



the PROMPTER

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT FEBRUARY 2025

ESCANABA IN DA MOONLIGHT



by Jeff Daniels

April 4, 5, 11, 12, and 13

Cast in place for *Escanaba in da Moonlight*

by Joshua Spaulding

Directors Paul Stewart and Jonathan Flower held auditions for the Village Players spring show, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, on Jan. 12 and 13 and came away with a cast featuring a couple of well-known Village Players actors as well as a couple of relative newcomers to the Glendon Street stage.

Written by Jeff Daniels, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* tells the story of the reunion of the Soady clan for the opening day of deer season at the family's Upper Peninsula camp. Thirty-five-year-old Reuben Soady brings with him the infamous reputation of being the oldest Soady in the history of the family never to bag a buck. Things take a bizarre turn when Reuben's friend Jimmer Negamane—who's struggled to speak clearly ever since his alien abduction—shows up with a wild story involving his car. In an attempt to change their luck, the group replaces their usual camp food with a mysterious brew believed to bring good fortune. Then, wouldn't you know it, a ranger from the Department of Natural Resources knocks on the door. He's had a strange sighting up on the ridge and is sure it's a vision of God. Ready to get his buck in the morning, Reuben and the gang prepare for a good night's sleep—which of course, doesn't happen. *Escanaba in da Moonlight* spins a hilarious tale of humor, horror and heart as Reuben goes to any and all lengths to remove himself from the wrong end of the family record book.

For many hunting families, watching Jeff Daniels' hilarious film has become a cherished tradition the night before deer season begins. The story promises to be just as funny when brought to life on stage.

Albert Soady, the patriarch of the Soady clan, will be portrayed by veteran Village Player actor Christian Boudman, who was last on stage in last spring's New Hampshire Theater Awards-nominated production of *Wit*.

Escanaba cont. on pg2

Volunteer with Us – Join a Committee!

by Stefanie Marsh

The Board of Directors is organizing committees for the upcoming year and we're looking for new volunteers to join both our standing and newly forming committees. Would you be interested in lending a hand? Here are the opportunities available:

Standing Committees:

- Building Committee – Responsible for overseeing the general maintenance of the building.
- Capital Improvement Committee—plans and budgets for major renovations and improvements to the theater building.
- Fundraising Committee – Plans the summer fundraiser and annual appeal campaigns, seeks season and play sponsors, and helps with tasks like envelope stuffing and note writing.
- Newsletter Committee—works on our newsletter, The Prompter.
- Scholarship Committee – Reviews applications for the Village Players scholarship.
- Endowment Committee – Works to encourage donations to the Village Players endowment fund and manages its investments.

New Committees:

- Bylaws Review Committee – Reviews the Village Players bylaws and suggests changes to be voted on by the membership.
- Marketing Committee – Develops new ways to promote Village Players shows and creates content for various platforms.
- Front Entrance Building Project Committee – Collaborates with architects, engineers, and builders on the front entrance renovation.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Paul Stewart at stewart.l.paul@gmail.com, Rosemary Lounsbury at 84louns@gmail.com, Stef Marsh at tumbledowngrl@gmail.com, or any Board member.



"Fourth of July" Parade

We hope to have a presence in this year's Wolfeboro parade! The parade is always on July 4 at 10:00 AM. We need a parade coordinator; someone to serve as the contact person who will complete the form submitting our entry and arrange marchers, etc. If you are willing to do this, (or if you want to help but not be the organizer) please notify Paul Stewart at: stewart.l.paul@gmail.com

---Reminder---

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2025!

Members and donors receive our newsletter, The Prompter, and are invited to our occasional member-only events, really fun stuff like our Season Reveal Party. 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 good way to support us if you've enjoyed being one of the cast members in our productions.

Please make sure to get your renewal in by March 31. You need to be a member by April 1 in order to vote or be nominated for a Board position at our 2025 annual meeting. If you renew later than that, you'll be a member, but can't vote. And if you join the fall, we allow that membership to extend into the following year (joined in October 2024, you're a member through 2025).

Confused?! A lot of us are, and that's one reason we are forming a Bylaws Committee to look over the membership requirements and perhaps modify them. Members are welcome to join or to give the committee their input.

An individual membership is \$15, a household membership (two adults and any minor children living in the household) is \$25. Please join online <https://www.village-players.com/become-a-member/>, or use the form below and mail with your check.

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. Send to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

Some sad news to share:

Tom Bissett emailed Scott Lounsbury this morning to share the sad news that his wife, Claudia, our long time supporter and pit musician, passed away on Sunday morning, January 19. As of this posting, there is no further news. Check back on our Facebook page for any further updates regarding services. Our sympathies and love go out to the Bissett family.

Escanaba cont. from pgl

The character of Reuben Soady will be played by Jim Bomersbach, who made his Village Players debut as The Fool in last summer's production of *Wyrld Sisters*.

Remnar Soady will be played by AJ O'Neil, who has appeared in a number of Village Players shows over the last few years, including his most recent turn as teen heartthrob Conrad Birdie in last fall's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.

The part of Jimmer Negamaneer will be played by Jeremy Hardin, who also made his Village Players debut last year, appearing as Bob Bradley in December's production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Ranger Tom, the local overwhelmed law enforcement officer, will be portrayed by Village Players veteran Bob Rautenberg, who was most recently on stage in 2023's production of *Oliver*.

Escanaba in da Moonlight is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection and is set to take the Village Players stage on Fridays, April 4 and 11, Saturdays, April 5 and 12, all at 7:30 and Sunday, April 13, at 2. Tickets are \$20 and will be available at Blacks on Main Street and online at village-players.com.

Anyone interested in helping out behind the scenes is urged to contact Producer Joshua Spaulding at trumpet138@hotmail.com.



VP Bits

Elliott Giessler, son of members **Scott and Phoebe Giessler** and a freshman in college, has received the Village Players scholarship for 2025.

Alex Lizotte, son of members **Jerome Holden and Jeannette D'Onofrio**, has completed a new commercial for Discover cards with Jennifer Coolidge and Wayne Gretzky. You can see it at this website: <https://www.ispot.tv/ad/fUso/discover-card-hat-trick-featuring-jennifer-coolidge-wayne-gretzky>

See if you can locate Alex with his red hair. He does not have any lines,

VP Karaoke night!

Come join us on March 15th at 7pm for an evening of karaoke! Wear some green, and bring a snack for some early St. Patrick's day fun! More information and future karaoke events can be found in the "VP Karaoke" Facebook Group.

Celebrate the life of Willie Mork

You are invited by The Mork family to celebrate the life of Willie Mork on Saturday February 22, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Village Players Theater. Willie was a mainstay of The Village Players, appearing in many, many productions and supporting the organization in many ways for many years. Please join us in remembering all she did for The Village Players. If you think you can attend, please email ddmork@gmail.com



Our December show, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, is a great favorite and once again attracted many happy audience members. In fact, the last performance on Sunday was sold out so you may not have been able to get a ticket if you waited until Sunday. Here are a few photos in case you missed it.



Imogene Herdman becomes The Madonna



The Bradley family agrees that it was the best christmas pageant ever



The mothers



The Herdmans, the worst kids in town



Auditions for Summer Show

by Rosemary Lounsbury
Auditions for our summer production of *Calendar Girls* will be on Sunday and Tuesday, April 27 and 29 at 7:00 PM at the theater. This is a large cast comedy with 14 roles! Please go to our website village-players.com for information regarding the roles, and other frequently asked questions regarding auditions, rehearsals, and performances. For more specific questions, email director Rosemary Lounsbury at: VPCalendarGirls@gmail.com.

The Village Players have semi-finalists in four categories of the New Hampshire Theater Awards!

- Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a Community Production of a Play - Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler as Vivian Bearing, PH.D, WIT
- Outstanding Community Production of a Play - WIT
- Outstanding Direction of a Community Production of a Play - Michaela Andruzzi, WIT
- Outstanding Scenic Design in a Community Production - Jay Sydow, WIT

We'll hear who won at the awards ceremony on February 1. Congratulations to all!



Just some of the chaos

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		
	Christian Boudman (2yrs)	603-393-3613
	Bob Rautenberg (2yrs)	603 455 0202
	Dawn Alie (1yr)	603-767-0379
	David Morrison (1yr)	603-918-7150

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, Jay Sydow, Phoebe VanScoy-Giessler

Art Production

Carol Bense



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2025 Dues

Please remember. Your dues for 2025 **MUST** be paid **BEFORE** April 1 to make you eligible to vote or run for office at the Annual Meeting this fall.

Do it now while you are thinking of it.

Just go to the website, village-players.com or send a check to The Village Players, PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894

If you are not sure if your 2025 dues are paid, please email info@village-players.com and we will let you know.