



**A '50s housewife (Meg Howrey) fantasizes about dancing ballet when her husband goes for cannoli.**

# Simply Irresistible

*Contact* is a joyous toe-tapper

REVIEW BY RICK PENDER

As the lights dim following the intermission of *Contact* at the Aronoff Center, Dean Martin's inimitable pipes warble, "You're nobody 'til somebody loves you." Those six words neatly summarize this unusual musical-dance production. In fact, it's three tales rolled into one evening, but a subtly pervasive message about connecting makes it a show that's both delightfully engaging and subtly thought-provoking.

The opening trifle, "Swinging," brings to life Fragonard's 18th-century painting of a woman being courted by a man and a servant who pushes her flowered swing. It slides off into a fantasy — not to mention some fancy and ribald athletics — when the young woman (Mindy Franzese Wild) and the servant have their own little fling. It's a 10-minute prologue that engages the audience in a bit of amusement.

Fantasy is also a component of "Did You Move?" set in an Italian restaurant during the 1950s. A married couple is dining — he's surly, she's repressed. As he wanders off to the buffet, she imagines herself dancing with waiters and guests to several familiar and dramatic Classical music melodies. The husband (Adam Dannheiser) is a rude pig who wants to control his wife's every movement. She (danced beautifully by expressive Meg Howrey) is full of an energy she has trouble containing. The 30-minute piece ends with poignant sadness.

The show's second act, "Contact," tells a more complex story in about 55 minutes. A desperately unhappy advertising executive, Michael Wiley (Daniel McDonald), has achieved professional success, but his life is empty. At a late-night swing dance club he glimpses a tantalizing and mysterious woman in a seductive yellow dress (the stunning Colleen Dunn), who lights a fire in him. His awkward efforts to get up the nerve to connect with her are both frustrating and endearing, ultimately leading to his unexpected salvation.

This tale is set to a toe-tapping array of music by Benny Goodman, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, the Beach Boys, the Squirrel Nut Zippers and — to especially good effect — Robert Palmer's "Simply Irresistible."

By the way, the elegant curtain call, danced to Van Morrison's "Moondance," is a delightful summation of the evening. *Contact* isn't a holiday entertainment, but it creates a feeling of joyous well-being that's perfect for this time of year. Simply irresistible.

**CONTACT**, presented by Broadway in Cincinnati at the Aronoff Center for the Arts, continues through Dec. 29.

## GET INVOLVED

**FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP FUND** — This fund helps to provide educational grants to families of firefighters who have died in service. For applications and information, contact 1-877-453-FIRE or [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PHOTO CONTEST** — Amateur photographers unite! Load up your cameras with FujiFilm and head over the to the Cincinnati Zoo's 20th annual PNC Festival of Lights. The photographer who best captures the 2.5 million lights, holiday characters and more can win various prizes, including a grand prize of a new Fuji FinePix digital camera. Deadline is Monday. Visit any Pete's PhotoWorld or any of the Zoo's gift shops for entry forms and complete contest rules, 800-800-3854, ext. 3117.

**A GALLERY WALK PHOTO CONTEST** — Seeks entries in a contest that focuses on the nearly extinct structure known as Cinergy Field. Judging and awards will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, during Mainstrasse's third Friday Gallery Walk. All entries should be mounted prints (B&W or color) and can be matted and/or framed. Sizes can range from 4 by 6 inches to 16 by 20 inches. Entries must be dropped off no later than 7 p.m. Dec. 20 at Elaine Kline Photograph, 610 Main St., Covington, 859-291-5892.

**PERFECT BAKER RECIPE CONTEST** — What's cookin' in your kitchen? Got a good original recipe, not your aunt's secret Betty Crocker sauce? Send it in - you could win a 7-day trip to New York City. T-Fal's 2003 Perfect Baker Recipe Contest began Oct. 1, and you only have until April 25 to enter. Pick up an application form wherever you find T-Fal's Patisserie Professional Bakeware, or send a SASE to T-Fal Perfect Baker Contest, P.O. Box 396, Pine Brook NJ 07058-0396.

**YWCA CAREER WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS/MAMIE EARL SELLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** — Time to nominate your female heroes. The Career Women of Achievement Awards nominations must be in by Jan. 22; the Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship nominations are due Jan. 28. Pick up nomination applications at the YWCA, 898 Walnut St., Downtown, call 513-241-7090 or go to [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).

## DONATIONS

**DUNAMIS OF FAITH WORLD MINISTRIES** — The non-profit organization is looking for home school supplies (books, houses, computers, checks, money orders, vouchers, etc.) for needy families. Donations can be sent to: Dunamis of Faith World Ministries/The Church in Cincinnati, P.O. Box 46908, Cincinnati OH 45246. For more information, call 513-961-9995.

**FOOD FROM THE HEART** — The food drive still needs 41,200 pounds of food to meet the goal by Friday. Donate canned goods at area Kroger stores or at The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park through Tuesday. For more information, visit [www.FOX19.com](http://www.FOX19.com) or [www.svdpcincinnati.org](http://www.svdpcincinnati.org).

**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES CLOTHING DRIVE** — Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries and Braxton's Cleaners are partnering in an effort to collect clothing, shoes and linens for local men and women with disabilities. Accepting donations at these locations: 8605 Haines Drive, Florence and 2515 Chelsea Drive, Fort Mitchell, 859-586-9595.

**KATEY BRICHTO RELIEF FUND** — A fire destroyed the home of this teacher/writer causing her to lose her dogs and cat, family heirlooms, all her writing and her lesson plans, among other possessions. The Cincinnati Writer's Project is organizing a collection for her. Donations can be made to Katey Brichto at the following address: c/o Kate Brauer, 7419 Briarpatch Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45208. For more information, e-mail.

**SUMMIT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE** — Is looking for volunteers to give parties, donate gifts, money and entertainment to help out needy families for the holidays. Call Lisa at 513-948-3777 for information.

## VOLUNTEERS

**ABILITIES FIRST** — Seeks volunteers to assist with residential activities and outings, offer one-on-one assistance and friendship to a person with a disability and help in the inclusion preschool/day-care. Also seeks help making curtains and bedspreads for residents' rooms. Middletown. 513-423-9496 or [elaine.garver@abilitiesfirst.org](mailto:elaine.garver@abilitiesfirst.org) or [vicki.fleming@abilitiesfirst.org](mailto:vicki.fleming@abilitiesfirst.org).

**ACLU OF OHIO** — Volunteers are needed for the Southwest Chapter of the ACLU of Ohio. Our interests are in the areas of the First Amendment, illegal search, privacy, racial equality, women's rights, employment rights, student rights,

gay and lesbian rights, prisoner's rights and police abuse. 513-588-4235 or [shan-non\\_aclu@mailcity.com](mailto:shan-non_aclu@mailcity.com).

**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** — Seeks volunteers to fill retail-type positions for the Discovery Shop. ... Also looking for young professionals to start a Young Professionals Committee. 11117 Kenwood Road, Kenwood. 513-891-1600.

**AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION** — Seeks volunteers for clerical support, data entry and special events support for the area office in West Chester. 513-759-9330.

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION** — Seeks volunteer nurses, LPNs, nursing students, paramedics and EMTs to help conduct blood pressure screenings and cardio-vascular and stroke risk assessments. 513-281-4048 or [Tharper@heart.org](mailto:Tharper@heart.org).

**ARONOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS** — Volunteers needed to staff the Information Desk. A twice per month minimum commitment is required, and training is provided. Usher applications are being accepted for the January 2003 orientation. Volunteers receive invitations to select dress rehearsals of performances. Call Meghan Kaskoun, Volunteer Manager, 513-977-4113.

**ART CONSORTIUM OF CINCINNATI** — The ACC's Linn Street and Union Terminal Facility need volunteers to assist with special events, act as docents and more. 513-381-0645 or 513-381-0916.

**THE ARTERY** — The Artery, a non-profit community art center in Newport, seeks volunteers for special and upcoming projects. Opportunities available in exhibition installation, clerical work, education, fundraising, renovation, etc. If interested, contact Laura Hollis, director, at 859-431-8151 or [www.newportartery.org](http://www.newportartery.org).

**ASSE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM** — This program, which provides academic year exchange programs in the U.S. for students around the world, is looking for volunteers to serve as area representatives in one's local community. If interested, call Shannon Stevenson at 740-494-9849.

**BAYLEY PLACE NURSING AND RETIREMENT HOME** — Seeks volunteers to transport residents to and from activities, help them with shopping and be their friend. Also seeks help in the gift shop. Delhi. 513-347-5500.

**BEECH ACRES** — Seeks childcare providers and group facilitators for parent support groups in Westwood, Lincoln Heights, Downtown, English Woods, West Chester, Blue Ash and Millvale. Training and ongoing support are provided. 513-231-6630.

**BOONE COUNTY CASA** — Boone County Court Appointed Special Advocates needs adult volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Training provided. 859-334-3154.

**BRANDON BLAIR YOUTH INC.** — Seeking tutors to help at-risk youth. Also needs volunteers to do yard work and work at festivals. South Fairmount. 513-244-7675.

**BRIGHTON CENTER, INC.** — The center is seeking volunteers for Local Emergency Assistance Program for needy families. Volunteers can spend as little as two hours weekly or monthly to distribute or shelve clothes, or to bag food commodities. Volunteers are able to work 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 859-491-8303, ext. 2032. ... Volunteers needed to assist with tutoring or mentoring youth, providing activities for seniors, marketing, fund-raising, painting and beautification projects, clerical duties, emergency assistance, activities for school-age children and more. Volunteers also needed for landscaping, lawn maintenance, home repairs and building projects. Newport. 859-491-8303, ext. 2026.

**BROOKSIDE** — Seeks volunteers to work in the day camp, help with recreational activities, assist with outings, read to residents and entertain residents. Mason. 513-398-1020.

**BROWN COUNTY HELPING HANDS** — Help sort clothes and take inventory of the food pantry. Georgetown. 937-378-6942.

**BROWN COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL** — Seeks volunteers to serve as drivers for clients. Georgetown. 937-378-6603.

**CAMPUS CALIFORNIA TG** — New non-profit organization recruiting volunteers to train for work at development projects in Africa. 530-467-4082 or [www.cctg.org](http://www.cctg.org)

**CARACOLE** — Cincinnati's only non-profit agency, providing safe, secure and affordable housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS, seeks volunteer caregivers at residence. Training is provided. Other volunteer opportunities are available. 513-761-1480.

**CARMEL MANOR** — Volunteers needed 5:30-7 p.m. daily to help feed residents their evening meal. Fort Thomas. 859-781-5111 or [carmelmanor@fuse.net](mailto:carmelmanor@fuse.net).

**CEDAR VILLAGE** — Seeks volunteers to visit with residents and to transport residents to and from activities, lead residents in activities and entertain residents. Mason. 513-336-3162 or [mklein@cedar-village.org](mailto:mklein@cedar-village.org).

**CENTER FOR CHEMICAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT** — Needs volunteers to work in the garden. West End. 513-381-6672 or [ccatsobser@mind-spring.com](mailto:ccatsobser@mind-spring.com).

**CENTRAL CLINIC** — Seeks volunteers to work in the consignment shop. Corryville. 513-861-8666 or [justasecond@fuse.net](mailto:justasecond@fuse.net).

**CHILD FOCUS, INC.** — Needs volunteers to assist with the Head Start preschool program. Clermont County. 513-528-7224 or [www.child-focus.org](http://www.child-focus.org).

**CHILDREN'S THEATER** — Seeks volunteers to work during daytime school performances. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 513-569-8080, ext. 17.

**CHURCHES ACTIVE IN NORTH-SIDE** — Help collect food, household and hygiene items for Northside residents. 513-591-2246.

**CINCINNATI ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND** — Volunteers are needed to read to blind or print-impaired and provide transportation for some clients and staff members. Training and ongoing support is provided. 513-487-4217.

**CINCINNATI HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** — Volunteers of the corporate community needed to join local families to build a simple, decent place to live. Corporations can help support by contributing cash gifts, in-kind building materials and services, sponsoring or co-sponsoring a CHFH house, casual marketing and volunteering on the job site. 513-621-4147 or 513-763-3100.

**CINCINNATI OBSERVATORY CENTER** — Training will be provided to volunteers interested in becoming astronomy assistants, early childhood teachers, librarians or historical archivists. 513-321-5186.

**CIVIC GARDEN CENTER** — The non-profit organization promoting gardening and environmental responsibility seeks volunteers for gardening, horticultural research, reception desk, garden shop sales and hands-on gardening education in elementary schools. 513-221-0981.

**CITY OF MONTGOMERY'S SISTER COMMISSION** — The City of Montgomery's Sister Cities Commission provides exchange program with the city of Neuilly-Plaisance, France. 513-891-2424.

**CINCINNATI READS** — Reading volunteers are needed for one hour each week to tutor kindergarten through fourth grade students in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Most of the students participating in the program are reading below grade level. Although most of the tutoring opportunities are during the school day, schools try to be flexible around volunteers' schedules. Of the 40+ schools affiliated with Cincinnati Reads, volunteers can choose which school location is most convenient for them. Training is provided. Please call Cincinnati Reads at 513-784-0450.

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER** — Recruits new docents. These volunteers guide groups of school children through CAC exhibitions. 513-345-8420.

**CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER** — Contemporary dance theater needs volunteers for clean up and office staff. Volunteers receive free dance classes in return for their services. Call 513-591-2557.

**COUNTY OF HAMILTON PROBATION DEPARTMENT** — Volunteers needed to be a case aide or one-to-one counselor for Hamilton County Adult Probation. Training and supervision provided. 513-852-3795.

**DEUPREE COMMUNITY MEALS ON WHEELS** — Help deliver a warm lunch and a smile to elderly adults. 513-561-8150.

**DROP-INN CENTER** — Help collect non-perishable goods for the shelter or work in the shelter with the homeless. 513-721-0643 or [volunteer@overtherhine.org](mailto:volunteer@overtherhine.org).

**EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ORGANIZATION** — Is seeking volunteers for special projects, mailings, and clerical work. If you have theatre background or just enjoy the theatre atmosphere, call 513-977-4763, ext. 236.

**EMANUEL COMMUNITY CENTER** — This non-profit agency seeks support in the following program areas: mentors for school-age children, computer instructors, help in grant-writing to raise project funds, aerobics instructors, library help and coaching sports for boys and girls. 513-242-2563.

**EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS** — Seeks volunteers to assemble parent-aid bags, which include educational and useful items for families and babies. Forest Park. 513-825-3020 or e-mail [anjie.coyle@chmcc.org](mailto:anjie.coyle@chmcc.org).

**FAIRMOUNT DAY CARE CENTER** — Provides childcare service including before-and-after-school programs. Seeks

help writing, making menus as well as teacher's assistants and tutors to help children with their writing. 513-921-1241.

**FEAST OF LOVE** — Seeks volunteers to pick up and deliver furniture from 8 a.m.-noon on at least one Saturday morning a month. Volunteers must supply their own truck or seat-less van. 513-541-5676.

**FREESTORE/FOODBANK** — Services include providing emergency food, clothing and shelter to low-income clients. Seeks help sorting food. Downtown. 513-482-7535.

**FRIENDSHIP READING CENTER** — Seeks volunteers to build literacy and enhance education for children of Mount Auburn. People from high schools universities, churches and other civic organizations are invited to foster personal growth of a child for at least one day a week as a reading tutor or homework tutor for a term of six weeks. 513-541-5676.

**GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER** — Seeking volunteers to train as peer counselors for evening help-line. 513-591-0200.

**GREATER CINCINNATI COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS** — Help homeless people circulate the Streetvibes newspaper. 513-421-7803 or [streetvibes@juno.com](mailto:streetvibes@juno.com).

**GREAT OAKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT** — Needs tutors to help adult students who are improving their academic skills or learning the English language. 513-612-5830 or e-mail [meyerdl@greatoaks.com](mailto:meyerdl@greatoaks.com).

**GREENACRES FOUNDATION** — This environment, agriculture and arts education center in Indian Hill needs volunteers to start right away. Volunteers must be available during the normal school day. Those interested in working with children and teaching outdoor education classes are greatly needed. 513-891-4227, ext. 221.

**HCR/MANOR CARE** — Spend time with residents with dementia. Colerain. 513-591-0400.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMPEER PROGRAM** — Being a hero is as easy as being a friend. Compeer matches adult volunteers in supportive friendships with adults who suffer loneliness and isolation as a result of the stigma surrounding mental illness. See the power of friendship to help people with mental illness lead happier, more productive lives. This can be accomplished by volunteering for one hour a week, making phone calls, going on activities or using the Internet. 513-287-8540, ext. 14.

**HARRISON ELEMENTARY STARS** — In search of adults ages 55 and up to tutor and mentor elementary students at the Harrison Elementary School in Hamilton. Volunteers will receive tuition units, free lunch, tax-free stipend, mileage reimbursement and the satisfaction of helping today's youth. 513-863-0143.

**HARRISON HOUSE** — Seeks volunteers to visit elderly residents, help the residents keep up with current events and serve as an activities assistant. Also seeks help making and putting up decorations for the facility. Westwood. 513-389-4527.

**HEALTH ALLIANCE** — Volunteers are needed in various areas at the following hospitals: Christ, University, the St. Luke Hospitals, Jewish and Fort Hamilton. For more information, call 513-585-7200.

**HEARTLAND HOSPICE** — HH needs some loving people that will work with terminally ill patients and their family.

Volunteers 18 and older are needed for grievance, support and clerical support. Training and visits can be given to fit into your schedule. 513-458-4270 ext. 483.

**HOMEWORK CLUB** — Seeks volunteers to serve as math/reading tutors and coaches for youth grades 6-12, 4:30-5:30 Wednesdays. Urban League, 3458 Reading Road, Walnut Hills.

**HYDE PARK LUMINARA CELEBRATION** — Volunteers are needed for people to act as street captains for the seasonal Luminara celebration. For more information, call Charlie DeSando at 513-561-3065.

**IMAGO EARTH CENTER** — The family-oriented education facility is looking for volunteers to help with teaching, trail maintenance, prop making, carpentry, gardening and special events. 513-921-8455.

**INTER-ETHNIC COUNCIL** — The Inter-Ethnic Council of Greater Cincinnati seeks volunteers to assist the promotion of multi-cultural awareness, understanding and respect. 513-352-3498 or [www.naicgc.org](http://www.naicgc.org).

**INTER PARISH MINISTRY** — Assists families in becoming self-sufficient. Seeks help sorting and pricing items for the thrift store. Milford. 513-561-3932 or [interparishministry@juno.com](mailto:interparishministry@juno.com).

**JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICE** — Seeks volunteers to work with and serve as companions to senior citizens with developmental disabilities. 513-985-0515.