



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

AUGUST 2008

We Won! We Won!!

By Carol Bense

The Village Players took first place in the Second Division of the Wolfeboro Fourth of July Parade and we have the trophy to prove it.

How did we do that? There are lots of people to thank. First, Jerome Holden, who allowed us to use his trailer and helped build the structure of our float. Jay Sydow and Diane Sullivan worked out the float decoration ideas and Gil Perham helped put it together. Gil also drove his truck and pulled the float in the parade.

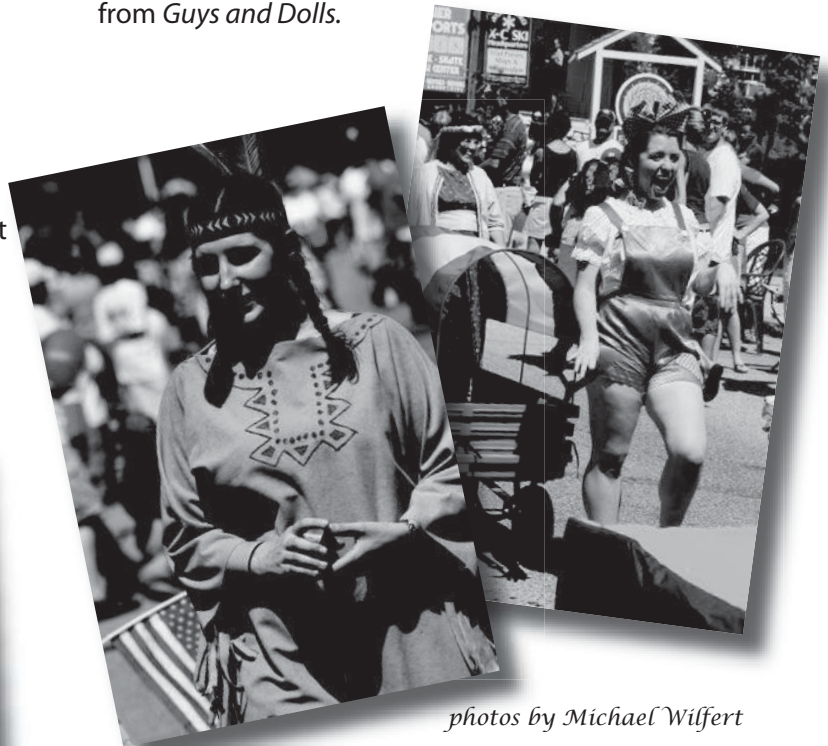
On the Fourth of July an intrepid group of Village Players met at the theater to put on our costumes, which Diane Sullivan had prepared for us, and then car-pooled up to Bassett Street to line up for the big parade. Once in line, we discovered we had to park the vehicles which brought the folks up to the parade starting point, down at Carry Beach. So the trailer was unhitched and Gil braved the horrendous traffic to ferry people back to the site once they had parked their cars. In the meantime, Jay directed the rest of us as we all worked to put the final touches on the float.

(Tommy somehow learned that if he struck a pose and doffed his hat, he got applause, so he milked that for all it was worth.) Josh Beckwith had great fun playing the pirate king from *Pirates of Penzance* and Mike Welch looked terrific as the Major General from the same show. Jay Sydow made a splendid protean in his costume from *Forum* and Kathleen Hill wore her Domina costume. The *Pajama Game* was represented by Patti Parady, and her daughter Megan Parady wowed the crowd in her outfit from *Guys and Dolls*.



photo by Jen Van-Valen King

Diane had created signs which we wore on our backs to let the crowds know what shows our costumes came from. She was Dolly from *Hello Dolly*. Phoebe VanScoy-Geissler was a cowgirl from *Oklahoma!* and her boys, Tommy and Elliot were little cowboys.



photos by Michael Wilfert

Jenna King and Russ Ellis were dressed as Annie and Frank Butler from *Annie Get Your Gun*, and Jen Bruce was a native American from that show, while her niece, Zoey, along with Jeanne Puglisi wore a little girls' costumes from *The Sound of Music*. Carol Bense was Lady Thiang from *The King and I*, and Len Miller lead us all in his portrayal of Uncle Sam.

We passed out 2000 magnets listing our 2008 shows with dates, so we hope people will put those on their refrigerators. And, by the way, WE WON!

Catching up with Friends

by Willie Mork

Bob Rautenberg is still recovering from a motorcycle accident he had in June. He was riding his bike on a back road in Ossipee when he hit soft a shoulder and wiped out. He suffered 5 broken ribs (oooh!) but was lucky to have survived the crash. He's back to work but still feeling the effects of his injuries.

Remember Zack Shea? He was the teenager from Alton who played the radio operator in our "South Pacific" in 2001 and the teen-aged bumpkin in "The Foreigner" in 2002. We just got word that Zack has finished his Masters Degree in theater education. At the end of July he'll start a 3-year course at The Actor's Studio in New York. We're impressed! Yay, Zack

Jenna VanValen-King made her swan song with Village Players marching as Annie Oakley in the 4th of July parade. Jenna's first of many appearances with VP was in "Steel Magnolias" in 1995 when she was still at Kingswood H.S. This summer Jenna will be moving to Portland, OR. We'll miss her and her crazy shoes.

Megan Brady Rohrbacher had a baby boy Monday, July 14 - Max Adrian Rohrbacher, 7 lb 10 oz, 20.5 long with strawberry blond hair. Mother and baby are doing well.

DON'T MISS THE FINAL COMEDY NIGHT FOR 2008

by Carol Bense



On August 15th at 8:00pm LaughingStock Company (Rated PG-13) will appear at our theater. This great company of comedians is one of the funniest in business today and you are sure to enjoy an evening of great laughs. For almost 20 years, members of LaughingStock have created comedy mayhem live on stage, on audio and video industrials, on CD's and on-line.

LaughingStock's success is a result of extensive background research into every single audience for whom they perform combined with quick-witted comedians taking and using audience suggestions during the performances. LaughingStock's experienced actor/comedians are well schooled in improvisational comedy techniques and — armed with their background research — spontaneously create fun. They come from a variety of backgrounds and

educations and have one important thing in common: they all think making people laugh is the best job in the whole world.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. You can find them at Black's Paper and Gifts on Main St., or on-line at www.village-players.com Remember that this show is PG-13 and not suitable for young children.

We can not let this time slip by without giving a huge THANK YOU to our generous sponsors for the entire series: Lydia's Cafe, TRITES Auto, Metrocast Cablevision, and both - Club 59 & Morrisseys' Front Porch.

As an added bonus, Club 59 & the Front Porch will treat ticket holders to \$2 OFF their dinner entrée if they come in between 5 and 6pm as an EARLY BIRD diner only on the night of the shows. Simply show your Comedy theater ticket to the server and it's done! What a wonderful way to spend your Friday night, dinner and a show...happy summer!

For more details contact Jeannette, 569-0078.

30th Anniversary Gala!



Any good mail lately? Hopefully you've already received your invitation to the 30th Anniversary Gala on September 13th. This is The Village Players chance to say "thank you" for your support of our performances since 1978. You will enjoy fabulous hors d'oeuvres, wine and punch as well as a chance to mingle with other lovers of live theater. We will honor our founding members and acknowledge the contributions of everyone who has participated in Village Players productions.

At 8:00 the curtain will rise on a one-time-only performance of "100 Years of Broadway." This medley of Broadway hits features Village Players performers at their best: choral, small group and solo singing performances as well as dancing as never thought possible on our stage! The production team for this show includes director Jay Sydow, assistant director Mandy Ferriman-Emory, musical director Carol Bense and choreographer Katleen "There-is-no-can't-in-dance" Hill.

Please join us for this exciting and fun event!

OKLAHOMA!

AUDITION FOR OKLAHOMA!

by Carol Bense

Dig out those dancing shoes! Dust off your cowboy hat! Oh, and if you happen to have a surrey we'd like to borrow that too! The Village Players announces auditions for *OKLAHOMA!*, a rousing musical set in the old west! Join us on August 17, 4pm or August 19, 6pm to audition for the revival of the first musical produced by the Village Players.

Directed by Kathleen Hill and Produced by Carol Bense, *OKLAHOMA!* is sure to be fun for everyone. To add to the fun Carol and Kathleen are assisted by: Jay Sydow, assistant director, Tyler Wade, assistant director, John Savage, music director, Diane Mork, stage manager, Diane Sullivan, costume designer and Betty Sherwood, props mistress.



Photos from the original 1981 show



This wonderful show broke new ground in musical theater, introducing a whole new genre of terrific musicals, many of them written by that amazing team of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Some of the great songs they wrote for this show are "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning", "The Surrey With the Fringe On Top", "I Cain't Say No", "People Will Say We're In Love", "Kansas City", and many more.

The characters needed for the show are many and varied. Curly is the young male lead and sings several solos, also duets with his chosen, the young and lovely Laurey, who also has several solos. Second bananas are Will Parker, a young cowman, and a farmer's daughter, Ado Annie (she cain't say no), who also have solos. Aunt Eller is an older, motherly woman who has some solo work. Ali Hakim is the slightly older Persian salesman who has some solo work. Jud Fry is the villain of the piece and also has a solo. The chorus consists of farmers wives and daughters, cowmen, and farmers and there is room for any number of any age who are interested. There are no roles for young children, but teen-agers could certainly find a spot in the cast.

We are always looking for new faces, so come to auditions and give it a try. You will find yourself welcomed.

CONTACT US...

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2008 - 2009 Village Players Board

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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 Marge Wilson - lilredmarge@verizon.net - if you have changes in your mailing address.



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Village Players to Close for Winter Months

The directors at their July meeting began a serious look at the financial status of the organization. Informed that the cost of fuel oil for the past heating season exceeded \$10,000, and expecting the price to escalate this fall, we regretfully decided to forego the traditional First Night presentation. After striking the set for Oklahoma in late November, the building will go into hibernation until early March. Perform It! has graciously agreed to find alternative space for their spring rehearsals, and meetings of our VP committees can take place off-site. We will need to maintain accessibility for emergencies and adequate interior temperature to prevent freeze-up, but the reduction in utility cost is too compelling to ignore. We will miss our playground this winter, but come spring we will be back in full bloom to present the new season.

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:

