



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

OCTOBER 2008



The Wind Is Sweeping In Again.

by Carol Bense

Continuing to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we are reprising the first full-length musical we ever did. In the Fall of 1981 (when we were only 3 years old and had only \$1000 in the treasury) the board decided to produce *Oklahoma!*. It was a great success back then, and we expect it will be a great success this time around as well.

The "wind comes sweeping down the plain" in November with 8pm performances on the 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd as well as 2pm Sunday matinees on the 16th and 23rd. Tickets will be available in mid-October both on-line at www.village-players.com and at Black's Paper and Gifts on Main Street. All tickets are \$15.

This time, *Oklahoma!* will be directed by Kathleen Hill, with assistance from Jay Sydow and Tyler Wade. Music Director will be John Savage, the Choreographer is Megan Hiltz and Carol Bense will be producing. Wayne Gehman and Jean Kemp will provide the musical accompaniment. Jay will also design the set.

Playing Curly, the irrepressible cowboy, is Frederick Tessari, and his spunky sweetheart, Laurey, is played by Athena Ellis. Ado Annie, who "cain't say no" will be played by Kristine Adams, and her counterpart, likeable cowboy Will Parker will be portrayed by John Savage. Carol Bense will take on the role of feisty Aunt Eller and Tom Bickford will play the crafty peddler, Ali Hakim. Mike Welch will put on his best "growly man" in the role of Jud Fry, while Randy Dale will play Annie's father, Andrew Carnes. Gertie, something of a troublemaker, will be portrayed by Aimee Young. Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler will play Ellen, and Priscilla Adams will play Kate. Cowboys Ike Skidmore, Slim, Fred and Cord Elam will be played by Gordon Brooks, Jay Sydow, Paul LaRochelle, and Russ Ellis. Other



*pictures from
the 1981 production*

cast members will include Autumn Bickford, Delina Bickford, Judy Bruening, Robin Charland, Dan Charlton, Gay-Ann Cooney, Laura Cooper, Theresa Crowell, Zoe Eldridge, Meegin Ellis, Nicole Haeger, Michael Haeger, Jerome Holden, Jim Hulm, Nancy Jacobs, Gwynn Loud, Emily Marsh, Stephanie Marsh, Linda Matchett, Corky Mork, Willie Mork, Jim Pittman, Jeanne Puglisi, Ashley Rogers, Krista Traversie, Natalie Young, Noelle Young, and Barbara Wilson.

Carol Bense, Judy Bruening, Dan Charlton, Wayne Gehman, and Willie Mork were in the 1981 performance and will also appear (or in Wayne's case - play) in this one.

When a cowboy falls for a farmer's daughter, there may be trouble ahead. In the territory of Oklahoma, farmers' barbed-wire fences were the bane of the free-ranging cowmen. Rodgers and Hammerstein used this history as the background for their beloved western musical, *Oklahoma!*. "Oh, the farmer and the cowman should be friends," sings Old Man Carnes, and, in spite of their differences, they have a great time at an old-fashioned

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Brooks and Friend Graham Nash

by Carol Bense

Brooks Campbell, our very own Veteran For Peace, was recently honored at a Meadowbrook concert by the world-renowned rock group, Crosby, Stills and Nash. Graham Nash dedicated a number to "his good friend, Brooks," and posed with Brooks and his sons and Billy Nash, Graham's brother who is also a Vietnam veteran. The photo shows Chris Campbell, Graham Nash, Brooks, Scott Campbell and Billy Nash.



Gala Committee - from l to r
Carol Bense, Jay Sydow, Mandy Ferriman,
Willie Mork, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler,
Kathleen Hill

30th Anniversary Gala

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

The 30th anniversary committee is thrilled at the turnout and enthusiasm shown at the gala held on September 13th. Almost-200 guests were delighted in the star-themed decorations and raved about the appetizers, created and served by the students of the Region 9 Vocational Culinary Arts program. Beautiful floral arrangements were donated by Artistry in Flowers. With wine or punch glass in hand, everyone enjoyed this opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet fellow Village Players supporters.

When the formal part of the evening began, Russ Ellis spoke to the crowd, offering thanks and comparing life in 1978 to 2008. He then acknowledged all of the members present, with a special nod to the dedication and commitment of Carol Bense and Wayne Gehman, two founding members who have been continuously active with the group.

The cast then quickly prepared themselves to present "100 Years of Broadway." From the first number, "Give My Regards to Broadway" to the last, "One," the audience's response was overwhelming. This was a unique show since the music and movement were non-stop for 50 minutes and each performer had the opportunity sing at least one solo. In addition to "great work" and the usual "fun show" comments, "how do you get the energy to do that?" was definitely the most often heard question. Well, when you're having that much fun, exhaustion is just out of the question!



In Memorium - Lee Robertson

by Carol Bense

Although Lee was with us for only a few years, those of us who worked with her were deeply affected by her warm and outgoing personality and her dedication to any job she took on. She worked on several committees, and she played a singing nun in "The Sound of Music" and a chorus member in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." We were looking forward to many more years of her joyous character in our shows. But that was not to be.

Lee succumbed to the effects of four rounds of chemotherapy after a long stay at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center where she was the darling of everyone. She defeated the cancer, but her body was so weakened by the treatments, that she could not resist a major infection. Her son has set up a memorial web site for her at <http://www.lee.dphoto.com/> where you can see photos of Lee and her family.

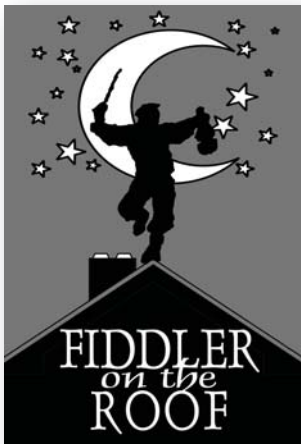
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picnic where the girls' lunches are auctioned off to the men. We get a peek into a very different time and a very different way of life.

But *Oklahoma!*, like so many great musicals is essentially a love story. Will Curly get Laurey? Will Ado Annie end up with Will or Ali Hakim? Rodgers and Hammerstein created a new style of Broadway musical by using the songs to advance the plot of the show – and what great songs they are: "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," "Surrey With the Fringe on Top," "Kansas City," "I Cain't Say No!," "Many A New Day," "People Will Say We're in Love," and of course, "Oklahoma."

We always need lots of people backstage too, and in addition to those listed above, we have Diane Mork as Stage Manager, Diane Sullivan as Costume Designer, Christine Muehlhausen as Publicity Manager, Betty Sherwood as Props Manager, Delina Bickford as Make-up Manager, Jen Bruce on the Publicity Team and Nadine San Antonio as a member of the stage crew. If you would like to work on costumes, set crew, make-up, or publicity, WE NEED YOU. Please contact the producer, Carol Bense, 569-1396 or cwbense@roadrunner.com.

Oklahoma! is an all-time favorite, and, even if you have seen it several times, it never fails to delight. Save the dates and we will see you there.



KRHS Presents *Fiddler on the Roof*

by Jeanette D'onofrio

KRHS is excited to present one of the best loved musicals - *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*, winner of 8 Tony Awards on Broadway.

Performances are at the Kingswood High School Auditorium

Main St., Wolfeboro. Nov. 20, 21 & 22 at 7:00pm and 2:00pm matinee on the 22nd. Tickets are \$10 Adults / \$5 Students & Senior Citizens and are sold at the door. The famous musical score includes: "Tradition", "Match-maker", "If I Were A Rich man", "Sunrise, Sunset" and many more. This show features a live orchestra and high energy dancing - don't miss it!

Annual Meeting November 16 - Come Vote!"

by Kathleen Whitehead

Now that you've exercised your right to vote for county, state and federal officials, maintain your democratic fitness at The Village Players' annual meeting Sunday,

November 16. Your valued opinion is needed to fill seven positions on the board of directors. Those who paid their 2008 membership dues before the April 1 deadline and are at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote and to do so must attend the meeting, which will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone sharing this important responsibility is invited to stay for the camaraderie of a potluck supper with fellow members and their families. Bring something yummy for the buffet table!

Board Announces Schedule for 2009

by Carol Bense

The Board has approved the selections for 2009 presented to them by the Reading Committee. The committee members were Carol Bense, Dick Cary, Nancy Jacobs, Linda Matchett and Jay Sydow.

Our Spring production will be the suspense thriller, *Night Watch* by Lucille Fletcher. Elaine sees a dead man in the window of a building across the way from her New York apartment, but when the police check it out there is no one there. She insists on what she saw, but since she is somewhat neurotic, no one believes her. Did she see the body or is she hallucinating? Is her life in danger, or is someone else on the hit list? Just when you think you have it all figured out, comes the twist.

Next summer we will produce an extremely funny early Woody Allen play, *Don't Drink the Water*. The Ambassador in an iron-curtain country is away, leaving his incompetent son in charge when an American family takes refuge in the embassy after inadvertently photographing a sunset in a politically sensitive area. This solid Broadway hit, is full of hilarious dialogue and daffy gags. Woody Allen at his best.

Our Fall musical production will be *Mame*. Wild and adventurous, Auntie Mame, becomes the guardian of her ten-year-old nephew, Patrick. Mame must now re-evaluate her free and easy life style, but she vows to prevent Babcock, the banker, from making Patrick a prisoner of the establishment. "We've had ten plays on Broadway-but somehow MAME is the show we've always looked forward to seeing again!" -Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Watch future issues of *The Prompter* or check our website www.village-players.com for audition information and more information about each show.

CONTACT US...

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2008 - 2009 Village Players Board

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Newsletter Committee

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Michael Wilkes569-4814
Kathleen Hill520-1372
Betty Sherwood569-5459
Jim Pittman539-7694

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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Nominating Committee Seeking Board Members-

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

One of the very important pieces of business at the annual meeting is the election of officers and at-large board members. This year, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler and Wayne Gehman are heading the nominating committee and are seeking willing and enthusiastic folks to offer their time and talent to the board.

Each of the officer positions are elected annually, so there will be an election for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, 2 at-large positions (those currently held by Kathleen Hill and Dick Cary) are up for election.

If you are interested in a board position, don't be shy! Any dues paying member is eligible to run for the board. The only exception is the position of president, for which some previous VP board experience is required. Voting rights are given to all members who paid their dues by March 31, 2008.

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:

