



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT

October 2009



New Signs at the Village Players Theater

by Jerome Holden

On Tuesday, August 24th 2009, Village Player member Jerome Holden, from JC Signs, hung a brand new permanent sign on the front of the building, replacing the cracked mildewed 30+ year old banner which hung there previously.

The plan is to eventually mount the hand-carved, gold leaf masks he produced last year on the right side of the sign, which are presently hanging inside in the reception room. He is working on a hand-carved, gold leaf logo to go on the left side of the sign to match. The graphics that are there now are just place-holders and will be covered up by the 3-dimensional carvings when the sign is complete.

Michael Wilfert and Jerome Holden will be working on creating some fancy cast corners. Jerome will carve out the mold and then Michael will make the 4 corners from the mold. Then we will prime, paint and gold leaf those. We don't know what they will look like yet, but we will make sure the board approves before proceeding with the final artwork.

The town should be happy with this sign as it is replacing an old sign that has been down for less than a year. Also it is under 24 sq. ft which is the maximum size for a sign on the building in the Commercial District. (The Village Players are allowed two signs in that district - 24 sq. ft on the building and 16 sq. ft free standing over the sidewalk.) The one over the side

walk is covered up frequently with show banners. Now we will have a beautiful permanent sign that is visible all year and reflects the care and attention of the volunteers who are The Village Players.

Don't Drink the Water Wrap Up



by Carol Bense

Our Summer Show, *Don't Drink The Water*, is past. We had a total attendance of 591 which puts it in the same rank as last year's *On Golden Pond* with an attendance of 601 and

2004's *Moon Over Buffalo* with an attendance of 584. Our all-time highest attendance for a summer show since 2001 goes to *The Cemetery Club* of 2007 with an attendance of 727. Like several of our summer shows, *Don't Drink the Water* attendance was highest on opening night with 155.

But we also got a new face in this show (we are always looking for new faces.) We want to welcome Bob Tuttle who made his first appearance for Village Players as Mr. Kilroy, the up-tight assistant to the Ambassador. We hope to see Bob in many more productions.



by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Production of the fall musical, *Mame*, is well underway at the theater. You won't want to miss this year's musical directed by John Savage and featuring a talented cast of 40.

About the Show

Mame is an eccentric, boisterous, and spontaneous Manhattan socialite whose Roaring Twenties lifestyle is turned upside down when her orphaned nephew, Patrick, becomes her ward. The show explores the highs and lows of their life together as he ages from a 10-year-old boy into adulthood. With her variety of worldly and sometimes wacky friends, Mame's life is, at times, hilarious and, at times, tragic. Mame's antics are balanced by the true aches of maternal love and loss which bring about plenty of tender moments. Toes will be tapping as audiences enjoy some popular favorites from *Mame*, including *My Best Girl*, *We Need a Little Christmas*, *That's How Young I Feel*, *It's Today*, and, of course, *Mame*.

First Timers Share Their Talent

"What's really exciting about this show," says Savage, "is that we are seeing so many new performers on stage, in our pit band and working behind the scenes." In her first Village Players production, Wolfeboro's Kristi Hill Neiman plays Mame Dennis. A trio of Village Players newcomers will play Mame's "little love," Patrick: Meredith's John Findlay and as well as brothers Erik and Jerrod Peterson from Center Ossipee.

Other first-timers to our stage include: Daniel Moore as Peter Dennis, Clay Skinner as Junior Babcock, Jon Martin as Mr. Upson, as well as ensemble members Melissa Kott, Carol Chamberlain, Jackie Savage, Jennifer Peterson, Judith Gallagher, Randi Talbot, Sharon Price and Tricia Wroblewski.

Familiar Faces Return

In addition to these fresh faces, you will probably recognize plenty of veterans: Barbara Wilson as Mame's best friend, Vera Charles; Dan Charlton

as Ito, Mame's houseboy; Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler as Patrick's nanny, Agnes Gooch; Michael Wilkes as the "anti-Mame," Dwight Babcock; Mark Pierce as Mame's friend and advisor, M. Lindsay Woolsey; and Wayne Gehman as Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside, Mame's true love.

Other VP vets include Mandy Ferriman as Sally Cato, James Cross as Uncle Jeff, Victoria Neal as Pegeen Ryan, Joyce Wood as Mrs. Upson, Willie Mork as Mother Burnside, Lisa Hoover as Gloria Upson, Rick Tessari as Ralph Devine, and Theresa Crowell as Cousin Fan.

Rounding out this talented bunch are members of the ensemble: Tim Brown, Emily Marsh, Stefanie Marsh, Jenn Gagne, Diane Sullivan, Robin Charland, Pamela Howley-Crawbuck, Gay-Ann Cooney, Laura Cooper, and Meegan Ellis.

A New Sound from the Pit

Another feature of this show will be several talented musicians in the pit band. VP newcomers Rebecca Marsh and Keith Belanger will accompany the cast on keyboards. Rounding out the sound will be a Pit Orchestra so far made up of: Megan Rohrbacher on flute, Corky Mork on tuba, Russ Ellis on 6-string and Josh Spaulding on Trumpet.



Hard Working Production Team

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Of course the behind the scenes crew of this show, like all others, deserves our appreciation. Director John Savage is being assisted by Russ Ellis.

Co-producers are Diane Ducret-Mork and Jay Sydow. These four have gathered a talented and ambitious crew to get the stage and performers ready for audiences by mid-November. Stage managing duties will be shared by Tyler Wade (who will also make his first appearance on stage!) and Jay Sydow.

Since the timeline of the show is from the Roaring 20's through the 1940s, getting the right moves, creating and decorating the set and dressing the players is an especially "exciting" challenge! Leading the cast through dance numbers will be choreographers Megan McKenzie and Kathleen Hill. The set design and construction is being led by Jay Sydow with assistance from Kathleen Hill, James Cross, Russ Ellis, John Savage, Dan Charlton, Emily Marsh, Michael Wilkes, Paul Larochelle, and Hunter Emery. Costume chair is Diane Sullivan with help from Dee Graham, Willie Mork, Stephanie Marsh, Deb Jones and Lisa Hoover. Betty Sherwood returns to find all the obscure and frequently hilarious props and Delina Bickford is in charge of make up. Lights and sound design is by Hunter Emery with assistance from Rebecca Marsh, Matt Johnson and Andrew Wood. Organizing ushers and ensuring your comfort at the theater on performance nights are house managers Tom and Autumn Lee Bickford.

Be sure to mark your calendar for **November 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22** and catch this classic Broadway musical comedy! For more information, please visit: www.village-players.com

COMING UP IN 2010

by Carol Bense

Your board, upon recommendations from the reading committee, has chosen the season for 2010 and it looks really exciting and entertaining.

For Spring we will offer *Dilemmas at Dinner* by Robin Roberts. How much fun can you have when the boss and his wife are coming to dinner, a promotion is hanging in the balance, the hired help turns out to be the boss's hated ex-daughter-in-law and everything that can go wrong does go wrong? Turns out, a whole bunch. To call the results chaos is to put it mildly. The cast of four men and four women will have a blast working on this one.

Look for another great comedy this summer with the hilarious *Unnecessary Farce* by Paul Slade Smith. With four men and three women, this dazzlingly funny farce will provide lots of options for our comic genius. Just a look at some of the reviews will tickle your funny bone. "Two hours of non-stop laughter. The plot weaves you through mix-ups and mayhem you won't believe", WLAJ-Michigan. "...comedy at a fever pitch. The laugh-o-meter runs non-stop and at warp speed..." Northern Virginia Daily. "This zany comedy has more tasty twists than a full bag of Twizzlers." Between the Lines – Michigan. For lots more info go to www.unnecessaryfarce.com.

"Do I love you because you're beautiful, or are you beautiful because I love you?" Either way, our Fall production, *Cinderella*, by Rodgers and Hammerstein is always a favorite. We love the story; we love the music; we even love the evil stepsisters. The cast of six women, five men, a large singing and dancing ensemble, and the children will offer all of us an opportunity to participate. The broadcast of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *CINDERELLA* starring Julie Andrews on CBS-TV, March 31, 1957, was seen by the largest audience in the history of the planet at the time: 107,000,000 people in the USA, representing 60% of the country's population then. This charming musical continues to remain popular with more than 250 productions a year in the US. You can find out more at www.rnh.com, just put *Cinderella* in the show name search.

Keep an eye out for audition information on all these productions. We will put it in the newsletter and on the website as soon as it becomes available.

Support Performing Arts in High School!

by Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Kingswood Regional High School will present its annual fall musical, *The Wedding Singer*, on November 5, 6 and 7. Based on the New Line Cinema film of the same title, the musical adaptation tells the story of a down-and-out lead singer of a wedding band and his journey to find love for himself after his fiancée leaves him at the altar. Retaining all the hilarity of the original movie, the musical contains an original score that takes you back to the styles of the 1980s. Tickets (\$10/adults and \$5/students) are available at the door.

CONTACT US...

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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 Patti Pardy - pardys4@aol.com - if you have changes in your mailing address.



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New Art to Be Displayed

by Willie Mork

Artist-in-residence, Michael Wilfert will have a display of the creative props he has fashioned over the years for Village Players productions, during the performances of Mame, November 13 - 22 in the reception area of the theater. Michael also is our official photographer, documenting our shows. In real life, Mike is a professional photographer and works at Image Awnings.

Did you know?

You can purchase tickets on-line from the Village Players website

www.village-players.com

Click on the link:


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Buy Tickets for this event
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