

Stage Write

The Williamsburg Players "Community Theatre at Its Best"

www.williamsburgplayers.org

JANUARY 2010

Hello-Goodbye

With the recent changes in the Board of Directors, we are saying goodbye to some old friends and hello to some new ones.

We bid a sad farewell to Jim Anthony, friend and fellow board member, who died late last year. Jim also served on the board of directors for the Kiwanis Club. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Board Treasurer Carol Sheffler will be leaving us to move to Kaiserlautern, Germany. Carol began volunteering with The Players in 2001, when she and her two children sold concessions and ushered. Since then, she has worked on the set for almost every show.

We say hello to some new friendly faces to our Board of Directors: Miguel Girona (Facilities), Bob Shea (Production) and Susan Fournier (Business and Finance). Laura Heymann has also joined our staff and will be working on grants, and Christine Fonsale Rogerson has joined our staff to work on our Playbill. Additionally, some of our more familiar members have taken on new responsibilities: Hugh Siggins (Treasurer) and Dale Payne (Season Selection Advisor).

✕ Arsenic and Old Lace ✕

Arsenic and Old Lace is such an entertaining story: two very sweet little ladies who see no harm in poisoning men, thus giving their nutcase nephew Teddy, who thinks he is Theodore Roosevelt, the opportunity to bury them in the Panama Canal in their basement. Enter another, very disturbed, nephew, Jonathan, and his sidekick Dr. Einstein, a potential victim in Mr. Gibbs, a director of an insane asylum, three borderline keystone cops, a grumpy and busy lieutenant, then revolve that maelstrom around a somewhat nor-

mal nephew, Mortimer, and his fiancée Elaine, and top it off with Elaine's father, a reverend, and you have a non-stop series of laughs with every line.

The Brewster sisters are portrayed by Kathy Dean and Carole Meyer. Kathy recently graced the Players stage as Mrs. Stanley in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Carole Meyer's first per-

formance here was in our 2005 production of *Deathtrap*.

The Reverend Dr. Harper and his daughter Elaine are portrayed by two new-

over for "Arsenic"

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Why I volunteer at The Players

Fate, chance, luck, or divine intervention, take your pick, but the one thing I am sure of is that I consider myself truly fortunate to be a part of The Williamsburg Players.

It was a morning in December 2007 and I was on my way to work with my radio tuned to our local public radio

station, when I heard an announcement for auditions. Not having known that there was a community theatre in the area, my curiosity was peaked.

Fortunately for me, a number of things fell into place that would ultimately lead to involvement in my first

over for "Volunteer"



The Williamsburg Players

"Community Theatre at its Best"

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play since grammar school, and eventually the theatre as a whole. The first was that my supervisor at work gave me the leeway to take time off for rehearsals and shows and make it up later.

Second, when I walked through the James-York Playhouse doors for the first time I was met by the always-enthusiastic Les Waldron. Her zeal and warmth startled me and at the same time made me feel welcome.

Third, the director of the show was none other than Rick Hinson, who took a chance on a stranger with no experience and no idea of what he was doing

Lastly, was the cast, all of whom have become my dearest friends.

I was uncertain of what

to expect. I would stand the way I was told, in the place I was told, having no idea what everyone else was seeing, but somehow it worked. When the set began to come together I stood in the same spot and it all started making sense.

The amazing, interesting and wonderful people are what truly made me want to come back. They were patient with me, even when I asked seemingly silly questions.

Yet, there are still more things that have drawn me to The Players. There is a joy that comes from serving something greater than myself, something that gives to others. It brings a smile or a laugh or maybe even the occasional gasp to those it touches. I find myself so grateful to be a part of this

theatre and this community.

What started as a wild hair has become a thing that my entire family has now become a part. From acting to stage help, set-builds to strikes, it has been a joy to be a part of The Williamsburg Players, and I hope to continue for many more years.

—Miguel Girona, Williamsburg Players Director of Facilities

Arsenic

comers: Steven Staples and Jenny Taylor, respectively. Mortimer Brewster is played by the familiar face of Steven Koernig, most recently having played Paul Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park*.

Teddy Brewster is comically played by Robert "Kyle" Kyle. Kyle directed *Driving Miss Daisy*. The police officers, Brophy, Klein, O'Hara and Lt. Rooney are played by George Opie (recently seen in *Barefoot in the*

Park), Brad Collier, Shawn O'Connor (two more new faces at the Players), and Stephen Fleeson (most recently seen in *Dial "M" for Murder*). Tony Gabriele returns to our stage in the role of Mr. Witherspoon, the not-so-stable superintendent of Happydale asylum.

Chris Hull returns to our stage after his performance as Mr. Whiteside in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and is delightfully creepy as Jonathan Brewster, the demented nephew. Roman Alis, who, after a long absence from our stage, has returned to attempt his best Peter Lorre as Jonathan's sidekick, Dr. Einstein.

To keep this madcap and crazy cast in line, we have to thank Amy Griffin, the stage manager.

Arsenic and Old Lace opens Jan. 15 and runs through Feb. 6. Call 229-0431 for reservations. Leave a message and someone will call you back.

— Ed Allen, Director

Jan. 14	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> opens
Jan. 31	Readers Theater: <i>Show People</i>
Feb. 7	Strike the set for <i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>
Feb. 28, March 1	Readers Theater audition: <i>Call It Love</i>