



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

December 2008



What's Next?

Auditions for Night Watch

by Carol Bense

Auditions for our next production, *Night Watch*, will be held on Sunday, January 11th and Monday, January 12th at 7pm at All Saints Episcopal Church on South Main Street across from the library. We will be upstairs in the choir room.

Night Watch, by Lucille Fletcher, is mystery thriller with a clever plot that will keep you guessing until the final curtain. Unable to sleep, Elaine paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse, troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Her husband, John, tries to comfort her, but when he steps away for a moment Elaine screams as she sees (or believes she sees) the body of a dead man in the window across the way. The police are called, but find nothing except an empty chair. Moments after the police leave, Elaine sees a dead woman in the chair. This time, skeptical police shrug it off. John calls in a female psychiatrist who agrees that Elaine should commit herself for treatment. Elaine's terror grows and the plot deepens with suspense as it draws towards its riveting and chilling climax.

Carol Bense will direct with Diane Mork serving as producer. Parts are available for 5 men and 4 women of varying ages. A production crew is also needed. Please contact Carol at 569-1396 or cwbense@roadrunner.com or come to one of the

auditions if you are interested in working on the crew. Working on this show or being in this show should be an exciting experience.

Night Watch will be performed at our theater on Glendon Street April 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8PM with a Sunday matinee on April 19th at 2PM



by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Did you see it? You MUST have! *Oklahoma!* was our most-attended production to date. Ticket sales were at 1167 (the next closest, *The Sound of Music*, sold at 1127) with sell-out crowds 5 of the 6 performances. This is great news, because of rising costs, the VP needed this show to be a financial success!

During the run of the show, you couldn't walk around Wolfeboro without hearing someone talking about *Oklahoma!* What did they love... and who can we thank? They loved the sets (Jay Sydow and crew), costumes (Diane Sullivan and crew), choreography (Meagan Hiltz), music (John Savage, Wayne Gehman and Jean Kemp), that surrey (Mike Welch) and the incredible talent and energy of the entire cast (Kathleen Hill)!

And what the audience enjoyed on stage paled in comparison to the fun behind-the-scenes. With so many enthusiastic and talented new performers coming together with welcoming veterans of the group, a real family was formed among the cast and crew. The next musical, *Mame*, gets started in August 2009.... don't you want to be part of the fun?
(more inside)

August: Osage County Theater Adventure

by Willie Mork

Some months ago, Carol Bense sent an e-mail to our mailing list to see if there would be any interest in getting together with some folks to go to the Big Apple to see VP friend, Estelle Parsons in the '08 Pulitzer prize-winning play, *August: Osage County*. A small group responded by the deadline so Carol set about planning the whirlwind excursion.

On the Saturday after *Oklahoma!* closed, we took the bus from Dover to Logan Airport where we stuffed ourselves at Legal Seafood before our 7:30 flight to LaGuardia. We spent the night at an airport hotel and set off early on a rainy Sunday morning to explore the sidewalks of New York. Since we were to go directly to the airport after the show we found creative ways to tote all our belongings with us on our hours-long trek.

Times Square was a blaze of neon signs and Christmas displays. Macy's windows were filled with clever animated scenes. There were quite a few crazy people skating at Rockefeller Center in spite of the steady light rain that fell all day long. We got pretty damp and cold and had to stop now and then to duck into a store or get something hot to drink. Estelle had arranged for us to get cast courtesy tickets for about half price and our seats were excellent.

The play was wonderful. The set was a rambling 3-story house with living areas that were cleverly lit for each scene. In this black comedy, *August: Osage County*, Estelle Parsons plays the demanding role of a drug-ravaged matriarch to a wildly dysfunctional family.

She is an amazing lady. During the course of the play this energetic 81 year-old actress has to go up and down some 300 steps as she rants at her daughters and their families. The play is howlingly funny and tragically sad.

After the show, Estelle graciously invited us up to her dressing room for a visit. On the way up, Jay and Michael got a quick peek at the backstage area and were amazed at how little space there was for props

and things.

We spent about an hour chatting about the play, the actors, Village Players and show biz. We had to catch a plane and reluctantly hugged Estelle goodbye, urging her to get in touch next time she has a chance to get to Wolfeboro where she has a summer cottage.

Getting home was another adventure. Someone remarked that getting from Boston to NY was much quicker than getting from Boston to Wolfeboro. Our flight out of Logan was delayed by weather and we finally got home where slippery roads made the going slow. We flopped into bed about 3:30 AM bone-tired, but excited about our big adventure.



photo - Willie Mork

Elections!!

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Elections for a new board were held at the annual meeting on November 16th. The new board is a mix of veterans and brand new members:

President - Diane Sullivan

Vice President - Mandy Ferriman-Emory

Treasurer - Joyce Wood

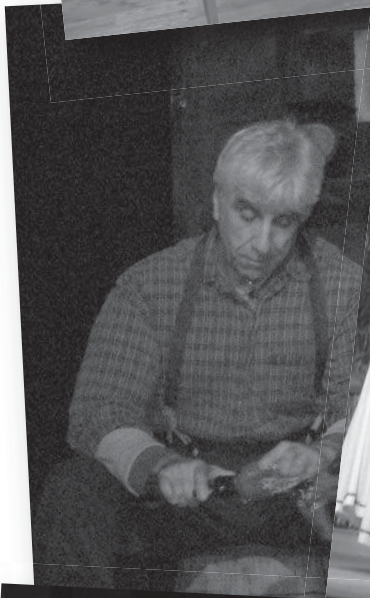
Secretary - Kathleen Whitehead

Past President - Russ Ellis

Members-at-large - Kathleen Hill, Richie OBrien, Jim Pittman, Betty Sherwood

The assembled VP members also gave big thanks to outgoing President, Russ Ellis, as well as Dick Cary and Michael Wilkes, outgoing members-at-large. Many thanks to everyone who ran for office.

more **OKLAHOMA!**
Photos in this issue curtesy of Willie Mork



\$\$ Money Matters \$\$

by Willie Mork

Join the Village Players for 2009. Dues are still only \$10.00 for an individual or \$18 for a whole family. Remember, for you to be a voting member we need to receive your dues by April 1.

Please consider making a year-end contribution to our Building Renovation Fund. The Village Players is a 501c3 non-profit educational charitable organization, Fed. ID # 02-0363170 and your gifts are tax-deductible.

Our next renovation project is a required sprinkler system on the top floors and insulation that will cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000. We need all the help we can get toward getting this grand old theater into shape.

Please send your dues and contributions using the form on page 4 to the Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894, or you can go on-line and use your credit card to join or donate. Just go to our website at www.village-players.com and click on the Join Us or the Donate line."

CONTACT US...

snail-mail: P.O. Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Voice-mail: 603-569-9656

web site: www.village-players.com

2008 - 2009 Village Players Board

President - Diane Sullivan539-4425
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Kathleen Hill520-1372
 Russ Ellis569-9218
 Richie OBrien569-3485
 Betty Sherwood569-5459
 Jim Pittman539-7694

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 Patty Pardi - pardys4@aol.com - if you have changes in your mailing address.



P.O. Box 770 Wolfeboro, NH 03894

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Membership 2008 Individual \$10 / Family \$18 (Circle one)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would love to work on a play or special event. Contact me about:

- Set Design/Construction Stage Crew Props Makeup/Hair Costumes
 Lights/Sound Accompanist Vocals Choreography Box Office
 Usher House Manager Stage Manager Director Producer



I/We would like to contribute to the Building Renovation Fund. Please accept my/our donation of \$_____

Please send your dues and contributions with this form to Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894