

## Become A Member For 2003

Did you enjoy "The King and I"? Do you think The Village Players adds to what makes the Wolfeboro area special?

Show your support for what we do by becoming an Active or a Supporting member of our non-profit community theater group for the year 2003. Dues are \$10.00 for an individual membership or \$18.00 for a family membership. Your membership card will entitle you to a \$1.00 discount on your theater ticket when you present it at the box office at any of our shows. Send your membership check to:

The Village Players  
P.O. Box 770  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Thank you for your support.



PO Box 770  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

### OUR WEBSITE

If you haven't visited it recently, take another look at our website. Matt Johnson and Corky Mork have been working to get it updated and new things keep appearing. Look for the most recent newsletters on the site, as well as information about past and future productions. The address is [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com)

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[www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com)

# The Prompter

All The News That Fits, We Print

## Building Renovations Ready to Roll

Following the purchase by the Village Players of the former Masonic Lodge, a major campaign was held to raise the funds needed to transform the aging structure into a more functional venue for our theatrical productions as well as other community activities. To date, a number of major improvements have been made, notably automatic sprinkler protection for the main floor and basement, new heating and air conditioning system, additional capacity and rewiring of the electrical system, refurbished audience seating on the stepped platform and, most recently, correcting drainage problems and placing the basement concrete slab, making the full basement suitable for storage. Many other repairs have been accomplished. A good start.

Several months ago, a long range planning committee was appointed by President Richard Croteau and charged with developing a comprehensive plan for the remaining work. Thanks to Michael Wilkes, Richard Croteau, Dean Richardson, Bob Price, Jay Sydow, Matt Johnson and John Gillette, a concept has been developed that optimizes the needs of producers, players and audience. Dick Cary coordinated the planning and provided architectural documentation. We now have a master plan, approved by the board and ready to implement.

Main features of the improvements include:

A new proscenium wall, moved five feet toward the audience, with the stage opening increased by five feet.

The stage further enlarged by expanding into the old kitchen.

New toilets for men and women, significantly increased in size and handicapped accessible.

## First Night Coming Soon

Don't be caught napping and miss our production of "No, No, A Million Times No!" on First Night in Wolfeboro. We will be doing two performances, one at 8:30pm and one at 10:00 pm. Tickets will be available at the door only to those people with First Night buttons. There is no charge for the tickets, but you must have a button to pick up a ticket. The First Night committee has instituted new rules, so you must pick up your ticket within 1/2 hour before the show begins. I expect there will be quite a line, but you will not be able to get tickets to the 8:30 pm show before 8:00pm and you will not be able to get tickets to the 10:00pm show before 9:30pm. Each person in line can get a maximum of 2 tickets, so if you have to get tickets for 6 people, you need at least three people in line. Only people with First Night buttons will be allowed entry to the performances.

We will not be repeating the performance on the following week-end this year because we will be starting construction in the theater.

Jay Sydow is directing this rowdy musical melodrama with Helen White as Assistant Director and Choreographer. The cast includes Bill Fluhr as Amos "Pappy" Quackenbush, Mariel Fluhr as Nellie Quackenbush (our heroine), Tyler King as Noble Hart (our hero), Mary Borckardt as Birdie Seed, Matt Johnson as Iffy Can, Michelle Borckardt as Emmiline, Delina Ingham as Gwendolyn Finefeathers, Bob Rautenberg as Stafford Blackman (evil villain) with a supporting cast of Mellissa Borckardt, Katie Cronin, Toni Dingley, Athena Ellis, Andrea Neal and Arielle Winchester.

Wayne Gehman and Jean Kemp will provide the musical accompaniment and Tim Brown and Ben King will be working the lights. More help is needed, so if you're interested, please contact Jay Sydow at 875-6792.

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## Building Renovations Ready to Roll Continued

New ceiling treatment throughout. Replacement of all wall surfacing throughout the public rooms of the main floor, featuring a wood wainscot and high quality paint finish above. New interior doors, frames and hardware.

Thermal insulation in exterior walls.

New lighting fixtures throughout, with track lighting in the Reception Room (erstwhile Multipurpose Room) for gallery display.

Extensions of ductwork to provide better air distribution in the Auditorium and Reception Room. Fresh air supply in the public spaces.

Replacement of buckled flooring of the stage and Reception Room.

Replacement of the exterior front steps, providing a terrace above with congregating space during intermissions, and steps descending much more safely to the sidewalk.

The construction documents are currently at the Wolfeboro fire and building departments for review; additions to the fire safety provisions to the property will be finalized and incorporated in the work.

As of this writing, proposals are due from contractors. Because of the complex nature of this type of renovation work, there will doubtless be negotiations with the successful bidder to further define the work and its cost. Following the First Night production, the site will be turned over to the contractor for a five month period, with the Village Players coming back in time for our summer production.

We believe that the scope of work defined by the planning team will result in a functional and beautiful interior that will serve the Village Players and the Wolfeboro community for many years. We also believe that the available funds are not sufficient to accomplish all the work. The board is prepared to look at setting priorities and phasing the construction, but is mindful of the disadvantage and additional cost of delaying any of the work. If not now, when?

## **Announcing Auditions for our Spring Show**

Our Spring show this year will be “The Drunkard”, a musical melodrama which we did once before about 15 years ago. Auditions will be held January 5 and 6 at the theater (Use the back door and go upstairs on the 6<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30pm. There are many parts available in this show so we are hoping lots of people will show up for auditions. And, if you want to work backstage, please come to one of the auditions, or call Carol Bense (569-1396).

“The Drunkard”, written by W.H.S. Smith and adapted by Bro Herrod with music by Barry Manilow, is a true old-time melodrama with heroine, hero, villain etc. and lots of opportunities for hamming it up plus music. Will sweet Mary be swayed by the evil villain? Will William succumb to demon rum? Who will save them? (Maybe Buddha? Oops! Wrong show.)

The characters in the show include: Edward, our hero, virtuous, prone to temptation; Mary, our heroine, pure, decent, modest; Cribbs, dastardly villain and foul tempter; Mrs. Wilson, helpless mother of lovely Mary; William, Edward’s goodly foster brother; Agnes, Billy’s demented sister; Preacher, a little lost; Barkeep, doing his job; Julia, Mary and Edward’s child, a gift from heaven; Carry A. Nation, temperance leader; and various barmaids, barflies, temperance workers, etc. We will also need a couple of Olivo acts to appear before the curtain during scene changes, so if you tap-dance, juggle, etc. please come to auditions as well.

Production is tentatively scheduled for mid-April 2003 at Carpenter School.

We had originally planned to do “The Pirates of Penzance” in cooperation with Brewster Academy and Clearlakes Chorale for our Spring show, but we were unable to get permission to use Kingswood High School Auditorium which we must have for such a large musical undertaking with full orchestra. We then chose to do “The Drunkard” because it is fairly simple in terms of production needs and we have done it before at Carpenter School, so we know we can do it there.

The last time we did this show we had a wonderful time and we think you will want to be in on the fun. Carol Bense will be directing with Jay Sydow as assistant.

## **“THE KING AND I” A GREAT SUCCESS**

This November’s production of Rodgers’ and Hammerstein’s “The King and I” was a glowing success, with sold-out performances five out of six nights. The audiences were unanimously warm and appreciative, and got swept away in the magic and mystery of mid-1800’s Siam and the story of teacher Anna Leonowens and the King.

Final tallies are not all in, so the Players don’t officially know yet what the profits are, but from all indications, “The King and I” turned a profit and will help tremendously to fuel future shows.

A crackerjack production crew, from backstage workers to costumes, lighting and makeup to publicity, posters to props, all contributed to make this expansive show come off without a hitch. A patient crew of kid wranglers kept all 22 of our youngest stars occupied and quiet between their times on stage, and got them on stage when they were supposed to be. From all observations, a number of the children caught the stage bug and were already asking when the next show would be.

Thanks also go out to the terrific adult cast, who worked so hard to make the show come to life. From seasoned veterans to newcomers, everybody put his or her best efforts forward and learned much in the process. Wayne Gehman and Jean Kemp tinkled the ivories with their usual patience and skill, and Dean Richardson worked with all vocalists to make their performances solid and assured. Diane Ducret led the forces backstage as stage manager with great calm and humor. And thanks to Michael Wilkes as director, Carol Light as producer, Carol Bense as assistant producer, and Alana Harold as assistant director/choreographer for leading the cast and crew to a great finale.

Great show, everyone, and thank you most of all to all of you who came and enjoyed the show! We couldn’t do it without you!

## The cast and crew of the “King and I”

