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Prez Says



In With The New

Congrats to Susie Gardiner and the other departing board members on a terrific year and term of office. It was a great run, and I appreciate all that Susie, Kevin, Tom and Laura have done in service to VP over the past couple of years! I know that we can count on you long into the future!

Like anyone who holds this position, I have a few goals and objectives I hope we accomplish, most of which I shared with the both the continuing and new members of your board after our July 1 annual meeting. As a fairly new member, I would like to see a little more structure in the organization, make resources such as bylaws and procedures more readily available to the general membership etc. Nothing earth shattering but, nevertheless, I think valuable to the organization. I would appreciate help and support from each of you and all corners of VP as we proceed this year. In turn, I pledge to you my sincere and honest effort to continue improving VP, building on the accomplishments of the past and developing new tools to assist us in the future.

The Board and I are your representatives, serving you and the long term viability of VP. Let's work together to accomplish great things and may we find many moments of levity and satisfaction along the way.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and here's to a successful 93rd year!

Paul A. Gillin



P@W and Village Players Present 2015 One Act Festival

On July 24-26, Playwrights@Work (P@W) and Village Players will present the 2015 One Act Festival. This year's production will feature four one-act plays written by local playwrights. Performances will be on Friday and Saturday, July 24-25, at 8:00PM, with a matinee on Sunday, July 26, at 2:00PM. Tickets are just \$10 each for general admission seating. Tickets are available at the VP box office. Order online at birminghamvillageplayers.com or by calling the box office at 248.644.2075. All performances will be at the Village Playhouse, 34600 Woodward Ave, just south of Maple, in Birmingham.

The four featured plays include:

- ◆ ***The Luckiest Man*** by Joe Feinstein and directed by Art Tucker. This drama is about a man who seems to have it all and retreats to a remote cabin to evaluate his life. It is there that he is confronted by his estranged socialite wife and comes to terms with what is ahead of him.
- ◆ ***Blood Ties*** by Ann Forsaith and directed by Janie Burkey. While planning a family anniversary party, four siblings uncover a deep, dark, family secret that is better left buried. Relationships are tested and sibling rivalries are brought to the surface in this drama.
- ◆ ***Timeline*** by Barbara Schmitt, directed by Marcus Laban. We meet Billy Spears, an up-and-coming playwright who is having his third play produced on Broadway. Unfortunately for those around him, Billy is convinced that he is the genuine reincarnation of William Shakespeare. Before he reveals this career damaging information to a journalist, his agent (along with a few historical figures) uses a timeline to refute his claim.
- ◆ ***The Gift***, by Stephen Sussman and directed by Alan Canning. This drama brings us an adult daughter who gets a momentous surprise when her father reveals a shocking secret. The story unfolds with the help of a voice from the past.

Come enjoy an evening of original theatre and have a chance to meet the playwrights. The P@W group will host an afterglow on Friday, July 24th immediately following the performance. New scripts, new talent, and new directors will provide for a lovely evening out! Won't you join us?





Shrek & Camp

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Everyone's favorite Ogre performed to enthusiastic audiences during VYT's recent run of *SHREK*. Each of the five sold-out performances received a standing ovation.

VYT was fortunate to have VP member Kathleen Duffy as our costumer. She brought her fantastic vision and talent to VYT and helped the cast shine on stage.

The 40-member cast celebrated a great run with a party at Dick O'Dow's.

VYT has moved from the swamp to the farm. Camp opened on Monday, June 22, with 40 campers singing, dancing and acting five days a week at the playhouse. Mornings are filled with workshops and afternoons are busy with rehearsal for the camp show, *Honk*. Show dates are July 15 at 7:00PM. and July 16 at Noon and 7:00PM. Tickets are only \$5 and are available from camp staff, Monday through Friday between 9:00AM and 3:00PM.



VYT SHREK



VYT Camp



VYT Camp



Looking Back at Village Players History By Tania Velinsky

Village Players held their first performance on March 26, 1924 (a Wednesday!) in order to recruit members to their new group. The show was the one act *The Maker of Dreams* by Oliphant Downs, and according to the front page article in the March 28, 1924 edition of the Birmingham Eccentric, the show was well received, and most of those attending became Village Players members.



I thought it might be interesting to take a look at what else was making news in Birmingham the week of our very first performance.

- ◆ The Birmingham Chicken Scandal: J. Leet of Big Beaver Road reported that nineteen of his chickens were taken last Thursday night, and Fred Mallender has lost 27 chickens in several raids on his houses. Chicken owners beware!
- ◆ The Wider Woodward Association asked for contributions at an Exchange Club luncheon to purchase advertising to educate the public about the benefits of widening Woodward Avenue from its current 90 feet to 200 feet from 8 Mile Road into Pontiac.
- ◆ Ford Motor Company broke records on March 12, by producing 7,456 cars and trucks in its domestic assembly plants.
- ◆ The performance of the play *The Path Across the Hill* by the Rebekah Sewing Circle had to be postponed from March 26 to April 5 when one of the cast members came down with the mumps.
- ◆ The Baldwin Theatre (the current home of Stagecrafters) is showing the film *Bright Lights of Broadway*, and, quoting directly, “Vaudeville of a high-class nature will also be given”.
- ◆ A group of society “young marrieds” were pictured in the paper sporting the popular new French “bob” hairstyle.
- ◆ Some of the various goods advertised for sale include:
 - White Ladies’ Over Blouses in spring styles for \$1 at Palmer, Begole, & Co.
 - Dr. Morse’s Indian Root Pills: “Drive out the body poisons. Keep well. Keep the system active. Relieve constipation.” 36 pills for 25¢.
 - Pocahontas coal can be ordered in Egg, Lump, or Nut sizes from the Birmingham Lumber Co. Phone number: 541.
 - A Studebaker Light-Six 5-passenger Touring car can be purchased for \$1045 from the Wurster-Stapleton dealership at 129 West Maple (where the Paper Source store stands today).

VP Members on Other Stages

If you will be participating in a theatre, music, dance, or other creative production, send details to

randygilchrist@comcast.net and we will include your event in The Prompter.

Sofia Malynowskyj competed at the **International Dance Sport Festival** on Sunday, June 7, dancing waltz, foxtrot, rumba, swing, hustle, tango, and polka. Over all she won eight gold medals and five silver, including both a gold and a silver for her tango. In polka, she won first place out of a field of 25. Her instructor was named top teacher in Michigan. In August, Sofia will perform 20 dances, including a solo, at the **North Star Competition** in Chicago



Let's Talk Turkey

On November 27 at VP (day after Thanksgiving), Paul Housey will perform his one-man show, "This Wonderful Life", based on the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". To use our theater, Paul pays VP \$1500 in a rental fee and \$2 per ticket sold to this performance. (Paul held this performance last year at VP.)

We need a VP member to act as host for the event. The host is responsible for securing someone to work sound, lights and box office and being onsite during the event. If you can volunteer to host this event, call Diane D'Agostino at 248-760-2146.



AUDITION NOTICE



Saturday, August 8:

11:00am - Mrs. Lovett/ **12:30pm** - Sweeney Todd / **3:30pm** - Johanna & Anthony

Sunday, August 9:

1:00pm - Beadle, Turpin, Perelli / **2:30pm** - Tobias, Beggar Woman / **3:30pm** - Ensemble

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your audition time on both days to register. These are closed auditions

Call Backs: Tuesday, August 11 starting at 6:00 PM

Performance Dates:

October 23, 24, 30, 31* November 6, 7 - 8:00 PM - October 25, November 1, 8 - 2:00 PM (*this show time is 8:30 PM)

Character Descriptions: The age ranges listed are the characters' ages, not necessarily the ages of the actors

Sweeney Todd (30s-50s) a wrongly convicted master barber. He has returned to London seeking to right the wrongs committed against him, Johanna's father. He is powerful, vengeful, hot-tempered, intelligent, forceful, terrifying, brooding and morose with a certain cynical charm. He must have a commanding presence.

Vocal range: Baritone - F2 - Gb4 **Audition Song:** *My Friend* and *A Little Priest*

Mrs. Lovett (30s-50s) an entrepreneurial and unscrupulous meat pie shop owner. She falls in love with Todd and turns his desire for revenge into a profitable business venture for herself. She is talkative, cheerful, manipulative, devious and ambitious with a sexual prowess. Great comedic timing is necessary.

Vocal range: Mezzo w/belt - G3 - E5 **Audition Song:** *The Worst Pies in London* and *A Little Priest*

Anthony (20s) a naive and youthful sailor returning to London. He rescues Todd and unexpectedly falls in love with Johanna. Strong, brave and full of the joys of the world. He has yet to inhabit the cynical qualities of Todd. He grows more and more terrified of the world around him.

Vocal range: Tenor - Bb2-F4. **Audition song:** *Joanna*

Joanna (needs to appear 16) a high-spirited girl, full of innocence with a flirtatious demeanor. She is constantly yearning for freedom. Todd's long-lost daughter and Judge Turpin's ward.

Vocal range: Soprano - Bb3-A5 **Audition Song:** *Green Finch and Linnet Bird*

Tobias (16-20s) a poor simpleton youngster apprenticed to Pirelli and who finds a surrogate mother in Lovett. He is loyal, truthful and innocent to a fault with a heart of gold and a sharp eye. He does not trust Todd.

Vocal range: Tenor - Bb2-Ab4. **Audition Song:** *Not While I'm Around*

Beggar Woman (Lucy) (30s) an eerie, poor soul living on the streets of London making her living prostituting herself to sailors at London docks. She is a deranged and schizophrenic woman who harbors a dark, surprising secret. She is actually Todd's wife unrecognizable, but a consistent character through the show. Her interjections go unheeded.

Vocal range: Mezzo - Ab3 - F5 **Audition Song:** *No Place like London Measure 28*

Judge Turpin (50 plus) a lecherous, corrupt and evil public official who portrays himself as sanctimonious. He takes advantage of his position in the city and is responsible for imprisoning Todd. He lusts after Joanna.

Vocal range Bass - E2-Gb4. **Audition Song:** *Johanna (Judge's Song): Mea Culpa*

Beadle Bamford (30s-50) a pompous public official, deeply loyal to Judge Turpin. He is eager, violent, unscrupulous and terrorizing. **Vocal range:** High Tenor - D3-D5 **Audition Song:** *Ladies in Their Sensitivities*

Adolfo Pirelli (30s-40s) An Irish charlatan and former employee of Todd's who has since developed a public persona as a flashy and flamboyant Italian barber. He is crooked, calculating and conniving with a hot temper. A comedic role. Both Italian and Irish accents are required. **Vocal range:** High Tenor - B2-C5 **Audition Song:** *Pirelli's Entrance*

Male & Female Ensemble: A strong ensemble needed for this show. They act as a Greek Chorus commenting on the action and augmenting the story. Some of the roles they will portray include; Storytellers, Townspeople, Police, Lunatics and Customers. The Ensemble gets ample opportunity for vocal challenges and is showcased throughout.

Vocal range: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass **Audition Song:** *The Ballad of Sweeney Todd*

Ideally, we would like to cast 17-21 actors for this production. We are looking for strong singer/actors who love the challenge of playing multiple roles.

Production Staff:

Michael A. Gravame – Director 248-506-0885 / Kathleen Duffy – Producer / Matt Horn – Music Director

Katherine Lieblang & Loren White – Asst. Directors / Production Assistant: James Cristbrook

Stage Dance Movement: Olivia Tokarski



Sweeney Todd Audition Workshop

Sunday, July 12 1-5pm

This workshop will be pvaluable to anyone serious about auditioning for this Sondheim musical.

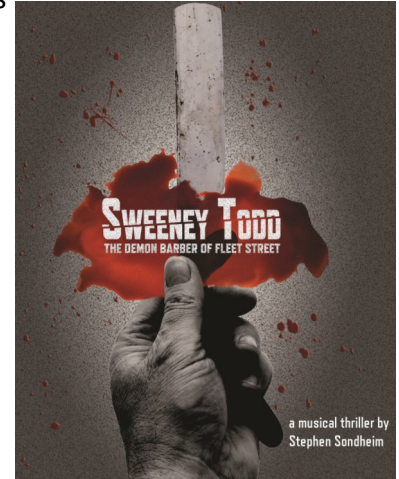
At the workshop you will:

- Meet the production staff.
- Hear about the production concept.
- Learn the audition songs and reading cuts and be able to practice them.
- Get audition and dialect coaching/feedback.
- Be taught how auditions are going to run, how to prepare for your audition and what the production staff is looking for.

You will definitely find this day very useful in prepping for your audition.

*This workshop is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

We hope to see you there raising your voices and of course, your razor.



Auditions Elsewhere

To the best of our knowledge, the information below is accurate as of publication date. ALWAYS check websites listed below for the latest details.



Grosse Pointe Theatre, Grosse Pointe MI

Enchanted April

Audition dates: August 7, 2015, 7PM

August 8, 2015, 1PM

Performances: November 8-23

<http://www.gpt.org/auditions/>



**ENCHANTED
APRIL**



34660 Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009



Upcoming Events

Prompter deadline July 21, 2015

View the VP online calendar at www.calendar.yahoo.com/vp_calendar

July 8, 6:30— Board of Trustees Meeting, Green Room

July 12, 1-5PM — *Sweeney Todd* Audition Workshop

July 13, 7PM — Playwrights@Work — Green Room

July 15, 7PM — Honk

July 16, Noon & 7PM — Honk

July 24-25, 8PM — One Act Festival

July 26, 2PM — One Act Festival

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 anyone on the team.



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