

# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT



December 14, 7:00pm  
December 15, 2:00pm & 7:00pm  
December 16, 2:00pm

## The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

by Barbara Robinson

*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is coming to the Village Players Theater! Director Kathleen Hill is thrilled to be presenting this funny and touching family production. Some familiar and many fresh young faces will grace the stage for this one-act holiday treat.

The Herdman's were the worst kids in the whole history of the world. They lied and stole and smoked cigars, even the girls, and talked dirty and cussed their teachers and took the name of the Lord in vain and set fire to Fred Shoemaker's old broken down tool house.

What happens when Grace Bradley (Jenn Bruce) gets volunteered to direct the church Christmas pageant? A pageant in which no child – even her own (played by Athena Ellis and Benjamin Tessier) - wants to participate. And worse yet, no parent wants to attend! What happens when the Herdmans (Meegan Ellis, Spencer Fusco, Brynn Jeddrey, Annie Peternel, Tristan Jeddrey and Jeanne Puglisi) show up and bully their way into all the main roles? Is Reverend Hopkins' (Noelle Young) church safe? What about the applesauce cake? Will anyone attend the pageant? Will there even be a pageant?

Additional cast members include Delina Bickford, Mary DeVries, Missy Shure, Peter Pijoan, Casey Fusco, Natalie Holmburg, Autumn Bickford, Sarah Coulter, Hannah Coulter, Lexi King, Madison Taylor, Taylor Cantrall, Aimee Young, Derika Church, Rebecca Gironski, and Samantha Bickerton.

In addition to direction by Kathleen Hill, the production team includes; Producer Diane Ducret-Mork, Assistant Director Tyler Wade, Set Design by Jay Sydow, Costumer Patti Pardy, Props done by Betty Sherwood and Make Up headed by Delina Bickford with publicity help from Jeannette D'Onofrio. The music is being done by Mike Welch and Carol Bense is taking care of tickets and flyers.

Tickets at \$10 each will be sold in downtown Wolfeboro as usual at Black's Paper & Gifts and on-line: [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) the first week of December.



The First Night tradition continues this New Year's Eve in Wolfeboro and at the theater! Instead of a melodrama, however, our stage will host a revival of Kingswood Drama's spring 2007 production of "Now Playing the Part Of..." This PG-13 show demonstrates what happens when you mix together the politics of a divorced couple and an elementary school play. Christine Calvetti has just won her husband's children's theater troupe in a bitter custody battle. Now, her husband, Fitz is back to reclaim what is his. Can the cast of misfits survive the fallout? (Please note there is some adult subject matter in the show.) This is a thirty-five to forty minute comedy that was originally Kingswood Regional High School's official entry into the New Hampshire Educational Theater Guild's 2007 Festival. The show was written and directed by high school Drama Teacher and Village Player, Scott Giessler. Kingswood Drama is proud to revive the show as part of Wolfeboro's First Night® celebration. Purchase your First Night® Button at any sales location downtown Wolfeboro as admission to the show, \$5 by December 25 and \$10 thereafter.

(photo by Jeannette D'Onofrio)

### DECEMBER 2007

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#### 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](http://www.village-players.com)

Click on the link:



# NIGHTY-NITE TO THE PAJAMA GAME

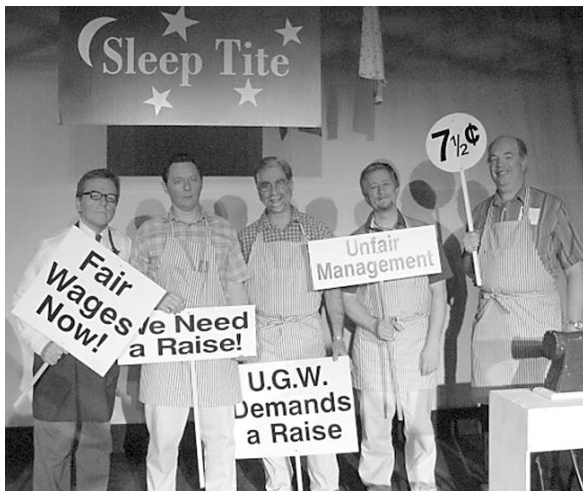
from Carol Bense

The efforts of the promotion committee for The Pajama Game seemed to have results as audience size increased by 331 people over last year's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, with a total of 969 attending *The Pajama Game*. But more work needs to be done since we are still below the figures of musicals we did in the late 90's and early 2000's when our shows attracted well over 1000 audience members.

Income from tickets for the show is \$12,054.00 but we do not have all the expenses taken into account, so profit is not yet clear, but it should be somewhere in the \$6000 area which, of course, will help with our building repairs.

One of the best things about *The Pajama Game* was the number of new faces it brought into our group. We welcome Jennifer Bruce, Theresa Crowell, Sam Esper, Pam Howley-Crawback, Nancy Jacobs, Rick Kincaid, Megan Pardy, Dana Shure, Gerry Theodora, and Mike Welch. It was great to have so many new people involved and we hope we will continue to see them in other Village Player productions.

Of course we did not get off unscathed in the production. Christine Muehlhausen, who broke her foot on opening night of *The Cemetery Club*, caught the cold which was rampaging through the cast and as a result, lost her voice for the final performance. Patti Pardy was recruited to sing for Christine while she did her dances herself and the arrangement seemed to work very well. Christine is feeling just a little bit jinxed at our theater. Let's hope her next performance with us is unmarred by fate.



photos by Willie Mork

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## 2007 Village Players Board

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Russ Ellis  
569-9218

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Mandy Ferriman  
569-6068

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539-4973

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Megan Brady  
767-7207

Kathleen Hill  
520-1372

Patti Pardy  
859-0007

**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.

Be sure your membership is current to receive your newsletter and special membership deals.

Contact Marge Wilson  
lilredmarge@verizon.net  
if you have changes to your mailing address.

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

... from Willie Mork

The annual meeting of The Village Players was held on November 18 following the set strike for *The Pajama Game*. President Russ Ellis gave brief reports from the various committees and announced our play schedule for 2008.

Our spring show will be *You Can't Take It With You*, a recap of the very first Village Players play we staged 30 years ago. In mid-summer we will present that old favorite, *On Golden Pond*. Next fall we will revisit our first musical, *Oklahoma!*

At a special meeting, the board convened to vote on changing our Articles of Agreement, the board voted to approve the revised Articles. The major change is that the membership will now vote on any changes to the Articles or the By-Laws. The revision can be viewed on our website: [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com).

The slate of officers for 2008 was presented by the Nominating Committee, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler and Wayne Gehman. The following were elected: Returning for another year in office will be; Russell Ellis, President, Mandy Ferriman, Vice President and Kathleen Whitehead, Secretary. Serving the second year of their terms as At-Large Board Members will be Dick Cary and Kathleen Hill. The new Treasurer will be Joyce Wood. New "two-year" At-Large Board Members will be Betty Sherwood and Jim Pittman and Michael Wilkes will serve a one year term. Russ thanked retiring Board Members, Megan Brady-Rohrbacher, Patti Pardy, Jay Sydow and Treasurer, Diane Ducret-Mork for their loyal service.

The meeting was adjourned and we all enjoyed a sumptuous pot luck cast supper and the usual fun-filled "academy awards" to recognize individuals for their special contributions to the success of *The Pajama Game*.

## Goodbye to VP Newsletter Designer ...from Carol Bense

After three years of devoted hard work and countless hours of labor to produce your newsletter, **The Prompter**, Jeannette D'Onofrio is passing the baton to Richie O'Brien. Jeannette, as many of you know, has been not only producing **The Prompter**, but also organizing and producing the comedy series each summer, creating our posters, doing publicity for shows, producing the yearly program booklet, helping to get sponsors for our shows, creating the program inserts for many of our shows, heading up the marketing committee, and so many other activities to help The Village Players be successful. She has done a great job with **The Prompter** and we owe her a giant round of applause. She will continue with her many other activities for The Village Players, and we cannot thank her enough for all that she does.

We also WELCOME! Richie O'Brien to the newsletter staff as **The Prompter** editor beginning with the February 2008 issue. Richie is a new member of the The Village Players and was excited to become more involved. She is the owner of Mirror Lake Media and is a professional web designer.



## The Second Stage is in the Wings...

from Dick Cary, Architect

Immediately following First Night®, the theater will be turned over to Paul LaRoche and his crew for the Second Stage rehab of our beloved second home!

Thanks to the Second Stage campaign and special events such as the SIT DOWN FOR STAND UP Comedy series, the funds are in the bank to accomplish the complete refinishing of the entrance lobby, the stair lobby and the reception room, as well as partial upgrade of the kitchen/makeup room. Gone will be the rippling floors, sagging ceilings and obsolescent lighting, replaced by new materials throughout. A wood wainscot of Douglas fir will run throughout the public spaces, with fabric faced panels on the upper wall in the reception room providing acoustic absorption (ever try holding a conversation in that room full of people?) and a mounting surface for our posters as well as art shows. Lighting will be flexible to accommodate the varied uses of the room. The ceiling of the entrance lobby will have little low-voltage lamps in the spirit of a theater marquee, to get you in the mood as you enter from the street; a new chandelier will grace the stair lobby. Air circulation in the reception room will be improved, and exterior walls will be insulated. Let us count the blessings since we purchased this old relic: air conditioning; raked seating in the auditorium, and those wonderful, period-appropriate theater seats; the grand front entry steps and terrace; new toilets; and those many largely unseen but essential things like sprinklers and fire alarm, basement slab and basement heat, and upgraded electrical system and stage lighting. The front-of-house is making out beautifully. What's left?

Well, the raison d'etre for the Village Players in this historic edifice is the presentation of plays, but those intrepid thespians are going to be the last ones getting the goodies. The stage and the back-stage support spaces are crying for improvement. Imagine what we could do with an enlarged stage and proscenium - the ultimate dream is to go up, with a real fly loft. The town officials have been very patient with us, awaiting certain life safety improvements for the security of our selves and our property. There is lots yet to do, but this winter will see a big step, and every step will further inspire the next round of donations. Right?

## CALL FOR AUDITIONS... *from Phoebe Van Scoy-Giessler*

*You Can't Take It With You* is the story of the zany Sycamore household, presided over by Grandpa Vanderhof, a former businessman who has turned his back on commerce to enjoy life. At the Sycamores, everyone does just what he or she pleases. Penny Sycamore, Grandpa's daughter, has become a novelist because someone delivered a typewriter to her home by mistake. Penny's husband makes firecrackers in his basement with the help of Mr. DePinna, an iceman who showed up at the Sycamore doorstep one day and never left. Their daughter, Essie, imagines that she's a prima ballerina, even though her dear teacher, Boris, assesses her work with, "Confidentially, it steenks!" Essie's husband Ed, who'd rather play a xylophone than work, spends his free time selling Essie's candy, wrapping each package in paper from a used printing press that dispenses anarchistic slogans. The one normal member of the household is Alice Sycamore, in love with wealthy Tony Kirby. Naturally, when the stuffy, aristocratic Kirbys come to the Sycamores for dinner, the event is a disaster, capped with the arrest of everyone in the household.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this spring's hilarious play, *You Can't Take It With You*. Director Michael Wilkes will hold auditions on **Sunday, January 13th, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Village Players Theater**. The first rehearsal will be Wednesday, January 23, at 7:00pm. Rehearsals will be (tentative) Sundays at 6pm and Wednesdays at 7 pm, and another weeknight optional for focused or special rehearsal.



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more photos  
from Willie Mork  
*The Pajama Game*

