PREZ SAYS

Spring Is Here

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that we're more than halfway through the season and that spring is finally here. I know that the ground will start to thaw, the grass will begin to turn green, and we'll be able to ditch the coats and boots for another fresh start!

I'm so happy to see all the new members who have joined Village Players because of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf and Thoroughly Modern Millie! Welcome to all of you.

I want to congratulate the cast and crew of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf. If you didn't attend, you missed one of the best productions. After a rocky start for a very tough play, this group pulled it off with aplomb!

And now, I can't wait to see Thoroughly Modern Millie. What a terrific cast! With so much talent, grace, and beauty on the stage, it's sure to be a big hit. Be sure to get tickets for you for your friends early as this fun musical is sure to be a sell-out. This show will be featured on Live In The D (WDIV television), and we'll notify you when the date is set.

We've had a tough year this year with ticket sales down. There is a myriad of reasons for that and lots of opinions as to why, but if all of us would purchase just two extra tickets per show or buy season tickets as birthday or housewarming gifts, we could evaporate that shortfall very quickly!

I know with our busy schedules, it's tough sometimes to donate the time to work on a show but buying tickets would show your support in another way.

Let's make the next seven years the biggest and best ever as we head to that century mark! Susie
Playwrights at Work Presents Shorts & Sweets

A septet of original plays, including an eclectic mix of comedy, drama, and dramedy, will be presented free on Saturday, April 11, when Playwrights @ Work (P@W) presents Shorts & Sweets, its spring festival of 10-minute plays.

Featured plays include:

**Stavros’ Chili** by Stephen Sussman – A former Greek restaurateur has some surprises for an on-air news reporter as he unveils a product he is promoting in this comedy.

**One Step at a Time** by new writer Penelope Calcaterra -- A mother and her adult son struggle with the cruel indignities and harshness of dementia.

**Hicks Illustrated History** by Jacqueline Salter – A magic book helps a teen understand the Constitution.

**Smoke Damage** by Laura Bradshaw – A common vice threatens a relationship in this dramedy.

**The Old Newsboy’s Club** by Myron Stein -- Three middle-age friends, former newspaper boys, dealing with a changing world and the state of the newspaper industry, devise a plan to bring the attention of the world to the sweetness of an earlier time in their lives.

**The Winner Is …** by John Reddy – A playwriting contest opens a new chapter in a couple’s relationship.

**Reunion** by Maggie Garza – A man and woman’s chance encounter at a grocery store leads to a startling revelation.

Audiences are encouraged to critique the plays in a five-minute talk-back following each performance.

Doors open at 7:00PM; the performance begins at 7:30. Audience members are invited to meet and greet cast and playwrights at a dessert buffet after the show. VP members are welcome to bring their beverage of choice for post-performance consumption.
Looking Back at Village Players History – Not a Community Theater!
By Tania Velinsky

It will surprise many current members that The Village Players was not a community theater for most of its existence – it was a private theater club. The following is from an article in the February 11, 1954 Birmingham Eccentric:

“The Village Players, which is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its first performance Saturday at the Playhouse, is unique among amateur dramatic groups.

“Since February 1924 when “The Maker of Dreams” by Oliphant Downs was presented as the first production, Players has been different. The chief difference lies in the fact that they do not cast by try-out and they are a club, not a civic theatre. They have never had a paid director or paid assistance with scene shifting, scenery, make-up or music.”

For many of its early years, the group only put on one, then later two, public performances a year. All other performances were closed to the public – they were for the membership only. Once a month the group would gather on a Saturday evening and be treated to three one-act plays, or possibly a full length three-act play in which the characters would be played by a completely different cast in each act. These Saturday performances were quite the social occasions, with pre-show cocktails and hors d'oeuvres being served at various members’ homes, and then post-show food and possibly dancing into the wee hours at the Playhouse. There were 50 guest tickets available to each performance. Those tickets were given to members who had provided the treasurer with the guest’s name and verified the guest did not live in Oakland County.

Membership was limited to 250 when the playhouse was first built, which allowed all members to attend the performances at one time. Not long after the membership was allowed to grow to 300 members, and in the 1950s we had a limit of 350 members for the group, with a long waiting list for membership of some people who waited for years to become a member. To become a member, you had to be sponsored by three current members and approved by the board of directors.

In regards to casting, it was quite a few years before The Village Players held an audition, either for members or for outsiders. The following is from the 1959 Village Players operating guide: “Also uniquely with Village Players, designated members of the Board of Directors are assigned full responsibility and authority for the casting selections for all shows. Assigned directors are usually consulted in advance about choices for lead parts, but this special committee of the Board makes all final decisions.”

My, how things have changed!
Directors, Crew Sought for One-act Festival

Playwrights at Work P@W is looking for people interested in participating in its Sixth Annual One-act Festival, scheduled for July 25 to 27, 2015.

Directors, assistant directors, stage crew, stage manager, lights, sound, and props are all needed for the as-yet-to-be-named plays.

The four plays to be performed will be selected by an independent playreading committee from P@W submissions this month.

The plays chosen will be announced in the May Prompter and in the Village Players weekly calendar in late April.

Potential directors and others interested in volunteering, or in reading the four plays, should contact festival producer, Eileen White at eileen-white@wowway.com.

The Woolf Strike
By Gary Mach

As many of you may know, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf was a small-cast show. Typically, cast members are responsible for taking down a set following their last show. A special call for help went out for this strike and was met with resounding success. We had members and even non-members show up to lend a hand. Thanks to all, especially those who gave a Sunday afternoon for the cause.

And one more thing...another special shout out goes to Josie Thom and Kevin Kahl. They came in on Tuesday after the strike and pulled a “Copeland” putting the place back in order in time for the start of the Thoroughly Modern Millie set build. This is an important and misleadingly simple task. We can’t say enough about these two hard-working people and their contribution to the theatre. And in Kevin’s case, he’s not even a member, just a good guy!!
April’s Hidden Hero – Kathleen Duffy

Beginning this month, The Prompter is featuring a monthly Hidden Hero. VP’s Hidden Hero is a member who quietly find things that need to be done and does them, not for applause or recognition, but simply because they need to be done. This month The Prompter recognizes Kathleen Duffy.

Kathleen became a member in 2011 when she joined the cast of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Since then she has performed in five more shows in addition to roles in P@W and the Theatre of the Absurd performances. She also served as choreographer and assistant director for Company, as well as chairing the Playreading Committee. Kathleen created and continues to maintain the Village Players Facebook page, and has co-chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. She also contributes her talents and expertise as a professional graphic designer to crate the graphics for our show posters and programs including next season’s logos and publicity materials.

Wow! Kathleen demonstrates tremendous dedication to our organization and has contributed a lot in her short four years as a member. Village Players gives a big “thank you” to Kathleen, this month’s Hidden Hero.

Do you know a hidden hero that deserves recognition? Please send your nominations to Tania Velinsky at tania.velinsky@siemens.com
The Cast of

Shrek – Carson Peasely
Young Shrek – Titus Smith
Fiona – Natalie Siegel
Teen Fiona – Jayne Zoltowski
Young Fiona – Ellie Haenick
Donkey – Katy Zink
Lord Farquaad – Jono Mammel
Dragon – Rose Iannuzzi
Mama Ogre – Mina Kambakhsh
Papa Ogre – Griffin Kozlow
Pig 1 – Grace Velthoven
Pig 2 – Sophie Champion
Pig 3 – Jamie Trepeck
Mama Bear – Joelle Denhof
Baby Bear – Sam Wasson
Ugly Duckling – Anna Forberg
Peter Pan – Mitch Mollison
Pinocchio – Caitlyn Griffin
Gingy – Mackenzie Mollison
Witch – Mina Kambakhsh
Puss ‘n Boots – Inaya Butt
Blind Mice – Kelley Whitehouse, Stephanie Sills
Wolf – Megan Lindely

Knight 1 – Olivia Forte
Knight 2 – Wobi Antoniolli
Knight 3 – Sasha Routh
Thelonius – Amelia Dahmer
Grumpy Dwarf – Ellie Haenick
Bishop – Max Ratton
Guard – Chase Seklar
Guard – Evan Krasnick
Speaking Duloc Performer – Emelia Johnston
Speaking Duloc Performer – Talia Rubin

Duloc Performers:
Kate Gendruschke
Madelyn Hardey
Zhane Coleman
Grace Kruszewski
Sophie Beeckman
Ally Albery
Katie Tenniswood

Additional Fairy Tale characters:
Griffin Kozlow
Jayne Zoltkowski
Cassidy Dickerson
Noises Off Auditions

Brush up on your British accents. Noises Off, directed by David Renike, will kick off the Village Players 2015-16 season.

AUDITION DATES:

Sunday, May 31, 2015: Registration, 12:30PM; auditions, 1:00PM
Monday, June 1, 2015: Registration, 6:30PM; auditions, 7:00PM

PRODUCTION DATES: Preview, September 2. Performances, September 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 8:00PM, and September 6, 13, and 20 at 2:00PM.

If you have any questions, please email David Reinke at dreinke472@aol.com.

Update on Scott Cameron
By Jerry and Dianne McKeon

For members looking for an update on Scott Cameron's health and whereabouts, a long time member and generous donor to VP, I offer some new information.

After selling his home on Stanley St in Birmingham, Scott moved to Saline, Michigan, residing in the Linden Square Care Facility, in Saline. Scott did not have a stroke, as early speculation suggested. Scott is in the early stages of Dementia. Scott designated some dear friends to handle his affairs.

I'm sure Scott would enjoy receiving a card from you. His address is: Scott Cameron Room B-3 - c/o Linden Square, 650 Woodland Dr East. Saline, Michigan. 48176. Scott can have visitors but I would check with the care facility first before visiting. I do not have a phone number. Scott will be moving to another facility in late April, early May. We will update everyone when that happens.

I am so happy to learn where Scott is staying and his health condition. We wish him well.
The production staff of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is thrilled to announce that we finally have a full cast.

Millie Dillmount – Kimberly Elliott  
Jimmy Smith – Sterling Orlowski  
Trevor Graydon – Jason Bowen  
Miss Dorothy Brown – Noelle Perrin  
Mrs. Meers – Lynette Yeager  
Muzzy Van Hossmere – Shondra Tipler  
Ching Ho – Aaron Ozment  
Bun Foo – Sal Virelli  
Miss Flannery/Dorothy Parker – Christine Maurer  
Character Parts – Bryan Conroy

**Female Ensemble –**  
Regan Castle  
Carson Delaney  
Audrey Gebbie  
Katherine Huyghe  
Katherine Lieblang  
Christine Maurer  
Cynthia Pike  
Erica Poster  
Andrea Sevonty  
Olivia Tokerski

**Male Ensemble –**  
Eric Henrickson  
Nasir Khawaja  
Ryan Quinn  
Loren White
New Village Players Members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Village’s new members.

**Jason Bowen**
27845 Lenox Ave.
Madison Heights MI 48071
jasonbowen78@gmail.com
Ph: 312.607.5631

**Regan Castle**
16 Wellesley Drive
Pleasant Ridge MI 48069
kellyacastle@gmail.com
Ph: 248.568.4896

**Carson Delaney**
900 Bloomfield Club Court
Bloomfield Hills MI 48301
carsondelaney@icloud.com
Ph: 248.534.8995

**Kimberly Elliott**
46363 Briargate Drive
Canton MI 48187
love4theatre23@yahoo.com
Ph: 734.772.3990

**Audrey Gebbie**
1984 Clear Point Court
Rochester Hills MI 48306
audrey.gebbie@gmail.com
Ph 248-840-1949

**Eric Henrickson**
3001 Goodrich
Ferndale MI 48220
apalsh@yahoo.com
Ph: 248.224.2429

**Nasir Khawaja**
24333 Tamarack Circle
Southfield MI 48075
nasir_khayaja@hotmail.com
Ph: 734.355.5906

**Noelle Perrin**
39632 Tunstall Drive
Clinton Twp. MI 48038
noelleaperrin@yahoo.com
Ph: 586.914.6131

**Cynthia Pike**
1124 Chesapeake
Rochester Hills MI 48307
cynthiapike@netscape.net
Ph: 248.703.4364

**Erica Poster**
14504 Pear Tree Lane
Sterling Heights MI 48313
posterica@yahoo.com
Ph: 586.909.3719

**Andrea Sevonty**
2412 Benjamin
Royal Oak MI 48073
asevonty@gmail.com
Ph: 313.622.5582

**Loren White**
9682 Ruth Ave.
Allen Park MI 48101
lorenaw26@gmail.com
Ph: 313.919.0025

**Lynette Yeager**
45630 Remer
Utica MI 48317
lynetteyeager@yahoo.com
Ph: 810.542.1051
**Upcoming Events**

**Prompter deadline April 22, 2015**

View the VP online calendar at [www.calendar.yahoo.com/vp_calendar](http://www.calendar.yahoo.com/vp_calendar)

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<td>Playwrights@Work</td>
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<td>March 8, 7PM</td>
<td>Board of Trustees meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, 9AM-4PM</td>
<td>Directing Workshop for anyone interested in learning more about directing.</td>
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This edition of The Prompter was created and compiled by your newsletter team Randy Gilchrist, Michael A. Gravame & Tania L. Velinsky. Please send all newsworthy articles, pictures. and items to Randy Gilchrist randygilchrist@comcast.net