

Delina Ingham and Tom Bickford are pleased to announce their engagement. Some of you probably remember that they met at the Village Player's Theater. They were prophetically cast as husband and wife in the Aug. 2000 show "Run for Your Wife". Delina was cast as Barbara Smith, one of John Smith's (Tom's) two wives in the farce. Their friendship blossomed into a romance. Much to the excitement of Delina's daughter, Autumn-Lea, they plan to wed in late fall of 2003. Delina works as vice president of Audioplex Technology and Tom practices law at his own offices in Wolfeboro. The family plans on staying in the area and remaining active in the Village Players.



Delina Ingham and Tom Bickford as Barbara and John Smith in *Run For Your Wife*



October, 2002

The Prompter

All The News That Fits, We Print

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S

"THE KING AND I" OPENS NOV. 15

Their two very different worlds at first collide, then gradually begin to meld, as Anna tries to open the eyes of the King and his children and many wives to new ways of thinking, and as the King and his family teach Anna some lessons about her own heart. The role of Head Wife Lady Tiang is played by Carol Bense; the crown Prince Chulalongkorn is played by Alex Babalis. Kralahome, the King's right hand, is played by John Harwood. Phoebe Van Scoy takes on the role of Tup Tim, and Michael Wilfert plays her lover Lun Tha.



The show includes some of the best-known of Rodgers and Hammerstein's music, including "Getting to Know You", "Something Wonderful", "I Have Dreamed," "Shall We Dance," and "Whistle A Happy Tune." Helping to bring those and many other numbers to life are Dean Richardson as vocal coach, and Wayne Gehman as pianist. Alana Harold adds her dance chemistry to the mix as choreographer.

There are many familiar faces and a number of new ones that make up the cast of supporting characters, including the King's many wives and children. The Village Players are pleased to bring in new members, including 22 local children ranging in age from 3 to 14. Taking on the immense challenges of the production crew are a number of diligent VPs, also too numerous to name.

"The King and I" is a production-heavy show, calling for intricate set design, numerous costume changes, and challenging makeup. Team leaders include Jay Sydow on set design/construction; Diane Sullivan on costumes; Helen White on hair/makeup; Jeannette D'Onofrio and Jerome Holden on posters/programs and billboards; Barbara Wilson and Carol Light on publicity; Joyce Wood and Laura Cooper on properties; Diane Ducret as stage manager; Ben King on lights/sound; Louise Gehman as House Manager.

Theater patrons will travel to the magical world of Siam when the Village Players present the much-loved musical "The King and I" on November 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24th at the theater on Glendon Street. Directed by Michael Wilkes and produced by Carol Light, the show has been in rehearsal since Labor Day, with 45 actors and innumerable production crew members hard at work to bring this show to life.

"The King and I" tells the story of schoolteacher Anna Leonowens [Carol Light] who travels with her son Louis [Nick Krainchich] to Siam to teach the many children of the King [Dan Charlton].

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Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8, with doors opening at 7:30 for general admission seating. Sunday matinees will start at 2, with the doors opening at 1:30. Tickets will be available at Black's Paper Store beginning 2-3 weeks before opening night. Prices for all performances are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. From past experience, we urge you to get your tickets right away and not wait until the day of the show. Our musicals have sold out more often than not, leaving some very disappointed folks out of luck at the box office.

So, whistle a happy tune and get to know us as we share with you something truly wonderful! Etc. Etc. Etc.!!!!!!!

FIRST NIGHT

Be part of the First Night play here in beautiful Wolfeboro. The Village Players of Wolfeboro is holding auditions for the annual New Year's Eve musical melodrama, *No, No, A Million Times No* happening on Oct. 20th and 21st at 7:30pm, at the Village Players Theater on Glendon St. in Wolfeboro.

This will be the second time the Players have presented this show: it was the first done for First Night five years ago. Helen White is producing, and Jay Sydow makes his directorial debut.

No experience necessary, just a willingness to come and have fun and share your New Year's Eve with an enthusiastic crowd !

Work Parties

Two work parties were held at the theater recently. One on September 28 and one on October 5. Lots of work was completed both outdoors and in the building. You will see that all of the trash which was stored out back and under the handicapped walkway has been removed and tree limbs have been cut back. The huge organ which was in the side room has been removed. The basement is cleaned out and ready for the cement floor to be

poured. The stairway to the Black Hole has been covered over with plywood to give us more space backstage. And the terrible cabinet in the kitchen in which tools, nails, screws, etc. were crammed in disarray has been organized and labeled and sorted so now these materials become useable.

Richard Croteau directed all this labor and the people who came to help out were: Carol Bense, Becky Bense, Brooks Campbell and sons, Jeanette D'Onofrio, Diane Ducret, Wayne Gehman, John Gillette, Jerome Holden, Corky Mork, Dean Richardson, Diane Sullivan, and Michael Wilfert. A big round of applause to all.

Another work party will be coming up soon. Please send email to carol.bense@unh.edu or call 569-1396 and leave a message if you are willing to give some time. If everyone gives a little bit, the load is lightened for all.

Report from the New England Regional Festival of Community Theatre

For the first time in many years, the New England Regional Festival of Community Theatre was held here in New Hampshire at the Concord City Auditorium and the Ramada Inn in Concord on September 21 and 22. Three different workshops were offered on each morning by the adjudicators of the festival at the Ramada.

"Giving Props a Voice" taught how to convey character and plot through use of props. "Auditioning" gave tips about how to get that part. "Your Voice" offered ideas and techniques to improve your projection and articulation. All the workshops were well done and valuable.

Performances were held Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon at the Concord City Auditorium. Community theater groups from 4 New England states participated. Gaslight Theater of Hallowell, ME presented *The Last Cigarette* by Steven Gechter; KISTheatre of Nashua, NH presented *Feeding the Ducks*, an original play by Lowell Williams; Community Player of Concord, NH presented *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets; The Harvard Community Theater from Harvard,

MA presented *'night Mother* by Marsha Norman; Hole in the Wall Theater from New Britain, CT presented *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare; and the Theater Company of Saugus, MA presented *Interview* by Jean-Claude van Itailie.

Each presentation was adjudicated by three different adjudicators in front of the audience immediately following performance. The adjudicators were Carol Smith Austin, Chief Creative Officer of Genesis Productions in Boston who has written, produced, directed or been featured in more than 100 local and national radio, television and live theatrical productions; Kristina Bendikas, teaches in the department of Theater at the University at Albany and has an extensive background as both performer and director in university, community and professional theater; and Ron Cameron, teaches theater and drama at the University of Toronto, has written a book on acting technique, "Acting Skills for Life", and has adjudicated over 2000 productions.

All the adjudicators provided excellent insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each production and created a learning experience for everyone in the audience. Several Village Players attended including Carol Bense, Bob Rautenberg, Helen White, and Michael Wilkes. If you would like to know more about the Festival, ask any of them.

Winner of the Festival was *Interview* by the Theater Company of Saugus and Runner-up was *'night Mother* by Marsha Norman.

New England Theatre Conference Convention Held in Bedford This Year

Here's your chance to attend the New England Theatre Conference with ease. It will be held November 1, 2, & 3 in Bedford, NH. The 51st Annual Convention will offer workshops in acting, directing, playwriting, design, technical theatre, administration, puppetry, dance, choreography, children's theatre, community theatre, summer theatre and more. Each session offers a choice of several workshops. This is a great opportunity to

take advantage of excellent training at low cost in a nearby location.

Carol Bense and Willie Mork attended one of these conferences in Boston several years ago and they report that the learning opportunities were amazing. You can find more information about the convention at www.NETOnline.org or call 6170--424-9275. If you are interested in attending, please contact Carol Bense at 569-1396 or send email to carol.bense@unh.edu.

The Village Players web site Needs You!

The Village Players is in the process of updating our old web site and moving it to its new address at www.village-players.com, and we need your help. If you have any old programs or photos of productions, please e-mail Matt Johnson at magestar@worldpath.net for inclusion on the site. You can also help by submitting our website to sites that deal with the performing arts and the town of Wolfeboro

Member News

Wayne and Louise Gehman have been a traveling duo. Their daughter, Hillary, once again made the National 4-woman rowing crew. The meet was in Seville, Spain, so Wayne and Louise used the opportunity to visit Seville, watch Hillary race, and see a little of the country. Hillary's boat came in seven, so did not participate in the main group of racing boats, but did win the race of the remaining boats.

Wayne and Louise continued their adventures by flying into the eye of the hurricane on their way to their son, Carter's, wedding on Saturday, October 5. They flew down to Biloxi on Thursday, the 3rd just as the hurricane was passing through. But they made it and are now back to stay put for a while.

Willie Mork and her daughter Alison are finally off on their trip to Japan to visit their friend Tomoko. The trip was postponed from last winter.