



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

April 2009

Calling All Actors, Wannabe Actors, GONNA Be Actors!

by Gordon Brooks

This summer The Village Players presents Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water*. Director Gordon Brooks is hoping for a big turnout for auditions on Sunday, April 19th at 6:00 pm and Monday, April 20th at 7:00 pm to fill fifteen roles. Eleven of these are male roles, so don't hold back, gentlemen! Bring your friends along. We love to see new faces at The Village Players. Here are the characters in order of appearance:

Father Drobney: Major role. An elderly priest from a small Iron Curtain country, who has been hiding out in the American embassy of that country for six years. Will have to perform magic and do a pratfall in a straight jacket. No kidding. Really. Will also have to do a heavy and vaguely Russian-like accent.

Ambassador Magee: A dignified man in his mid 50s, a career politician with aspirations beyond foreign service.

Mr. Kilroy: Ambassador Magee's intolerably able assistant. Age 30 to 60s.

Axel Magee: Male lead. Ambassador Magee's son, late 20s, a complete bumbler who spreads disaster wherever he goes.

Walter Hollander: Major role. 40s to 50s. A loud, brash caterer from New Jersey who takes asylum in the embassy after taking pictures of a military installation by accident and almost getting arrested.

Marion Hollander: Major role. 40s to 50s. Walter's wife. All things considered pretty unflappable, and well

able to hold her own against Walter.

Susan Hollander: Female lead. Early 20s. The Hollanders beautiful daughter. Daddy's little girl on the surface, but a free-spirited rebel at heart.

Communist Guard: Non-speaking role. Stoic military type. Probably in his 20s.

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STILL TIME TO SEE NIGHT WATCH

by Carol Bense

Performances of our latest thriller, *Night Watch*, will be at 8pm on April 3, 4, 10, 11 with a matinee at 2 pm on April 5. Depending on when you receive this newsletter, you should still be able to catch a performance, if you haven't seen it already. If you have seen it, please, please do not reveal the ending.

At the time of this writing, we are working on the last few weeks of rehearsal, and, thanks to a dedicated cast, lines have been learned and we are now focusing on the details which will keep you guessing. What is really going on in this New York apartment which is situated right on the edge of a still "ungentrified" area of the city? Who is this strange neighbor who makes himself at home? What happened to Carl?

You'll never guess the intricate workings of this plot, but all will be made clear in the final minutes. This is one you don't want to miss. Tickets are available at Black's Paper and Gifts on Main St. Wolfeboro, on line at www.village-players.com and at the door.

Calling All Actors

cont'd

Krojack: Menacing and vicious head of the Secret Police (that's what it says in the script). Probably at least 35. Also needs a heavy Russian-style accent.

Mr. Burns: An embassy employee with an unspecified function. Could be pretty much any adult age.

Chef: The temperamental chef for the embassy. Late 20s to 50s.

Sultan of Bashir: Head of a Middle-East oil-producing country. 40s to 60s.

Sultan's Wife: Non-speaking role. 30s to 40s.

Tanis Kasnar: Party guest from an unspecified country. 30s to 60s.

Countess Bordoni: Another party guest. 30s to 60s.

Here's what happens. When tourists Walter and Marion Hollander and their beautiful daughter Susan are caught inadvertently taking pictures of a military installation in a small Iron Curtain country, they escape into the American embassy, little knowing that they have placed their fates in the hands of Axel Magee, son of the Ambassador and the most bungling young man ever to hit the Foreign Service. Will they escape without getting shot by the secret police? Will they get home without driving each other crazy? And what of Father Drobney, the eccentric priest who took refuge in the embassy and has stayed for six years?

Gordon is also looking for a talented and energetic support team. We'll be pulling off some challenging scene and costume changes, and the special effects, sound, and lighting are going to keep all the crew on their toes as well. Anyone who's interested is encouraged (begged?) to come to audition night or to contact Gordon; his email address is me@gsbrooks.com.

KINGSWOOD HOSTS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL

by Carol Bense

Kingswood Theater students and their original production of *Buffalo Hill*, under the direction of Scott Giessler, are moving on to the State NHETG

competition. This is a 2-day event on March 27 and 28 at Plymouth High School where the best-of-the-best shows across the state of NH perform. By the time you read this, we will know whether or not Buffalo Hill will go on to the New England finals. We all wish them well.

The group took the honors at the New Hampshire Educational Theater Guild's regional festival hosted at Kingswood Regional High School on Saturday, March 21. *Buffalo Hill* is an original script by Scott Giessler with Haylea Erickson and Alison Inglis, revised and edited by the students. In fact the entire cast and the crew were all students apart from their advisors. The judges at the festival were very impressed with the scope of the production and the excellent rhythmic work done between scenes.

The play centers around a young man in a single-parent family who is angry and acting out. His mother is doing the best she can, but cannot meet his needs. He finds theater and discovers that it works for him while his theater teacher finds that he is a natural actor. After some difficulties, he turns his life around.

Other groups competing at the regional festival were from around the area. Sanborn Regional High School of Kingston, NH presented *Sure Thing* by David Ives. Coe-Brown Northwood Academy of Northwood, NH gave us Philip Glass *Buy a Loaf of Bread* also by David Ives. After lunch, Plymouth Regional High School of Plymouth, NH did Act II of *Fools*, by Neil Simon. Next came *The Least Most Offensive Play in the Whole Darn World* by Jonathan Rand presented by Franklin High School of Franklin, NH. This was followed by Pembroke Academy of Pembroke, NH presenting *Sorry, Wrong Number* by Lucille Fletcher. The final performance of the day was given by Newport High School of Newport, NH. It comprised two 10-minute plays: *Hold for Three* by Mary Miller and *Ferris Wheel* by Sherry Kramer.

Each production is adjudicated by professionals in front of the audience. This year's adjudicators were Kevin Gardner and Joe Sampson. So in addition to some fine entertainment, we were treated to some very interesting insights about theater production, directing and acting.

To purchase tickets online go to:
www.village-players.com
click on the link





MEET THE PREZ

by Willie Mork

The Village Players' new President is Diane Sullivan of West Ossipee.

Diane grew up in Braintree, MA and graduated from Braintree High where she was a cheer leader, (she still is!) and was active in sports and Student Council. Her husband, Frank was her high school sweetheart and they've been together since 1958.

Frank and Diane have two sons and a daughter and three grandkids. They love huge family gatherings at their vacation home in Meredith. Frank and Diane enjoyed boating on the big lake and tooling around it on their motorcycle.

They bought the Mt. Whittier Motel on Route 16 in Ossipee 1983, moved to NH, and ran it for 20 years. Now retired, Diane keeps busy with renovation projects, traveling and of course, The Village Players.

Theater has been Diane's passion since she was five years old. She joined The Village Players in 1985 and has been actively involved ever since, on stage, on the Board and behind the scenes. She has been in 23 VP shows appearing in such roles as Dolly in *Hello Dolly*, Miss Adelaide in *Guys And Dolls* and last summer as Ethel Thayer in *On Golden Pond*. In 1992, Diane won the best supporting actress award at the NHCTA drama competition for her role as the tipsy Miss Furnival in *Black Comedy*.

Next to acting, Diane loves designing and making costumes. She has a home costume shop in her basement and spends endless hours researching, shopping for fabrics, re-habing old costumes, and meeting the challenge of fitting many sizes and shapes of actors - and all this under budget.

Remember her magic touch in the costuming for *Sound Of Music*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oklahoma* and many others?

Diane's vision for the future of VP is to expand the use of the theater space to other arts related organizations and to continue to improve and renovate our theater building.



Peter Ferber Print To Be Raffled to Benefit VP

by Kathleen Whitehead

If approved by Wolfeboro's selectmen, raffle tickets will be sold at all 2009 Village Players productions and comedy shows for a framed Peter Ferber limited-edition print of the Cotton Mountain Church entitled "Shadows of 1852".

Number 21 of 36, the print is being donated by Kathleen Whitehead in memory of her mother, Dorothea Fryinger, who was an avid enthusiast of the arts. Money from this fundraiser will support the Third Stage campaign towards a new stage and refurbished auditorium.

At a recent board meeting, members discussed a price of \$5 for one ticket, \$10 for five tickets and \$20 for twenty tickets. The drawing will take place on November 22 at the final presentation of *Mame*.

CONTACT US...

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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 Patti Pardy - pardys4@aol.com - if you have changes in your mailing address.



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Next Stage Theater Renovation

by Dick Cary

Thanks to the generosity of the contributors of the Second Stage capital campaign, this spring will see the extension of the sprinkler system to the upper levels of the theater building, completing the first line of defense against the greatest enemy of elderly wood-frame buildings - fire. We have been operating under restrictions of occupancy to the second floor, principally the dressing rooms, until this is accomplished. The work will be done by Eastern fire Protection in may, during the quiet period following the Spring production of *Night Watch* and the annual Perform It! Shakespeare presentation.

If you have visited the Poobah room lately you will have seen one of the world's great collections of props and you-name-its. To give the intrepid workmen a fighting chance of reaching the lofty heights of the room, there will be a clean up day on Saturday April 18, with follow up on the 25th if necessary, under the watchful monitoring of Kathleen Hill and Kathy Whitehead. **You - yes you - are invited to join in the fun** and debate the merits of keeping or chucking, or perhaps even taking home that whatever to complete you basement renovation.

The finance committee reported to the board of directors a sufficient balance in operation for the last two years to encourage the release of reserve funds in the building account to move ahead on the sprinkler and lighting improvements. Our gratitude to all who have made this possible.