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Prez Says



Season Opener

A new season means new opportunities await you at Village Players! Some of you dove in head first with *Plaza Suite*, others are gearing up for *Mame* auditions, while others are enjoying the last of their summer, waiting in the wings for your turn to find a way to get involved this season. Well, have no fear, because we need YOU at Village Players!

At our upcoming board meeting August 8, we'll be discussing just all the ways we will need your help this season. We need you to audition, buy season tickets, help backstage, usher, and volunteer in ways you may not have ever thought about. Let's make this season about trying something new. Each month, I'll be hosting a fun evening at the theater where we can join together, enjoy some treats, and brainstorm on a topic. I'll feature a different aspect of our great organization that needs a little burst of energy and creativity. Stay tuned to your trusty Prompter and e-mail blasts to alert you of that month's topic. Join me at the theater, socialize, and find a new way to lend your ideas and talents, if only for a couple hours (although I hope it leads to much more!) and bring a friend! (I'm open to suggestions for what to call these: focus groups? Presidential green room/office hours? Fireside Chats with Kat? Does that work even though the fireplace is fake? Email me your suggestions!)

Thanks to you all that make this theater tick in ways seen and unseen. Thank you for your encouragement as I embark on this new trek as President, and won't you please join me in the adventure?

Till next time- **Kathleen Duffy**





AUDITION NOTICE

MAME

Book by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee

Music and lyrics by Jerry Herman

Based on the novel "Auntie Mame" by Patrick Dennis

Saturday, August 13:

11:00am Young Patrick
12:00pm Agnes Gooch & Ito
1:00pm Mame Dennis
3:00pm Vera Charles

Sunday, August 14:

1:00pm Beauregard & Mother Burnside
2:00pm Older Patrick, Mr. Babcock
3:30pm Ensemble and other roles

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your audition time on both days to register

Call Backs: Tuesday, August 16 6:00 PM

Northbrook Presbyterian Church - 22055 W. 14 Mile Rd. - Beverly Hills, MI 48025 - Corner of 14 mile and Lahser

Audition materials can be picked up at Village Players Tues-Sat 11am-3pm or emailed to you beginning July 25th

Mame Dennis is a larger-than-life personality living the high life in the Roaring Twenties in New York City. She has a collection of eccentric, wealthy society friends and her life is one endless party. Her brother in Iowa dies unexpectedly, and she suddenly finds herself the guardian of his 10-year-old son, Patrick that leads to all sorts of misadventures.

Mame is an ebullient and irresistible story of the joy of living life to the fullest packed with Jerry Herman songs that are in perfect accord with the positive attitude of the story, and includes the most memorable title song ever written.

This show will be sure to put a song in your heart and dance in your step as you cheer and celebrate the personality of one of the most vivacious characters on the musical stage... Auntie Mame Dennis.

"Life is a banquet, and most poor sons- of- bitches are starving to death! LIVE!"

Character Descriptions

The age ranges listed are the characters' ages, **not** necessarily the ages of the actors

Mame Dennis: (40s-50s) a glamorous, eccentric, madcap, free spirited NY socialite who takes her nephew, Patrick, into her care. She has a lavish and avant-garde lifestyle in which she hosts frequent parties in her Manhattan apartment, goes on lengthy trips, and has an expensive taste for fashion. She is funny, sophisticated, warm and over the top with a heart of gold. Comic timing is a must. Good mover a plus.

Vocal range: mezzo - solid F3 – F5

Audition Song: *It's Today & Bosom Buddies*

Vera Charles: (40s-60s) a melodramatic stage actress and Mame's oldest and dearest friend with a snarky streak. She is an over-the-top diva, flamboyant and a lush. Vera gleefully chews the scenery and steals just about every scene she appears. Looking to cast an actress who excels in physical comedy and has great comedic timing.

Vocal range: alto - solid Eb3 - Bb4

Audition Song: *Bosom Buddies & The Moon Song*

Young Patrick Dennis: (10-12) a bright, curious, adorable young boy who is orphaned and comes to live with his eccentric Auntie Mame. He is precocious, eager to learn, a stabilizing influence on Mame and loving. May double as **Peter Dennis**.

Vocal range: boy alto/high tenor - F3 - D5

Audition song: *My Best Girl*

Agnes Gooch: (20s-30s) Patrick's straight laced awkward, dowdy and sheltered Nanny. She is socially inept until Mame gets her to bust out of her shell and Live: does she ever! Great comedic role.

Vocal range: Soprano - G3 – Bb5

Audition Song: *Gooch's Song*

Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside: (40s-50s) a wealthy, gentle and southern gentleman who marries Mame. He is charming, charismatic with a good ole boy quality. Speaks with a Southern accent.

Vocal range: Baritone – D# - C

Audition Song: *Mame*

Ito: (20s-40s) Mame's Asian butler. He is easily amused, tenderhearted and loyal. He is never fazed by the shenanigans that go on working for Mame. A charming, comedic role. Asian accent required.

Vocal range: – tenor/high baritone - G3 - G4

Audition Song: *We Need a Little Christmas*

Older Patrick Dennis: (20s) Patrick who is all grown up. He is charming and loving. He still thinks the world of his Auntie Mame, but seems to have picked up some selfish, snobbish and bourgeois attributes while away at school. May double in ensemble in Act I.

Vocal range: Baritone - C3 - E4

Audition Song: *My Best Girl (Reprise)*

Dwight Babcock: (50s-60s) a stuffy and meddlesome bank representative who supervises Patrick's father's estate and Patrick's upbringing with Mame. He is pompous, conservative, righteous and the thorn in Mame's side.

Vocal range – Fun non-singing role

Mother Burnside: (50s-80s) Beauregard's domineering, fearful and crotchety Southern mother. Wonderful comedic role. Southern accent required.

Vocal range: alto/contralto - E3 - G4

Audition Song: *Mame*

Lindsay Woolsey / Cousin Jeff: (40s-50s) – **Lindsay:** a wealthy publisher and Mame's closest male confidant, and most likely Mame is his beard. **Jeff:** One of Beau's cousins, he is a drunken southern gentleman who thrives on family gossip.

Vocal Range: Baritone – D# - C

Audition Song: *Mame*

Male & Female Ensemble: looking for a strong singing and dancing ensemble who loves the challenge of portraying multiple roles. They will depict all the wonderful people in Mame's colorful life. Some of the roles they will play include; Gloria Upson, Mr. & Mrs. Upson, Pegeen Ryan, Sally Cato, Cousin Fan, Madame" and Gregor

Vocal range: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass (Tenors need A4/Sopranos need Bb5)

Audition Song: *Mame*

MAME the musical

As you know, the 2nd show of our season is the musical *MAME* and auditions are quickly approaching.

Now, Before you say "ewww or I don't like that show" give it a try and continue reading. You cannot base this fabulous musical on the god awful Lucille Ball movie version, if you are, then no wonder you don't like it.

MAME is a wonderful musical with so many great tunes, snappy dialogue, so much heart with a great message to live for today.

The characters are incredible from Beauregard to Patrick and so many bit parts for all you character actors, this is the show for you. In one musical number you go from times square (seeing all these wonderful NYC inhabitants) to an art class to a burlesque house to a ballet class to a firehouse to a speakeasy changing costumes to represent the different characters. How fun is that? Almost like the opening of *Guys and Dolls* but with rapid costume changes.

Then there are the female leads: Vera Charles; the part time actress full time lush who is perhaps one of the funniest roles ever written for a musical and Agnes Gooch; another hysterical role which metamorphoses from a mousy woman to va va va voom and who ends up pregnant.

Then there is Mame herself. Such a phenomenal role and so full of life. The laugh a minute eccentric Aunt to young Patrick Dennis is a once in a lifetime role like Dolly Levi, Norma Desmond or Effie White.

Plus we need a talented, adorable 10 year old boy who can sing, dance and act.

This show is going to be lush, grand and extravagant with a dream team at the helm which includes assistance by the legendary Priscilla Benson. *MAME* was the first production she took part in at Village Players, she was in the ensemble. Auditions are set for August 13 & 14. (See complete audition notice in this issue) Call Backs are August 16. Show runs October 28 -November 13, 2016.

This show comes around every 20 years or so. Take a chance, you'll be glad you did.



Looking Back at Village Players History – August

By Tania Velinsky

This past month I have spent time looking back through the scrapbooks, and thought I would share one of the strange features of some of the sets from the early days of our group; that some of the single room sets include a ceiling! I have attended hundreds of theatrical productions over my lifetime, and I don't think I have ever seen set with a ceiling. It is an interesting quirk of style that seems to have come into style then gone back out again during the early part of the 1940s. It only appears in photos from 1941 to 1943.



A Husband for Breakfast, January, 1941



The Double Door, February, 1941



The Undercurrent, March, 1941



Incognito, October, 1942



Heaven Can Wait, March, 1943



Lady in Retirement, April, 1943

Village Youth Theatre Summer Camp a Success!

Village Youth Theatre finished up its ninth Summer Theater Arts Camp on July 22. Campers enjoyed four weeks of workshops and rehearsals, which culminated in the production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*



Next up for the Village Youth Theatre will be auditions for *Elf Jr.* on September 24.

Become Part of the Creative Process at the One Acts 2nd Stage Concert Reading

Playwrights @ Work invites VP members – and others! – to be part of the creative process by helping shape two works by P@W members Sunday, August 14 at Birmingham’s Baldwin Public Library.



Plays-in-progress by P@W members Myron Stein and Maggie Garza will be performed, free, as concert readings for audience feedback and critique at the new event, called One Acts Second Stage. The 1:30 p.m. event will take place in the Library’s Full Rotary Room. With your constructive criticism and input, the authors hope to get their plays production-ready.

Featured plays are Myron Stein’s comedy (with music by Boogie-Woogie pianist Matt Ball) *That What They Mean by the Blues?* and Maggie Garza’s romantic comedy *Reunion*. Both plays deal with unusual complications in relationships.

Light refreshments will be served after the readings of the two roughly half-hour pieces. The event is free.



Looking for Volunteers

Are you **TECH SAVVY**, and looking for a way to help out Village Players from the comfort of your own home? Do you own a scanner (possibly as part of your printer)? Group historian Tania Velinsky is looking for volunteers to help her digitize 93 years of documents and photos in the Village Players archives. The scanning process is simple, and she promises not to swamp anybody with too many documents! Contact Tania at tania.velinsky@siemens.com if you can help out.



Do you have creative ideas about how to get more people to attend our performances throughout the year? The publicity committee is looking for a few more members to help contact local media outlets, and brainstorm new ways to get the word out about our wonderful productions. If this interests you, please contact Michael Gravame at littleteveye@yahoo.com

Are you a committee head looking for help? Do you have an project to complete at the playhouse and could use a few extra hands to help out? Publicize your opportunities in the Prompter! Contact editors Michael Gravame (littleteveye@yahoo.com) or Tania Velinsky (tania.velinsky@siemens.com) and we will help get the word out!

AUDITIONS ELSEWHERE

Downriver Actors Guild

BONNIE & CLYDE

Sunday August 14, 2-6 and Monday August 15, 6:30-10

For a more detailed look at expectations and roles available visit :
<http://www.encoremichigan.com/auditions/>



Grosse Pointe Theatre

The Sunshine Boys

Saturday, August 13 & Sunday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Auditions will take place at Grosse Pointe Theatre's Rehearsal Studio: 315 Fisher Rd.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230 313-881-4004 www.gpt.org

For additional information, please contact director Tom Arwady at tomarwady@yahoo.com.



Lakeland Players

Heaven Can Wait

August 17 & 18, 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Central United Methodist Church (CUMC)

<http://www.lakelandplayers.net/auditions.html>



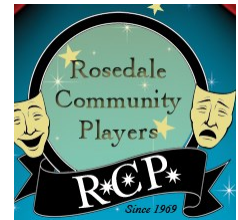
Rosedale Park Players

Minus Some Buttons

Aug 22 6-8:30pm, Aug 23 & Aug 24 7-9pm

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH — 17029 W. 13 MILE RD — SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

http://www.rosedalecommunityplayers.com/new_site/auditions.htm



Spotlight Players

The Haunting of Billhop House

August 15 & 16 from 7PM-10PM.

Spotlight Players' senior group Still Got It Players, welcome people between the ages 40 – 99 years old to audition at the Cherry Hill Village

<http://spotlightplayersmi.org/auditions/>



AUDITIONS ELSEWHERE CONTINUED

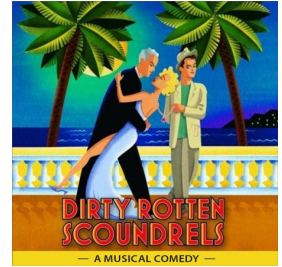
St. Dunstons's Theatre

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

August 15 & 16, 2016—6:30PM

<http://stdunstanstheatre.com/auditions.php>

Directed by Village Player member Marcus Laban



Stagecrafters

TREVOR dramedy on 2nd Stage

August 13, 2016—10am

Baldwin Theatre, 2nd Stage

<http://www.stagecrafters.org/get-involved/auditions.html>



THE BEST MAN drama on Main Stage

SAT. AUGUST 20, 2016, 12–4PM - SUN. AUGUST 21, 2016, 2–5PM

<http://www.stagecrafters.org/get-involved/auditions.html>



Starlight Theatre

The Mousetrap

Sunday, August 7, 2016 -- 6:30 to 8:00pm

Monday, August 8, 2016 -- 7:00 to 9:00pm

http://www.starlighttheater.net/2016-08A_Mousetrap_Auditions.html





34660 Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009



Upcoming Events

Prompter deadline August 21, 2016!!!

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

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|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| August 13 | STARTING AT 11 AM | Mame Auditions—Offsite |
| August 14 | STARTING AT 1 PM | Mame Auditions—Offsite |
| August 15 | 7PM | P@W Meeting—Green Room |
| August 16 | 6PM | Mame Call Backs—Offsite |
| August 29 | 7PM | P@W Meeting—Green Room |

This edition of The Prompter was created and compiled by your newsletter team Michael A. Gravame & Tania L. Velinsky.



Please send all newsworthy articles, pictures and items to anyone in the team.

Michael— littletevy@yaho.com ♦ Tania—tania.velinsky@siemens.com