



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT APRIL 2024



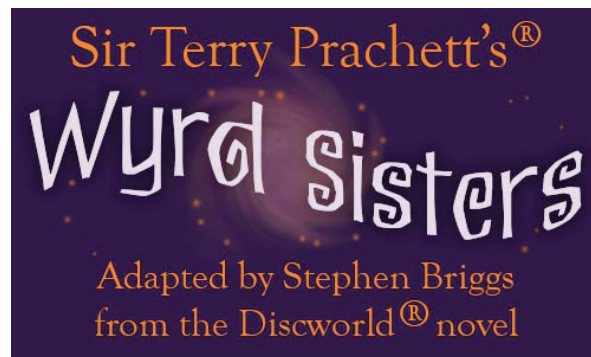
by Carol Bense

Under the direction of Michaela Andruzzi with the assistance of Jay Sydow the cast of *W;t* is working hard to bring you an outstanding production of this powerful, Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama by Margaret Edson. The cast includes Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler as Dr. Vivian Bearing, the patient; Christian Boudman as Dr. Harvey Kelekian, Vivian's doctor; Joshua Brown as Jason Posner, an oncological researcher; Jayson Andrews as nurse Susie Monaghan; Kathleen Hill as Vivian's professor when she was a student, E.M. Ashford; and Delina Bickford, Ryan Devolve, Stefanie Marsh and Helen Rautenberg portraying several different characters.

As Vivian reviews her life and experiences, we see the scenes as she remembers them from her childhood, to her days as a student, to her experiences in the classroom as a rigorous professor. We have to imagine them with her as she tells us about them and some of the other actors portray various characters in her life. In this way she helps us to understand the person she has become and the choices she has made.

Perhaps she regrets some of those choices, and perhaps she is pleased with others, but all have contributed to making her the person we see in the hospital setting. S.A Larson, in her review reminds us that this is "...a story of repair and restoration of the individual not through treatment of the body..., but by admitting one's weaknesses, exposing oneself, and, perhaps most frightening of all, relinquishing control and, in the process, becoming vulnerable. In the end one is left with the feeling that the main character of the play is being 'healed, not cured.'"

W;t cont on Pg3



by Carol Bense

Auditions for our summer show, *Wyrd Sisters*, will be held at the theater on Sunday, April 14 at 7:00 and Monday, April 15 at 7:30. Performances are scheduled for August 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. Directors, Paul Stewart and Jeannie LeGrow say, "Come prepared to tell a joke."

This zany tale adapted by Stephen Briggs from Sir Terry Pratchett's novel, has many great roles for aspiring actors. These include the wicked duke and duchess, the ghost of a murdered king, dim soldiers, strolling players, and the three witches who stand between the kingdom and destruction. In all there are 6 female roles, 4 male roles, and 4 to 10 roles which can be played by either men or women.

As Goodreads reviewer, Leslie_b states, "*Wyrd Sisters* is a sort of parallel story (to *Macbeth*), which manages to poke fun at the play, reverse the play, make inside jokes about the play, and...well, generally turn the play on its head." But whether or not you are familiar with *Macbeth*, you will have a great time participating in this wild and whacky show.

If you have any questions or cannot make one of the audition dates but would like to participate, please contact Jeannie LeGrow at legtowjeannie@yahoo.com.

We are grateful to Kris and Bruce Gurall for their sponsorship of this show.

News from your Board of Directors

by Rosemary Lounsbury

In an effort to keep the membership up to date on what's going on "behind the scenes," we will report in The Prompter what has been discussed at recent meetings of the Board.

All members are invited to attend any board meeting. If you would like to speak, please let Paul Stewart know so that he can add you to the agenda. Due to some conflicts, a few of our meeting dates have changed, so this is the new list of upcoming meetings:

April 8, May 6, June 3, July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, and December 2. The annual membership meeting is usually the Sunday after the first matinee of the musical.

We are very focused this spring on getting a plan in place for the patio. We've been reviewing sketches submitted by several architects and by the time you receive this Prompter we expect to be scheduling a an all-member meeting to share the plans with you and choose between options. This is going to be a major project.

We also want you be informed of our various "Policies and Procedures." This is not the same as our by-laws. Our complete policy manual is available for you to review if you are interested: Send an email to us at info@village-players.com and we will provide you with the link.

One or two policies per newsletter will be highlighted in this space for your reading pleasure. This month:

X Non-Discrimination Policy: (Approved by the board August 2020)

The Village Players does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

XI Whistleblower Policy: (Approved by the board August 2020)

The Board of Directors of The Village Players adopts the following Policy in order to strengthen its existing policies and procedures, maintain and exemplify "best practices," and comply with applicable law and regulations.

1. Village Players encourages any member or volunteer to bring instances of improper conduct, such as waste, fraud, financial impropriety or abuse, to the attention of a responsible board member who can be counted upon to investigate the problem promptly and fairly.
2. Any individual who reports waste, fraud, financial impropriety or abuse will not be retaliated against for making the report.
3. There are several ways to make a confidential - and anonymous if so desired - report of suspected waste, fraud, or abuse:

a) Send a written report/letter to: The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro NH 03894 ATTN: name)

b) Send an email to the Board President (or Vice President) listed on our website or toinfo@village.com

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Some of the young people who have graced our stage have gone on to professional careers in theater. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

Alex Lizotte, son of **Jeannette D'onofrio and Jerome Holden**, has had quite some success in the world of advertising. He has appeared in several commercials, one of which you can see at this link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F5LY3h0DU8 . Jerome reports that Alex has just completed a new one which you can see at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ_cNKCUG4Y

Jim Eischen, who appeared as a child in our production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in 1999, is the son of Patty Eischen, who starred in several of our productions. Jim has been working professionally for many years in the field of theater lighting, but he just got a new position as Lighting Project Manager and Technician at Gopher Stage Lighting in Minnesota.

Carole Pralle was a valued member of The Village Players, working on many productions over the years. Her daughters will be holding a memorial service for her right here in Wolfeboro (see poster below) so we hope many of us who knew and appreciated her will be able to attend.

Please join us
**Celebration of Life for
Carole Jean Pralle**
Aug. 28th, 1934 - Nov. 10th, 2023

Saturday, April 27th
11 am - 2 pm (Service starts 12 noon)
Brewster Academy Boathouse
Light food & drinks provided

Please let others who loved Carole know
about this celebration!

c) Telephone call to Board President (or Vice President) as listed on our website

4. The report shall be taken seriously and investigated. The person or persons charged with alleged impropriety shall be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations in person or in writing. Even if the matter is determined not to constitute improper conduct, the individual making the report will not be retaliated against. That person shall not be subject to any kind of discrimination in retaliation for making the report.

5. Following the investigation, The Village Players will:

a) Provide the person filing a report with a summary of the findings;

b) Take appropriate steps to deal with the issue addressed, including making operational or personnel changes, or justify why corrections are not necessary;

c) If warranted, contact law enforcement to deal with any suspected criminal activities.

6. The Village Players will maintain confidential records of all actions taken under this Policy.

7. The Board of Directors has responsibility for oversight of compliance with this Policy.

XII Anti-harassment Policy: (Approved by the board on May 1, 2023)

The Board of Directors of The Village Players adopts the following Policy in order to strengthen its existing policies and procedures, maintain and exemplify "best practices," and comply with applicable law and regulations:

1. Village Players will not tolerate harassment of any kind, including direct insults, threats of harm, bullying, victimization, unwelcome sexual advances including a request for a sexual favor, or other verbal or physical conduct such as offensive discussions and gestures, unwelcome, offensive sexual flirtation; unwelcome, graphic verbal comments about an individual's body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; unwelcome touching an individual's body; spiteful gossip, whether in person or conducted online that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

2. Any individual who reports harassment will not be retaliated against for making the report.

3. There are several ways to make a confidential - and anonymous if so desired - report of harassment:

a) Send a written report/letter to: The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro NH 03894 ATTN: name)

b) Send an email or message to any member of the Village Players Board of Directors, listed on our website or to info@village-players.com

c) Telephone call to any member of the Village Players Board of Directors as listed on our website

4. The report shall be taken seriously and investigated. The person or persons accused with alleged harassment shall be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations in person or in writing. Even if the matter is determined not to constitute improper conduct, the individual making the report will not be retaliated against. That person shall not be subject to any kind of discrimination in retaliation for making the report.

And as Howard Shapiro states in his review of the Broadway production, "*W;t* is, of course, scary - when is cancer not? But it's also funny -very funny..."

As audience members, we come to understand and appreciate this complex character as we watch her grow and change. Great writing does that for us.

Tickets are now available at Black's or on our website, village-players.com, for productions at 7:30 on April 4, 5, 12, and 13 with a matinee on Sunday, April 14 at 2:00.

This production is generously sponsored by Jodi and Shane Emerson.

Revised 2024 Season

by Carol Bense

Although we announced in the February Prompter that we would be presenting Peter Pan this summer at the Kingswood Center for the Arts, we were later informed unforeseen licensing requirements prevented us from doing that show this year. The board decided to move our fall show to the summer and go back to our usual schedule with a big musical in the fall. We will still be doing the Christmas show, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. in December.

5. Following the investigation, The Village Players will:

a) Provide the person filing a report with a summary of the findings;

b) Take appropriate steps to deal with the issue addressed, including making operational or personnel changes, or justify why corrections are not necessary;

c) If warranted, contact law enforcement to deal with any suspected criminal activities.

6. The Village Players will maintain confidential records of all actions taken under this Policy.

7. The Board of Directors has responsibility for oversight of compliance with this Policy.

Your board members are listed with phone numbers elsewhere in this issue of the Prompter!

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

2024 Village Players Board

President -	Paul Stewart	603-866-9445
Vice President -	Kathleen Hill	603-520-1372
Secretary -	Rosemary Lounsbury	603-569-2599
Treasurer -	Stefanie Marsh	603-569-6382
Past President -	Matt Johnson	781-437-7007
Members at Large		
	Dawn Alie (2yrs)	603-767-0379
	Jeannie LeGrow (2yrs)	603-366-6529
	Mandy Ferriman (1yr)	603-986-6178
	Carol Light (1yr)	603-393-4277

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 notice of special events. Contact info@village-players.com or call 603-569-9656 if you are unsure of your membership status.

Newsletter Committee

Carol Bense, Cathy Fraser
Jay Sydow, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler
Art Production
Carol Bense, Cathy Fraser



P.O. Box 770 Wolfeboro, NH 03894



LAST MINUTE NEWS

Our fall musical will be *Bye Bye Birdie*. The rights have been secured and Kathleen Hill is set to direct. Dates for this production are November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9,10. Auditions will be later in the summer and will be announced in a later issue of The Prompter and on our website.