



Meet the Crew of *Stalag 17*

Most never truly appreciate what the “guys and gals” behind the scenes truly do...but now is your time to take a look inside their mind. Here are tidbits about the lives of some of the “unsung heroes” of Stalag 17: Director Bill Aitken, Set Designer Anndi Daleski, Props Designer Cecilia Albert, Lighting Designer Cheryl Gnerlich, and Stage Manager Bob Pierce!

What made you want to work on this production?

- **Bill Aitken (BA):** I liked the idea of bringing attention back to the play when most people only know about the movie, and the idea of doing it in an intimate setting like Gunston.
- **Anndi Daleske (AD):** It was a fun read and this group is great to work with.
- **Cecilia Albert (CA):** Sherri asked me and I have worked with her for a number of years – back to when she produced shows for St Mark’s Players – which I consider my “home” theater.
- **Cheryl Gnerlich (CG):** The chance to design an interesting piece. I love working in this style of lighting where shadows can be more important than light.
- **Bob Pierce (BP):** American Century has a reputation for doing outstanding work and TACT produces plays that are different than the usual theatre fare.

What is your role in the play and what are you most looking forward to by designing/working on the production staff?

- **BA:** I am the director and I look forward to pushing my actors to their limits and getting them to do their very best.
- **AD:** I am the set designer and I’m most looking forward to taking a step back, looking at the finished product and being happy with the outcome.
- **CA:** Props designer. My favorite props are ones that I have to design/build – I don’t have a favorite for this show yet, I’m still in the “hunter/gatherer” phase.
- **CG:** As the lighting designer, I want to help create a real sense of environment and enhance the mood.
- **BP:** Stalag 17 attempts to remind us of the casualties often forgotten, but also shows great courage under a different kind of fire. For me, as the Stage Manager, a large cast is always a challenge. This unique staging of the play also presents a couple of different logistical challenges. This show has a stellar cast and amazing production team, without a doubt they are the best part of my job!

What was the best part of blizzard 2010?

- **BA:** Not having a sleep schedule.
- **AD:** The best part for me was how beautiful it was. But I was so bored that the highlight of my day was checking the growth of the icicle outside our side door. It ended up getting to be 5’4” long...that’s taller than me.
- **CG:** Having time to sit back and reflect on everything. Life is usually so busy but for 4 days I had nothing to do and very little company.
- **BP:** When it was over!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- **BA:** I’m a commercial project manager and estimator for a small plumbing contractor in Alexandria. In the rest of my spare time I enjoy cooking.
- **AD:** In my spare time I make felted artwork, scarves, broaches etc. Lately I’ve also been crocheting bags out of yarn made from used grocery sacks
- **CA:** When I am not working or supporting theater productions in one way or another, I crochet and I read. In “real” life, I am retired from the Air Force and now work for the Software Engineering Institute where I provide coaching to Army programs that are buying software –reliant systems (isn’t everyone these days?).
- **CG:** I work full time in the theatre, but I most enjoy catching up with friends and watching terrible television.
- **BP:** Spare time? Who in theatre was spare time?

Age-old debate: The Beatles or the Rolling Stones?

Well once again, this debate has yet to be solved – however we seem to have a conscientious that the Beatles truly do “rock the worlds” of our Artistic Staff. Anndi, Cheryl, and Bob all voted for the Beatles, although Bob votes “just because.” As always someone has to rock the boat and Bill has decided that the Who are the reigning champions. In the end, we’ll have to continue this debate for another day.