



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT AUGUST 2016



FALL SHOW WILL BE *KISS ME, KATE*

by Carol Bense

We know this is a bit of a surprise for many, since we were planning to do *Carousel* this fall. However, at auditions for the lead roles, we did not get any men. So we have chosen another show which does

not have such stringent requirements for the lead roles for men.

Kiss Me, Kate is a wonderful show with many great roles for both men and women so we hope you will all turn out for auditions on Sunday, August 7th and Monday, August 8th at our theater at 7pm. We will need lots of folks on stage for this one. Here is the cast list.

Principals: (3 female; 7 male)

Hattie — Lili Vanessi's dresser

Paul — Fred Graham's dresser, specialty dancer & leader of solo trio for "Too Darn Hot"

Lois Lane (Bianca) — a nightclub singer in her first featured role on the stage

Bill Calhoun (Lucentio) — a Broadway hooper, Lois' partner and a chronic gambler

Lilli Vanessi (Katharine) — a star stage and screen actress, former wife of Fred Graham

Fred Graham (Petruccio) — writer, producer, director, actor and superman; former husband of Lili

First Man — gunman-enforcer & half the donkey for Finale Act Two

Second Man — gunman-enforcer & half the donkey for Finale Act Two

Gremio — first suitor; ensemble dancer & motorcyclist; doubles as Flynt, aide to Gen. Howell

Hortensio — second suitor; ensemble dancer & motorcyclist; doubles as Riley, aide to Gen. Howell

General Harrison Howell — career military officer, politician and Lili's "new" man

Supporting

Pops (Stage Doorman) — ensemble; doubles as Padua Priest

Ralph (Stage Manager) — ensemble singer

Dance Captain — doubles as Gregory, servant to Petruccio; ensemble dancer & recorder player

Harry Trevor — a veteran character actor; doubles as Baptista Minola

Stagehand #1 (Electrician & Cab Driver — doubles as Nathaniel, servant to Petruccio)

Stagehand #2 (Assistant Electrician) — doubles as Philip, servant to Petruccio

Stagehand #3 (Carpenter & Driver for Gen. Howell — doubles as Haberdasher)

Wardrobe Lady — ensemble singer

Ensemble Singer — part of female quartet for "Bianca"; doubles as Padua Inn Waitress

Two Women — part of female quartet for "Bianca"

Four Women — ensemble dancers

Ensemble

Company SATB singers and dancers

Citizens of Padua

With all these roles available, there must be something for YOU, so do come to one of the auditions. AND if you would like to work on this show in any other capacity (set, costumes, make-up, lights, stage managing, house managing etc.) please come to one of the auditions, or contact Carol Bense (cwbense@roadrunner.com or 569-1396).

Kiss Me, Kate is a play-within-a-play where each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage as a theater troupe puts on a production of the musical version of *The Taming of the Shrew*, while dealing with lots of personal problems off-stage, including love triangles, gambling problems and gangsters. Musical numbers include those fabulous Cole Porter standards; *Why Can't You Behave*, *So In Love*, *Wunderbar*, *Tom, Dick or Harry*, *Were Thine That Special Face*, *From This Moment On*, *Too Darn Hot*, *Brush Up Your Shakespeare*, *I Hate Men*, *Always True to You (In My Fashion)* and *Another Op'nin', Another Show*.

Rosemary Lounsbury and Kristi Neisen will be Assistant Directors with Carol Bense directing and Keith Belanger as Musical Director. Lots of other jobs are available and we would love to have you working on this show with us. You can learn more about the show at <http://www.tamswitmark.com/shows/kiss-me-kate-1999/>

**Come and join us. We would love to have you
become a part of this production.**

Taking a peek into the Bathroom (Humor that is)

by Joshua Spaulding

For what seemed like an eternity, the entire cast of The Village Players' summer show was never in the same room together, with vacations, graduations and other life commitments keeping people away. Plus, the way the show was designed, different groups of people had scenes together, which made it easy to pare down rehearsals, bringing in two or three people on one night and another two or three on another night. And so went the first month or so of rehearsals.

But eventually, James Cross made his way north from Louisiana to bless us with his presence, Priscilla Adams saw her daughter graduate from college and settle in a new job and returned rested and relaxed from Hawaii and Jen Smith returned from a vacation in Mexico ready for her final months in Wolfeboro. Throw in theater veterans Russ Ellis, Meggin Dail, Bob Rautenberg and Christian Boudman and newcomer Chris Campbell and the show was ready to go with a full cast on board for the final month of rehearsals.

As is often the case with a farce, rehearsals involved a lot of laughs and a lot of those laughs came from the cast themselves as they worked their way through the blocking and the lines of this show, which in case you didn't get a chance to see it, is set entirely in a (hideous) bathroom at an office party.

We had numerous people step to the plate to help move the production forward, from producer Carol Bense and stage manager Laura Cooper, to Helen Rautenberg, Toni Dingley, Bobbi Boudman and Michaela Andruzzi, who stepped in to help with costumes at the last minute.

But through it all, the cast continued to laugh. They took direction from director Jay Sydow and made the

characters their own. They took their characters to new levels and found places that surprised everyone involved. From a dancing Elvis to the boss in his underwear wrapped in cable television wires, from the office druggie smoking a burrito to the numerous affairs trying to be kept secret, from the old man who just needs to use the bathroom to the wife of the boss and her alcohol consumption, there were many moments that brought laughs to everyone involved.

Bathroom Humor was certainly a unique show, one that provided a bit of a look into just what happens in the bathroom at an office party. There's seemingly always something happening behind the scenes at those events that people don't know about and this show gave everyone an idea of just what happens when nobody's watching. And to make it even funnier, the show was expanded a bit, with a surprise opening scene that wasn't in the script, providing even more laughs for all involved.

And all it took to get things in line was the entire cast being in the same room at the same time. Who would've guessed?



Priscilla Adams as Peg and Bob Rautenberg as "The Big El"



The Peter M. Atwood

SPECIAL SCREENING OF THE FILM "ATWOOD"

On August 18th, The New Hampshire Boat Museum and The Village Players will co-sponsor a special screening of the film "Atwood", the story of the schooner "Atwood" known on Lake Winnepesaukee as "the black pirate ship." The boat sailed the Alton Bay/Wolfeboro waters for 25 years. The film chronicles the boat's story and eventual demise. Winner of the 2014 Best Short Documentary at the SNOB Film Festival in Concord, the filmmaker and boatbuilder/captain will be present.

"Atwood" is not only for boat enthusiasts. This special film gently explores the unavoidable grief and inevitable losses that are part of our human journey. Graceful living, as we grow older, requires that we learn the discipline of letting go.

This unique event will be held at the Village Players Theatre in Downtown Wolfeboro. The start time is 7PM and the cost is \$5 per person. You can register on-line at <http://www.nhbm.org/eevents/?ee=92>. You can also pay at the door.

The builder and sailor of this iconic boat is the father of the late Keith King, Jr. who was an active member of The Village Players. You can find our memorial to Keith Jr. at <http://www.village-players.com/memorial/Kingmem.pdf> (photo thanks to "Sunset Bob" on Facebook)



OOPS!

In the last issue of The Prompter, a piece on the spring show, Drinking Habits, accidentally omitted cast member, Helen Rautenberg (left), who portrayed Mother Superior in the successful run of the show. Helen has been an integral part of numerous Village Players productions and is currently helping with costumes on the summer production of Bathroom Humor. We apologize for this accidental omission.

AND OOPS! AGAIN

- In the June issue we listed Bruce and Kris Gurall as sponsors of the summer show, Bathroom Humor. However, this was an error. The Guralls sponsored our spring show, Drinking Habits. The sponsor for Bathroom Humor is Richard J. Neal, DMD. Dr. Neal is also a Season Sponsor and a continuing supporter of The Village Players. Thank you to our sponsors and we apologize for the error.
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MOVIES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

by Carol Bense

Airplane!, will be flying in on August 19 and 20 at 8pm. A parody of the disaster film genre, the film is known for its use of surreal humor and its fast-paced slapstick comedy, including visual and verbal puns and gags. *Airplane!* received universal acclaim from critics and is widely regarded as one of the best films of 1980, also winning awards as one of the top comedies of all time. When the crew of an airplane are struck by some form of virus, the fate of the passengers depends on an ex-war pilot who is the only one able to land the plane safely! The passengers represent a selection of interesting wacky characters who seem to take every word for its literal meaning. The film stars Robert Hays, Julie Hagerty, and Leslie Nielsen with appearances by Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves, Robert Stack, Kareem Abdul-Jabar, Maureen McGovern, and Ethel Merman. For laughs and fun, this is the one. *Airplane!* is sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank.

In September, we have that Sci-fi classic, *Them!* In the New Mexico desert, Police Sgt. Ben Peterson (James Whitmore) and his partner (Chris Drake) team up with FBI agent Robert Graham (James Arness) and, with the support of Dr. Harold Medford (Edmund Gwenn) and his daughter Dr. Patricia 'Pat' Medford (Joan Weldon), they destroy the colony of ants in the middle of the desert. Dr. Harold Medford explains that the atomic testing in 1945 developed the dangerous mutant ants. But they also discover that two queen ants have flown away to Los Angeles and they are starting a huge colony in the underground of the city. Will they be able to destroy the colony and save us all? Look for Leonard Nimoy and Fess Parker as well. According to *Variety*, *Them!* is a "top-notch science fiction shocker. It has a well-plotted story, expertly directed and acted in a matter-of-fact style to rate a chiller payoff and thoroughly satisfy the fans of hackle-raising melodrama." It has become generally regarded as one of the very best science fiction films of the 1950s.

Tickets are \$5 and are available at the beginning of the month for each film, on-line at www.village-players.com or at the door. You can use a credit card or PayPal on-line in advance, but you must have cash or check at the door if you wait until the day of the showing to buy your ticket. Refreshments are available before the show.

See you at the movies.

BECOME A PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER

by Carol Bense

Maybe you like to write, or maybe you would just like to learn to do desktop publishing, or maybe you like to take pictures, or maybe you are looking for something new to keep you busy without a huge time commitment. This one is very flexible. This newsletter is published every other month, so you can schedule your time to work on it during the two months before.

We are looking for more folks to become involved in the process. If you have any interest, we would love to add you to the staff which produces this newsletter. If you are interested in learning to do desktop publishing using a free program which can be downloaded from the web, we can teach you how to do everything you see in this document (and more).

If you have any interest, or even if you would like to learn more about it, please contact Carol Bense at cwbense@roadrunner.com or 569-1396.



VP BITS

news about members etc.

Megan Rohrbacher is well into her new position at Operation Manager/Morning Host on a new Edge Streaming Radio station located in the seacoast area. You can find her live at seacoastonline.com from 6 to 10am, Monday through Friday. Congratulations, Megan.

Nettie Vaughan has published her first book, "A 'Harey' Situation in Bunville." For a look at this children's book, just go to Amazon books and type the title in the search engine. "It took 20 years, but I finally did it," says Nettie.

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.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Russ Ellis, who appeared in *Bathroom Humor* in a somewhat state of undress, here makes his first appearance shirtless. Russ played Luther Billis in our production of *South Pacific* in 2001.



CONTACT US...

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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



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Becoming a Member

by Carol Bense

If you are considering becoming a member of The Village Players, please know that we welcome everyone. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families (2 adults and any minor dependants living in the same household). We do suggest that you wait until September to join since you will then have a membership from the date you join until Dec. 31st of the following year. Also, in order to vote in our elections at the Annual Meeting, you must be a member by March 31st of the year. You can join by sending your check to The Village Players, Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or you can join with a credit card after September 1, 2016 on our website at www.village-players.com/membership/membership.html.

You can choose to be active in the group (we always have things to do) or simply a supporting member.

Your participation is up to you.