

December 2008



In the Wings

The Newsletter of The Concord Players

Editor: Robert Runck

CABARET IS CAST, BEGINS REHEARSING



Cabaret Choreographer Jennifer Condon instructing auditioning dancers.

Gear up for a wonderful evening of post WWI decadence at the KitKat Club, your favorite Berlin *Cabaret*.

Director Nancy Curran Willis has directed more than 70 productions for theatre companies throughout eastern Massachusetts, and is proud of her long association with community theaters in the area.

She is happy to return to Concord to be part of presenting this wonderful musical, and to reunite with David Rose as Music Director and Jennifer Condon as choreographer. Their previous collaboration on *West Side Story* for Arlington Friends of the Drama earned them Best Musical honors at the 2006 EMACT DASH Awards.

To find out who was cast, go to the Players website, www.concordplayers.org

Cabaret goes up on February 13, 14, 15 (matinee), 20, 21, 22 (matinee), 27, and 28, 2009. Tickets are on sale now at www.concordplayers.org or by calling 978-369-2990.



Nancy Curran Willis

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The opening night Champagne reception for *Hay Fever* was a big success. A reception is planned for *Cabaret*.

The royalty agreement for *Cabaret* includes payment for the open dress rehearsal. This will require a charge of \$5.00 per person to offset the extra royalty charge.

Reminder: This performance is for senior citizens only.

Subscription sales are up this year.

The marketing plan is a work in progress, with suggestions for community outreach and new ways to sell more tickets and enlarge the subscription base.

On November 12, Concord Players President, Cheri Fletcher, lost her aunt, Evelyn Bean, who was certainly more than an aunt to her. Evelyn raised Cheri and was considered by Cheri to be like a mother. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Cheri at this sad time in her life.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Does Roald Dahl tickle your funny bone? On Sunday, December 7, The Concord Orchestra, in collaboration with The Concord Players, will perform *Little Red Riding Hood* by Paul Patterson, at its annual Family Concert. Chris Davies will narrate this edgy version of the familiar tale, which is based on Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*.

Charlie Streff will play the dim-witted wolf, and Paula McNabb is cast as the tipsy grandmother. The saucy Ms. Hood will be played by Megan Doherty, a 16-year-old award-winning actress from Southborough. Linda McConchie is producing the show, Rick Shamel is handling lights, Charlotte Kelley will oversee props, and jack-of-all trades Allen Bantly is facilitating the orchestra's use of the drama stage for the concert. There will be two performances, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and \$10 for seniors and students. Call 978-369-4967 or purchase tickets on-line at www.concordorchestra.com

DID YOU KNOW?

In March of 1887 the town of Concord appropriated \$6,500 for purchase of the land and construction of the building known now as 51 Walden Street. The principal builder was Andrew S. Lowden, a carpenter from Nova Scotia. 51 Walden Street was used as the Town Armory. In 1915 the state constructed a new Armory on Everett Street and 51 Walden Street ceased to function as the headquarters of the local military.

The Concord Players began using the hall for performances in 1919, despite constant threats of demolition. In 1920 the town appropriated \$10,000 to make repairs, and in 1922–1924 The Concord Players constructed an addition that included a stage with grid and rigging. Architect Clarence H. Blackall designed the new addition, a replica of the stage he designed for the Colonial Theater in Boston. The Players' first performance (*Believe Me, Xantippe*) was presented on the new stage in 1922.

NEWS FROM FOPAC

The Third Annual FOPAC Messiah Sing will be held at 51 Walden on Sunday, December 21, at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$15, and \$10 for seniors and students.

Waltz Night is scheduled for January 17, 2009. It will be an elegant evening of dancing to a live waltz orchestra. Tickets for this event are \$50 a person, \$100 a couple.

Check out these events, including *The Mikado*, online at www.51walden.org or call Carole Wayland at 978-369-7911 for more information.

AUDITIONS FOR A FOPAC MIKADO!

Friends of the Performing Arts in Concord (FOPAC) announces auditions for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* on Saturday, January 17, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, January 18 at 7 p.m. at 51 Walden Street in Concord. Performances will take place March 14 and 15, 2009, at 51 Walden.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the generous check from members of EMACT, a gift unexpected but very much appreciated.

The devastation and chaos caused by the fire that destroyed the condominium where my nephew and I resided continue to effect our lives. Your kind donations will enable me to buy clothes and personal items I lost in the fire.

We consider ourselves truly blessed to have not been hurt physically by what happened. Although we can not replace our memorabilia, etc., we will regroup and move on, with the realization that it is the people, not the things in our lives that really count!

We appreciate so much the friendship and help extended so sincerely towards us during this time of need. To each of you I say "Thank you, my friend, you have brought joy into my life!"

—Charlotte Kelley

Visit the website at www.concordplayers.org for more detailed information.

Deadline for the newsletter is the third Friday of each month.

Send us your news to news@concordplayers.org

Archived Newsletters are available at <http://www.concordplayers.org/Newsletter/archives.html>