



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT AUGUST 2015



Monty Python taking over Village Players Theater this fall

by Joshua Spaulding

The Village Players fall musical is sure to provide many, many laughs and the first journey to those laughs takes place in mid-August. Auditions for *Monty Python's Spamalot* are set for Sunday, Aug. 16, and Monday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m. both nights. Those wishing to audition should come prepared to sing and act with a British accent and also be prepared to dance, also with a British accent.

And the journey has a number of interesting twists along the way, for sure, particularly with veteran Village Players director Jay Sydow at the helm.

Monty Python's Spamalot tells the legendary tale of King Arthur's quest to find the Holy Grail. Inspired by the classic comedy film, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the musical also diverts a bit from more traditional versions of the legend. Instead, *Spamalot* features many shenanigans, including a line of beautiful dancing girls, a flatulent Frenchman and killer rabbits.

Outside, there is plague with a 50 percent chance of pestilence and famine. Throughout the show, Arthur, traveling with his servant Patsy, recruits several knights to accompany him on his quest, including Sir Bedevere, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot and Sir Galahad. Besides the rabbits and farting Frenchman, they meet such characters as the Lady of the Lake, Prince Herbert, Tim the Enchanter, Not Dead Fred, the Black Knight and the Knights who say Ni.

There are plenty of roles available for many different actors and actresses. "Contrary to what I have heard, there are many roles for women," Sydow stated. "Dancers, dancers, dancers."

Roles include the following:

King Arthur is the King of England who sets out on a quest to form the Knights of the Roundtable and find the Holy

spamalot cont. on pg.3

A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

by Carol Bense

On August 21st and 22nd **Estelle Parsons** will be our honored guest at the showings of the movie, *Bonnie and Clyde*, for which she won the Academy Award for her performance as Blanche Barrow. Ms. Parsons will talk to us about the movie and will take questions after the showing of the film.

Here she is at our theater sharing her Oscar statuette with some of our members.



If you have never seen *Bonnie and Clyde* you may remember Ms. Parsons from her recurring television role as Beverly Harris on the sitcom, *Roseanne*. She has been nominated five times for a Tony Award including a recent nomination in 2009 for her lead role as Violet Weston in *August: Osage County*. Her television, theater and film credits cover a span of over 50 years with numerous awards.

You will not want to miss this opportunity to see a very fine film and to meet and talk to a very talented and charming actress who has graciously agreed to visit with us and discuss her role in the film.

Tickets are \$5 and are available on-line at www.village-players.com or at the door while they last. Box office opens at 7pm and the program begins at 8pm.

Boeing-Boeing wraps up run Aug. 1 and 2

by Joshua Spaulding

Before *Monty Python's Spamalot* completely takes over the Village Players Theater, the cast of *Boeing-*



Boeing will be wrapping up their production the first few days in August. Directed by veteran Village Players actor and director Russ Ellis, the show features a cast of six in Paris, France in the 1960s, where bachelor architect Bernard keeps his apartment humming with three different stewardesses coming in and out. Bernard finds himself in a pickle when a faster Boeing jet means that all three of his girlfriends are in town together.

boeing cont. on pg.2

boeing cont. from pg.1

Bernard is played by Village Players veteran Rick Tessari, while his American friend Robert, who stumbles into the middle of Bernard's situation, is played by Danny Catalano, who is coming off a stellar performance as Christopher Wren in *The Mousetrap*.

Gabriella, the Italian fiancée is played by Toni Dingley, who is returning to the stage for the first time since *Gypsy*. Gretchen, the German fiancée is played by Lisa Rose Penny, who is back on the stage for the first time since playing Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof*. The American fiancée, Gloria, is portrayed by Village Players veteran Victoria Neal, who is back on stage for the first time since last spring's *Death and Taxes*.



Berthe (Jen Smith) and Gretchen (Lisa Penny) get up close and personal during Boeing-Boeing rehearsals.

Keeping everything in line, or at least trying to keep things in line, is Bernard's housekeeper, Berthe, played by Village Players newcomer Jen Smith.

Boeing-Boeing is written by Marc Camoletti and in 1992 entered the Guinness Book of Records as

the most performed French play throughout the world. The show will wrap up its run the first weekend in August, with a show on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 8 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m. Our thanks to Bruce and Kris Gurall who are sponsors for this show.



Gretchen (Lisa Penny) and Robert (Danny Catalano) talk things over during Boeing-Boeing rehearsals

VP BITS

news about members etc.

Kaylin Dean will have a role as one of the nurses in *South Pacific* at the Seacoast Repertory Theater in Portsmouth, NH. We all know she will be terrific in this show. You can see her performance from July 10th through August 2nd. Tickets are available at <http://www.seacoastrep.org>

Jeanne Puglisi, daughter of **Kathleen Hill**, took first place in Division 3 of the NH State High Jump Championships. Doin' that Fosbury Flop. Congratulations Jeanne. We knew she was a dancer, but didn't know she was a jumper too.

Another new VPer on the way. **Mara (Lamb)Michno and her husband, Eddie**, are expecting their first child some time this fall. Keep 'em comin'!

If you have news about current or former Village Players, please forward it to cwbense@roadrunner.com.

SPECIAL MOVIE PRESENTATION

by Jay Sydow

On September 25 and 26 at 8:00 pm



will be offering a special night of flying cows, Finnish dancers, and of course laughs when we present *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Get a chance to see the movie that inspired our fall musical, *Monty Python's Spamalot*. Be prepared to laugh out loud. Proceeds from the showings will go toward the fall musical. There may even be a few surprises and a sneak peak into our live production. Hope to see you there. As always we would love to have you as a movie sponsor. Please check our website village-players.com for more information on our movie schedule and how you can become a movie sponsor.

Grail. The age range is late 30s to 60s.

Sir Robin, an age range of 30s-40s, is a Knight of the Roundtable, ironically called "Sir Robin the Brave," though the truth is he couldn't be more cowardly.

Sir Lancelot, or Lance, is a Knight of the Roundtable who is fearless to a bloody fault, but he does discover his "softer side" during the run of the show. Age range is also 30s-40s.

Patsy, with an age range of 30s-40s, is King Arthur's horse and servant. This role involves coconuts.

Sir Galahad is another Knight of the Roundtable who begins as Dennis, a lower class 'mud gatherer' who becomes knighted and transfers into a dashing Sir Galahad. The age range is in the 30s.

Sir Bedevere, yet another Knight of the Roundtable, is an inept scholar and the age range is in his 20s.

The Lady of the Lake, the leading lady in the show, a diva who is strong, beautiful and possesses mystical powers.

The age range is 20s-40s.

The Historian is a tweedy academic and there are spots in the ensemble for actors and actresses of all ages.

Many actors will play double roles in the production and Sydow notes that while there are age ranges on most of the characters, those ages are not etched in stone.

Additionally, with a show of this magnitude and undertaking, lots of help is needed in getting this production off the ground. One of the biggest needs will be for costume help, as the show will provide a unique challenge. Also, production help will be needed for lights, sound, stage crew, construction, publicity, house management, hair and makeup, and props, among other needs. Anyone interested in helping in any way in this production is welcome to contact Sydow at jaysydow@gmail.com.

And to help get people in the mood for *Monty Python's Spamalot* (like anyone's not ever in the mood for a flatulent Frenchman and killer rabbits), the film that inspired the musical will be screening on the large screen at the Village Players Theater. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* will be shown on Friday, Sept. 25, and Saturday, Sept. 26, both at 8 p.m. as a special event, separate from the normal monthly Village Players Present The Movies productions.

Monty Python's Spamalot will be on the stage on Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. each night and matinee shows at 2 p.m. on Nov. 15 and Nov. 22.



Come to our air-conditioned theater and spend some of it with us.



by Carol Bense

August brings **Bonnie and Clyde** to our screen on the 21st and 22nd at 8pm. Based on the 1930's crime spree of the real-life outlaws, Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, this film is considered a "landmark", regarded as one of the first films of the New Hollywood Era since it broke many taboos and was popular with the younger generation. Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway star as the title leads, with Estelle Parsons and Michael J. Pollard as their sidekicks. (Please see the article on page 1 about a very special movie night)

In September we return to our regular winter schedule with showings on Saturday night at 8pm and Sunday afternoon at 2pm.

On September 19th at 8pm and on September 20th at 2pm, we will be bringing you *The Great Escape*, starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough. This World War II epic deals with the escape by British and Commonwealth prisoners of war from a German POW camp. The film is based on Paul Brickhill's 1950 book of the same name, a non-fiction first-hand account of the mass escape from Stalag Luft III in Nazi Germany. The characters are based on real men, and in some cases are composites of several men. This exciting action film was selected by the National Board of Review as one of the top ten films of the year.

And on September 25th and 26th **both at 8pm** a special presentation of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the movie that inspired our fall musical, *Monty Python's Spamalot*. (Please see the promotion on page 2.)

As always, tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased online at www.village-players.com, or at the door. The box office opens one hour before the showing. Popcorn, candy and water are all available at very reasonable prices. Enjoy a night at the movies with the family without breaking the bank.



CONTACT US...

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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
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A HARD WINTER FOR EVERYONE AND PARKING LOT ISSUES

by Carol Bense

Winter was hard on all of us this year, but the handicapped ramp at the theater took a particularly difficult blow. A giant cascade of ice slid off the roof bringing down the fire escape onto the air conditioning compressors and the ramp. Tim Brown brought over his crane and was able to pull the fire escape off the ramp and compressors, and several of our board members cleared the snow and ice from the ramp so that it is useable, but the ramp was badly damaged, and the compressors will also need repair.

As you may know, the parking lot next to our building belongs to Fairpoint Communications. For years we have used it to provide access to our handicap ramp, but some legal issues have arisen and Fairpoint can no longer allow us to park there at any time, or to access our handicap ramp through the parking lot. We are in the process of working out a solution which will probably involve creating access to the ramp from the left side of our building. More on that when it is more firmly planned. In the meantime, watch for the Handicapped Access signs when you come to the theater.

Please, do not park in the Fairpoint lot for any reason. You may be ticketed and towed if you do.