



or...
The Undermining of Sarah Sweetflowers
By R. Eugene Jackson

re-cap...the ANNUAL
FIRST NIGHT show...

... by Jeannette D'Onofrio
(photos below by Michael Wilfert)

As usual, The Village Players Theater filled each and every seat for all three of the First Night shows, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm.

Director Greg Parker was needed to step in for the ill Eileen Sloan, as "Big Bad Granny". To see Greg dressed as Granny with a cigar hangin' out the side of his mouth, was worth the price of admission on its own.

Bad puns, truly corny humor and on-stage hijinks provided a fantastic night of laughs for all who attended. Typically, First Night® plays host to many visitors and newcomers to the town and the theater, and this Dec. 31st was no exception.

Bravo! to the entire cast and crew for an evening of fun which all of Wolfeboro enjoyed.



Kingswood Regional High School
... announces...



FESTIVAL

(Visit the Website for more details:
www.kingswooddrama.com)

... by Jeannette D'Onofrio

The New Hampshire Educational Theater Guild (NHETG) is a league of high school theater programs in our state. Every year the organization holds its Regional Theater FESTIVAL. Each participating school puts together a short play - forty minutes or less - to perform for an audience.

The twenty-eight plus schools are broken up into four regional district FESTIVALS. KRHS has been selected to host the Lakes Region FESTIVAL on March 24th, 2007. Seven other Lakes Region schools will join us for this day-long event to perform their shows in our local Kingswood Auditorium. The event is chaired by our own Village Players; Scott Giessler (drama teacher), Patti Pardy and Jeannette D'Onofrio with many Village Players lending their able hands for the day.

Professional theater judges (adjudicators) will watch the shows along with the general public and provide feedback to the students. The students will also be able to ask their adjudicators questions, discuss their shows and learn from each other at this focussed theatrical event. At the end of the day, all the participating schools gather for a social dance and awards ceremony (think of the Academy Awards on a small scale). The entire FESTIVAL is a learning process for the students and a collaboration of efforts by all the schools involved.

Plan on coming to FESTIVAL for either the morning or afternoon sessions - or all day to view 8 fantastic plays. Cost for each show is \$2, or \$5 for the half-day, \$10 for the day-long pass. Tickets sold at the KRHS door.

Can't make the FESTIVAL, but interested in a sneak-peak of our own local high school's production? ...**Sneak-Peak Shows... March 16 & 17 (Fri & Sat), 7:00pm** at the KRHS Auditorium. Cost is \$5 all seats. You will see both the 20-minute student directed production, "Lives In The Wind" by Matt Casarino and the 45-min. Kingswood Drama Festival offering, "And Now Playing The Part Of..." by Scott Giessler (written by Scott).
Come on out and support theater in the schools!



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Newsletter Committee

Carol Bense
Dick Cary

Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler
Willie Mork

(Art production)

Jeannette D'Onofrio
virgodesign@verizon.net

Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday evening each month. All dues-paying members are also welcome to attend.

If you have a topic to present to the Board, please contact a member listed above.

Be sure your membership is current to receive your newsletter. Contact Marge Wilson 569-6533

if you have changes to your mailing address.

!!! ANNUAL Village Players Meeting & Elections !!!

Village Players Annual Meeting 12/03/06

... from Willie Mork

Jay Sydow presided at the meeting and presented the following: - Thanks were expressed to outgoing Board members; Diane Sullivan, Marge Wilson and Wayne Gehman.

Building Committee projects that have been completed this year include handsome new front steps. Special thanks to Dick Cary, designer and to James Cross, project manager, and to Carol Bense, Willie Mork, Betty Sherwood and Dick and Debby Cary who painted the iron fence (saving \$1,800!)

Thanks to Corky Mork, the sprinkler system compressor no longer makes a huge noise.

On-going are renovations to the light booth include insulation and dry wall, new electrical wiring, and a counter for the light equipment with most of the work done by VP volunteers. Upcoming building projects include a new roof and insullation over the stage, the last row of theater seats to be installed at the back of the auditorium and completion of the light booth.

The Play Reading Committee was chosen and the Board has approved our show schedule for 2007. The spring play will be a mystery thriller, "**House Guest**". This summer brings a heartwarming comedy, "**The Cemetary Club**" and in the fall, a rousing musical, "**The Pajama Game**". If you're interested in serving on this committee to choose plays for next year, let **Russ Ellis** know...ram2sak@aol.com.

The Fund Raising Committee has announced that over \$75,000 was raised at our September "gala" event. Volunteers with new ideas are welcomed for ongoing fundraising. Contact chairman, James Cross... sir1@worldpath.net.

The Marketing Committee, chaired by Jeannette D'Onofrio reports ad sales for this past year's 2006 program booklet brought in \$8,000. Numerous press releases appeared in the local papers for each show and we placed an ad in the NHCTA Spring Drama Festival program. We also entered and placed second in this fall's Scarecrow Festival (thanks to Michael Wilfert's creation) a welcoming Roman Centurian. Village Players also had an entry in The Festival of Trees in December. This committee organized a very successful fundraising Comedy Series this past summer and hopes to repeat it again for 2007.

Community groups who have utilized our theater this year included; Friends of Music, Great Waters Music Festival, Perform It! Young People's Stage Co. and a GWAC painting workshop. We will also host the Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce After Hours social in January.

A committee is working on updates to the VP By-Laws, which will be mailed to all members in time for voting at the semi-annual meeting in June.

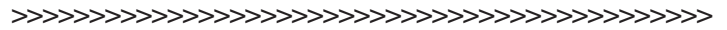
Monies raised from donations received during our shows in the refreshment baskets will be used for our Scholarship Fund. Contact Diane Sullivan to be part of this committee. Also contact **Diane Sullivan** (disully@worldpath.net) if you have any photos of members who have passed away for our lobby Memorial Wall.

Lakes Region Summer Theater in Meredith has closed its doors forever and VP has inherited a bunch of great props and flats from them...thanks to the quick response by Jay Sydow and others for transporting items.

WELCOME to the following **NEW** Village Players Board officers elected for 2007:

- President Russ Ellis
- Vice President Mandy Ferriman
- Secretary Kathleen Whitehead
- Treasurer Diane Ducret Mork
- At Large (2yrs)..... Dick Cary
Kathleen Hill
- Ex-officio Pres. Jay Sydow

(continuing on the board, Megan Brady and Patti Pardy)



Community Use of our Building

...from Carol Bense

You may not be aware of how often our building is put to use by other groups in Wolfeboro. Groups such as **Perform It!, The Wolfeboro Friends of Music, and Great Waters Folk Festival** all find our theater a fine place to learn and perform.

In January, the Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce After Hours was held at the theater and a short performance of a radio show play was presented as a part of the evening.

Perform It!, Young People's Stage Company, directed by Jan Helling Croteau, uses the building most heavily. This group studies and performs adaptations of Shakespeare's work. The workshops and learning programs are held in the theater during four afternoons a week and performances take place in the evenings when the working period is complete.

Wolfeboro Friends of Music hold several of their concerts in the theater each year. The door and steps to the stage were widened so that the grand piano could be moved onto the stage when it is needed.

Great Waters Folk Festival uses our theater in the summer for their annual folk festival throughout Wolfeboro.

If you would like to know what is happening at the theater, you can find a calendar of events at http://www.localendar.com/public/Village_Players or go to our website at www.village-players.com and cursor down to the **Theater Calendar**.

A Great Opportunity Coming in March ...from Carol Bense

This year the **New England Regional Community Theater Festival** will be held in The Concord City Auditorium on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. This event brings the winners of the New England Region together to compete. The winner of this festival will then go on to the national competition held by the American Association of Community Theaters. This year the national competition will be in Charlotte, NC in June.

Two groups from New Hampshire will be in the Festival. Milford Area Players of Milford, NH will present "I Hate Hamlet," and Ghostlight Theatre Company of New England from Salem, NH will offer "One Flea Spare." Other shows in the competition are "Agnes of God" by The Arena Civic Theatre from Greenfield, MA ; "Graceland" by The Wellesley Players from Wellesley Hills, MA; and "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" by The Quannapowitt Players from Reading, MA.

Each show must be presented in no more than one hour. At the end of each performance professional adjudicators give their opinions to the cast in front of the audience. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn what works and what doesn't.

In addition, there will be at least one workshop as a part of the experience. The one currently scheduled is Acting Techniques of Michael Chekhov given by Adjudicator Wil Kilroy. Others may be added to the schedule. And, of course, socializing with members of other community theater groups always gives us new insights into this avocation that we love.

For more information, you can contact our NHCTA representative, **Gay Ann Cooney at gayann@slgl.com or call 776-4916.** Certainly several of our members will be attending and we can get together to car pool.



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Top 7 Reasons to Renew Your MEMBERSHIP in 2007

...from Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

- 1. Semi-monthly issues of The Prompter(that's 6)**because you can't find better reading!
- 2. Suffrage...** well, you can vote at VP's Annual meeting in December,which is kind of suffrage, right?
- 3. Entry into the June "Members Only" Talent Show...** because you've always wanted to perform Turkish folk songs to a captive audience.
- 4. Entry into a drawing for a 6-night stay in Fiji** thanks to a generous donation from past president Jay Sydow ...well, no, not really.
- 5. That self-satisfied feeling you get when you know you've done the right thing.**
- 6. It's only \$10 for an individual...** come on you've got 10 bucks!
- 7. It's just \$18 for a family...** think of the savings if you have a dozen or so kids!
... **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ?**

Of course, Village Players will happily take your membership dues anytime, but for full voting rights, you'll want to renew before March 30th! - contact Marge Wilson 569-6533.