

**Birmingham Village
Players — Birmingham's
BEST Live Theater!**

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Upcoming Events:

- * September 4, Playwrights @ Work meeting, 7 p.m. in the Green Room. Visitors welcome.
- * September 5— “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown” opens, 8 p.m.. Performances Friday to Sunday, September 5 to 21.7 p.m. in the Green Room.
- * September 7 and 8 — *Songs for a New World* auditions.
- * September 26, movie premiere, “On the Line” starring VPs Gertrude Fox and Marc Rosati, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. Cash bar before screening. See article on page 3.
- * September 27, “Shorts and Sweets”, 7:30 p.m. Free staged readings of six short plays for audience review. Free dessert follows performances.
- * September 27, Auditions, for VYT’s production of “The Sound of Music”

Getting Ready for a New Season by SUSIE GARDINER

Greetings all. As we start our new year as your board of Directors we'd like to invite you to let us know what is on your mind each month. I'm always available by email (susie.gardiner@icloud.com) or text/phone ([248-730-4642](tel:248-730-4642)).

Since we are trying to save trees, paper, money for stamps, etc., I'm imploring you to go online to <http://tinyurl.com/VP-Membership-2015> to fill out your membership renewal. There is a link on there that allows you to pay by credit card. If you'd prefer to pay by check, just send it in AFTER you fill out the form. This allows us to keep a live document of members and

their info. Even if you have no changes you still must fill out the form as it's new each year.

We will be posting on our website under the membership tab all the important info you'll need to staff a committee, populate all the backstage help for your shows or keep up to date on by laws, etc. Give us a little time to get that up and running but it should be soon.

I'd love to make this the year we sell out every show! We need your help to do that. What a wonderful tribute to all your fellow VPer's if each of you would purchase just two extra tickets to give away to

friends for each show. For each of you that does your name will go into a bucket for a drawing at the annual picnic for a very nice prize.

I'd love to post a competition on this each month....so send me your entries after you've purchased the tickets! See you on Opening Night at the wonderfully funny *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*.



OOOH .. DIAMONDS! — Laura Bradshaw Tucker, as a make-up maven with marital issues, admires a pair of diamond earrings shown by VP visiting actor Gordon Bardell, in a scene from *Love and Lipstick*, by Jacqueline Salter, one of four plays performed at the annual One Act Festival in July.

Red-carpet gala slated for movie premiere September 26

By **STEPHEN SUSSMAN**

Village Players members, Gertrude Fox and Marc Rosati star in the upcoming short movie "On the Line" which will make its world premiere on Friday, September 26th at 8:00 PM at Village Players.

The movie, produced and directed by local film-makers Alan Canning (who has previously performed on the VP stage) and Denver Rochon, is based on our own Playwrights@Work Barb Schmitt's play *Twilight*. The story centers on an elderly woman who is facing the prospects of being forced to leave her home for a nursing facility when some old memorabilia is uncovered and a phone call from an unexpected source changes everything.

Gertrude is radiant in the role of the mother and Marc displays his considerable talent as the son. Also appearing are VP members Ralph Rosati, Barb Schmitt and Steve Sussman. The movie was filmed at various locations in and around the metro Detroit area.

This exciting premiere will also serve a fund-raiser for Village Players. Tickets are \$10 each and are considered a donation to Village Players.

Refreshments will be served and there may be some additional surprises as well!

So put on your best duds and please

come join us for this "red carpet" event to support the talent of local film-makers, honor Gertrude Fox and help Village Players! A gala night is expected for one and all!!



Shorts & Sweets short play festival slated for Sept. 27

An overabundance of creativity has put Playwrights at Work in a peculiar position. The group will present six original short plays, to be performed as staged readings, at its free Shorts & Sweets festival on Saturday, September 27, but as yet no one in the group knows which six plays. Almost every member of the writing group has a play to submit – and only six can be performed.

Shorts & Sweets, held twice each year in the spring and the fall, showcases several short plays-in-progress by members of P@W.

Audience members are invited to critique each play in a five-minute Q & A following each performance. A free dessert buffet and meet-and-greet follows the production.

Among the plays under consideration for performance this month are a comedy about a would-be artist who happens to be a member of the squash family, a play about a lonely widower who finds peace, and a drama in which a daughter learns something shocking about her mother. Details of the program will be decided at a special meeting September 4. An announcement

will be posted online.

At the September 4 meeting, P@W will also select an original full-length play, to be performed at a concert reading at Birmingham's Baldwin Library on Sunday, October 26.

Actors will be needed for both Shorts & Sweets and the concert reading. Interested actors should contact Diane D'Agostino at dianel-dagostino@gmail.com for Shorts & Sweets, or Barb Schmitt at bschmitt2@aol.com.

Musical comedy 'Women on the Verge' debuts at VP

By Jay Kaplan

Point of clarification. "Women on the Verge of A Nervous Breakdown" is not a serious drama about emotionally depressed and psychologically abused middle aged women, despite the title. What "Women on the Verge" is is an exciting musicalization of Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar's 1988 acclaimed film- it's funny, it's fast, it's sexy, it's crazy- and it involves gazpacho laced with valium.

It's not easy to provide a brief description of the show, but I'll try. Pepa Marcos, a successful commercial and voice over actress, finds herself abandoned by her lover, Ivan who mysteriously disappears. Added to this dilemma are Pepa's good friend and model Candela who finds out she's dating a Shiite terrorist, Ivan's estranged first wife, Lucia, their son Carlos and his uptight fiancé, Marisa, Paulina Morales an attorney and a feminist who's bringing charges against Ivan, and a Taxi Cab Driver/Philosopher who observes the comings and goings of the denizens of Madrid. Underneath all the farcical and comical complications is the message that women, the people can love deeply, while at the same time being self-sufficient on their own. Just like the film, the musical takes place in the late 1980's, when Spain was no longer under a dictatorship and shows just how women are coping with their new sense of freedom and sexual liberation.

One of the best things about the show, is the exciting musical score, written by David Yazbek, who also composed the musicals "The Full Monty" and "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." Many of the songs feature a latin beat which

will definitely get your toes tapping. What's also special about this show is that it's a new show, having premiered on Broadway in 2010. Our production is only the second time since Broadway that the show has been performed by any theatrical group (professional or community theatre), although there are numerous professional productions planned in the next coming months- including Chicago and London. At a time when Broadway is increasingly playing it safe, with juke box musicals and live recreations of Disney animated films, it has become harder to find new musicals like "Women", with original scores, which have something to say, in addition to being entertaining. A huge shout out to the Village Players Board for their willingness to bring something original, something that hasn't been done before to our playgoing audience. Classic well-known shows are indeed wonderful, but so can be discovering new works- shows that both entertain and challenge us.

I have been so lucky to have such a talented cast, crew and production team that cares about and loves this show as much as I do. Truth to tell- it's not an easy show to do. Written like a movie, there's quick scene changes, a motorcycle, a taxi cab, video, voice overs, sound effects and of course all that gazpacho that has to be consumed. But it's worth all the effort to bring the mid-west premiere of new musical comedy, unlike any other one you've seen before. Hope to see you there in the audience!

Auditions elsewhere

Grosse Pointe Players, Grosse Pointe, "**A View from the Bridge**". Auditions Friday, September 5 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Performances, Fri-Sunday, November 9 to 22.

Ridgedale Players, Troy, "**The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.**" Auditions Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. Performances, Fri-Sun, November 7 to 23. Note: Despite title, little singing is required.

Farmington Players, Farmington, "**Leading Ladies.**" Auditions Saturday, September 13. Registration begins at 10 a.m., auditions at 10:30. Performances, Friday to Sunday, November 28 to December 20.

Avon Players, Rochester Hills, "**Miracle on 34th Street.**" Auditions Sunday and Monday, September 21 and 22. Registration begins 5:30 p.m. Sunday, auditions at 6:00; registration at 6:30 and auditions at 7 p.m. Monday. Performance dates, Fri-Sunday, Nov. 28 to Dec. 13.

Stagecrafters, Royal Oak, Main Stage, "**Jeckyll & Hyde the Musical.**" Auditions September 29 and 30. Performances, Fri-Sunday, January 9 to February 1, 2015.

St. Dunstan's Theater Guild, Bloomfield Hills, "**Next to Normal.**" Sunday and Monday, October 12 and 13. Registration and auditions are scheduled by character beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, with additional auditions and callbacks on Monday. See stdunstanstheatre.com for further details.



VYT bids campers adieu, readies for “Sound of Music”

BY CATHIE BADALAMENTI

The campers left Neverland at the end of July after a successful four weeks of pirate, mermaid and lost boy adventures. Forty-two campers participated in morning workshops on voice, dancing, acting and set design and rehearsed the camp show, Peter Pan, in the afternoons.

Ten campers aged out of our summer program this year: our upper limit is a rising tenth grader. Our final performance was extremely sad for them and for the camp staff. Several of these campers had spent the last seven summers with us at the VYT Summer Theater Arts Camp. Some of our counselors will not be returning next summer either as they will pursue roles with Summer Stock theater. Two of our counselors, Nathan Willey and Patrice Bell, were campers for several years before becoming counselors. Nathan also appeared in a couple of VP productions. Nathan is currently a sophomore at Pointe Park University in Pittsburgh and Patrice is a sophomore at Marymount Manhattan.

Next up, VYT is heading to Austria for the Sound of Music. Auditions are September 27 and performances are Decem-

ber 11 - 14.

Complete audition information is posted on our website under the Youth Theater tab.

We are looking for a sound manager for this show. Our reg-

ular sound techs are off to college this fall. If you're interested in working on this show with us, please contact Cathie Badalamenti at cathiebadalamenti@gmail.com.



MERMAIDS AHOY — A bevy of mermaids of all sizes appeared in the Youth Camper's production of “Peter Pan” at the end of July. Pictured, from left to right are **Lauren Burry, Jayne Zoltowski, Jacqueline Mularoni, Ali Chapman, Autumn Messner, Ryan Balberman, and Lauren Kupelian**

Roster Information needed for on-line, print directory

By Helen Moultrup

WHERE ARE YOU?

We need your Roster Information! Preferably, we need you to enter it online (using the link below).

Even if there are no changes, we still need your information entered online so that it can be added to our database – as last year's roster data will not carry over.

Renewal Forms have been mailed to those who have not yet paid their dues and/or updated roster information.

You may complete the form and return it or may use the online option instead.

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON

Link to Online Membership Dues Payment:

<http://www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/villageplayhouse/>

Link to Online Renewal Form (Roster and Involvement):

<http://tinyurl.com/VP-Membership-2015>

Volunteers organize loft, inventory VP furniture

A major reorganization of the theater's loft area took place Sunday, August 3 when group of volunteers, lead by Michael Gravame and Steve Roberts, not only tidied the area, but created an inventory list of every piece of furniture currently stored above the stage.

The volunteers – Ralph and Sharon Rosati, Mike and Pam Dundas, Art Tucker and Laura Bradshaw-Tucker, Paul Gillin, and Lori Champagne – hauled every piece of theater from the loft to the stage, where the furniture was grouped by category (arm chairs, side chairs, etc.) and photographed. A photographic catalog of all the furniture is in the process of being assembled, and will be ready soon.

Many items were in such poor condition that they had to be thrown out. "We really didn't know what was up there," Roberts said. "Some of the items were used once, maybe twenty years ago. If we haven't used something in twenty years, we probably aren't going to."

Once every item had been described and photographed – or taken to the dumpster – the volunteers placed each piece back in the loft, noting its location.

"You'll still have to crawl in to get stuff out," Roberts said, "but at least

you'll know what we have on site, and where to find it."

The complete catalog will be available to directors and producers within a few weeks.

Next up next is reorganization of VP's linen cupboard – all the pillows,

cushions, tablecloths, blankets, bedspreads, quilts and curtains the theater has acquired over the years. A date for that event has not yet been set.

Volunteers needed.



THE JUNK IN THE YARD — Chairs, benches, tables and miscellaneous battered and broken odds and ends await trash day after the Great Furniture Reorganization Aug. 3.

Volunteers needed to assist at Box Office

Help is needed at the Box Office during the run of shows. If you are interested in learning how to sell tickets, Box Office Manager Steve Roberts is ready and willing to give you one-on-one training sessions. If you have basic computer skills, you can do this. It just takes some time and patience.

If you are interested, please contact Steve at shrshot808@yahoo.com, call him at the box office (248-644-2075) during regular hours (Tue-Sat from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), or on his cell at 586-419-6263 to set up a time that works for both.

VPers share talents on stage — and screen!

VP members are not only sharing their talents with other theaters this Fall, a few talented actors (and a writer) have lent their skills to the cinematic arts.

Members **Marc Rosati** and **Gertrude Fox** will appear in a short film "On the Line", produced by VP member **Steve Sussman**, and based on the play "Twilight" by VP's **Barbara Schmitt**. Schmitt, Sussman, and VP Board member **Ralph Rosati** also appear in the film. See story on page 2.

Laura Bradshaw-Tucker will be helping out at St. Dunstan's, serving as AD on St. D's, "Dial M for Murder," opening October 10. VP's President-Elect **Paul Gillin** will appear in "Dial M" as American writer, Max Halliday.

VP Board member **Nicole Jones** will be singing and dancing her way to execution as Hunyuk, in the Ridgedale Player's production of "Chicago," opening September 5.

Dale Feldpausch has been cast in the role of Christopher in the play *Tribes* by Nina Raine. This is at Stagecrafter's Second Stage. Performance dates are Oct 10-12, and 16-19.

songs for a new world

Auditions: Sunday, September 7, 2014 | 6PM
Call Backs: Monday, September 8, 2014 | 7PM
Show Dates:
10/24, 10/25, 10/26*, 10/31, 11/1, 11/2*, 11/7, 11/8 & 11/9*
Fri/Sat Shows @ 8pm, Sun shows noted with * at 2pm

Show Synopsis

Neither musical play nor musical revue "Songs For a New World" is a very theatrical song cycle by composer/lyricist Jason Robert Brown. With music styles ranging from light spirituals to funk and rock we meet unrelated characters who each face a unique (and unrelated) moment in life when everything seems perfect and then suddenly disaster strikes. This collection of song stories is about surviving those moments and how we each regroup to survive in a new set of circumstances – a new world – even against seemingly overwhelming odds.

Casting Actors/Singers

We are looking to cast 2-6 Men and 2-6 Women to sing 16 unique and separate character -driven songs, telling a story through song.

Casting Dancers

We will also cast 4 dancers who will only dance (no singing). Advanced skill preferred, high school and college students welcome.

Female Song list (ages are only a guide - open to other ages/interpretations)

Just One Step (35+) - Comedic Role, over-the-top New Yorker “threatening” to jump from her penthouse

I'm Not Afraid of Anything (20ish) - Youthful, simple, is not frightened by the unknown

Stars and the Moon (45+) - Wealthy who has lived an unfulfilled life

Surabaya-Santa (37ish) - Comedic, fed-up and raunchy Mrs. Claus – this ain't your 5 yr olds Mrs. Claus

Christmas Lullaby (18+) - Innocent, honest, discovers she is pregnant and views as gift from heaven

The Flagmaker, 1775 (40+) - Distracted and distraught, needs to feel a part of the war effort

Male Song list (ages are only a guide - open to other ages/interpretations)

On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492 (any age) – Ship Captain pleads to god for safe passage for all aboard

She Cries (any age) – in a relationship torn between caring for her and wanting to leave her

The Steam Train (18+) - Bronx basketball boy, athletic promise of greatness shrouded by dismal home life/upbringing

The World Was Dancing (25+) - Tells the story of finding his fiancée, among other women, before walking out on her

King of the World (any age) - Distraught prisoner who believes he was wrongly imprisoned begs for his freedom

Flying Home (any age) - Losing his life, this man's soul journey's to heaven and his body is returned his loved ones

Auditions

Audition music cuts will be available for check-out at Village Players beginning June 15th including additional information about the show. CD's of the full score will be available for a minimal fee. Please call ahead for availability at 248-644-2075. Music cuts may be emailed by sending an email to vpofbirmingham@sbcglobal.net. Include SONGS in the subject line and indicate if you are interested in Male or Female in the body of the email. *Alternate Audition day/time arrangements can be made in advance for those with conflicts on September 7, 2014 by contacting Laura Quinn directly.*

Please bring

A non-returnable photo of yourself (or a picture will be taken at the time of auditions)

A list of all conflicts between September 7th and opening night, October 24th

Wear comfortable clothing and bring proper footwear to dance in as all will be asked to participate in a dance audition.

Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 10th.

Director/Music Director
Laura Quinn
laurabethquinn@gmail.com

(248) 404-7046

Co-Producer: Diane D'Agostino
Co-Producer: Dave Genette
Assistant Director: Mark Konwinski
Piano/Musical Maestro: Cat Menzies

Choreographer: Nicole Redko
Sound Design/Engineer: Noel Montales
Stage Manager: Justine Dearth
Costumes: Jillian Frederick
Set Design/Engineer: Ryan Quinn

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, July 2014

NOTE: Official minutes of meetings both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors **are posted in the kitchen**, once approved. Because these minutes cannot be published until officially approved, they will **generally not be published in the Prompter**.

In July, the Board of Trustees scheduled its meeting on a Sunday, to follow an informational combined meeting of both the BOT and the BOD that began at 7:00 p.m. July 13.

BOT reconvened in Green Room at 8:35.

In attendance: Cathie Badalamenti, Gary Mach, Diane D'Agostino, Kevin Cristbrook, Jude Purcell, Chris Crossen, Tim Wittlinger

Discussion of the following:

Received and filed for audit, the June financial reports.

Old Business

Gary Mach reopened the discussion on access to the stage for the handicapped. The BOT had looked into this several years ago. Gary is going to look into possible grant applications that would subsidize the cost of this program. VP member, Judy O'Brien was mentioned as a grant writer. The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs was mentioned as a source for grants.

New Business

Request by Alan Canning to premier a film based on VP member, Barb Schmitt's play, Twilight, re-titled "On the Line." The film is 30 minutes long and stars VP members Gertrude Fox and Marc Rosati. VP members Steve Sussman and Ralph Rosati also appear in the film.

Diane D'Agostino will follow-up with Alan about making this a fundraiser for VP.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55





34660 Woodward Avenue
Birmingham, MI 48009

P @ W Meeting, Thursday, Sept. 4; Monday, Sept. 15 [7 pm]

**Board of Directors, Sunday, Sept. 14 and Tuesday, September 16 [7 p.m.];
Board of Trustees, Thursday, Sept. 11 [6:30 p.m.]**

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.

**“Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown,” weekends Sept. 5-7, 12-14,
19-21[8 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun.]**

“Songs for a New World” auditions, Sunday and Monday Sept. 7 and 8.

See inside for details.

Premiere of film “On the Line”, Friday, Sept. 26 [8 p.m.]

VYT “Sound of Music” Auditions, Saturday, Sept. 27

P@W “Shorts & Sweets,” Saturday, Sept. 27 [8 p.m.] Free event.

Prompter deadline, September 24

www.calendar.yahoo.com/vp_calendar

VP Roster on-line: <http://www.birminghamvillageplayers.com/handbooks/>