

# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

The Village  
Players

## That Darn Plot



(Editor's NOTE: By the time this publication is in your hands this production will have already opened. Let's hope you all experienced it first-hand!)

....by Maggie Croteau

What do you get when you mix an uninspired playwright, a burnt out theater director, and a stage manager all too enthusiastic about rules? How about a performer fresh from acting school, a seasoned thespian bent on writing his memoirs, and an electrical engineer?

The hilarious result is a play that promises sub-plots, witty banter, physical comedy, and the ever present comedic timing of a farce. The Village Players are once again hard at work on their annual summer show. This year's entertainment is the play *That Darn Plot!* by David Belke and it is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Jo, (the burnt out theater director) needs a play and she needed it yesterday. Mark Transom (uninspired playwright) has failed to write one for her and it is now eleven hours before Jo must present a producible play to the board of the Harvest Theater. After much begging and finally some threatening, Mark promises to have a play written by the next morning. Thus we enter the rather chaotic, slightly surreal, and often hilarious mind of Mark W. Transom, former celebrated playwright. *That Darn Plot!* is a play in which the lines of reality and dream life, conscious and sub-conscious often mix, collide and bend together as the audience watches Mark as he goes through the process of writing a play about putting on a play.

As Mark writes, the play takes form in his mind, and on the stage. Various people from Mark's past appear and play key roles in the action. Enter- Ivy, the stage manager, Russell, the newly graduated actor, Geoffrey, the memoir writing thespian, and Lloyd, the electrical engineer whose role becomes increasingly crucial as the play



(Cast rehearses...That Darn Plot!)

photo by: Michael Wilfert

This year's cast is punctuated by several actors new to the Village Player's stage as well as some returning talent. The role of *Mark* is played by **Matthew Comeau**, *Jo* is played by **Megan Brady** (many of you will remember her from her role as *Suzette* in last year's *Don't Dress for Dinner*), and tackling the role of *Geoffrey Regent* is **Gordon Brooks**, in his first appearance with the Village Players. *Russell Craft* is played by **Randy Lawrence-Hurt** (a familiar face to those who frequent the shows of Perform It! Young People's Stage Company) **Kalin Jordan** is playing *Ivy Shriver*, and **London Summers** is playing *Lloyd*. Directors are **Greg Parker** and **Maggie Croteau**, assisted by **Travis Lawrence-Hurt**. **Megan Brady** is the producer. Performances are July 28th & 29th and August 4th & 5th at 8pm and August 6th at 2pm. Tickets are on sale at **Black's Paper & Gifts** and on line: [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com)  
Opening night special 7/28 only: \$8.00 advance and \$10.00 at the door. Tickets for the rest of the performances are \$10.00 advance and \$12.00 at the door. Doors open at 7:30 for evening shows and 1:30 for the matinee. Please note.. we are air conditioned, so come in out of the heat and spend a side splitting evening with your local theater company!

AUGUST 200

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WELCOME new bab

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Fundraising Campai

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Would you like to

sponsor a Village Pla

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# Ellis Family UPDATE

... by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

The Village Players Family was shocked and saddened to hear the news about the fire that swept through the Ellis home in late April. However, we were all happy to hear that they will soon be living on the same site, with a few modifications.

Work is progressing on the Ellis home with lots of friends and relatives helping with the finish work. The modular Cape-style home went up on Friday, July 21st. Crews were there Saturday and Sunday working on putting on a deck, a front porch, siding, window and door trim, cellar stairs and doors and windows, and nailing down the sub-tile flooring. Russ had his work cut out for him trying to supervise those of us who are not too talented in the carpentry area but willing to take direction.

Many Village Players were seen in work duds hammering, sawing, and laughing together while the site was transformed rapidly from a "building" to a "home". As of the Prompter deadline, Russ was working in the evenings laying tile and completing other final projects along with anyone else who was willing to jump in and lend a hand.

The hope is that they will be moved in by the end of summer (Aug. 7) and the girls can start their new school year in a new home. Watching this once sad condition of fate turn beautiful and positive for the Ellis family (in a very short time) has been a re-birth worth noting.



photo by Carol Bense



## STEP this way....

by James Cross

### *The Finest Steps In All of Wolfeboro!*



Although there are a few things left to do, the majority of the work on the new steps at the front of our building is complete. A new sidewalk was put in to replace the old damaged area and connect to the new steps. Site cleanup is done. Temporary wood railing is allowing use of the stairs until our new steel railing is all in and installed. Another new feature of the latest construction is the installation of emergency light fixtures under the entrance doors. This will facilitate egress of the building if we ever have another power failure during a performance (Who can ever forget the Moon Over Buffalo experience?)

The new steps are made of granite - which will not be affected by the de-icing material we use during the winter. The Terrace is larger than originally designed (to accommodate the massive re-inforced concrete base of the former steps) and features a drainage system to remove water during heavy rainfall. The Terrace is paved with brick pavers set in stone dust. Fine sand was spread over the pavers to fill the cracks between them, and another application of fine sand will be applied in a few weeks.

All hands get ready for a call to help paint the handrail. After all the railing installation is complete - we will need to de-rust and prep the railing, apply a coat of primer and then a finish coat. We saved \$1,800 by not having this done by the manufacture, but now we have to do the work!

The new light fixtures going on top the pillars have been on order for several weeks, and should be installed by mid-August. When the lights are up, and the railing is painted, we can truly say we have "The Finest Steps in All of Wolfeboro!"

P. S. Thanks to Jay Sydow for the beautiful planters on the terrace.

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Newsletter Commit

Carol Bense

Dick Cary

Phoebe VanScoy-Gies

Matt Johnson

Willie Mork

(Art production)

Jeannette D'Onofri

Board meetings are  
scheduled for the first  
Monday evening each mo

All dues-paying membe  
are also welcome to atte

If you have a topic to  
present to the Board,  
please contact

a member listed above

Be sure your membersh  
is current to receive yo  
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Wilson if you have chang  
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# Sit Down for Stand-Up

by Carol Bense

The final two Friday nights of stand-up comedy in this summer's fund-raising event will be **Aug. 18th** and **Sept. 15th**, at 8pm. All performances are PG-13. Tickets are available on-line at: [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) or at Black's Paper and Gifts. The comics have been performing to packed audiences here at our theater, and if you haven't been to a show yet - you are missing a great night of laughs....

Professional comics performing on the 18th will be **Dave Andrews, Kelly MacFarland** and **Steve Guilmette**. On the 15th we will host **Tom Clark, Carolyn Plummer** and **Dave Rattigan**. These comics have been featured on Comedy Central, Boston's nightlife circuit and all over the East Coast. Our series sponsors; Kingswood Travel, Maxfield Real Estate, Green Mountain Communications, Points North Financial, and Baby Cakes Bakery have all contributed to help us bring these shows to YOU at the theater.

As you probably know, **Carolyn Plummer** grew up right here in Wolfeboro and of course the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, so we called up our own, **Jean Plummer**, Carolyn's mother, who has been in many Village Players shows, to see what she had to say about her daughter.

*Jean - Both of my daughters were born funny. Carolyn's not afraid to do what she wants to do. Both girls pursue what they want to do in life, so I am very proud of them. Vickie also does stand up comedy in NY on Wednesday nights.*

(Author's Comment - Mom didn't remember the name of the venue, but if you're going to the big city, I'm sure we could find out for you.)

*Jean - We used to go to lots of plays and musical events when the girls were home. I think the atmosphere had something to do with it. But she just thinks funny. Vickie seems like a "Carol Burnett" type, doing sketch comedy, but Carolyn seems more like a "Mark Twain" humorist. She perseveres and it's not easy. Both girls mimic me in their work. I hope both of them make a lot of money, then I can go live in NY.*

(Author's Comment - Vickie works for Showtix in New York City, where she books tours and theater groups and workshops. Jean loves it because she gets to visit and see lots of shows in the big city. Her final comment on Carolyn follows)

*Jean - I hope she just keeps on getting up there even when she's 80.*

(Author's Comment - We do too. Remember you can get tickets to the last two shows of the summer at: [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) or

## Sneak-Peek at the Fall



*Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim,  
Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart*

## AUDITIONS COMING UP FOR "FORUM"

Our fall musical this year will be "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," with Carol Ber directing. This riotous comedy set in ancient Rome will require a good-sized cast, and 4 or 5 good, young, fun dancers. Auditions are set for **Sunday, Aug. 13** and **Monday, Aug. 14, 7:00pm** at the theater.

### Roles:

**PSEUDOLUS:** Lead Role - male - 35 to 60. Solos. Playful, comic ringmaster of the show and slave to Her Baritone: A-High G

**HERO:** Major Role - male - 18 to 30. Solos. Senex's son, the handsome, innocent master, in love with Phillia Tenor: B-G sharp

**PHILIA:** Major Role - female - 16 to 30. Solos. The lovely-but-vacant courtesan Soprano: B-High G sharp

**SENEX:** Medium Role - male - 60 to 75. Solo. Hero father and the aging master of the house. Baritone: B-High G flat

**DOMINA:** Medium Role - female - 50 to 75. Solo. A overbearing wife Mezzo-Soprano: B-High F Sharp

**HYSTERIUM:** Medium Role - male - 25 to 60. Solo. Pseudolus' hapless fellow slave and slave to Senex & Domina Baritone: C-High G

**ERRONIUS:** Small Role - male - 60 to 80. A doddering old man

**MILES GLORIOSUS:** Medium Role - large, muscular male - 20 to 45. Solo. Lycus' pompous warrior client Baritone: B-G sharp

**LYCUS:** Medium Role - male - 35 to 55. Solo. A buyer and seller of courtesans Baritone: A-High E

**THE COURTESANS:** Tintinabula, Panacea, The Gemina (two), Vibrata, Gymnasia Small roles but each has a dancing solo - female - 16 to 40ish

**THE PROTEANS:** Medium Roles - male or female - 16 to 55. Three omnipresent "clowns" B-High A

(continued on back page)

(FORUM AUDITIONS continued from previous page)

**LOCALS:** Various folks who live nearby will sing in opening and closing of show. Will make entrances and exits as part of other scenes as passersby, shoppers, slaves, etc. People that you might see on the street in ancient Rome.

If you are a dancer, please come prepared to do a one-minute solo dance. Various types of dance such as ballet and gymnastics will be needed, but all are supposed to be lovely and enticing. Others need only come prepared to learn a song, sing, and read lines.

These are open auditions and all parts are available to anyone. If you would like to work on the show in some capacity, please come to one of the auditions as well, or send email to [cwbense@adelphia.net](mailto:cwbense@adelphia.net) or call Carol Bense at 569-1396.

## WELCOME NEW ADDITION



Phoebe, Scott and Tommy Gies share a family portrait....

WELCOME new baby Elliott Robinson Gies on Friday, June 1 10:26am  
7 lbs. 8 oz.  
19 3/4" long



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## Gala KICK-OFF OF OUR NEW CAMPAIGN

Our second major fund-raising campaign, "The Second Level," will kick off on Saturday, September 16th at the theater. Our first campaign "Project 2001," was very successful, raising over \$350,000 which have been used for the improvements to our theater, including the wonderful new seats, the handicapped bathrooms, the fire-safety enclosure and stairs to the second floor, heating and air conditioning, cement floor in the cellar, major electrical work, and lots more. However, we now have a complete plan for finishing the renovations prepared by architect, Dick Cary, who has donated his great talent and many hours of his time to this project. We need approximately \$500,000 to complete the work and make our building a safe, comfortable and convenient space for theater as well as other arts activities.

The kick-off will include wine, hors d'oeuvres, tours, a short production, and a program on the needs of the building and the campaign. The committee cannot do this alone and we are going to need lots of help from you. We will need people to clean and prepare the building, guide the tours, make the hors d'oeuvres, and serve the wine and food. If you can help, please contact Carol Bense at 569-1396 or send email to [cwbense@adelphia.net](mailto:cwbense@adelphia.net).

We will be doing a direct mail campaign in the week following the kick-off and we will need your help with that as well. Please make some time to help us get the funding we need to bring your theater to the forefront in Wolfeboro, and make it a building we can all be very proud of.