



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT OCTOBER 2015



Monty Python's Spamalot Comes to Wolfeboro

by Phoebe VanScoy-Geissler

There are shows that ask a lot of you. Shows that make you ask meaningful, powerful, deep questions. Shows that wake you up to a perspective you had never considered. You walk out of the theater a changed person. Perhaps... a better person.

Monty Python's Spamalot is NOT one of those shows.

What it IS, however, is a heck of a lot of fun which you can enjoy on November 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8PM and on November 15 and 22 at 2PM right here in our theater on Glendon Street. You don't have to go to Boston or New York to see a fabulous production of this show. And you don't have to pay \$150 per ticket. You will have to pay \$18 per ticket, however, since the expenses for this show are higher than most (180 costumes, gigantic sets, outrageous props, higher royalties, etc.)

Monty Python writer/performer Eric Idle and composer John Du Prez adapted the classic film Monty Python and the Holy Grail into a musical featuring the Knights Who Say Ni, killer rabbits, accused witches and other Python touches. Spamalot adds swipes at Vegas glitz and Broadway conventions to the film's anarchic spirit. And don't worry, there's plenty of it you already know by heart.... "not yet dead."

The cast features Scott Giessler as King Arthur with Russ Ellis



Here is most of the cast raptly attentive at the first read-through of *Monty Python's Spamalot*

as his trusty sidekick, Patsy. The Lady of the Lake is played by Meghan McCrillis and as is worthy of any true diva, she has back up performers known as "The Laker Girls": Rebecca Connelly, Kaylin Dean, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler, Emily Marsh, Victoria Neal, Lisa Penny, and Gwen Collins. The Knights of the Round Table – some eager and some reluctant – are played by Christian Boudman (Dennis), Danny Catalano (Sir Robin), Jonathan Babon (Lancelot), and Ernie Bass (Sir Bedevere).

Adding to the laughs are Paul Stewart (Prince Herbert), Bob Rautenberg (The Historian), Vinny Amico (Not Dead Fred/the Minstrel), Rick Tessari (The Black Knight), Peter Moses (French Taunter), Norman Adjutant (The Knight of Ni), Jim Adams (Mother/Sir Bors), Corky Mork (Prince Herbert's Father), Michael Wilfert (Tim the Enchanter), Bob Tuttle (Brother Maynard), Josh Spaulding (Sir Not Appearing), Mike Shaw (Concorde), Matt Johnson (The Killer Rabbit), Andrew Long (The Mayor), and Maggie Shaw (Frog/Flying Nun). Ensemble members are Priscilla Adams, Essence Bourque, Maggie Fraser, Chrystal Gauvreau, Katie Lesnyk,

Spamalot - cont. on pg3

KEEPING US GREEN

by Christian Boudman



Ever wonder who keeps the dozens of lightbulbs around our beloved

theater burning brightly? Sure, occasionally, a good samaritan will pull out a chair and replace an easy-to-reach bulb. But, what about the ones way up above the seats in the auditorium, or the work lights over the stage, or in the lofty reaches of The Poobah Room? For many years, that person has been Corky Mork. When hard-to-reach bulbs around the theater blink out, Corky makes sure they get replaced... usually, before anybody notices.

Earlier this year, Corky brought it to the board's attention that most of those dozens of bulbs were of the old-fashioned incandescent variety and were wasting a lot of energy. He recommended swapping them out for LED bulbs which are 70-80% more efficient and can last for a decade or longer. With the board's approval and some assistance, the transition into the 21st century began. First, in the auditorium, then above the stage and currently throughout the rest of the theater. Already, 50+ bulbs have been upgraded and the process will continue until every applicable bulb is replaced.

Next time you're at the theater, see how many lightbulbs you can count. There are a lot of them. Now you know who keeps them all lit.

Boeing-Boeing Wrap-up

by Carol Bense

Another successful summer show is now completed. A total of 608 people saw the production. In case you missed it, here are a few scenes from *Boeing-Boeing*.



Photos courtesy of
Michael Wilfert

2016 MEMBERSHIP

While your current membership runs through December 31st, 2015, you might want to consider re-upping for 2016. As agreed to by the board several years ago, anyone who joins after September 1 of the current year becomes a member for the following year. So if you join or re-join now, your membership will run from now until December 31, 2016.

You can join by going on-line to 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.

VP BITS

news about members etc.

Corky Mork has joined the work force at Windy Ridge Corporation, owned by another long-time member, **Tim Brown**.

Congratulations to **Norman and Peg Farwell** who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 23rd.

Advanced felicitations to **Keith Belanger**, music director for our last several productions, who will be marrying **Becca Antonakos** (Maizie Bird in *Seussical*) on October 11th.

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

Spamalot - cont. from pg1

Sam Marsh, Lachlan Plache, Emily Post, and Stephen Watson.

This show is full of incredible energy and outrageous surprises. But these things can't happen on their own. Spamalot has a fantastically talented, dedicated and very likely unstable production team. For example, Director Jay Sydow says (inexplicably), "Working with this cast is like herding cats with bad accents. In a blender." That's dedication.

Choreographer Kaylin Dean has her own thoughts on the show so far: "This fun cast has been extremely enthusiastic and ready for me to move each of their five left feet. I'll make sure to wear a helmet with a face guard, deck myself out in padding and proceed with caution into the flailing. Bright side? I'm not dead....yet..."

Additional leaders of the production team are Russ Ellis (producer) Keith Belanger (music director) and Jennifer Smith (assistant director). The costumers, (oh, the hundreds of costumes in this show!) under the leadership of Bobbi Boudman, are Carol Bense, Dee Graham, Katie Hafner, Sandy Hargy, Stefanie Marsh, Becky Miller, Kristi Nieman, Jean Schultz, and Diane Sullivan. Set design is by Jay Sydow with lots of input and construction help from Russ Ellis, Mike Shaw, Josh Spaulding, Bob Tuttle, Bob Rautenberg, Don Hargy, and many more helping hands ready to pitch in. Megan Rohrbacher is stage manager and her crew – as of this printing - is Brooks Campbell, Josh Spaulding, Catherine Collins and Joyce Wood. Hunter Emory, Cate Poole, and Matt Johnson are going to light things up while Corky Mork and Michael Wilfert take care of special effects. Joyce Wood, Rosemary Lounsbury, and Laura Cooper will be prop masters.

Your cheeks are going to hurt, you might get cramps in your funny bones, but you will be very happy, indeed, to see this November's production of Spamalot!

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON LINE AND AT BLACK'S IN EARLY OCTOBER.
MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT IS SPONSORED BY RICHARD J. NEAL, DMD.



VP NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Soon you will be receiving a letter asking for your support for our Annual Fundraising Campaign. Every year we ask for your help in keeping our organization functioning well and especially in renovating our fantastic building, which, while we love it, needs constant care. Your donation is extremely important to this project and we ask that you give what you can with an eye to the future of The Village Players.



by Carol Bense

October is horror time for the movies at The Village Players Theater. It's also a great deal since you get two films for the price of one. BUT ... it's ONE NIGHT ONLY. Both films will be shown starting at 7PM on Saturday, October 17th.

First is *Frankenstein*, the definitive horror film of all time, directed by James Whale and starring Boris Karloff as the Monster. Karloff was an unknown actor at the time, and this film launched his career. You all know the plot, but Karloff was able to make the Monster, more than just a scary creature. He created a Monster that had feelings and was vulnerable and misunderstood, making this film more than just a horror film.

Second will be *The Bride of Frankenstein* also directed by James Whale and starring Boris Karloff. This sequel of *Frankenstein* is considered to be one of the few which surpasses the original, and has been selected as one of the greatest horror films of all time. When a mad scientist, Dr. Pretorius, kidnaps his wife, Dr. Frankenstein agrees to help him create a new creature, a woman, to be the companion of the monster, but nothing works out as planned.

In November that heart-wrenching film, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, will be presented on Saturday, November 28th at 8pm and Sunday, November 29th at 2pm. If you have not seen this film (or even if you have), it is one not to miss. Based on the novel by Harper Lee and starring Gregory Peck, it will make you think about our social mores while entertaining you with the tale of a young girl in the south. Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his kids against prejudice. The film won three Academy Awards in 1963 including Best Actor for Gregory Peck.

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.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Our second musical was *L'il Abner* in Fall of 1982

Corky Mork, Willie Mork, Wayne Gehman, Judy Breuninger and Carol Bense all had roles.

Here is Willie as one of the disgruntled Dogpatch housewives who want the government scientists to "put 'em (their husbands) back the way they was."



CONTACT US...

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2015 Village Players Board

- President -** Jim Adams875-0714
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- Treasurer -** Joshua Spaulding.....630-7410
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- Laura Cooper (2yr).....569-5854
- Past President -** Megan Rohrbacher.....767-7207

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



ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

by Carol Bense

It's Annual Meeting time again when we get together to elect our board for 2016 and to get a run-down on what has been going on in 2015. All members are urged to attend on Sunday, November 15th at 5pm. Pot luck supper after the meeting is always a culinary adventure.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Then save the date, Saturday, December 5th at 7pm, for our annual Christmas party featuring lots of fun, food and a film. All members invited.