

Village Players get Free Fabric

By: Willie Mork

We received an e-mail from Jeanette D'Onofrio, saying that a sportswear factory in Laconia was going out of business and that local community theater groups were invited to help themselves to the leftover fabrics for FREE! Of course my ears pricked up at the word "free" and, not knowing what to expect, I went to the factory on the appointed day. There were tons of bolts of sportswear fabrics and quite a few scavengers. I hauled out as many 150-yard bolts as I could manage before I pooped out (They were HEAVY and the day was HOT). The Village Players now has a large supply of knit fabrics in red, navy, black, natural, forest green, fuschia, shocking pink and turquoise, and a carton of 1" wide elastic. Costume and set designers keep in mind this supply of fabric as well as the leftovers from Wickers of Wolfeboro. Its all stowed in the hall outside the poo-bah room on the third floor. Thanks, Jeanette, for the tip.



PO Box 770
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

GOT ANY USED FURNITURE KICKING AROUND?

We need quite a bit of furniture of various types, such as end table, coffee tables, love seats, etc. If you have something you would like to donate to the Village Players, please contact Jay Sydow at 875-6792. He will come and take a look at it. Please be aware that we can't take everything. We have limited storage space and we need certain items which will be useful in upcoming productions.

Don't Miss "I'll Be Back Before Midnight"

August 2 & 3 - 8:00 PM

August 4 - 2:00 PM Matinee

(Be advised, loud sounds & graphic effects are used.)

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August 2002

AUDITIONS FOR "THE KING AND I" IN AUGUST!

"Shall We Dance" all the way to auditions and "Whistle A Happy Tune?" Etcetera, et cetera, et cetera? We hope we'll be "Getting to Know You" at auditions for this much-loved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, coming up Sunday and Monday, August 11 and 12 beginning at 7 pm at the Villager Players theater.

Planned performance dates for the show will be the two weekends before Thanksgiving. Rehearsal will begin in late August. Directing will be Michael Wilkes. Carol Light is producing, assisted by Carol Bense, and Diane Ducret-Mork will stage manage. Wayne Gehman will tickle the ivories again as accompanist, and Dean Richardson returns to lend his vocal coaching talents. Jay Sydow will design and build the sets. Jeannette D'Onofrio and Jerome Holden return to do their magic signs and posterwork. There are still many production roles which need to be filled, especially in the areas of costuming and makeup, as well as house management and ushering.

The story of Anna and the King of Siam is full of a wide variety of colorful characters of all ages. There is of course Anna Leonowens, the widowed schoolteacher who travels with her son Louis to Siam to bring education and wordly culture to the King's many children. The irascible King becomes Anna's most stubborn student, and teaches her a few things along the way. Lady Thiang is the King's Number One Wife, and the proud mother of his Number One Son, Prince Chululongkorn. Tuptim is the beautiful young maiden destined to be the King's reluctant next wife, and Lun Tha is the man she secretly loves, to their mutual peril.

There are also numerous smaller roles for men and

The Prompter

All The News That Fits, We Print

PLANNING OUR FUTURE -IMPORTANT- PLEASE READ AND CONSIDER

As noted in our last newsletter, for some time your board of directors has struggled with the problems of trying to do all that is necessary to upgrade and maintain and utilize our building, as well as to support four theatrical productions every year. We feel that some kind of restructuring is necessary to help make sure that both jobs are done well.

The first part of that restructuring involves taking a long look at our organization and our goals and desires and dreams in order to come up with a more detailed mission statement.

On June 30th we met at the theater to brainstorm and get lots of ideas from all members. Not a great many people came to the meeting, but many ideas were presented.

Some of the questions we were considering were: Who are the Village Players? How are we different from other theater groups? What are the most important things that we do? What are the things about Village Players that you would hope would never change? What are some things about Village Players that you think should be changed? What are some things that Village Players should offer its members? What should Village Players offer the community at large? Where are we going? How should we be different in 25 years? If we had all the money we needed, what would our "dream" Village Players be like? If we had all the money we needed, what would our "dream" building be like?

Some of the ideas and responses which came from that meeting are listed below under three catego-

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“The King and I”, Continued

women of all ages, including the King’s ten other royal wives, his many children, visitors and servants.

Michael Wilkes is planning to cast 10-15 children from the ages of about 3 to 15. He will also be looking for two boys in the 12-16 range [give or take a year or two] to play the larger roles of Louis and the Prince. Children’s rehearsals [except the Prince and Louis] will be kept to Sundays until later in the schedule.

All auditioners will be taught a song from the show at auditions. There will be no dancing portion of the auditions, although there will be some dancing in the show, which will be taught by Alana Harold. Anyone auditioning for a speaking or major role will be expected to read passages from the script; those seeking major roles will be asked to sing individually as well. There will be no separate adults and children auditions; all ages can come to either audition night.

“The King and I” first hit the Broadway stage with a bang in 1951, starring Gertrude Lawrence and Yul Brenner. It went on to revival at least twice on Broadway in the 1990s, and a film version starring Jodi Foster was also recently made. Audiences loved the period of the show, and its clash of cultures and genders. What makes the show so memorable is the beautiful songs, from “I Whistle a Happy Tune” to “Getting to Know You” to “My Lord and Master,” “Something Wonderful” and perhaps the most famous “Shall We Dance?”

The proper and stubborn Anna locks horns with the arrogant and stubborn King almost immediately, and their sparring grows to become mutual admiration and respect.

Anyone who wishes more information about the audition process may contact Michael directly at 569-4814. Anyone interested in volunteering for production jobs can contact Carol Light at 224-7791, or assistant producer Carol Bense at 569-1396. Those interested in stage crew can contact Diane Ducret, or Jay Sydow about set design/construction.

Hope to see you there!

Planning, Continued

ries:

1. Who Are We? What Makes Us Different From Other Groups?

We love theater, we are healthy egos working together, we are people who like a Challenge, we encourage anyone in the community to come and do theater, we are supportive rather than competitive, we are crazy risk-takers, we are non-profit, we don’t pay actors, we are creative, we are educational, we are community minded, we include all ages, we showcase local talent of all kinds, we have a good time, we work hard to create the best we can, we assimilate newcomers quickly, we are tolerant and involve everyone with an interest, we do quality productions, we share, we are growing, we are supported by the community enthusiastically, we communicate our enthusiasm to the audience, we are supportive to other organizations, we have a home and must support it, we have props, costumes, equipment, we do large cast productions - musicals, we cooperate on projects with other groups, we are well-organized, we have air-conditioning, we are flexible - adaptable - innovative, we have Estelle Parsons as our friend, we educate our members, we have a paid membership, we have a dedicated talent pool - on and off stage, we are a social organization, we need people, we have a good location, we have room for growth, we only do 4 productions each year, we have a building that needs work, we need more leadership among our members, we are all volunteer, we have a core group that is strained, we recruit people, we pay our own way.

2. What Should We Change?

Establish broader leadership, create a sounder financial future, do more small productions, offer more workshops, develop a better relationship with the schools, separate management of the building from management of productions, create and endowment fund, get a better sign for the building, do and annual appeal, get underwriters for shows, create a better relationship with restaurants, involve the community more, create a grant-writing board, create a “Friends of VP” group, change the Board

structure, keep the Pooh-bah room open for use, change the use of space, offer movies, have a semi-full time box office to sell tickets, have reserved seating, have 2 membership meetings a year with an agenda, create different levels for the dues structure, create policy for use of the building by other groups, re-institute the play-reading committee, recruit more members, expand the board to include chairs of committees,

3. How Would Things Be If We Could Have Our Druthers - Regardless of Expense

Fly tower, people elevator, flat elevator, ample parking, ownership of adjacent buildings, summer stock, make sure to maintain major principles, hot water, private dressing rooms, plenty of bathrooms, school of theater arts, lighted marquee, more historic memorabilia and photos, national recognition, full houses for non-musical shows, better sound and lights, shower, Klieg lights, bigger costume room with more shelves and racks, orchestra pit, better temporary seats, opera seats, more seating (400), better cooperation between the schools and VP, original productions.

These are all the items mentioned by the people who were able to attend the meeting. We did not judge them or evaluate them. We simply wrote them down. You may agree or disagree with many of them. We need your input as well. Please keep this copy of your newsletter. Review all the items. Decide which you think are most important to you. Are there others you think should be included? Are there some you think are not very important? If you have a chance, either write to Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 with your comments, or email them to carol.bense@unh.edu.

We will have another meeting to consolidate and confirm our direction for the future and we hope that you will be able to attend. In the meantime, we need more input from each of you.

With everyone’s help, this can be the beginning of an even greater 25 years than the last 25. Let’s make it a turning point in our organization, that will lead us to a new and better era while maintaining all the great values we have espoused over the years.

JOIN THE VP TRIP TO SEE “THE PRODUCERS”

Village Players is organizing a trip to Boston to see “The Producers” on July 6, 2003. This is a Sunday matinee at 2pm and we have guaranteed seats in the first three rows of the side mezzanine of the Colonial Theater for the production.

Although general tickets are not yet on sale for this production, we were able to make special arrangements as a group through Broadway In Boston. We did this because we believe it will be almost impossible to get tickets to this show otherwise. They are being snapped up by groups.

We will probably make arrangements to go down in group transportation, and eat out after the show, but of course, people can go on their own if they prefer and just meet at the theater.

Tickets cost \$98 each and we have a limited number. If you would like to join the group to go see this show next summer, please call Carol Bense at 569-1396. This is a great musical show and one you’ll be sorry to miss.