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*The Village
Players*
SUMMER 2012



LEADING LADIES

by Ken Ludwig

JULY 27 & 28
AUGUST 3 & 4
... 8:00pm
AUGUST 5
... 2:00pm

The Village Players Theater - Glendon St - Wolfeboro, NH
directed by Michael Wilkes
produced by Jay Sydow

graciously sponsored in part by

 **FINANCIAL
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Tangles
Salon

produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

SYNOPSIS

Set in York, Pennsylvania in 1958, this farce centers on two down-on-their-luck Shakespearean actors, Leo and Jack. The pair discover through a newspaper that Florence, an older ailing woman, has been unable to find Max and Steve, her sister's children who moved away to England as children in order to include them in her multi-million dollar inheritance. They decide to pose as Max and Steve to claim portions of it. When they discover that "Max" and "Steve" are actually "Maxine" and "Stephanie," they continue on, undaunted, in drag. Leo falls for Florence's actual niece Meg, while Jack swoons over Florence's part-time aide Audrey. Florence recovers just as the pair arrives, but they decide to hang in there both for the money and for the opportunity to stay close to their hearts desire. Leo convinces Meg, who is a great fan of Shakespeare, to put on a production at Florence's estate, to give himself more of an opportunity to be with her, both as Leo and as Maxine. All the while, Meg's fiance Duncan grows increasingly suspicious of the "Leading Ladies."

Most of the play takes place in York, Pennsylvania in the spring of 1958. York is a quiet town in an area of gently rolling hills in southern Pennsylvania known as the Amish country. York was once, briefly, the capital of the United States, during the American Revolution, when the Articles of Confederation were kept there after Congress left Philadelphia under threat of invasion. So it's old country, proud country, settled by the English and the Germans, the latter bringing with them a plain-spoken, plain dressed brand of religion that has been here ever since. The food here is rich and deep, the farmland outside town is magnificent and the people here have a great tradition of music. The point of all this is the York is filled with good, wise people, many of whom are happy to be just where they are – but some of whom would love to see the world just over the horizon.

SCENES

- Act 1 – Scene 1: It is 5:30pm in June of 1958.
The living room of a grand house in York, Pennsylvania.
- Act 1 – Scene 2: In the evening at the meeting of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Lodge Number 84, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.
- Act 1 – Scene 3: The next morning in a train car.
- Act 1 – Scene 4: Later in the day. On the left, Duncan Wooley is at the Evangelical United Brethren Church of York.
On the right, Meg Snider is in her living room.
- Act 1 – Scene 5: Just before 6:00pm the same day – in the living room.
- ~ INTERMISSION : 15 min ~
- Act 2 – Scene 1: Three days later in the living room, late afternoon.
- Act 2 – Scene 2: The living room, ten days later, mid-morning.
- Act 2 – Scene 3: Ten days later in the evening. The living room is decorated for the party. A dance band plays in the garden.

CAST

Leo/Maxine.....	Rick Tessari
Jack/Stephanie.....	Christian Boudman
Meg.....	Meggan Dail
Duncan.....	Russ Ellis
Florence.....	Willie Mork
Audrey.....	Victoria Neal
Butch.....	Eric Martin
Doc.....	Mike Hobson

CREW

Director.....	Michael Wilkes
Asst. Director & Producer.....	Jay Sydow
Stage Manager.....	Jay Sydow
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Megan Rohrbacher
Stage Crew.....	Jay Sydow, Joshua Spaulding Kaylin Dean, Meegan Ellis Priscilla & Jim Adams
Set Design.....	Jay Sydow, Michael Wilkes
Set Crew.....	Jay Sydow, Michael Wilkes, Russ Ellis, Eric Martin, Vinny Amico
Lighting Design.....	Hunter Emory
Lighting Crew	Hunter Emory, Vinny Amico, Brian Hampton
Lights/Sound.....	Vinny Amico
Costumes.....	Deb Jones, Kristi Nieman
Wigs	Stella Hogan
Make Up.....	Delina Bickford
Publicity.....	Barbara Wilson, Joshua Spaulding
Photography.....	Michael Wilfert
Posters / Program / Ads.....	Jeannette D'Onofrio
Sign/Banner.....	Jerome Holden
Ticket Master.....	Carol Bense
House Manger(s).....	Carol Bense, Diane Mork

MEET THE CAST

Rick Tesari (Leo/Maxine) – comes from Wolfeboro and works at Metrocast in technical support. Rick's first role with the Village Players was in *You Can't Take it with You* in 2008 and more recently he was the voice of the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Rick, along with *Leading Ladies* crew member Vinny Amico, is a member of the local band *Yarble Smashers*.

Christian Boudman (Jack/Stephanie) - has appeared in several Village Players' shows including *Don't Drink the Water* (Axel Magee), *Night Watch* (John Wheeler) and the 2010 First Night show, *Truth and Consequences* (Hobart). When not spending time with his wife and son, he's usually hard at work in his visual effects studio or portraying General James Wolfe in area events.

Meggin Dail (Meg) – from Epsom, works for the Pittsfield Police station. Meggin has been acting since she was seven, primarily with the Pittsfield Players. Meggin has been in several Village Players' productions including *Pajama Game* and *Rumors*, and she recently co-directed *Little Shop of Horrors* with Jay Sydow and was Assistant Director for *On Golden Pond*. Meggin would like to thank her husband and her children for their patience and support.

Russ Ellis (Duncan) – from Wolfeboro has been on stage or in the production crew for many Village Players shows since *Hello Dolly* in 1998. Russ works at Purity Spring Resort and would like to thank his wife and daughters for their support.

Willie Mork (Florence) – with this play, Willie marks her 45th role in a Village Players' production. Her first role for the Village Players was *Oklahoma* in 1981. Willie's son Corky has also been in numerous productions and her daughter-in-law Diane has worked on the production side of things and is currently President of the Village Players Board of Directors. For years, Willie's husband Phil was also seen during performances documenting all the activities from a back-stage perspective. With the Morks, it's a family affair.

Victoria Neal (Audrey) – is from Wolfeboro and is a student at NHTI studying to be a dental hygienist. Victoria's first production with the Village Players was in "*Annie*" when she was 12 years old. When not at school or in a play, Victoria works at El Centenario where rumor has it she makes the best margaritas in Wolfeboro.

Eric Martin (Butch) – comes from Barnstead and works as a painter for Donald Shure. This is Eric's first time on stage, but he worked backstage on *Hay Fever* earlier this year.

Mike Hobson (Doc) - This is Mike's first show with The Village Players. He's appeared in numerous productions at the Scenic Theatre in Pittsfield. He thanks the director for seeing the serious, medical side of him for this role, and he also thanks his biggest fan, his wife, Nella. Enjoy this rollicking show!

ABOUT OUR DIRECTORS

Jay Sydow (Producer, Asst. Director, Stage Manager, etc.) – Jay is one of our typical underachievers. He lives and works in Alton Bay. Jay has been involved in some capacity in almost every production the Village Players have done since his first show in the fall of 1999. *Leading Ladies* is at least Jay's 46th show and he is already working on his next, *Gypsy*, to be produced this fall. It would be easier to list the few shows he's not been involved with. To name but a few responsibilities, Jay has been a Producer, Director, Stage Manager, Set Designer/Construction, and has even spent some time on the stage. Jay would like to thank Sandra, Shirley, and Sancho for their patience and understanding. He also said to mention Sam Adams™, the best friend a producer ever had.... I think he's some kind of history buff.

Michael Wilkes (Director) – Michael is from Wolfeboro (born here) and works at Huggins Hospital. Michael has a long history with the Village Players going back to *Play It Again Sam*, although he admits to fewer shows than Willie or Jay, he does have a few dozen under his belt. Michael wants to thank the cast and crew of *Leading Ladies* for their dedication, sharing their talent, and giving up so many hours in the summer time to make this show possible.