

CenterStage

music, theater, festivals, family events and more!

Christian Theater Finds New Home

by AnnMarie Irace

There is a small community theater in Palmyra, New York that is proof that dreams do come true through prayer and God's timing.

Impact Theater has been operating in the Park and Club Rooms on Main Street since March 2001 under the direction of Frank Irace. It is a Christian theater for the arts that offers various local artists as well as live original drama in a comfortable off-broadway type atmosphere. Each month the large, sparse, impersonal room at 149 East Main Street is transformed into a theater complete with a stage, lights, sound, and tables with seating for 52 guests. It is a labor of love for the 10 or so regular, non-paid crew members that assemble and disassemble the theater monthly, as it is also for Irace.

Irace felt God calling him to minister to the community through drama. He began writing scripts

and for about two years directed performances at local churches. After securing the room at the Park and Club Rooms for Friday nights, Impact Theater was born and began with an opening night of all drama featuring the In Your Face Players. The theaters slogan "It's significant theater!" rang true that evening.

One Friday night each month the community can enjoy live theater for free. Local artists with such diverse styles such as Wales Road, known for Christian blues, and Brothers In Grace, a southern gospel quartet, have performed. There



Impact Theatre uses a stage at the town hall in the Town of Palmyra located on Rt. 21..

has been dance and poetry and drama. Intermission includes homemade desserts and coffee and time to browse through the many free counseling materials available for those struggling or who know of someone struggling with a life circumstance. Many times the drama deals with social issues, from spousal abuse to alcoholism, and these materials are to help

start the new year in a new home. Irace is anticipating the move to 1180 Canandaigua Rd.(Rt. 21), the Town of Palmyra Town Hall, to be a great opportunity for the theater to grow. With a permanent stage and lighting, a larger room and other amenities, the type of performances the theater can host will be broader.

The year 2002 starts out with

minister.

The theater is operated and funded by Irace and his wife and donations from private individuals, churches and the audience.

With a fully booked schedule for 2002, the theater will

Paul Robert Jones, a new Christian artist with a powerful message and a new ministry, on Friday, January 25th at 7 p.m.

With his debut CD *I AM* fresh out, the Impact Theater audience will be among the first in the area to hear his music live. It is an eclectic mix of Rock, Carribean and Bosa Nova grooves with traditional contemporary Christian music that follows the path his life takes before and after the Lord Jesus saved him.

This writer first experienced Paul's music in a church setting during worship. His voice is smooth and comforting with his love for the Lord adding to it's richness. Paul is soft-spoken yet with a spiritual presence that causes one to stop and listen to the message of his songs. He manages to combine all that with a different, yet upbeat new sound on his CD.

Reservations are suggested. Please call 315-597-3553. A 2002 schedule is also available by request.