

A Village Players Production by special arrangement
with Cameron Mackintosh

2023



LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

Directed by Carol Light
Produced by Laura Cooper

Book, Music and Lyrics by
LIONEL BART
freely adapted from Charles
Dickens' 'Oliver Twist'

November **3, 4, 10, 11** at 7:30pm
November **5, 12** at 2pm

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED IN PART BY
Morriseys' Porch and Pub
and Taylor Community

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

One snowy night last year, I was flipping through TV channels and landed on the 1968 version of Oliver! I first directed this show in 1996 with the late Michael Wilkes; it has a special place in my heart. Just like that, a seed started germinating in my brain. "HMMMM....I wonder...." And here I am today!

Community theater asks much commitment from folks who already have many other demands on their time, like jobs, school and family. This is not just the actors. It asks as much from those behind the

scenes, doing choreography, teaching the music, building sets, making costumes, working on the stage crew and the many other tasks required to bring a show to the stage.

Tonight's production has veteran actors as well as some brand new to the stage. Beyond that, it is truly a FAMILY effort. We have several teams of mothers and sons or daughters, several sets of siblings, and a grandfather acting with his granddaughter on stage and his grandson on stage crew. As my wonderful assistant director and friend of more than 30 years, Rosemary, likes to remind us, the Latin root of AMATEUR is AMARE, which means "to love." So, please sit back and enjoy tonight's production of *Oliver!*, brought to you by those who are here for the love of theater!

Synopsis of Scenes

Time: London, about 1850

Act I

SCENE 1	The Workhouse	Early evening
SCENE 2	The Workhouse Parlour	Later (into street)
SCENE 3	The Undertaker's	
SCENE 4	The Undertaker's	The next morning
SCENE 5	Paddington Green	Morning (week later)
SCENE 6	The Thieves' Kitchen	Later (into street)
SCENE 7	The Street	

Act II

SCENE 1	The "Three Cripples" tavern	A public house
SCENE 2	The Brownlows'	2 weeks later
SCENE 3	The Thieves' Kitchen	Later
SCENE 4	The Workhouse	A few days later
SCENE 5	The Brownlows'	Later (into street)

CAST

Oliver Twist.....	Ava Roriston
Mr. Bumble (The Beadle).....	Bob Rautenberg
Widow Corney (The Matron).....	Kathleen Hill
Mr. Sowerberry.....	Russ Ellis
Mrs. Sowerberry.....	Joyce Wood
Noah Claypoole.....	Brandin Wegand
Charlotte.....	Olivia Lee
The Artful Dodger.....	Robby Sturtevant
Fagin.....	Bob Tuttle
Nancy.....	Linda Lee
Bet.....	Kristen Sturtevant
Charlie Bates.....	Max Gehring
Bill Sikes.....	Jonathan Flower
Mrs. Bedwin.....	Carol Bense
Rose Seller.....	Julia Alie

Milk Maid.....Olivia Lee
Strawberry Seller.....Carrie Duran
Knife Grinder.....Gordon Brooks
Mr. Brownlow.....Matt Johnson
Dr. Grimwig.....Corky Mork
Old Sally.....Emily Close

Workhouse Orphans and Fagin’s Band.....McAuley Alie, Myla Brennan, Bayleigh DeVolve, Anna Dryer, Leah Dryer, Marie Eighmy, Nash Janiak, Moira Leavitt-Carlson, Oliver Leavitt-Carlson, Sydney Rohrbacher, Willow Swenson

Adult Ensemble..... Julia Alie, Carol Bense, Gordon Brooks, Emily Close, Carrie Duran, Jeannie LeGrow, Olivia Lee, Jeanne Lenuta, Kali Martin, David Morrison, Renee Warner-West, Brandin Wegand, Mylie Wegand

CREW

Director.....Carol Light
Assistant Director.....Rosemary Lounsbury
Producer.....Laura Cooper
Musical Director.....Robert Dionne
Choreographers.....Jeanne Lenuta, Renee Warner-West
Stage Manager.....Joshua Spaulding
Stage Crew.....Mandy Ferriman, Diane Mork, Max Rohrbacher
Costume Design.....Stefanie Marsh
Costumes Crew:.....Stefanie Marsh, Carol Bense, Moira Leavitt-Carlson, Dee Graham, Helen Rautenberg, Diane Sullivan
Set Design.....Jay Sydow
Set Construction...Russ Ellis, Keith Lion, Mike Shaw, Bob Tuttle, Joshua Spaulding
Props.....Sarah Inman
Program.....Rosemary Lounsbury
Makeup/Hair Design.....Michaela Andruzzi
Make Up Crew.....Marjorie Owen, Helen Rautenberg, Toni Urquhart
Tickets.....Carol Bense
Poster Graphic.....Emily Marsh
Lighting Design.....Cate Poole, Hunter Emory
Sound.....Gilbert Perham, Paul Stewart, Christian Boudman
House Manager.....Joyce Chandler-Smith

ORCHESTRA:

Keyboard/Conductor.....A. Robert Dionne
Keyboard 2.....Leighlan Prout
Flute.....Megan Gallagher
Clarinet.....Jeffrey Smith
Trumpet.....Scott Lounsbury
Horn.....Jiffi Rainie
Trombone.....Jim Morris
Percussion.....Tom Bissett

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Food, Glorious Food.....Oliver, Workhouse orphans
Oliver!.....Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney, Workhouse ensemble
I Shall Scream!.....Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney
Boy For Sale.....Mr. Bumble
That's Your Funeral.....Mr. And Mrs. Sowerberry, Mr. Bumble
Where Is Love.....Oliver
Consider Yourself.....Artful Dodger, Oliver, Company
You've Got to Pick A Pocket or Two.....Fagin, Fagin's Band
Rum Tum Tum.....Fagin
It's A Fine Life.....Nancy, Bet, Fagin's Band
I'd Do Anything.....Nancy, Artful Dodger, Oliver, Bet, Fagin's Band
Be Back Soon.....Fagin

-There will be a 15-minute intermission-

Act II

Oom Pah Pah.....Nancy and Company
My Name.....Bill Sikes
As Long As He Needs MeNancy
Where Is Love (Reprise)Mrs. Bedwin
Who Will Buy.....Oliver, Company
It's A Fine Life (Reprise).....Nancy, Fagin, Sikes, Dodger
Reviewing the Situation.....Fagin
Oliver! (Reprise).....Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney
As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise).....Nancy
London Bridge/Reviewing the Situation (Reprise).....Fagin
Bows.....Company

BIOGRAPHIES

Russ Ellis (Mr. Sowerberry) Happy to be back on the VP stage. I have been in a couple of shows before, but the one you're doing right now is always the most fun. I make some snow and groom the trails at King Pine ski area in the winter, stop by and say hi. Thank you for coming!

Jonathan Flower (Bill Sikes) Bill Sikes is a dream role for Jonathan Flower. A school counselor by day, this show allows him to express his alter-ego of an evil villain who treats everyone with equal disdain. Hold onto your purses, check your wallets, sit back and enjoy the show.

Kathleen Hill (Widow Corney) Kathleen is happy to return to the Village Players stage. Favorite past roles include Ouiser (*Steel Magnolias*), Mother Superior (*Nunsense*), Mrs. Dunbar (*Footloose*). All my love to Jeanne.

Linda Lee (Nancy) Linda is very excited for the opportunity to play Nancy at The Village Players! She last appeared at the Rochester Opera House as Ella Patterson in *Annie Warbucks* and in a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Linda is so thankful to her wonderful husband for all his love and encouragement, her daughter, Olivia, for encouraging her to audition, and to Carol and the cast and crew of *Oliver!* for being so supportive and friendly and for all their hard work to bring this story to life. It's been an amazing experience!

Bob Rautenberg (Mr. Bumble) Bob is a 25-year veteran of the Village Players stage. He has played a variety of roles but the latest thing you've seen him in was his most challenging. He played George in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" and he hopes you enjoy his version of Mr. Bumble.

Ava Roriston (Oliver) This is Ava's second appearance on the Village Players stage, having performed in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat last year. A seventh grader at Berwick Academy, Ava has recently portrayed Taylor McKessie in *High School Musical, Jr.*, Colin in *The Secret Garden*, and Mrs. Which in *A Wrinkle in Time*. Outside of school, Ava loves reading, alpine ski racing, crafting of all sorts, dancing, and palling around with friends.

Kristen Sturtevant (Bet) is excited to be back for her second show on the Village Players stage after taking a 25-year hiatus from community theater to focus on her family and she is thrilled to be sharing the stage once again with her oldest son, Robby. In her real life, she is a librarian at Rochester Middle School where she has taught for the past 32 years. She would like to thank the VP community for welcoming her into the group and her husband for his love and support!

Robby Sturtevant (Artful Dodger) Robby is excited to be playing The Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* This is his third time performing with The Village Players, having played Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* last year and Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* this summer. In his day-to-day life, Robby is a high school English teacher, who has a soft spot for Shakespeare and other classic playwrights.

Bob Tuttle (Fagin) Say hello, everyone, my name is Bob Tuttle! I have been with the theater since 2009. I have been in numerous plays, playing characters from a mute king to now Fagin, the leader of street urchins in old town London.

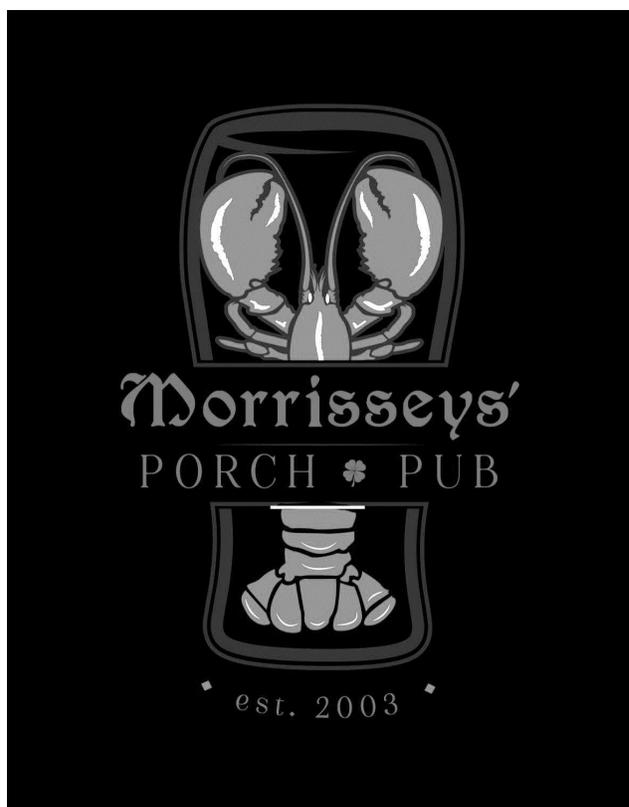
Joyce Wood (Mrs. Sowerberry) Joyce is thrilled to be part of *Oliver!* as Mrs. Sowerberry and the ensemble! The Village Players has been her theater family for nearly 24 years. There are too many roles/shows to list! She also enjoys working, backstage, ushering, helping with props, or make up, and has served on the board numerous times. Enjoy the show!

Carol Light (Director) Carol is delighted to return to the director's chair after a long hiatus. Her past directing credits include *Annie*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oliver!* in 1996, and many others. She has also enjoyed many turns on the VP stage, most recently as Sister Hubert in 2021's *Nonsense*. Carol thanks her employer, Aaron Morrissey of Morrisseys' Porch and Pub, for his generous sponsorship.

Rosemary Lounsbury (Assistant Director) has been involved with the Village Players since 1987, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors. Previous directing credits include *Nonsense*, *She Loves Me*, *Music Man*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. All her shows are in odd-numbered years as she serves as one of Wolfeboro's Supervisors of the Checklist, and even-years have more elections. She loves the trumpet player.

A. Robert Dionne (Musical Director) is the founding and Artistic Director of The Majestic Theatre and Administrator to the Ted Herbert Music School. He is also a free-lance director, musical director, and actor. Robert has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Maine (Orono) and has worked with many area theatre companies. In addition to his piano cabaret throughout New England, Robert is also a member of the Rockin' Daddios quartet.

Special Thanks to our sponsors:



Special thanks also to: Pittsfield Players, the Community Players of Concord, and Tech Crew Productions!