook Theatre as students.*

### FOR MORE:

Season tickets and single tickets are currently available by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre box office at 248-377-3300. When you subscribe to the 2015-16 season, you may also purchase tickets for "A Christmas Carol" at a 20 percent discount before they go on sale to the general public. Individual tickets range from \$27-42, while season tickets cost between \$138-211. To purchase "Fifty Years of Meadow Brook Theatre," contact the MBT box office at (248) 370-3300.