



# the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT      DECEMBER 2023



BY PAT COOK

by Carol Bense

You won't want to miss this light-hearted Christmas confection. Fun for the whole family, *Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles* opens on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 with two more performances, one on Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 and a matinee on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00. Tickets are \$10 per person and available online at [www.village-players.com](http://www.village-players.com) or at the door before the performances.

What goes on up there at the North Pole during those last few days before Christmas? Well, with our host (A J O'Neil) we meet Santa's (Keith Lion) press agent (Mandy Ferriman Emory) who is holding a news conference to let us in on some of the secrets about him as reporters (Dawn Alie, Travis Norman, Lee Kennedy, and Julia Alie) ask the right questions.

We also meet the elves, Eeny (Marie Eighmy), Meeny (Nash Janiak), Miney (Britny Flanders), and Sol (McAuley Alie), who take care of the reindeer, and we hear from the elves who work the gift suggestion hotline. But no one can find Mrs. Claus (Lynn Madore). Just what is she up to? Come to the show and find out. Other elves and helpers include Jasmine Emerson, Max Gehring, Jeannie LeGrow, Beckett Norman, and Bob Tuttle.

*Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles* is directed by Paul Stewart, with the assistance of Kathleen Hill. This production is generously sponsored by Richard J. Neal, DMD. and Bruce and Kris Gurall.

## W;t

by Margaret Edson

by Carol Bense

Auditions are coming up for our spring 2024 production of *W;t* by Margaret Edson. Michaela Andruzzi will be directing and she has chosen January 7 at 6 pm for auditions for this show. If you find it impossible to be at the theater at this time, but are interested in participating in the production, please email [info@village-players.com](mailto:info@village-players.com) and we will forward your email to the director.

*W;t* is a Pulitzer-Prize winning play first published in 1999. It recounts the life of Dr. Vivian Bearing, a fifty-year-old college professor who is currently facing a life-threatening cancer diagnosis. She reflects on her past as she undergoes a chemotherapy regime.

The following characters will be cast through the audition process:

Vivian Bearing, PhD - 50 years old, a professor of seventeenth-century poetry at the university.

Harvey Kelekian, MD - 50 years old, chief of medical oncology at the University Hospital

Jason Posner, MD - 28 years old, a clinical fellow at the Medical Oncology branch, former student of Dr. Bearing

Susie Monohan, BSN, RN - 28 years old, Dr. Bearing's primary nurse

E. M. Ashford, PhD - 80 years old, professor emerita of English literature, Vivian's former college professor

Mr. Bearing - Vivian's father, 70-80 years old

Assorted lab technicians and students

This is another serious drama which will challenge your acting skills and stretch your abilities.

## 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.

Many of you were in attendance at our Annual Membership meeting on November 4. We determined that with 31 members present, it constitutes a quorum, so we are official here.

President Paul Stewart presented a review of 2023. We are in a better place than we were a year ago, thanks to the efforts of the Board, and the generosity of our community. We had a big year presenting five productions, a concert, a comedy show, two pieces with Estelle Parsons, and hosting a spot on the Haunted Trolley Tour. Paul also announced the shows planned for 2024 which are:

SPRING: *W;t* directed by Michaela Andruzzi

SUMMER: *Peter Pan* directed by Kathleen Hill (this production at Kingswood Arts Center)

FALL: *Wyrd Sisters* directed by Jeannie LeGrow and Paul Stewart

DECEMBER: *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* directed by Kathleen Hill

Election of new board members for 2024:

1-year terms:

President: Paul Stewart (re-election)

Vice President: Kathleen Hill (election)

Treasurer: Stef Marsh (re-election)

Secretary: Rosemary Lounsbury (re-election)

Past President: Matt Johnson (re-election)

At Large: Mandy Ferriman Emory (election)

At Large: Carol Light (election)

2-year terms:

At Large: Dawn Alie (election)

At Large: Jeannie LeGrow (election)

*Oliver!* was enhanced by the use of wireless microphones on our principals. We have purchased equipment which is sufficient to mic 10 actors. Other items that we will be exploring next year include a re-working of the patio (front entrance to the theater) which will require an architect, structural engineer, and hardscaping. Stay tuned! Also on the horizon for 2024 are: an Improv Group, another comedy show, and possibly a New Years Eve event.

As always, members are welcome to attend any board meeting; they are normally held at the theater on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. If you would like to address the board, please notify Paul Stewart so he can add you to the agenda.

We have lost a good friend in Carole Pralle who passed away recently. Carole was a member for many years and often ushered for shows, made props, helped with costumes and occasionally was part of the chorus for one of our big musicals. Her husband, Bob, and her daughters, Jill and Sarah, also participated in our shows. Even after she no longer was able to participate, she was a faithful audience member. She will be missed.

## Please Support the Village Players this Holiday Season

by Stefanie Marsh

We hope you've found our annual appeal letter in your mailbox. This end-of-the-year fundraiser provides crucial support to maintain our historic theater building and keep productions coming to our stage.

From the serious dramas *Extremities* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* to *10-Minute Musicals* and *Oliver!* our actors and directors stretched themselves this year to bring a wide range of stagework to the Village Players.

In August, members of New York's Actors Studio presented *ReEntry*, a free-form drama, directed by Estelle Parsons. In December we're happy to offer *Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles* to holiday audiences.

We hope that you will include a contribution to the Village Players in your holiday giving this year. Donors will be listed in our 2024 season program.

Please support us as a ...

Producer \$5000 +

Director \$2500 to \$4999

Actor \$1000 to \$2499

Manager \$500 to \$999

Patron \$250 to \$499

Friend \$25 to \$249

You can send us your check made out to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or donate with a credit card online at [village-players.com/donate](http://village-players.com/donate). We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



### Your Generous Food Donations

A big thank you to everyone who brought food to one of the *Oliver!* performances. You donated over 300 food items which will help many people in need this holiday season. Here's a picture of it lined up at the L.I.F.E. food pantry ready to be sorted and distributed.



Did you miss *Oliver!* this time? Many performances were sold out, so we are sorry if you were unable to see the show. Here are a few photos to give you an idea of what it looked like. Our audiences were very responsive and we appreciate their applause.



Widow Corney and Mr. Bumble



Consider Yourself At Home



Nancy



Fagin and the boys



Betts and Nancy



Mrs. Bedwin and Oliver



Omm Pah Pah



Oliver, Mrs. Sowerberry, Bumble, Mr. Sowerberry



Our Wonderful Orchestra



**CONTACT US...**

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**Web site:** www.village-players.com

**Email:** info@village-players.com

**2023 Village Players Board**

- President - Paul Stewart ..... 603-866-9445
- Vice President - Michaela Andruzzi ..... 603-569-9656
- Secretary - Rosemary Lounsbury ..... 603-569-2599
- Treasurer - Stefanie Marsh ..... 603-569-6382
- Past President - Matt Johnson ..... 781-437-7007
- Members at Large
  - Joyce Chandler-Smith (2yrs) .603-224-5940
  - Laura Cooper (2yrs) ..... 603-986-7792
  - Christian Boudman (1yr) ....., 603-393-3613
  - Kathleen Hill (1yr) ..... 603-520-1372

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



**Renew your membership**

Once again it is time to renew your membership for 2024. You can go to our website, www.village-players.com, and join on line with a credit card or PayPal. If you prefer you can send a check to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. Individual dues are \$15 for the year. Family dues which include two adults and all dependant members of a family living in the same household are \$25 for the year. Members receive our newsletter every other month as well as advance information on events and special discounts on workshops.