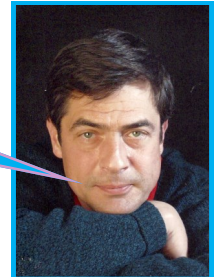


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## Prez Says



### Welcome Back to Our 93rd Season

Tick Tock goes the clock! And it's time for my monthly ramblings once again.

As you know, our season opens with *Noises Off* on September 4. Yes, that is Labor Day weekend, which presents challenges relative to securing an audience for the weekend. I would ask that those of you in town please plan to see the show that weekend and show your support for the cast and crew of this excellent production. Then, once you are delighted and entertained, you can spread the word and thereby help sell the show for the following two weekends. So please make your reservation now. Oh, and don't forget the afterglow on opening night!

There will be a 50/50 raffle each performance. Opening weekend, the beneficiaries will be a lucky patron (might it be you?) and the Avondale High School Theatre Department in appreciation loaning *Noises Off* their stage this summer. The raffle will support their fundraising efforts to attend the Edinburgh Fringe Festival next year.

So there you go. Two or three important reasons to come and support your fellow thespians opening weekend September 4 – 6 for *Noises Off*! Not to mention, for the fun of it.

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre and appreciate all that you do for VP.

PS: Congrats to the cast of *Sweeney Todd*!

Paul A. Gillin

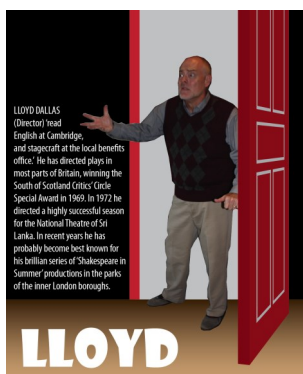


## Opens September 4 and runs weekends through September 20.

No matter what, the show must go on. It's practically the mantra of theater.

*Noises Off*, the hilarious farce, which opens on September 4, celebrates that idea in its rollicking look at the travails of a struggling theater troupe as they gamely strive to put on a show, despite misplaced props, dropped lines, missed cues, missing actors, and unraveling love lives.

It's an idea that hits especially close to home for anyone involved in theater. And, that holds true for the *Noises Off* cast and crew, who have (collectively) well over a hundred years of theater experience, and a long list of nights when Things Went Wrong. Here are a few of their stories:



Edmond Guay, who plays director Lloyd Dallas in VP's production of *Noises Off*, vividly recalls a performance of *Godspell* in which he rushed on-stage to make his Rock-star style entrance, complete with knee-slide, with embarrassing results: "...I started my run too late, and my inertia (I was rather hefty back then) began to take over. I was unable to stop my momentum and proceeded to launch myself off the front of the thrust into the third row of the auditorium. Luckily for me, the box office didn't sell any seats immediately surrounding the platform, so I ended up diving, face-first into the seat."

For Liz Hutchinson (*Belinda, Flavia*) the onstage mishap occurred while she was directing a production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and an improperly-closed jail cell door got caught on a batten. "The tech crew yanked on the ropes and that side of the jail cell broke off from the batten ties and came crashing down, barely missing one of the actresses by about two feet," she said.

Ross Grossman, an important member of the set construction team, recounts his momentary panic (and quick recovery) when he realized he had come on stage without a crucial prop. "I was in *Crimes of the Heart*, playing Barnett Lloyd. There was a scene where I come in with a damning letter written about Babe that did not help her case. Except I didn't have the letter. Totally left it on the prop table. Rather than read it, I talk about what *was* in the letter and make the excuse 'It was such an unflattering, derogatory letter, I left it in my safe at the office.'"

VP's Dale Feldpausch, who plays Tim Allgood in the show, remembers his embarrassment when a bench collapsed beneath him during a performance of *Guys and Dolls* in which he played Lieutenant Brannigan. "The audience laughed," he said, "and the gamblers had a lot of fun improvising lines like "clumsy copper," "idiot cop," etc." As for Feldpausch, he calmly got up, "squeezed onto a different bench and the show went on."



## NOISES OFF THANKS AVONDALE HIGH SCHOOL with 50/50 Raffle

On opening weekend (September 4—6), *Noises Off* is hosting a 50-50 raffle to benefit Avondale High School's theater program. *Noises Off* rehearsed on the Avondale's stage over the summer on evenings when VP's stage was occupied. Proceeds from the raffle will help send Avondale theater students to the Fringe Festival in Scotland in the summer of 2016.

## Village Youth Theater Update

VYT is gearing up for its fall show, Grease, School Version.

### Auditions are September 26.

There are two audition sessions on that date:

Register at 9 a.m., auditions begin at 9:30, or

Register at noon, auditions begin at 12:30 p.m.

Call backs, if necessary, will also be on September 26 beginning at 2:45.

Auditions are open to anyone ages 8 to 18.

Show Dates are December 10-13, 2015.

Rehearsals are Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 until 6:30 and Saturdays 11 - 2. Not all cast members will be called to each rehearsal. No conflicts are allowed during tech week (December 5 - December 9).

Complete audition information is available on the VP website under that Youth Theater tab.

Want to the join T-Birds and Pink Ladies? This trip back to the '50s should be a rockin' good time. Please contact Cathie Badalamenti at 248-227-1095 for more information.



## Board of Trustees News

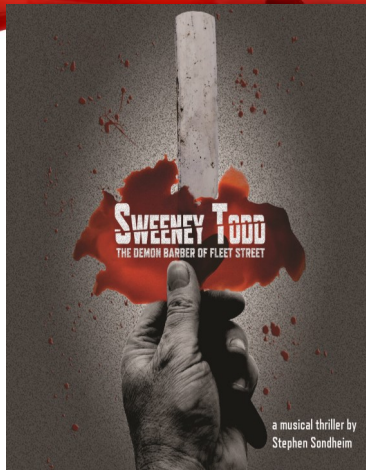
The BoT is in the process of scheduling long-needed repairs to our roof. The repairs required are extensive and will take several years for completion due to scheduling and financial considerations. The initial repairs (the roof over the stage) are estimated to take five days and will be scheduled for September after the close of Noises Off.

We will probably have some interruption to our parking lot for our lessees to accommodate the roofing company trucks, supplies, and equipment. VP is meeting with the roofing company (Royal Roofing) and our facilities manager (Team Facilities) prior to the start of construction to determine any accommodations that will need to be made.

The BoT will keep members updated on repairs through information posted in the Sunday VP Postings.

**Save the Date:** The Board of Trustees Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. An agenda will be emailed to all members mid-September.





## ATTEND THE TALE OF SWEENEY TODD

On August 8, 9 & 11, approximately 60 talented actors and actresses auditioned for our second show of the season, Sweeney Todd. To say the talent over the three days was unbelievable is an understatement for sure. The production staff had some very difficult decisions to make.

We asked the actors to entertain us, and entertained they did. From their costumes to their auditions, these talented actors raised the bar as it relates to preparing for an audition.

**The Village Players**  
Announcing the cast of  
**SWEENEY TODD**  
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Mrs. Lovett	<b>Suzette Ho</b>	Ensemble	
Sweeney Todd	<b>Richard Knapp</b>	<b>Josiah Baker</b>	<b>Mary Ann Redhage</b>
Johanna	<b>Hayley Boggs</b>	<b>Jeanne Bourget</b>	<b>Alison Ristovski</b>
Tobias	<b>Kevin Kaminski</b>	<b>Michael Day</b>	<b>Pamela Plewa</b>
Beggar Woman	<b>Allison McClelland</b>	<b>Rachel Keown</b>	<b>Audrey Sharp</b>
Judge Turpin	<b>Andy Clements</b>	<b>Andy Lawrence</b>	<b>Tania Velinsky</b>
Perelli	<b>Mitchell Bradley</b>	<b>Samuel Meade</b>	<b>James Wolbrink</b>
Beadle	<b>Joel Mapes</b>		
Anthony	<b>Joshua Coates</b>		



## P@W Shorts & Sweets

Playwrights @ Work's fall Shorts & Sweets 10-minute play festival is scheduled for **Saturday, October 3** at 7:30 p.m. This time around, the group has an unusual problem: Ten plays have been submitted, but only six plays can be performed.

P@W member Laura Bradshaw says the abundance of plays is unusual, but one thing is certain—the **free** event will feature an eclectic mix of drama and comedy, with a little something for everyone.

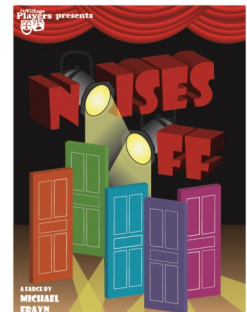
The plays under consideration for staged readings include a short farce by Barbara Schmitt on the possible origins of the “Piggly Wiggly” supermarket name; a drama by Laura Bradshaw; Steve Sussman’s comedic take on an argumentative couple; and Joe Feinstein’s adaptation of a whimsical short story. A lineup of the event will be posted online and sent via e-blast in mid-September.

After the performance of each 10- to 15-minute play, the audience is invited to comment on the merits (or demerits) of the work in a five-minute feedback session.



## Coffee and Breakfast and Posters! Oh My!

Six enthusiasts gathered on August 22 at the Greek Isles restaurant in downtown Birmingham prior to pounding the pavement to distribute *Noises Off* posters and flyers to the many businesses in the area.



Paul Gillin expresses his appreciation to those who showed up to accomplish this important task and invites others to join in the future. Remember what Grandma always said: Many hands make for light work. Join us! I dare you!

(Photo caption) From left: Sharon Rosati, Laura Bradshaw-Tucker, Joe Gadon, Judi O'Brien, Paul Gillin, and Ralph Rosati







## Looking Back at Village Players History By Tania Velinsky

As we begin our 93<sup>rd</sup> season here at Village Players with the hilarious comedy *Noises Off*, I thought this month we would look back at our previous staging of this play.

Village Players first production of *Noises Off* took the stage in March of 1995 and was directed by our very own Mark Carley, who was assisted by the lovely Helen Parrish. The cast included Audra Lord as Dottie, Steve Tadevic as Lloyd, Skip Dietz as Gary, Kristin Bergstrom as Brooke, Deborah Cohen as Poppy, Dave Springer as Freddy, Robin Thomas as Belinda, Larry White as Tim, and Phil Whelan as Selsdon.

According to director Mark Carley, the VP board held a special meeting just to determine if the huge revolving set required by this show was possible on our stage. Tony Kruzman and Paul Hoffmaster came up with a unique design of building the set in 2 separate pieces which created easy manipulation for the “behind the scenes” look of Act II when turning the set around for the “behind the scenes” look in Act II, the walls and the stair unit were able to be manipulated and turned separately. Realizing how interesting it was to watch the set change, Mark decided to leave the curtains open between acts and received applause from the audience every night as the change was completed during each intermission.

Mark was blessed with an extremely talented cast and even noted “Selsdon was played by Phil Whelan, who was quite hard-of-hearing. And of course Selsdon is supposed to be drunk. I am not sure if Phil would appreciate this, but his actual condition provided just the right amount of cluelessness to make the character work perfectly.” Mark found this show to be the greatest challenge in his entire directing career given how much of the humor is visual, especially in Act II. For most of the rehearsal period, he had the cast using the auditorium floor as the main playing area, and then had the actors climb up onto the stage to represent the second story of the set. Once the set was completed, he had to work extensively with Skip, who as Gary, was required to fall down the entire flight of stairs. It took a lot of planning and choreography to prevent Skip from injuring himself or from flying into the audience!

Mark believes (and I am sure those who remember this production will agree!) that when done correctly *Noises Off* is THE funniest play ever written, and that the 1995 production at Village Players was very well done. Mark and the rest of us are anxious to see what we are sure will be another very well done production of *Noises Off* over the next three weekends!



## VP Member News

**Sofia Malynowskyj** recently returned from an international ballroom dance competition in Chicago. Competing against 321 other dancers, she performed 20 routines and was awarded four gold medals, five silver medals, four bronze medals, and seven fourth place awards. She also won specialty awards for her mambo and bachata performances.

**Randy Gilchrist** sings in the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Opening Night Beethoven Festival. As a member of the Grammy-winning University Musical Society Choral Union, he and his colleagues will perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. The concert takes place Saturday, September 19, 8:00 PM, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor. Order tickets online: <https://tickets.a2so.com/TheatreManager/1/login&event=0>

**Julie Fuller** has been cast as Mrs. Elvin in the American premiere of *The Boy Who Cried*, by Matthew Osman, at Puzzle Piece Theatre. It will be performed weekends, October 9—25, at Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 460 Hilton, Ferndale MI 48220. For more information, visit [www.puzzlestage.org](http://www.puzzlestage.org).

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### New Village Players Members

Hayley Boggs  
2756 Long Winter Lane  
Oakland, MI 48363  
PH 248-935-9408  
Email halodimitri@aol.com

Jeanne Bourget  
266 Woodberry Drive  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
PH 248-736-5741 (cell)  
Email Jeannie@jbourget.com

Mitchell Bradley  
1164 Eaton  
Berkley, MI 48072  
PH 586-612-8414 (cell)  
Email mitchellrbradley@gmail.com

Rachel Keown  
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St. Clair Shores, MI 48082  
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Alison Ristovski  
4401 Yorktown  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
PH 248-361-9241 (cell)  
Email Alison@ristovski.com



## AN EASY WAY TO HELP VILLAGE PLAYERS

Everyone buys stuff and many buy stuff from Amazon. Many people don't know it, but Amazon will pay a small percentage of non-profits, such as Village Players.

But here's the catch; you have to tell Amazon that you want to support VP. The price for the stuff you buy is the same; the donation comes from The Amazon Foundation.

So, how do I do this? Instead of going to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). On your first visit, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation. Village Players has already registered, so all you have to do is select it from the list of charities.

Then, every time you buy some stuff, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and shop 'til you drop. You will see (in the upper left-hand corner of the Amazon home page) a note that says: **"You are supporting Village Players."**

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### Now On Tour!

Steve Sussman's comedy short *Stavros' Chili*, which debuted at the Playwrights@Work Spring Shorts and Sweets, will be performed at the Rosedale Community Players One Act Fest in September. Selected as one of five plays from more than forty submissions, the play will be directed by Chuck Goddeeris with actors Hal Lyons and Linda Weingarten.



The Rosedale One Act Fest runs from Thursday to Saturday, September 10-12, with performances at 8:00PM and an additional matinee Saturday at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 with all proceeds going to Rosedale's building fund.

Tickets can be purchased at their on-line ticket site at [http://www.rosedalecommunityplayers.com/new\\_site/onlinetickets.htm](http://www.rosedalecommunityplayers.com/new_site/onlinetickets.htm), at the door, by calling 313-532-4010 or by email at [rcptickets@gmail.com](mailto:rcptickets@gmail.com). The Rosedale Community Players is located at Peace Lutheran Church, 17029 W. 13 Mile Rd, Southfield MI 48076.



## Auditions Elsewhere

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

Avon Players, Rochester Hills MI

**Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life***

Audition dates: September 27-28

Performances: November 27-December 12



<http://www.avonplayers.org/site/current/1516/Auditions/index.htm#Wonderful>

Grosse Pointe Theatre

***White Christmas***

Saturday, September 26 10:00-1:00 (last check in at 12:00)

Sunday, September 27 6:00-9:00 (last check-in at 8:00)

315 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe

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



[http://www.gpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/White-Christmas Audition.pdf](http://www.gpt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/White-Christmas-Audition.pdf)

Stagecrafters, Royal Oak MI

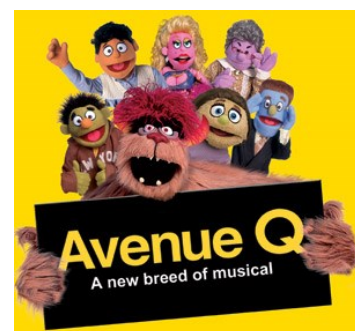
***Avenue Q***

Open to ages 18 and older

Audition date: October 3, 9 AM

Performances: January 22-February 7

[http://www.stagecrafters.org/images/ON\\_STAGE/Auditions/AQ\\_audf.pdf](http://www.stagecrafters.org/images/ON_STAGE/Auditions/AQ_audf.pdf)





34660 Woodward Ave.  
Birmingham, MI 48009



## Upcoming Events

### Prompter deadline September 21, 2015!!!

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

September 4, 8 PM

Opening Night — *Noises Off*

September 8, 7 PM

Playwrights@Work (P@W) — Green Room

September 9, 6:30 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting — Green Room

September 13, 7 PM

Board of Directors Meeting — Green Room

September 21, 7 PM

Playwrights@Work (P@W) — Green Room

September 26, 8:30 AM

VYT *Grease* Auditions — Auditorium

October 5, 7:00 PM

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting—Auditorium

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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 anyone in the new team.

Randy—[randygilchrist@comcast.net](mailto:randygilchrist@comcast.net) ♦ Michael—[littleteveye@yahoo.com](mailto:littleteveye@yahoo.com) ♦ Tania—[tania.velinsky@siemens.com](mailto:tania.velinsky@siemens.com)