



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT FEBRUARY 2024



by Carol Bense

Director, Michaela Andruzzi, along with Assistant Director, Jay Sydow, have announced the cast for the upcoming production of *W;t* by Margaret Edson.

Taking the lead role of college professor Vivian Bearing is Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler. Christian Boudman will be playing Harvey Kelekian, leader of Vivian's oncology team. Jason Posner, clinical fellow, will be played by Joshua Brown. Nurse Susie Monahan will be played by Jayson Andrews. Kathleen Hill takes on the role of Vivian's former college professor, E. M. Ashford. Various other roles will be filled by Delina Bickford, Ryan Devolve, Stefanie Marsh and Helen Rautenberg.

Michaela, Jay and these dedicated actors are working now to perfect our presentation of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play. While comedy has been a staple for us, we are working to bring you more substantial content such as our production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* which was nominated for Best Production of a Non-musical by the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance. This production of *W;t* will bring you the opportunity to experience one of the great plays of the American theater right here in Wolfeboro.

W;t not only won the Pulitzer Prize, it was also awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Lucille Lortel Award, and the Oppenheimer Award. Margaret Edson has used her own experience working in a cancer treatment center to examine some of the most important questions of life. What makes life worth living? How should we live our lives? These are questions which every one of us considers.

Performances are set for April 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14 at The Village Players Theater. Tickets will be available early in March at Black's Paper and Gifts and online at our website, village-players.com.

We are grateful to Jodi and Shane Emerson for their generous sponsorship of this production.

The Village Players Participate in the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance Annual Awards Ceremony

by Stefanie Marsh

The Village Players were honored as their members received two awards at the 19th New Hampshire Theatre Awards, January 20 at the Capitol Center in Concord. Carol Bense won the Francis Grover Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award, given to a person whose contributions have had a lasting impact on theater in the state. Megan Gallagher, long-time Village Player, director, and past president told the audience, "Carol is a master class in theater. Through her



photo by Psul Sandler

passion, dedication and commitment to each project she is a part of, she teaches the moment she speaks. We are better performers and members of our community with her presence in our organization."



Michaela Andruzzi won the award for outstanding actress in a community theater production for her role as Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* As she explained in her acceptance speech, Academy Award winner and Wolfeboro summer



photo by Paul Sandler

resident, Estelle Parsons, suggested that the Village Players present *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and encouraged Andruzzi to take on this challenging role.

The Village Players also received nominations for Outstanding Director—Jay Sydow, and for Outstanding play production— *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Cast members Bob Rautenberg, Michaela Andruzzi, Amanda Wagner and Robby Sturtevant presented a scene from the play as part of the awards ceremony which was very enthusiastically received by the capacity audience.

NHTA Awards cont. on pg 3

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.

One of the major items we have been discussing is how to move forward with the repair/replacement of our patio and stairs in the front of our building. The Board received an engineering assessment last summer and is moving into the recommended phase of meeting with architects to see what options and designs they can come up with. So far six firms are consulting with us, and we hope to finalize a plan soon.

We received a generous gift for our Endowment Fund from the estate of long-time member, Spencer Jackson. We are most grateful for his thoughtfulness.

We appreciate your generosity, but we are getting too many donations of props, furniture and costumes, and we just don't have the space to warehouse all these things. At this time we cannot accept any more donations of clothing or furniture. Also on the horizon is conducting a "Work Day" to clean out the Poo Bah room of items that have fallen into disrepair, and organizing it so that things can be found when needed. Watch your Prompter and the website for updates.

The board also reports that it will entertain proposals to direct at any time, not only in September, so if someone wants to float a proposal in April or May for the following year, it will be considered.

Board meetings are open to any member who would like to attend, and are held on (usually) the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the theater. Upcoming dates for 2024 are: Feb. 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7 and December 2. Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, October 27 after the first matinee performance of *Wyrd Sisters*. Your board members are listed with phone numbers elsewhere in this issue of the Prompter.

What is The New Hampshire Theatre Alliance?

by Carol Bense

Many of us are not familiar with the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance. This group consists of member theater groups from all over New Hampshire. Each of these groups can submit up to two of their performances to be judged by members of the other groups. For each performance submitted the group must provide 6 adjudicators to see other performances and complete adjudication forms to be submitted to the Alliance. Thus each performance is witnessed and adjudicated by folks from 6 different New Hampshire theater groups.

Based on these adjudications and their scores for all aspects of the performances, several are chosen as finalists for the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance Award show each year. This year The Village Players participated in this program and received several nominations as finalists for awards. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* was submitted for adjudication and was nominated as finalist for Outstanding Production of a Community Play, Outstanding Director of a Community Play and Outstanding Actress in a Community Production of a Play. We did very well for our first attempt.



The photo shows Village Players members who attended this year's awards event.



Kate Flower who appeared in several Village Players productions, received the NHTA award as Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Community Production of a Musical for her role as Emily in *The Secret Garden* produced by Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative. Congratulations, Kate.

Christian Boudman performed in Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative's production of *Captains Courageous* which was awarded the NHTA Outstanding Production of a Community Musical. Congratulations to Christian and the company.

Also congratulations to **Jennifer Schaffner** who played Sister Amnesia in our most recent production of *Nunsense*. She will be reprising the role at the Franklin Opera House on April 11 through 14. We know she will do a great job for that group.



President Paul Stewart presents scholarship check to awardee, Olly Gauthier, who is now a first year student at UNH.



Our Christmas show, *Ho, Ho, Ho The Santa Claus Chronicles!* was well-received by audiences seeking a bit of Christmas humor. Here are a couple of photos for those of you who missed it.



Santa and the whole crew.



Max Gehring, Julie Alie



Jeannie LeGrow
A.J. O'Neill



McAuley Alie, Britny Flanders, Jasmine Emerson
Nash Janiak, Marie Eighmy

It's time to renew your Village Players membership!

By joining or renewing your membership in The Village Players you play a vital role in helping us to continue bringing exceptional productions and cultural experiences to our community. Since we don't charge a participation fee-- we want to make being a part of theater productions available to everyone in our community-- a Village Players membership is a nice way to support us if you've enjoyed being one of the cast members in our productions.

Membership is only \$15 per person, \$25 for a family. Members receive The Prompter, emails, and invitations to our occasional special events. Go to www.village-players.com/become-a-member to join online or use the form below and mail it to us.

The Village Players Membership Form
(please print) Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

Individual \$15 _____ Household \$25 _____ (2 adults and any minor children living in the same household)

Check# _____ Date _____

Would you prefer to receive your Prompter Newsletter via email? Yes No

I'm also interested in helping with: ushering set building costumes other _____

Please remit payment directly to The Village Players before April 1, to be a voting member for the year. Make checks payable to The Village Players, and send to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

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)	603-757-0379
	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



Did you forget to send in your donation to the Village Players Annual Appeal?

There's still time to help us get off to a great start in 2024!

Send us a check at PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or go to village-players.com/donate