

the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

The Village Players

Annual First Night® PERFORMANCE



Cinderella Wore Combat Boots

an adaptation by
Jerry Chase

...by Phoebe Van Scoy-Geissler

*First-time director
dismisses glass slipper,
big drama as antiquated,
passe`...*

In a move that has rocked the Village Players membership to its very core, first-time director Greg Parker has thrown an unexpected wrench, or should we say 'boot' into the plans of First Night audience members. Those accustomed to attending the 8 or 10pm performances on New Year's Eve know that they can count on a few things: the script will be top-notch, the acting will be subtle, and the theme will touch their hearts, minds and souls...well drama fans - not this year!

Rogue director, Greg Parker, a formerly well-thought-of performer and crew member of the Village Players family, has taken his power and decided to stage a comedy!! And what of co-director Megan Brady? Is she complicit to all of this foolishness? Rumor has it her recent marriage along with sleep deprivation due to insane work hours has put her over the edge as well. In fact, she is apparently on board with this drastic new direction for First Night!

Village Players president, Jay Sydow, spoke to the PROMPTER through tears, declaring: "Cinderella Wore Combat Boots is about a mistreated girl who finally wins the heart of a prince. But, Parker has taken what we normally recall as a sweet fairy tale and increased the silly-factor by at least 10. It is soooooooooo funny! And not at all akin to the dramatic work we pride ourselves on for First Night." Unable to control his emotions at this point, Mr. Sydow, who is also the set designer for this looming disaster, was administered his medication and proceeded to his 'happy place'.

Backstage at an early rehearsal, crew member Maggie MacDonald also quietly wondered about Parker and Brady's choices. "So far they've got a Prince who acts more like a 'goober' than a 'noble', step sisters who make 'Attila-the-Hun' seem fresh-faced and flirty, and even the Fairy Godmother has a bit of a 'game-show-host' creepiness about her." Ms. MacDonald proceeded to ease her fears and concerns with yet another peppermint Altoid from Russ Ellis' backstage stash.

If you're at all familiar with any of the other members of the cast, please be careful around them. Their silliness could be contagious. Be on the lookout for:

- Cinderella.....Athena Ellis
- MotherellaAmy Donovan
- Godzella.....Lisa Hoover
- Mazzarella.....Taylor Wilson
- King.....Scott Giessler
- Prince.....Matt Comeau
- StoryTeller/ Fairy GodmotherBarbara Wilson

In a brief media release from the directors, a call was sent out to Village Players across the Kingdom, requesting assistance in all realms of production. It is this editorial board's opinion that those who choose to take up an association with this "Cinderella" show are at a severe risk for laughter (with possible stomach cramping)

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DECEMBER 2005

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**DUES FOR 2006
ARE NOW DUE !
MAIL YOUR'S
TODAY...
\$10 individual
\$18 for family**

Did you know?

You can purchase tickets on-line from the Village Players website for any of our upcoming shows.

Go to:

www.village-players.com

Click on the link:



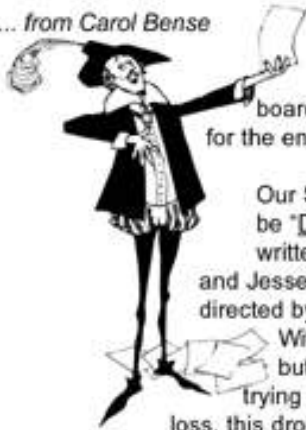
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fun (with possible facial pain from smiling) and goofiness (especially using absurd accents and over-acting).

Curious (and, one would guess, masochistic) members of the Village Players have been invited by the directors to stop by rehearsals and observe this perversion of the Village Players' normally serious-minded First Night tradition. They're on Sundays 6 - 8pm and on Thursdays from 7 - 9pm. But don't say we didn't warn you!

What about 2006?

... from Carol Bense



Yes, your board has made plans for the entire 2006 season!

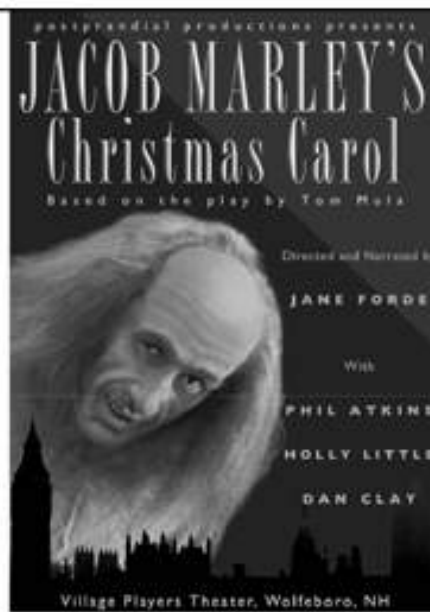
Our **Spring** show will be "Dearly Departed" written by Dave Bottrell and Jesse Jones and directed by Jay Sydow.

With a dysfunctional but loveable family trying to cope with their loss, this drop-dead funny show offers lots of parts and lots of laughs. (see next page for more)

The **Summer** production, "That Darn Plot", written by David Belke, will be directed by Greg Parker and Maggie Croteau. This hilarious and heartfelt comedy about playwriting, rehearsals, and family relations was the winner of the 2000 Samuel French Canadian Playwriting Contest. It has parts for four males and two females.

Our **Fall musical** will be "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" (just "Forum" for short) with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart and directed by Carol Bense. Broad and bawdy, fast-paced comedy makes this show one of the funniest musicals ever written with lots of great parts for adults.

So, it seems that comedy is the watchword for 2006. Expect a great season of laughs and wit. Watch for audition dates and further details in future editions of The Prompter.



Post Prandial Productions presents... **JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL** at the Village Players Theater, Wolfeboro Wednesday, Dec. 21st - 7:30pm Thursday, Dec. 22nd - 7:30pm Ticket's \$12.00 / Children & Seniors \$8.00 For reservations call Dan (603) 498-9351.

"This show is very different from the traditional 'Scrooge' or 'Christmas Carol'...this is very abstract and impressionistic...makes you use your imagination," says Jay Sydow. Clear your schedule and be sure to see this.

BUILDING COMMITTEE PLANS

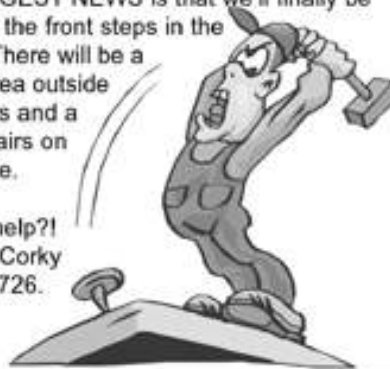
Our current building committee (Jay Sydow and James Cross, headed by Corky Mork) has big plans for the coming year.

In January, we'll be finishing off the lighting booth with insulation and drywall, plus shelves and storage for all the tech stuff (which will be moved out of the current Tech Room next to the Props Room).

Later, we plan to install the last row of upholstered seats and remove the ugly platforms and folding seats. Then use those platforms to finish the forms for pouring the new concrete foundation in the cellar.

The **BIGGEST NEWS** is that we'll finally be re-doing the front steps in the spring! There will be a larger area outside the doors and a set of stairs on each side.

Wanna help?! Contact Corky at 569-5726.



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2005 Village Players Board

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875-6792

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569-9218

(Secretary)

Jeanne Pierce
569-7985

(Treasurer)

Diane Ducret-Mork
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John Harwood
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Willie Mork
569-2687

Newsletter Committee

Carol Bense
Dick Cary
Phoebe Van Scoy-Giessler
Matt Johnson
Willie Mork
(Art production)
Jeannette D'Onofrio

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 Willie Mork if you have changes to your mailing address.

Sound of Music Climbs High

...from Carol Bense

Our production of "The Sound Of Music" under the direction of Michael Wilkes and assisted by Russ Ellis with production by Jeannette D'Onofrio was a mountainous success! Of our six performances, four were completely sold out with many folks calling to ask for tickets only to be told there were none available. On Friday the 11th we had 12 tickets left, and on Saturday the 19th only 28 were unsold. (The message is **Buy Your Tickets Early**)

Financially we are sure to do well and add to our building fund, especially with the support of The Community Bank which generously sponsored the show. But even more importantly, lots of folks got to visit our theater and to see one of our shows.

We received many compliments on the show as well, a tribute to the hard work of everyone involved. This show was entered into the New Hampshire Theater Awards program, but we will have to wait until February to find out if we made the final cut. (You can learn more about the New Hampshire Theater Awards at www.nhtheatre.com)

After the last performance, the cast and crew and their families got together for a pot luck dinner and our cast party. Lots of wonderful food was provided by members of the cast and crew and kudos and awards were given out. Traditionally, the cast donates funds to buy gifts for the crew to thank them for all their hard work. This time, in addition, Patti Parry made canned snowflakes for everyone. (How did she do that?) Then Jeannette and Jerome gave out gifts to crew and cast members with special thanks to Michael Wilkes and Russ Ellis who devoted so much time and energy to this production. If you lent a hand, but were not at the party, be sure that your time and effort was greatly appreciated. We all know that "it takes a village" to put on a play and every contribution is needed. Thanks to each of you for your contribution.

photos from *the Sound of Music*
by Michael Wilfert



Call for AUDITIONS! - Ya'll

...from Jay Sydow

Now that the First Night show has been cast and is in regular rehearsals, it's time to get ready for the SPRING show...That's right, it's time to think *SPRING!*

The Spring show is called "Dearly Departed" a comedy by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones.

THE STORY: Set in the Baptist backwoods of the Bible-belt, the beleaguered Turpin family proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and always hilarious. Despite their earnest efforts to pull themselves together for their father's funeral, the Turpin's other problems keep overshadowing the solemn occasion; Firstborn Ray-Bud drinks himself silly as the funeral bills mount; Junior, the younger son, is juggling financial ruin, a pack of no-neck monster kids, and wife who suspects him of infidelity in the family car; their spinster sister, Delightful, copes with death as she does life, by devouring junk food; and all the neighbors add more than two-cents. As the situation becomes fraught with mishap, Ray-Bud says to his long-suffering wife, "When I die, don't tell nobody. Just bury me in the backyard and tell everyone I left you." Amidst the chaos, the Turpins turn for comfort to their friends and neighbors, an eccentric community of misfits who just manage to pull together and help each other through their hours of need, and finally, the funeral.

This show is a real HOOT (if I do say so myself). Characters with names like "Delightful", "Veda", "Norval" and of course "Junior"...how can you go wrong?

Auditions will be Sunday, Jan. 8 and Monday, Jan. 9 at 7:00pm at the Village Players Theater, Glendon St. The curtain will open for the public on April 14 & 15 and then the following weekend, April 21, 22 and a matinee on the 23rd.

Although children are mentioned in the show, we never see them, so I am looking for actors that can pass for the ages of 25 and up. Please bring your best "redneck" accent and think "dysfunctional". I look forward to having fun, so please bring a great attitude too! If you have any questions, email me (sancho@world-path.net) the phone works, but I am never home.

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ANNUAL Village Players Meeting & Elections

The Village Players annual meeting and election was held after the final performance of "The Sound of Music" on Sunday, the 20th, at the theater. The current president, Jay Sydow, reviewed the past year for the group highlighting the four shows and the work being done on the building.

The group continues to work on fund-raising to complete the plans drawn up by Dick Cary for the restoration of the building. Some large awards were received this year and we now have the funds to complete reconstruction of the front stairs and entrance to the building. This work is scheduled to take place in the Spring of 2006, so, if all goes well, you will see a new look next year.

With about 40 members in attendance, elections were then held. Your new board is:

President – Jay Sydow
Vice President – Russ Ellis
Secretary – Kathy Whitehead
Treasurer – Diane Ducret-Mork
At Large 2yrs – Megan Brady
At Large 2yrs – Patti Pardy
At Large 1yr – Marge Wilson

(Completing the second year of their At Large positions for 2005 are Matt Johnson and Diane Sullivan.)

Congratulations to the newly elected board members!

This organization needs your support in order to continue to provide high quality shows and to maintain and improve our building. Those who agreed to serve on the board showed their willingness to serve and support the group, whether or not they were elected this year.