



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT APRIL 2016



Bathroom Humor Auditions

by Jay Sydow

Auditions for our summer production will be held Sunday, April 10 and Monday, April 11 at 7pm at the theater on Glendon Street.

Bathroom Humor, written by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore, is a hilarious

farce that takes place entirely within a second-floor bathroom at a house playing host to an increasingly wild office party. What better place for gossip and hanky panky, where we learn of the wild and crazy things going on at the party. Characters come and go throughout, spilling their indiscretions and dirty little secrets to the audience. As we quickly learn in the viewing, nobody is really the person they claim to be.

It all starts with slender, sleek, and saucy Laura, and chunky, insecure Peg talking about the other people coming to the party, the latest in gossip. Then Babette shows up. It's then that the shallowness of the beautiful people is revealed for all it is.

Cast of Characters:

- LAURA - The boss's wife. Has a thing for Sandy.
- PEG - Insecure. Overweight. Sweet and naïve. Brings her Dad as her "date."
- BABETTE - Office flirt. Not above taking what isn't hers.
- OLD MAN - Weak-bladdered father of Peg.
- STU - The guy that will raid a house's medicine cabinet and take random medications.
- ARTHUR - The boss. Timid and simple man who loves his wife, Laura
- SANDY - Trying to get up the nerve to ask Arthur for a raise. Has a thing for Laura (the boss's wife).
- THE BIG EL - Party entertainer. Not the best at what he does but owns it.

Jay Sydow will be directing this office party with the assistance of Joshua Spaulding. Not only do they need a cast, but there are many production jobs that need to be filled including producer, lighting designer/operator, stage manager, house manager and many more. There are plenty of jobs to go around so please don't be shy. You can contact Jay at jaysydow@gmail.com.

You can find out more about *Bathroom Humor* by going to <http://www.samuel french.com/p/677/bathroom-humor>

Any questions, please feel free to contact Jay.



by Carol Bense

Auditions for the two lead roles in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*, will be held at the theater at 7pm on Sunday, May 29 and Monday, May 30. We need to be sure we can find the right people for these pivotal roles before we contract for the show. If you are interested in the role of Billy Bigelow or Julie Jordan, please come to one of these auditions. You can find out more about *Carousel* at <http://www.rnh.com/show/20/Carousel> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel_(musical)). If you have questions, please contact Carol Bense at cwbense@roadrunner.com or call 603-569-1396.

Auditions for all other parts in the show will be held in July and will be posted on-line and published in the June issue of *The Prompter*.

Start off the new month with *Drinking Habits* laughs

by Joshua Spaulding

Looking to start April off with some laughs? Then the Village Players is the place to be, as the spring production is in full swing the first two weekends of April. *Drinking Habits*, written by Tom Smith and directed by longtime Village Player Megan Rohrbacher, is on the stage for a second weekend on April 8, 9 and 10, with 8 p.m. shows on April 8 and 9 and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, April 10.

Drinking Habits tells the story of nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual



Mother Superior is overcome by it all.

Sewing convent who have been secretly making wine to help keep their convent afloat. Though most of the people around them don't know what they have been secretly doing, Sister Augusta (Emily Marsh) and Sister Philomena (Kristi Nieman) are walking a fine

line as they try to balance their sewing duties for the church with making grape juice and wine from the vineyards on the

How I Got Hooked - A Personal Theater Story

by Joshua Spaulding

I played basketball in high school. Or actually, I was on the basketball team in high school. The JV team during my sophomore and junior years. As a vertically-challenged person, I was never going to make it in basketball, but I loved baseball and basketball got me in shape for the spring baseball season.

However, my senior year, I decided that I didn't need to take up a roster spot that easily could go to someone more talented so I decided to look elsewhere for something to fill my time. One of my favorite teachers, Mr. Dugan-Henriksen, ran the drama club at Groveton High School so I decided I would give it a try. They were always in need of guys, so the chances were pretty good that I would see more time on the stage than I ever would on the basketball court.

The first show we did my senior year was a pair of radio plays. We portrayed the "stars" reading the play in a radio studio during the 1940s. I enjoyed it for a few reasons, chief among them was that I was allowed to wear a baseball hat in school and we had the scripts right in front of us. It was a lot of fun and, while it didn't get me in shape for baseball, it kept me active and allowed me to hang out with friends while having a good time.

The second show we did my senior year was our festival show. It was called Chamber Music and I won't forget it because I was the only guy in the entire show. I was a doctor at a home where the show's seven women were living. I had one line in the show and I had to shut the window, yet I struggled to remember my blocking or my cue and I often screwed up the line. I realized quickly that acting without a script was going to go about as well as my basketball career. Nonetheless, festival was a lot of fun, the actresses in the show were very good and I thoroughly enjoyed my time. However, we only did two shows a year and I never had another chance to get on the stage at Groveton High School, until graduation that is, but my role there was rather limited as well.

Flash forward to 2009, which was 15 years after my final time on stage and I got a message from a college friend, John Savage. Seems he was directing the musical *Mame* at The Village Players and he was wondering if I wanted to be in the pit band. He probably realized too late that my basketball career had a better chance at succeeding than my pit band career. Nonetheless, I lived through the six shows and fell in love with something that hadn't been part of my life in many years.

The next summer, Jay Sydow and Russ Ellis were directing *Unnecessary Farce* and remembering my glowing performance in the *Mame* pit band (or more likely knowing that I write for a living), asked

if I'd like to do publicity for their show. I came to some rehearsals, took some pictures and had a good time. Then in 2012, Jay came calling again, looking for backstage help for *Leading Ladies*. Since then, I've been part of every show, in one way or another. I realize that I'm in this for the long haul.

I've worked on stage crew, done publicity, served as producer, stage manager and house manager and helped to build sets. In a few shows, I even showed up on stage for a moment or two. In *Spamalot* last fall, I had my first line in a show since high school. And this summer I'm learning a new role, that of assistant director.

So what, you may ask, is the point of all of this rambling? Let me tell you. I've worked in Wolfeboro since 2003, I've covered the local high school sports scene around the Lakes Region and beyond that entire time. I enjoy my job and I also enjoy being part of the community. But it wasn't until I found The Village Players that I really felt that I had found a home, a place where I belong. I often thought about looking for another job or moving on to something else, but in the years since I've been involved with The Village Players, that desire to move on has waned. I know a lot of different people in this community and some of the most genuinely nice people I know are associated with this theater. They are people that give generously of their time and talents for the benefit of others. I've seen many great performances on the stage (Kaylin Dean and Priscilla Adams in *Gypsy* will always rank as one of my favorite performances of all time) and I've been honored to be a part of them, in one small way or another.

So, the point? I just want to say thank you to everyone whom I've encountered on my Village Players journey to date. You've all played a role in making me feel like I've found a home away from home, a place where I can just be me.

As long as I don't have to memorize too many lines.



TYLER DOUGLAS WADE

On February 8, 2016 we lost Tyler Wade at a much too early age. Many of you knew Tyler from his work backstage. He worked on both set construction and the stage crew for *Seussical*, *The Musical* in 2014. He served as Assistant Director for Kathleen Hill on both *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in 2007 and *Oklahoma!* in 2008. He was planning to work on our summer show, but his illness overtook him. RIP Tyler.

Donations may be made to the Tyler Douglas Wade Memorial Scholarship Fund at any MVSBS branch or at MVSBS, PO Box 177, Meredith, NH 03253. The scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing an education in theater.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Here is Rob Eggers in his portrayal of The Artful Dodger in *Oliver* back in 1996. 20 years later he is the writer and director of the new movie "Vvitch". He won best director at the Sundance Film Festival and his movie is now in nationwide release.





MOVIES FOR APRIL AND MAY

by Carol Bense

Remember Gloria Swanson? Well, here she is in all her glory and one of her most famous movies, "**Sunset Boulevard**". She triumphs in her performance as Norma Desmond, a silent-screen goddess whose pathetic belief in her own indestructibility has turned her into a demented recluse. The crumbling Sunset Boulevard mansion where she lives with only her butler, Max, who was once her director and husband, has become her self-contained world. Norma dreams of a comeback to pictures and she begins a relationship with Joe Gillis, a small-time writer who becomes her lover, that will soon end with murder and total madness. William Holden conquers the role of Joe Gillis.

This is it... the most compelling dramatic story ever unfolded on the screen... a tale of heartache and tragedy...love and ambition... told against the fabulous background of Hollywood. You will also catch a few glimpses of Jack Webb, Buster Keaton, Hedda Hopper, Cecile B. DeMille, and H. B. Warner. Truly a wonderful classic film. If you have seen it before, you know you will enjoy it again. If you haven't, you have a treat in store. Showings will be Saturday, April 16 at 8pm and Sunday, April 17 at 2pm.

In May, we return to our summer schedule as we present that magical fantasy, "**The 7th Voyage of Sinbad**." The Cyclops, a magic lamp, a Genie, a giant roc, and a beautiful princess, all add to the wonder of this Arabian Nights adventure. Captain Sinbad must save a miniature princess and the peace between two kingdoms in this monumental adventure film from producer Charles Schneer and director Nathan Juran. Sinbad must get the shell of the legendary Roc's egg on Colossa Island as an ingredient for evil magician Sokurah's potion that will bring the princess back to size. Along the way, we are treated to some of the greatest stop-motion animation techniques ever to grace the screen. Ray Harryhausen does a splendid job with his animation and makes this film a true joy to watch. If you saw it back in the 50s, you will surely remember the magic of it. We hope to bring back that magic on the big screen. Showings will be Friday, May 13th at 8pm and Saturday, May 14th at 8pm.

MOVIE SPONSORS

What? You want to see your name or your business name or the name of someone you would like to honor up there on the big screen and on the movie page of our website? You can do that and it's a wonderful way to make someone feel very special. To sponsor a movie costs only \$120. You can pick whichever movie you would like unless someone else is already sponsoring it. There are lots of choices remaining. AND you get two free tickets to the movie you sponsor.

If you are interested, just contact Priscilla Adams at priscillaadams123@gmail.com or call her at 875-0714. She will be happy to explain it all to you.

Drinking Habits cont. from page 1

convent's grounds. They get a little help from the convent's groundskeeper, George (Vinny Amico), but when Mother Superior (Helen Rautenberg) learns of a new sister (Maggie Fraser) coming to join their order, she fears that the church is looking to shut down the small convent.

Father Chenille (Brooks Campbell), the church's pastor, is also a bit concerned when another new sister (Jennifer Smith) and priest (Rick Tessari) show up on the convent's doorsteps, but little do the convent's current residents know, they are both undercover reporters trying to find out just how the convent manages to stay open despite the small numbers inside the walls.

The Village Players spring production will wrap up on April 8, 9 and 10, with tickets available online at village-players.com or at Black's Paper Store in downtown Wolfeboro. Come out and enjoy some laughs as April swings into the Lakes Region.



VP BITS

news about members etc.

Athena Ellis has put her background with VP and her education to good use in her new position as Production Director at Playhouse on Park theater in Hartford, CT. Congratulations, Athena.

Kristine Adams is now a Senior Intern at World Affairs Council of New Hampshire working to promote greater understanding of world events by NH citizens, through workshops, conferences, and training sessions. Go Kristine.

By the way, both Athena and Kristine were recipients of The Village Players scholarship during their first year of college. The funds for these scholarships come from the money you donate in the baskets during intermissions at our plays, so you should be proud to have supported them.

Jerome Holden took 1st place in the men's 50+ group in the Abenaki Winter Triathlon and 5th fastest overall individual time.

Rob Eggers who participated in several VP shows back when he was a teen-ager including playing The Artful Dodger in *Oliver*, has grown up to become a well-known director. His new film "VVitch" has just been released to critical and popular acclaim. Go, Rob.

Keith Belanger, Musical Director for many of our fall musicals, is starring as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Windham Actors Guild. Performances will be at the Windham High School on April 8, 9 and 10. For more info you can go to windhamactorsguild.com.

Andrew Long, one of our newer members, came in second in a downhill ski race at Waterville Valley. Congratulations, Andrew.

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.

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

2015 Village Players Board

President -	Jim Adams	875-0714
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	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 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



P.O. Box 770 Wolfeboro, NH 03894



Join Our Movie Team

by Carol Bense

We have a great team running our movie nights, but we need some more folks to learn how to operate the projection system. We are happy to teach, but if you already have the skills, that's great too. We run two showings each month, and we now have three people who operate the system. We would like to find at least two more who were interested so that the duties could be spread out a bit more. If you wanted to do it every other month or even every third month, your commitment could be that infrequent. Please contact Christian Boudman (christianboudman@gmail.com 393-3613) or Jim Adams (pjadams_wp@tds.net 875-0714). They can explain how it all works and answer any questions you may have. Even if you have just a slight interest, please talk with one of them to get more information.