



# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT APRIL 2013



by Josh Spaulding

The Village Players Theater will be the site of a little history in April, as Undeclared History makes its New England debut.

The show was originally written in 2011 for production at Hofstra University on Long Island, but playwright Isaac Rathbone rewrote the show a bit to help out the Village Players, changing the school to a New England college campus.

Russ Ellis is stepping up to direct the show, which he saw in its original run on Long Island.

Vinny Amico, last seen singing and dancing in the fall production of Gypsy, will be playing the lead role of Finn, a Vietnam veteran who heads back to college on the GI Bill after returning from war. The

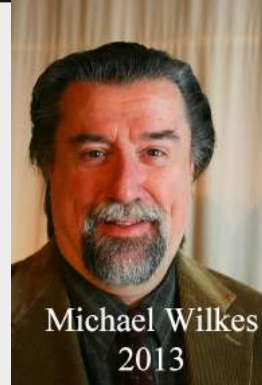


show will focus on Finn's relationship with Diana, played by newcomer Cara Owens. Village Players veteran Bob Tuttle plays the shape-shifting Trickster, while newcomer Judi Currie plays the Mentor, the voice of reason throughout the show.

Other cast members include Paul Stewart as Jason, a member of the school's ROTC, Crystal Lauer as Hector, a Black Panther member and Chrystal Gauvreau as student activist, Maeve. Additionally, a chorus will fill out the remainder of the roles.

Members of the cast and crew had a chance to chat with Rathbone in early March, as he discussed the show for a few hours via a Skype session, offering plenty of insight into the characters and the story, which is based on true

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Michael Wilkes  
2013

It is very hard to believe, but we lost a major player, Michael Wilkes, in February. Michael had a massive heart attack and did not recover. Many of us were able to attend a get-together with his son, Stephen, at Lord's Funeral Home, but a memorial gathering for Michael is also being planned. The date is not available at printing time, but we will post it our website when this information is available.

As you may know, Michael has been extremely active in The Village Players since he moved back to Wolfeboro in 1985. He has served as President three times and has served on the board for several years. He was serving as a Member at Large when he passed. We bought our building during one of his first terms as President and he was instrumental in completing that process. He was a major donor to our fund-raising activities and, in addition, purchased the keyboard which we now use for our musicals.

Michael appeared in many productions, but is probably best remembered as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. Whenever we think of Fiddler, we think of Michael as Tevye. Another memorable role was that of Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady. More recently he played Buffalo Bill Cody in Annie Get Your Gun and the Sultan of Bashir in Don't Drink the Water.

But Michael was more likely to be directing than acting. He directed so many of our shows over the years including Hello Dolly, Arsenic and Old Lace, The King and I, and his favorite Gilbert and Sullivan shows, H.M.S. Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance. His direction of The Hound of The Baskervilles won him the Best Director Award in the New Hampshire Theater Association awards for 2003 and won for The Village Players, the Best Play Award. He also directed last summer's hilarious

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## Glamour in Mud Season® - Another Great Year by Carol Bense

Everyone seemed to be having a great time at all the Glamour events this year. What fun with Fred Marple, the GlamAnimals, and the Traveling Wolfeburys. Trying all the "muddy" recipes around town was a real treat, and breakfast at The Strawberry Patch was excellent as many of you found. Then came the Art Slog with the galleries offering not just great art, but also food, drink and music. Finally we all got together at Lydia's Meeting House for a final party and the Glamour Art Exhibit.

We were so fortunate this year to find generous sponsors for all our events, with the result that all ticket sales money was put into our Glamour In Mud Season account toward bigger and better programs next year. The support of the town will help future Glamour in Mud Season Events to become a huge success and draw people to Wolfeboro at a time when not much else does.

The hilarious Fred Marple show was sponsored by William M. Marsh, MD, eye physician and surgeon.

The wonderful exotic animals from the W.I.L.D. Center of New Hampshire which we titled GlamAnimals, was sponsored by Dr. Dianne Guerriere, Wolfeboro Chiropractic Office.

The Traveling Wolfeburys, our terrific home-town group of musicians who provide a great show with blues, country, rock 'n' roll and more, was sponsored by Dr. William Barton, physician and surgeon and The Restaurant.

The Art Slog and Glamour Art Exhibit were sponsored by The Art Place, Artists Corner, The Sandy Martin Gallery, The Kalled Gallery, Dandelion Florist and Lydia's Meeting House which provided yummy appetizers as well as space to hang the exhibit. Michael Welch donated his talented fingers on the keyboard to provide music for the event.

The Strawberry Patch sponsored a benefit breakfast on Sunday morning and lots of people showed up to have those delicious pancakes.

Several food emporiums offered special Mud-Season goodies to be sampled and voted on including Antonio's Old Style Pizzeria, Downtown Grille Cafe, Gatherings by Stellaloon, Huck's Hoagies, Penny Candy Shop and Winnepesaukee Chocolates.

Other businesses provided Glamour in Mud Season themed windows or costumes. These were Black's Paper and Gifts, The Folk Cellar, Lakes Region Computer/Go Wireless, Made on Earth, TD Bank, Wolfeboro Bay Real Estate, and Wolfeboro Casuals.

Other sponsors were Antonucci Insurance Services, Avery Insurance, Butter-nuts, CARE Pharmacy, Citizens Bank, The Country Bookseller, Financial Focus, Flags Over Winnepesaukee, Kingswood Press, Law Offices of Paul M. Monziona, NAPA Auto Parts, People's United Bank, Dr. Richard Neal, and RE/Max Professionals.

More about how you can help to make Glamour in Mud Season a fabulous event that draws people from around New England to our wonderful town and helps The Village Players grow in our next issue.

## MEET ANOTHER NEW MEMBER OF YOUR BOARD - PRISCILLA ADAMS

by Priscilla Adams

What was your first show with the Village Players and what got you involved?

My first show with Village Players was Oklahoma! in 2008. My daughter, Kristine, was cast as Ado Annie and I was getting back on stage for the first time in more than a decade.

Since then, what are some of your favorite roles (on and off stage)?

I have since been involved with several VP productions: Leading Ladies where I enjoyed working behind the scenes backstage as a part of the crew. I learned a lot and laughed even more. In Little Shop of Horrors, I was cast as Crystal, one of the street savvy Greek Chorus girls, alongside Kristine, who was cast as Chiffon. My husband, Jim, was the plant as well as one of the providers of some great entertainment in the pre-show. This was really a blessed experience. To have the opportunity of working with both Kristine and Jim, made it a wonderful family experience.

Most recently I was cast in Gypsy as Momma Rose. I consider this to be the role of a lifetime, for me. I feel honored and privileged to have had the opportunity of playing Rose with Wayne and Kaylin and the rest of such an amazing cast. I love children and they really were quite amazing! The role was just something that I was able to relate to specifically at that point in my life; letting go is hard for this Mom too.

If you had a VP magic wand, what would you make happen for the theater?

My VP magic wand would get a lot of work if I were to break it down to the individual things: It would be nice to provide a newly renovated auditorium, with state-of-the-art lighting, and sound, complete with a new stage and thrust. I'd establish a sewing budget and room: complete with quality regular and over edge machines, a rack full of colorful bolts of fabric, and all the notions needed to help bring the productions to life.

Tell us a little bit about you in 'real life'.

I live in Alton NH, am married to my best friend, Jim, and we have raised two wonderful young ladies Sarah and Kristine, who are off attending college. We have a German Shepherd, Oggy, and I refer to him as the son I always wanted. He's just a 100lb hairball of love.

Professionally, I have spent the last 15 years in the Information Technology Industry and last year enrolled in Southern NH University to continue my education. I still have to figure out what I want to be when I grow up but as of now I am working to earn my MBA.

I have loved the theater and the stage since I was very young. I remember performing for my family and first sang publically in front of my congregation at age 5. In school and as well as in the community, throughout my life, I have always been supportive of the performing arts.

I think that the best part about theater and the performing arts is that there is something for everyone. On stage, back stage, costumes, make up, production, etc., no matter what you like, there's a way for everyone to participate and I love that!

A memorial service for good friends Annie and Jack Levergood will be held at 11am on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at the Melvin Village Community Church, Route 109, Melvin Village, NH Please come if you can.

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stories of the Vietnam era, as told by numerous veterans that Rathbone interviewed while writing the show. (The strong language used in the play reflects this reality and may not be suitable for everyone.)

The show runs April 12, 13, 19, 20 and 21, with evening performances at 8pm and a matinee on Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are available at Black's Paper and Gifts, or on-line at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com).



### VP BITS

news about members etc.

And one more baby. **John and Mandy Savage** have a son, Grayson. Here's a photo.



Don't forget to go see **Kaylin Dean** and **Greg Parker** who have lead roles in The Pittsfield Players' production of that super-funny farce, *Lend Me A Tenor*. Dates are April 5,6,7,11,12,13 a bit of overlap with *Undeclared History*, but we all should be able to work around that.

**Deb Jones**, current board member and costumer extraordinaire, has been chosen to receive The Annual Ray Lord Award for her many years of work with children's theater. Congratulations Deb, you certainly deserve it.

Also congratulations to **Barbara Wilson** who has been selected as the new Headmaster at Cornerstone Christian Academy. We know she will do a great job.

If you have news about current or former Village Players, please forward it to [cwbense@roadrunner.com](mailto:cwbense@roadrunner.com).

## AUDITIONS FOR OUR SUMMER SHOW

by Carol Bense and Jay Sydow

Here it comes! *Hello...Is There Any Body There?* by Ian Hornby looks like a "who-dun-it," but it's much more than that. This hilarious farce steadfastly refuses to take itself (or anything else) seriously. The first body is Mr. Vic Tim, so you can see where this is going. The show will also give you a little taste of what it is like to put on a community theater production and the stress that the production crew must deal with every night.



This is going to be FUN! Jay Sydow will be directing and he has scheduled auditions for Sunday and Monday, April 14 & 15 at 7:00 pm.

Jay will need four men and five women to complete the cast which is listed below:

- LADY AMELIA SIMPSON SQUIRE - An authoress (female 50-60, lead role)
- SIR MALCOLM SQUIRE - Amelia's husband (male 50-70, lead role)
- FREDDY LYONS - A family friend (male 40-70, lead role)
- MABEL - The maid
- DIANNE SIDES - A Police Inspector
- VIC TIM/DETECTIVE CONSTABLE FICKEY - A young male
- POLICE CONSTABLE NUNNALL - A glamorous woman police constable
- SMALLS - The Butler (male 30-70)
- MISS MARBLES - A famous detective novelist

Jay is in need of an entire production staff. If you are interested in assistant-directing, stage crew, set, lights, house manager, costumes.....please send Jay an email: [jaysydow@gmail.com](mailto:jaysydow@gmail.com).

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romp, Leading Ladies.

His loss is a profound blow to The Village Players and individually to those of us who have known him for so many years. You can see a memorial to Michael on our website with tributes from many people who will feel his loss. The web address is

<http://www.village-players.com/memorial/memorial.html>

where you will also find a memorial book created for his son, Stephen.

You have served truly and well, Michael. Rest in peace.

**CONTACT US...**

**Mail:** PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 **Voice-mail:** 603-569-9656

**Web site:** www.village-players.com

**Email:** info@village-players.com

**2013 Village Players Board**

- President -** Megan Rohrbacher.....332-5636
- Vice President -** Jay Sydow.....875-6792
- Secretary -** Cate Poole.....515-9908
- Treasurer -** Hilde Talbot.....569-1006
- Members at Large -** Diane Mork.....569-5726
- Christian Boudman (1yr)...569-3484
- Priscilla Adams (1yr).....875-0714
- Deb Jones (2yr).....569-0078
- Jim Adams (2yrs).....875-0714

Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday evening of each month. All dues-paying members are also welcome to attend. Be sure your membership is current to receive your newsletter and special membership deals.

Contact Carol Bense - cwbense@roadrunner.com or 569-1396 - if you have changes in your address or email, or if you are unsure about your membership status.

**Newsletter Committee**

Carol Bense      Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler      Jay Sydow

**Art Production**

Carol Bense



P.O. Box 770 Wolfeboro, NH 03894



**DON'T FORGET WWW.VILLAGE-PLAYERS.COM**

We try hard to keep the website updated with all the information about what is happening in our organization. We also have information on membership, coming attractions and tickets; previous issues of The Prompter; photos and information on past productions; memorial pages for members we have lost; the history of our organization and our building; information on how you can join or donate; information about current board members under the Contact Us tab which also contains a link to our Articles of Agreement and our By-laws, and a calendar which shows current activities including rehearsal information if the director has provided it.

You can find most everything about The Village Players on this website. If you have ideas or suggestions to add to or improve the website, please email cwbense@roadrunner.com.

Currently you can see a Memorial Book about Michael Wilkes as long as the publisher keeps it up. Go to www.village-players.com, click on the Past Productions and Memorials tab, click on the white box at the top of the page which says Memorial Page, then click on the third box from the left which contains a link to Michael's Memorial Book. You can see it better by clicking on the Full Screen link at the top right of the Shutterfly box.

**PLEASE TAKE A LOOK**