



# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT FEBRUARY 2016



By  
Tom Smith

## DRINKING HABITS by Tom Smith

### *Drinking Habits* cast off and running

by Joshua Spaulding

The new year at the Village Players Theater began with auditions for the spring show, with a number of actors turning out looking to earn a spot in *Drinking Habits* by Tom Smith.

*Drinking Habits* focuses on two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing who have been secretly making wine in order to keep the convent open. Two undercover reporters, who also happen to have been formerly engaged to each other, set out in an undercover mission as a nun and a priest to figure out what's going on in the convent. Additionally, the arrival of a new nun has rumors flying in the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut it down.

Longtime Village Player, Megan Rohrbacher, steps to the forefront as the director for this farce and she will be joined by first-time assistant director, Paul Stewart, who has graced the Village Players stage in numerous roles, including the starring role as Horton the Elephant in *Seussical* and was most recently Prince Herbert in *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

With auditions in the books, a cast that will be familiar to most Village Players audience members will be taking the stage. Two of the sisters have been working overtime to make and sell the wine to keep their convent open; Sister Augusta, played by Emily Marsh, who has been in numerous Village Players productions over the years, including a starring role as Miss Casewell in last spring's production of *The Mousetrap*, and Sister Philomena, played by Kristi Nieman, who is probably best-known in Village Players circles for her stellar turn in the title role in *Mame* in 2009.

Father Chenille, the local pastor, will also be portrayed by a Village Players veteran, as Brooks Campbell will step into the role. Campbell had a starring role as Major Metcalf in last spring's production of *The Mousetrap*. Helen Rautenberg, another Village Players veteran who was most recently on stage in *The Mousetrap* as Mrs. Boyle, will be playing Mother Superior in this spring's production. The role of George, the groundskeeper at the convent, will be played by Vinny Amico, who will be familiar to many Village Players attendees for his roles in many recent productions, including Not Dead Fred and Robin's Minstrel in *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

The new sister on the block who raises suspicions amongst the convent's residents, Sister Mary Catherine, will be portrayed by Maggie Fraser, who was seen as part of the chorus in the fall production of *Spamalot*. In the roles of Sally and Paul, the two reporters charged with figuring out just what's going on in the convent, Rohrbacher has cast Jennifer Smith and Rick Tessari. Smith made her Village Players debut in last summer's *Boeing-Boeing* and also served as assistant director for *Spamalot* during the fall. Tessari has been on stage in numerous productions, including starring roles in *Leading Ladies* and *Boeing-Boeing*. He was most recently on stage as The Black Knight in *Spamalot*.

A number of backstage roles have been set, with Matthew Johnson running the lights and sound and Kaylin Dean serving as stage manager. Bob Rautenberg will be leading the hunt for props, while Russ Ellis and Eric Milligan will be supervising the building and decorating of the set. Bobbi Boudman will be designing the costumes and Joshua Spaulding will be serving as the show's producer.

*Drinking Habits* is presented by special arrangements with Playscripts, Inc. The show will open on Friday, April 1, and will hit the stage again on Saturday, April 2, Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, all at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available in early March at [village-players.com](http://village-players.com) or at Black's Paper and Gifts in Wolfeboro.

## CAROUSEL

BY RICHARD RODGERS AND OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN

by Carol Bense

This is a heads up for anyone interested in auditioning for the two lead roles, Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan, in our production of *Carousel* this fall. Auditions for the rest of the cast will be held in late July or early August as usual, but because of the unusual requirements for the lead roles, and because we must secure the rights to the show early on, auditions for the lead roles will be held in late May or early June. The exact dates will be in the April Prompter and on our website.

Billy Bigelow is the star of this show. He must be a strong tenor/baritone with strong acting abilities and must  
1. carousel cont. on pg 3

## Meet Your New Board Members

We thought you might like a little introduction to your new board members.

Matthew Johnson was elected to serve a two-year term as a member at large:

"Hello friends,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Matthew Johnson. I have been an active member of the Village Players since *Hello Dolly* in the Fall of 1998. During my time as a member of the Village Players, I've been on stage, back stage, previously on the board as a member at large, and as Treasurer, helping with the Movies, though I'm typically found in the lighting booth. Outside of the Village Players, I work for the city of Rochester's school district providing computer support for the teachers, and was previously also a college instructor in Sanford, ME."



Rosemary Lounsbury was elected to serve as Secretary for 2016.

Welcome back! Rosemary initially joined the VP in the spring of 1987. She soon joined the board as Secretary, and later President in the early 1990s. Stage Manager, Assistant Director, and Director were her only roles until summer, 1999 when she appeared on stage



during one of the performances in a non-speaking role as "The Nurse" in *She Loves Me*. The other on-stage role she has performed was as one of the nuns in the 2005 (Michael Wilkes'-directed) *Sound of Music*. "Bloom Where You Are Planted" is one of her maxims, and she greatly prefers an off-stage role! In 2013, Rosemary returned to the theater directing the 25th anniversary production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. By day she works as a local banker; her extra-curricular activities (aside from VP) include singing in the a cappella vocal ensemble, "Some Friends" and also enjoying her favorite role is that of wife to Scott and mom to Matthew, currently a senior at Colby College in Maine.

## Come On In The Water's Fine

by Carol Bense

Have you ever considered becoming more involved with The Village Players? Only about 30 or 40 percent of our membership is active with the group. Of course it's great if you simply attend our productions or the movies, but maybe you would like to do more with us.

Sometimes it seems as though folks think they don't have the skills to be involved, but there are so many different skills needed to produce a show and to run the organization, that you certainly have something to offer. AND we will teach you.

For our productions, of course, we always need people to be on stage and we are always looking for new faces. But there are also many jobs which do not require acting. Some of them which are directly related to the production are building and decorating the set, manning the stage crew, creating and sewing costumes, creating the program, designing the poster, getting the poster and programs printed, finding props, operating the lights and sound, doing make-up, managing the house, creating tickets, selling tickets, ushering, cleaning the theater, and promoting the show. You may already have the skills to do some of these jobs, but, if not, we will teach you if you have an interest.

Then, there are the jobs required to keep our organization functioning. Some of these include managing the website, creating The Prompter, finding sponsors, fund-raising, managing the building, repair and maintenance of the building, keeping the building calendar up to date, reading and rating plays, increasing membership, and promoting The Village Players.

For most of these jobs you can put in as much or as little time as you are able. If you want a small responsibility, we can steer you in the direction of a commitment that will not require more than a few hours from you. If you are ready to take on something with more responsibility, we can find the right spot for you.

Please consider becoming more involved. There is work, to be sure, but there is also fun and camaraderie. If you are interested, or if you just want to know a bit more about any particular area, please email [cwbense@roadrunner.com](mailto:cwbense@roadrunner.com) or call me at 569-1396.





## MOVIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

by Carol Bense

"Philadelphia Story" is on tap for Saturday, February 27th at 8pm and Sunday, February 28th at 2pm. Katherine Hepburn plays a snooty Philadelphia socialite who learns a great deal about herself when her ex-husband, played by Cary Grant and a friend of her brother, played by James Stewart, show up the day before her second wedding. These terrific actors brought this romantic comedy to the level of the classic movies. Katherine Hepburn was nominated for an Oscar and won The New York Film Critics Award for Best Actress. James Stewart won the Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role.

In March, we will be presenting the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, "Rear Window." Another vehicle for showing the talents of James Stewart, who plays the wheel-chair bound apartment dweller who uses binoculars to spy on his neighbors. His girlfriend, played by Grace Kelly, helps him investigate the strange things he sees through his window in the apartment of his sinister-looking neighbor, played by Raymond Burr. Of course, it is director, Alfred Hitchcock who brings us the growing tension in this classic film.

If you have never seen either of these films, you are in for a treat, and if you have seen them, you know why we are presenting this opportunity for you to see them again. Why not become a regular? Tickets are only \$5 and you can buy popcorn, candy and water at very low prices. It's a nice evening out and you don't have to leave Wolfeboro or take out a loan.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Here is Helen Rautenberg in her role as Hope Harcourt in our 1983 production of *Anything Goes*. She is playing Mother Superior in this spring's production of *Drinking Habits*.



carousel cont. from pg1

appear to be between 20 and 30. He carries the show for most of the time and appears in nearly every scene. This is a plum role for the right person. He sings "If I Loved You," "Blow High, Blow Low," the famous "Soliloquy," and "The Highest Judge of All." His voice range must be from A2 (the bottom space in the F clef score) to G4 (the highest space in the F clef score). These are the words that describe him: rogue, impulsive, passionate, lonely, rough, hapless, volatile, swagger, sympathetic, charming, ladies' man, strapping, handsome, manly, remorseful, brash, tough, aggressive, sensitive.

Julie Jordon co-stars with Billy. She must have an operatic type soprano voice and be a strong actress. She must appear to be between 17 and 25. Her voice range must be between C4 (middle C) and G6 (the line above the staff in the G clef). She sings "If I Loved You," "What's The Use of Wondrin'," "You're a Queer One, Julie Jordan," and songs with the chorus. These are the words that describe her: passionate, loyal, longing, shy, dreamer, quiet strength, loner, restless, sensitive, obstinate.

Carol Bense will be directing with Rosemary Lounsbury as assistant director.

For more information on the show please go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel\\_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel_(musical)) and <http://www.rnh.com/show/20/Carousel>.



## VP BITS

news about members etc.

**Jim and Priscilla Adams** had to miss the January movie as they had jetted off for a well-deserved vacation in Miami, Florida.

**Bev and Chuck Burns** have also flown off to the warmth. They spent the month of January in Mexico.

**Ericka Bailey LaGrone** and **Heather MacDonald**, VP members back when they were just pups, are both going to Sundance. Heather played Chava and Ericka was a villager in our first production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1988. Wow over 27 years ago - I guess they are all grown up by now.

**Keith Belanger** won the role of Tevye in Windham Actors Guild's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, scheduled for April 8, 9 and 10 at Windham High School. Mazel tov.

**Richie O'Brien** has sold her house in Wolfeboro and will be moving to Manchester or thereabouts where the job market is a bit better. Mazel tov to you too, Richie.

If you have news about current or past members of The Village Players, please email Carol Bense at [cwbense@roadrunner.com](mailto:cwbense@roadrunner.com) or call 569-1396.

## CONTACT US...

**Mail:** PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 **Voice-mail:** 603-569-9656

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

**Email:** [info@village-players.com](mailto:info@village-players.com)

### 2015 Village Players Board

<b>President -</b>	Jim Adams .....	875-0714
<b>Vice President -</b>	Christian Boudman .....	393-3613
<b>Secretary -</b>	Rosemary Lounsbury.....	569-2599
<b>Treasurer -</b>	Joshua Spaulding.....	630-7410
<b>Members at Large -</b>	Priscilla Adams (1yr).....	875-0714
	Tracy Lionetta (2yr).....	875-5305
	Matt Johnson (2yr).....	335-8560
	Michael Welch (1yr)..	508-245-6499
	Laura Cooper (1yr).....	569-5854

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 Carol Bense - [cwbense@roadrunner.com](mailto:cwbense@roadrunner.com) or 569-1396 - if you have changes in your address or email, or if you are unsure about your membership status.

#### Newsletter Committee

Carol Bense, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler, Joshua Spaulding, Jay Sydow

Art Production  
Carol Bense



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### 2016 MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2016, now is the time. And if you have never been a member, now is the best time to join. We need your support, and your commitment.

You can join by going on-line to [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) and clicking on the Join, Donate, Endowment tab and then click on the Join Us link. This will take you to the page where you can join with a credit card through PayPal, or you can print out the Membership Form on this page, and complete it and send it with your check to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

### The Village Players Membership Form 2016

The Village Players PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 603-569-1396 [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com)  
(please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive your Prompter Newsletter via e-mail?  Yes  No

Call me to help on a Committee / Project / Production \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ (2 adults and any minor children living in the same household)

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Remit payment directly to The Village Players before April 1, 2016 to be a voting member for 2016)  
Please make checks payable to The Village Players, and mail to PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
or go on-line to [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) to pay with credit card or Paypal.