



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT FEBRUARY 2017

BILOXI BLUES

by Neil Simon

Neil Simon's Biloxi Blues Off and Running

by Joshua Spaulding

Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues* will open on Friday, March 31, and will run Saturday, April 1, Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, all at 8 p.m., wrapping up with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 9. Tickets are available at Black's Paper and Gifts on Main St., Wolfeboro; and on line at www.village-players.com.

After two nights of auditions, directors Bob Tuttle and Russ Ellis and assistant director Kaylin Dean have put together a cast for our spring production of the second in a trilogy of shows written by Simon. *Biloxi Blues* focuses on a group of soldiers as they make their way through basic training in the deep south. It won a Tony Award for best play in 1985.

The lead role of Eugene Morris Jerome, who is essentially the alter ego of the playwright, will be handled by Greg Parker. Parker has had a number of roles with the Village Players, but hasn't been in a show since *D.K. Molar*, which was the First Night show in 2010. However, he is quite familiar with the character, as he played the role of young Eugene as a teenager during the Village Players' production of the first play in Simon's trilogy, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, back in 2001.

The role of Arnold Epstein, a well-read, intelligent and gentle young man from New York City, will be played by Alex Andruzzi, who made his Village Players debut in the fall musical *Kiss Me, Kate*, where he played Lucentio.

Village Players veteran Vinny Amico will be filling the role of Don Carney, a private who tends to irritate his bunkmates with his singing. He was last on stage in last spring's production of *Drinking Habits*.

Joseph Wykowski is a tough guy but is not the sharpest tool in the shed. The role will be played by Paul Stewart, who has made many appearances on the Village Players stage, including as Paul in *Kiss Me, Kate* but is probably best remembered for his portrayal of Horton in *Seussical the Musical*.

Erik Peterson will be returning to the Village Players stage for the first time since he appeared with his brother in *Mame* in 2009. He will be portraying Roy Selridge, a confident young man who sees himself as a bit of a comedian.

James Hennessey, a sensitive and naïve young man, a bit younger than the rest of the soldiers, is being portrayed by



The majority of the cast for Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*. Left to right, Alex Andruzzi (Epstein), Luke Andruzzi (Hennessey), Paul Stewart (Wykowski), Chelsea Stewart (Daisy), Greg Parker (Eugene), Erik Peterson (Selridge), Bob Rautenberg (Sgt. Toomey) and Toni Dingley (Rowena). Missing from the photo is Vinny Amico (Carney).

Luke Andruzzi, who is making his Village Players debut alongside his brother, Alex.

Sgt. Merwin J. Toomey is the tough-as-nails drill sergeant whose job it is to whip this group of misfits into soldiers. He is being portrayed by Bob Rautenberg, another Village Players veteran, who was most recently dancing on stage as Elvis impersonator The Big El in last summer's *Bathroom Humor*.

Rowena is a southern prostitute who plays a small but important role in the life of Eugene during his time in Biloxi. Toni Dingley will be tackling this role, returning to the stage for the first time since her performance in *Boeing, Boeing* two summers ago.

The final role in the show is Daisy Hannigan, who is Eugene's first love. The role of Daisy will be played by Chelsea Stewart, who's lone on-stage appearance was in *Undeclared History*, but she has been in the pit band for many musicals and is a familiar Village Players face.

Dingley has also stepped up to lead the charge with costumes, while Mike Shaw is the show's stage manager and Cathy Fraser will be on the stage crew. Matt Johnson is handling the lights and sounds from the booth, Emily Marsh is designing the poster, Athena Ellis is designing the program and Jay Sydow is designing the set.

More help is always needed, especially for helping out with hair, makeup and costumes, in addition a house manager is needed. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Joshua Spaulding at trumpet138@hotmail.com.

This production is sponsored in part by Bruce and Kris Gurall.

DONATIONS FOR 2016

by Carol Bense

Thanks to all of you who have already donated, we now have nearly enough to pay for half of the expense of a new roof for the theater. That is terrific. Many of you have made a special effort to donate this year to meet this pressing need, and your commitment is greatly appreciated. However, if you haven't yet made a donation, please consider doing so. The bid we have accepted is over \$61,000 because of the height and extent of the roof, the eaves which are rotted and must be replaced, and the asbestos removal. Once this work is done, the next replacement (in 25 years or so) should require much less work, and consequently be much less expensive.

If you want to be a part of the team which supports the new roof, just send your check to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or go to our website at www.village-players.com and click on the Join, Donate, Endowment tab which will take you to the PayPal site where you can donate with a credit card or a PayPal account.



NEW ROOF COMING

We don't have the exact dates yet, but work will begin on our new roof sometime this spring. This will be an extensive project requiring staging to be built up the sides of the building. Before the new shingles can be put on, the rotting eaves will have to be replaced and this involves some asbestos abatement. Rules regarding asbestos abatement have become more stringent over the years, so we must have experts do this job. After looking at bids from three different companies, your board has chosen J.P. Builders from Alton, NH. The board members felt that this bid would provide us the best value for our money.



NEW POLICIES

Your Board of Directors is constantly working to create the structure under which we operate for the benefit of all our members and our audiences. At the most recent meeting in January, the board approved the following:

Starting the Sunday before Opening Night, rehearsals are closed to the general public. Photographer, House Managers, ushers, or parent/guardian of a non-driving child in the show are the only individuals whose names do not appear in the program who may watch rehearsals from that point on. Any exception to this policy must be requested in writing to the director or producer and approved prior to that Sunday. A donation to the Village Players in the amount (per person) of the ticket price will be expected for any guest who has permission to see the show before Opening Night.

The board has added this policy to our Policies and Procedures Manual in order to avoid placing the director of a show in the awkward position of having to refuse, for example, "Aunt Agatha, who can't come to a performance, but would just like to sit in the back during a rehearsal." To continue to allow this is not fair to all the other audience members who pay full price for their tickets.

The board is now working on a universal audition form which would be used for all shows so that we have consistent information. Directors could use another form in addition to this one, but would need to have all auditioners fill out this one as well as any other they chose. As soon as this is confirmed by the board, it will be added to the Policies and Procedures Manual. You can find this manual on our website under the Contact Us tab at the bottom of that page <http://www.village-players.com/bylaws/policieswebsite.html>.



MOVIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

by Carol Bense

Just a quick notice: We were unable to acquire rights to show "Gremlins" in August, so our August movie will be "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory" and the dates for the November movie have changed to Nov. 18th and 19th to avoid the Thanksgiving Holiday.

In February we have that classic sci-fi film noir, "**Blade Runner.**" Directed by Ridley Scott, this film has been called his finest hour. In this entirely possible scenario, he calls forth a grimy violent class of citizens who have not been eligible for the established colonies and so are forced to live in this brutal world. In the futuristic year of 2019, Los Angeles has become a dark and depressing metropolis, filled with urban decay. Rick Deckard, an ex-cop, is a "Blade Runner". Blade runners are people assigned to assassinate "replicants". The replicants are androids that look like real human beings. When four replicants commit a bloody mutiny on the Off World colony, Deckard is called out of retirement to track down the androids. As he tracks the replicants, eliminating them one by one, he soon comes across another replicant, Rachel, who evokes human emotion, despite the fact that she's a replicant herself. As Deckard closes in on the leader of the replicant group, his true hatred toward artificial intelligence makes him question his own identity in this future world, including what's human and what's not human. Harrison Ford stars with other actors you may recognize including Edward James Olmos and Daryl Hannah. Show times are Saturday, Feb. 18th at 8pm and Sunday, Feb. 19th at 2pm.

"**The Maltese Falcon**" is our offering for March. A classic detective film that stands up today as well as it did in 1941, this film is probably the best-known in its genre. Based on the Dashiell Hammett novel and directed by John Huston, this film is a timeless work that deserves its place in the list of greatest films ever made. Humphrey Bogart stars as Sam Spade with other great names in film, Sydney Greenstreet, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre, and Ward Bond. The plot revolves around private detective (Sam Spade) who takes on a case that involves him with three eccentric criminals, a gorgeous liar, and their quest for a priceless statuette. Show times are Saturday, March 18th at 8pm and Sunday, March 19th at 2pm.

Popcorn and other refreshments will be available before the show. It's an enjoyable evening (or afternoon) out for everyone in the family.

Get your tickets on-line on our website, www.village-players.com or at the door on the day of performance.



VP BITS news about members etc.

Joshua Spaulding has received his credentials to cover the Olympics again. This time in 2018 in Pyeongchang, Korea. Go Josh.

Rick and Kim Tessari are all ready for their daughter, Mary, to arrive.

Bobbi Boudman, Kathleen Hill, Jeanne Puglisi and Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler traveled separately to Washington, DC to represent at the Women's March.

Jerome Holden is skimming across the ice in his new iceboat. Looks like lots of fun - sort of like flying on the ice.

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

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

Once again, (amazingly it happens every year) dues are due for 2017. You can check to see if you have paid yours by going to our website and clicking on the red Member Access tab. Cursor down to the 2017 purple MEMBERS link and click on it. You will find an alphabetical list of members. Find your name and cursor across to the 2017 column. If there is a date in that column, your dues are paid for 2017. If not, then it's easy to pay. Dues are \$15 per year for an individual and \$25 per year for a family (two adults and all dependent children living in one household). You can simply send a check to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 (please note membership in the memo line) or you can pay with a credit card through PayPal on our website.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Greg Parker played Eugene Jerome in our production of the first play in the trilogy, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in 2001. And now he reprises the character in the second play, *Biloxi Blues*. Unfortunately we do not have a photo of him in that production. This is him in *Moon Over Buffalo*, three years later.



CONTACT US...

Mail: PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 **Voice-mail:** 603-569-9656
Web site: www.village-players.com **Email:** info@village-players.com

2017 Village Players Board

President -	Jim Adams	875-0714
Vice President -	Christian Boudman	393-3613
Secretary -	Rosemary Lounsbury.....	569-2599
Treasurer -	Joshua Spaulding.....	630-7410
Members at Large -	Jay Sydow (1yr).....	875-6792
	Tracy Lionetta (1yr).....	875-5305
	Matt Johnson (1yr).....	781-437-7007
	Joyce Wood (2yr).....	539-3259
	Laura Cooper(2yr).....	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 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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TAKE A LOOK AT THE WEBSITE

One of the main reasons to maintain a website is to make sure information is up to date. The Prompter comes out only every other month, so obviously information that you receive through that medium can change. But, we do our very best to make sure that the information on the website is current. So what can you find on there? Current show, upcoming shows, current movie offering, movies for the whole year, member lists, how to get tickets, past issues of The Prompter (back to June 2002), a listing of all our productions (from 1978) with photos and programs for most, a memorial page with photos and information on many we have lost, the history of our organization and our building, information on how to join or donate, a list of our board members with phone numbers and email addresses, information on and application form for our scholarship, a list of past board members, our Policies and Procedures Manual, our Articles of Agreement, our Bylaws, a calendar of our events, links to our season sponsors, and more. All that is available to you on our website, www.village-players.com. Take a look.