

Broom Street Theater at St. Francis House: 1970-75

An article in the Capital Times March 4, 1975 announced the end of BST's relationship with St. Francis house as of June 15th. The article noted that BST had been at St. Francis house since June, 1970 on a "temporary" basis but now will be on its own. The March 7th event would be a fund raiser for locating and improving a new space. The following was gleaned from the Madison Capital Times and Wisconsin State Journal using the search engine at newspaperarchive.com.

Compiled by Steve Spicer, program manager of St. Francis House for about two years, 1970-1972, and partly responsible for getting Broom Street into St. Francis House in 1970. steve@spicerweb.org.

1970	(Several articles/interviews with Joel in the middle of 1970 by Dave Wagner but no productions at St. Francis House until October's <i>The Junk Show</i>)
	October 4-end October : <i>The Junk Show</i> ¹
	December 4- 13: Double bill of <i>The Difficult Hour</i> and <i>A Fools Flight</i> (The announcement on Dec 2 nd says that it is BST's second production of the 1970-1971 season.)
1971	March 5 – 21: <i>Peer Gynt</i> ²
	April 30 - ? : <i>The Penal Colony</i> ³
	May 4-20: <i>Woyseck</i> along with <i>Normal Love</i>
	July 4 - ? : Theater X ⁴ A Milwaukee Theater Group sponsored by BST.
	July 14 – July 25: <i>The Seizing of Murdoch's Rock Palace</i> (w&d by Hank Haslach)
	July 30- August 8: <i>Attic Angel</i> (Rod Clark & Norman Caplan) & <i>Dogsled</i> (Mike Morris & Chris Morris) (Twin billed under the title "The Eggplant that Ate Chicago".)
	Six week actors workshop conducted by Fred Murray and Joel Gersmann until August 15.
	August 13-15: <i>Eat Me Tonight</i> (Directed by Fred Murray & Joel Gersmann from workshop)
	October 15—Nov 7: <i>Hot Wankel</i> ("a monster junk show")
	Nov 12 - 21 : <i>The Flaxen Crock</i>
	In December BST hosted The Dance Troupe (Columbia College) for several weekends. BST may have been on tour.
1972	January 14-16: <i>Bacchanal</i>
	March 10-25: <i>Alpha Kappa</i> ⁵ (All male cast playing sorority girls based on 4 1937 one act plays written by Home Economics teachers)
	April 28 - May 28 : <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
	Actor's Workshop 6.5 weeks June 19-Aug 6
	Aug 4-6: <i>Tortured Heart</i>
	September 8-10 - : <i>All Our Days are Wet</i>
	Sept 29 – Oct 21 : <i>King of Siam</i>

¹ Reviewed in the Cap Times Oct. 16, 1970

² Reviewed WSJ, March 6, 1971. Sect 2, p 15

³ Reviewed in the Cap Times, April 30, 1971, p 35

⁴ Reviewed in the Cap Times, July 3, 1971 p 4 (Dave Wagner)

⁵ Reviewed WSJ, March 17, 1972, sect 4, p 17

	Dec. 21 -23: <i>A Christmas Carol – A Holiday Pageant</i> ⁶
1973	Feb 22 – March 3: <i>The David Cassidy Story</i>
	March 18- April 8: <i>Metamorphosis or Tell Norman Hello</i> ⁷ Max Gordon, Charlie Hill, Sharon Moore, Pamela Nikich, Michael Swack
	April 27 - May 13: <i>Bandaid, an American Depraved Deity and the wonderful world of John Miller</i> ⁸
	June 15 – July 1: <i>Art</i> (a combo video and live show)
	July 20 – August 5: <i>The Big Ditch</i> John Miller, Dixon Powell, Charles Hill, P.J. Voight, Richard Hill, Gary Aylesworth, Cara McManis, Holly Lee Norgard, Stuart Soffer
	August 17-26 + one performance at Freedom House: <i>The Cross and the Switchblade</i> ⁹ Students from Freedom House (a theatrically orientated free school populated by drop-outs) directed by Joel Gersmann.
1974	March 1-24: <i>Richard III</i> ¹⁰ Fred Murray, Jill Holden, Gary Aylesworth, Fred Sommer
	April 25 – May 5: <i>Madame Butterfly</i> ¹¹ & Freedom House Fred Murray, Charles Hill, Kelley Henderson, Theresa Freedman, Gary Aylesworth, Lynn Janiszewski, Fred Sommer ¹² Steve Spicer ¹³
	July 19 – August 4: <i>Song of Bernadette</i> Jill Holden, Cara McManis, Fred Sommer, Charles Hill, Susan Young, Gary Aylesworth, Frank Chudnow
	Aug 11, 12, 13 & next weekend at Freedom House: <i>Days of Our Lives</i> ¹⁴
	October 27 – Nov 17 : <i>Good Woman of Mazomanie</i> ¹⁵ Ruth Gardner, Jill Holden, Larry Lieb, Susan Young, Jeanette Sarmiento, Fred Sommer, Gary Aylesworth, David Rohrer, Cara McManis.
	December 14: Wedding (Steve & Cara)
1975	January 17-Feb2: <i>Junior Miss</i> Fred Murray, Ruth Gardner, David Rohrer, Jeanette Sarmiento, John Miller, Frederick Sommer, Cara McManis, Susan Young, Larry Lieb and Gary Aylesworth. ¹⁶
	February 7- 16: <i>Good Woman of Mazomanie</i> (revival) ¹⁷
	March 7: <i>Make a Spectacle of Yourself</i> (4 Hr History of the world) @ Capital City Theater (Auditions for it were Feb 20 th) ¹⁸

⁶ Reviewed WSJ, December 22, 1972

⁷ Reviewed Capital Times, March 26, 1973 p 42

⁸ Reviewed Capital Times, May 12, 1973 p 32 (Bandaid was a number of videos by John Miller and very poorly received as boring.)

⁹ Review Capital Times, Friday, August 17, 1973 p 16

¹⁰ Reviewed Capital Times, March 2, 1974 p 9 (Robert LaBrasca)

¹¹ Review Capital Times, May 4, 1974

¹² Capital Times announcement, April 25, 1974, p 56

¹³ Capital Times, May 4, 1974

¹⁴ Reviewed Capital Times, Saturday, August 10, 1974 p10

¹⁵ Review WSJ, Monday, Nov 18, 1974 Sec 3, p 3 (nothing like a review when the play closes!)

¹⁶ Capital Times, Thursday, Jan 16, 1975, p 36

¹⁷ WSJ, Thursday, Feb 6, 1975, p 11

¹⁸ Reported on: Cap Times, March 8, 1975 p 12; WSJ March 9, 1975