

# Creating a new audience for old stuff

Story Comments Image

Share Print Font Size:

0 tweet

Share

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Posted: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 11:00 am



Brad Meyer Courier columnist  
bmeyer@hcnonline.com

0 comments

Just because something has a bit of wear around the whiskers doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be chucked out in the garbage – sometimes you have to give in and recycle.

The city of Montgomery is hosting its 12th annual Antiques Show & Sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Internet

has done a lot to destroy traditional antique shopping, so specialized shows like this are a nice outing for those with an appreciation for classic Americana.

Whether you're flush with cash or this side of destitute, it doesn't cost much to stroll down memory lane and see how rich you'd be if you hadn't gotten rid of your old toys and keepsakes. It's a fascinating and slightly frustrating experience.

And with 40 or more quality dealers, you're likely to see more than upscale furniture and Depression glass. A lot of the stuff you grew up with are now highly sought collectibles. You may have a fortune in your attic and not know it.

If nothing else, spending an hour or two dwelling in the past can be an interesting, nostalgic experience that beats what is otherwise going on in the present.

That's the sentiment one gets attending the Stage Right production of "Harvey" at the Crighton Theatre, weekends through May 8. It's a classic American tale – and a Pulitzer Prize-winning screwball comedy – that you probably know well and would enjoy revisiting.

The community theatre version starts off with a bang as Maria Sirgo and Meredith Zaritski portray Veta Louise Simmons and her daughter Myrtle Mae with great energy, timing and humor.

Having watched rehearsals and attended opening night, I'm a big fan of these two talented actresses. Ditto for Cindy Tippens as the insufferable socialite Ethel Chauvenet in a too brief appearance. And for the most part Travis Bryant successfully channels the psychiatric ward attendant role created by Jessie White – the original Maytag repairman from those commercials.

Virtually everyone who will see this play knows it from the 1950 movie version starring Jimmy Stewart – obviously big shoes to fill. Gerald Livingston does a pretty decent job in the title role, although I would like to see him be a bit more dynamic and assertive in the role.

Indeed, I have heard him do his lines in the halting style of speech Stewart is famous for – and it was a pretty fair impersonation. He said he didn't want to do it on stage because he didn't want to try to be Stewart.

I have to disagree on that one. Community theatre actors should put forth the best possible product to entertain the locals – even if it's a direct impersonation of a famous actor.

A local actor once told me he wouldn't wear a stocking cap in the lead role in "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" because he didn't want people to confuse his performance with that of Jack Nicholson. Trust me Bub, no one was going to make that mistake.

Same thing with "Harvey" – making it as close as possible to the cinematic version is probably the best possible idea. The writing is crisp and funny – it still holds up well for modern audiences. Sirgo and Zaritski do a great job with the material. Livingston is good, but he could ramp up his stage presence a notch or two. Perhaps he will in this weekend's performances.

For tickets and information for "Harvey," visit [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or call 936-441-SHOW.

For all of you Second Amendment enthusiasts, the High Caliber Gun Show takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe.

If you're a gun enthusiast, it's a great place to see the latest in para-military hardware and home defense gear. It's a "buy and sell" show, so if you have an old gun you no longer need, take it out and convert your "heater" into cash.

And if you've never been to a gun show, you really need to see what goes on. For the uninitiated, it's a fascinating and slightly terrifying experience. Check it out and see if you don't agree. I'll be there on Saturday to engage in a little buying and selling myself.

Whatever your inclination, this weekend affords you an opportunity to bridge the gap between old and new – take advantage of it.