



November 2009

In the Wings

The Newsletter of The Concord Players

Editor: Robert Runck



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof's Big Daddy (Tom Large) celebrates his birthday with his three granddaughters (Amanda Melin, Reilly Harring and Alden Harring).

DON'T MISS OUR FALL SHOW!

Opening Night for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is November 6, with an Opening Night Reception for ticket holders. Performance dates are November 6, 7, 13, 14, 15 (matinee 2 p.m.), 20 and 21. Tickets are \$18.00. You may purchase tickets on The Players website at www.concordplayers.org, at the box office on Saturday mornings 10-1 p.m., or call 978-369-2990.

CONCORD PLAYERS APPEAR ON CCTV CABLE TELEVISION!

Stay tuned! This month CCTV will broadcast "The Concord Players Discuss *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*", a program produced by Concord Players Marketing Co-Director Marilyn Cugini, and featuring the talent of CAT director Mario Salinas and CAT cast members Tom Large ("Big Daddy"), Liam McNeill ("Brick") and Michelle Mount ("Maggie.") This half-hour interview program is a first effort by The Concord Players to promote its productions to the approximately 7,000 subscribers of CCTV. Board member Rick Frese approached CCTV Executive Director Charley Paige about broadcasting something about The Concord Players, and Marilyn worked with the CCTV staff (Charley and Matt Geiger) to develop the initial program. Please watch it, and tell your friends about it, too. The program will appear on Channel 8.



Gooper (John Alzapiedi), Mae (Nectaria Kordan) and children with director Mario Salinas. More photos by Rik Pierce on page 6.

Here's the broadcast schedule:

- 11/1 Sunday at midnight
- 11/2 Monday at 8 a.m. and at 9 p.m.
- 11/3 Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m.
- 11/4 Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- 11/5 Thursday at 8 a.m.; noon; and 11 p.m.
- 11/6 Friday at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS, PLEASE HELP PROMOTE CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF TICKET SALES!

As we all know, these are difficult economic times. Our Box Office manager reports that ticket sales are not quite as brisk as they have been in the past. Members, if you can talk up the show and encourage everyone you know to buy tickets, it will be a big help. Thank you!

REMINDER: TRYOUTS IN NOVEMBER FOR MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

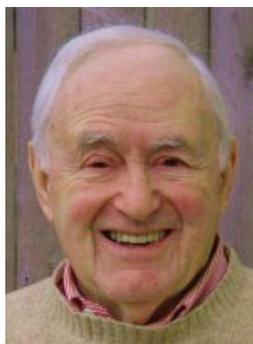
Auditions for *The Man Who Came To Dinner* will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 7:30, and on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00. Callbacks will be Saturday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. The show goes up February 12-27, 2010.

Those auditioning will be asked to read scenes from the play; no prepared monologues are necessary. For character details and to fill out an audition form, go to <http://www.concordplayers.org/audition-dinner.html>

BOB CARTER CHAIRS LINE SET FUND RAISER

In 2006, when the Players and FOPAC replaced the stage floor and sub-flooring in the theater at 51 Walden Street, the Players had only enough funds to install ten line sets (pipes from which flats and curtains are suspended). As a result, gaps were left in their spacing, which constrained lighting and set designs, and often led to a need to install temporary rigging to handle lighter pieces of scenery, signs, curtains and lighting. Particularly troublesome was the scarcity of line sets near the front of the stage, since much performance action takes place there.

Last spring, when the 2009–2010 slate of plays was chosen, the Board realized that our spring musical, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, would require 20 scene changes, which would require new line sets to fill the gaps. In late August, these new line sets were installed, at a project cost of \$18,500. When Bob Carter heard about this project, he stepped forward with a generous challenge gift to launch a fund to pay for this work, and accepted the role of Honorary Chair of the Line Set Installation Fund.



Bob has been a devoted volunteer and actor with The Concord Players for decades. He is well known and revered throughout Concord. He has three times been President of the Lions Club; has served on the Board of the Concord Chamber of Commerce, on the Town Manager's Advisory Committee for Harvey Wheeler Community Center, and on the Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association. Bob was chosen as Concord's Honored Citizen in 1994.

If you would be willing to donate to the Line Set Installation Project Fund, please send your contributions to The Concord Players, P. O. Box 22, Concord, Massachusetts 01742. —Jill Henderson

START PRACTICING YOUR DO RE MI— AUDITIONS FOR *THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL* ARE ON THE HORIZON

Auditions for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, our spring musical, will be held, by appointment, on December 8 and 9, with callbacks on December 15, at the Fenn School, 516 Monument St. Concord.

To go around the bridge-out on Monument, go to the LEFT of the Colonial Inn and take a right on Liberty St. Follow the signs to Monument St. and the Fenn School.

Please contact Joanne Hines jbhines@gmail.com or 978-254-5578 for a 10-minute slot. For character details and to fill out an audition form, go to <http://www.concordplayers.org/audition-pimpernel.html>

Auditioners, please prepare a song in the style of the show and the character for which you are auditioning. (We prefer you not to select a song from the show.) All those auditioning must have sheet music, in the correct key, and will be required to sing with the accompanist provided. A cappella singing is STRONGLY discouraged. Wear clothes appropriate for movement. There will be a short dance combo taught at the audition.

For information about the show, go to

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scarlet_Pimpernel

Rehearsals will start in February, with typical rehearsal days on Wednesday/Thursday/Sunday and some Fridays. Performance dates are April 23, 24, 30 and May 1, 7, 8 at 8 p.m. and April 25 and May 2 at 2 p.m.

The Scarlet Pimpernel is an ambitious production, one not usually done by community theatres. The music is great, the story is great, the crew is fantastic, and we expect that the cast will be fantastic as well.



In a scene for the Fall Huddle, Maggie the Cat (Michelle Mount) warmed up the audience as she did her best to seduce Brick (Liam McNeill) in a scene from Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. (photos by Rik Pierce)

WEATHER DID NOT DIM THE FALL HUDDLE

On October 18, in spite of cold temperatures and an unexpected autumnal snow squall, a crowd of about 100 that included Concord Players faithful as well as many new faces gathered at 51 Walden for the Fall Huddle. Attendees spent the first portion of the evening enjoying refreshments and catching up with old friends as well as making some new ones. The program began with a warm greeting by Concord Players President Cheri Fletcher, followed by news of building improvements

from FOPAC executive director Carole Wayland. The crowd then enjoyed remarks by our three charismatic directors for this season: Mario Salinas, who spoke about the upcoming drama *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Paul Murphy, who discussed the winter comedy, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*; and Corey Jackson, who described plans for the spring musical, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. The theatrical portion of the evening began with a steamy scene from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Then the audience was treated to a delightful one-act play, *The Ugly Duckling*, by A.A. Milne of Winnie-the-Pooh fame. This comical and charming production was directed by Concord resident Kate Stout. A wonderful time was had by all!
—Sarah Telford

PLAYERS ARE BUSY EVERYWHERE

Concord Players member Nancy Curran Willis, director of last season's *Cabaret*, is currently directing the frenzied comedy *Moonlight and Magnolias* at Arlington Friends of the Drama. The play centers on the turmoil surrounding the writing and directing of *Gone With the Wind*, the classic 1939 film. Performances are Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13. Info at www.afdtheatre.org

Miles Petrie, Johnny Kilcoyne and Emily Sheeran, last seen as the children in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, have reunited at the Quannapowitt Players in Reading for an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* by Michael Paller, directed by Chip Sheeran, last seen as Victor in the Players' production of *Cabaret*. Performances are November 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and December 4, 5, 11, 12. For info visit www.qptheater.com

SAWYER TRUST HELPS UPGRADE 51 WALDEN

The Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden is home to The Concord Band, The Concord Orchestra, and The Concord Players. It was built in 1887 as the town armory, and was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is still owned by the Town of Concord, but since 1972 it has been managed and operated by the Friends of the Performing Arts in Concord (FOPAC). Nearly 500 people come in the building each week, to rehearse, take dance lessons or enjoy a performance.

FOPAC has kept up with operating expenses and basic repair and maintenance, but major problems in the building were a thoroughly depreciated oil-fired boiler, inadequate insulation, drafty windows, and heavy use of inefficient incandescent lighting. Becoming aware that there were funds in the Sawyer Trust, administered by the CSEC, for energy initiatives in town-owned



Giving their comic best in The Ugly Duckling at the Fall Huddle were, left to right, Fritz Kussin as the King, Dick Levinson as the Chancellor, Gail Sahney as the Queen, Debbie Crane as Dulcibella, and Julio Gomez as Carlo, the fake prince. In the second picture are Kathryn Denney as the Princess and Michael Govang as the real Prince.

buildings, FOPAC applied for assistance for replacement of the boiler first, and then requested additional funds for insulation, air sealing and lighting. After a thorough review of operations, the CSEC granted \$75,000 for all of the recommended projects. FOPAC is thrilled with the award, and would like to publicly thank the Sawyer Trust for acknowledging the importance of 51 Walden and the performing arts in our community.

Two new gas-fired boilers were installed by FAI Mechanical Contractors this summer, and seven windows in the front lobby have been replaced by Greenstar Building with thermal pane windows that match the historic character of the building. Insulation and air-sealing work will be done by contractors Rob Robillard and Bill Hereford this fall and winter, and fluorescent lighting fixtures are being fabricated by FOPAC president and lighting designer Rick Shamel.

—Carole Wayland



Saturday, left. Top left: Gail Penrod (FOPAC), Kathy Booth (CP) and Carole Wayland (FOPAC). Top right: NCL volunteers Samantha and Krista Redmond. Bottom Left: Emily Smith, Kate and Michael Henchman and Sam Redmond. Bottom right: NCL volunteers Marilyn Cugini and Emily Smith.

Sunday, right. Left top: Anne and Allen Bantly talk to new CP volunteer Robert Najarian. Left second down: CP Performers Kevine Cirone (“Cliff” in Cabaret) and Shonna McEachern (“Percy” in Spitfire Grill).



Left third down: Kathy Lague, Emily Tamilio, Chuck Holleman. Left bottom: Real-life wife and husband Lynne Rothstein and Jay Newlon perform as Sophia and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Middle top: NCL volunteers Madeline and Tracy Guth. Middle bottom: Patricia Till and Jill Henderson talk to a future Concord Player? Right top: CP’s Patricia Till listens to Sunday show tunes by Concord Players singers. Right bottom: Lynne Rothstein and Jay Newlon celebrate his birthday by performing for CP! (Collages by Marilyn Cugini)

OLD MANSE FALL ARTS AND HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

Over Columbus Day weekend the Concord Players participated for the first time in the annual Fall Arts and Humanities Festival sponsored by the Trustees of the Reservations. We shared a “51 Walden Street” information and publicity booth on the grounds of the Old Manse on Monument Street in Concord, along with the other residents of 51 Walden, including the Band, Orchestra, and School of Ballet Arts. Orchard House also participated, providing costumed volunteers to help attract attention to our tables. National Charity League provided several pairs of costumed mothers and daughters to work the booth alongside the many Concord Player Board members and volunteers. This

was a very successful attempt, at short notice, to get out into the community to promote Concord Players and the arts at 51 Walden.

Hundreds of sight-seers and leaf-peepers passed through the festival grounds on a cold but sunny weekend, many stopping to chat with our costumed volunteers about The Players’ upcoming theatrical season, and particularly November’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Eighty-three visitors stayed long enough to sign our guest book, giving us their names, hometowns, and comments. Forty signed up to be on our email list! Some of The Concord Players faithful came by to support us, such as Lillian Anderson, Patricia Till, Claiborne Dawes, and Kate and Michael Henchman.

Costume Designer Kathy Booth deserves a bundle of praise for costuming our numerous volunteers in period garb within one week's time. Music Director Sarah Telford organized and accompanied a marvelous Sunday program of Concord Players performing a wide selection of show tunes: Kevin Cirone, Chuck Holleman, Kathy Lague, and Shonna McEachern (and Sarah sang a tune, too!) Jay Newlon spent his birthday morning with us, portraying Nathaniel Hawthorne and reading from the author's works, as requested by the Old

Manse. His charming wife Lynne Rothstein portrayed Sophia Hawthorne. Lida McGirr portrayed historical character Margaret Fuller, distributing pamphlets about equal rights for women. The staff and visitors at the Old Manse were delighted by The Players representing some of the important historical characters who lived at or visited the Manse in days gone by. Many visitors commented on how much they enjoyed learning about our community theater. Hopefully many of them will come and see our shows this season! —Marilyn Cugini



Sunday, left. Left top: Dorothy Schecter and Jay Newlon in period costume. Left middle: Mother and daughter listen to Shonna McEachern sing. Left bottom: Shonna belts out a show tune. Middle top: Dorothy Schecter mingles with the Sunday show tunes audience. Middle bottom: Kevin Cirone sings stirring ballads. Right top: Chuck Holleman cracks up the crowd with his crazy comical tunes. Right bottom: Kathy Lague's sweet soprano solos stir the crowd.



Monday, right. Top Left: Orchard House volunteers as "Little Women" from the Alcott family. Top Right: 51 Walden volunteers, Band member Gina DePaoli and School of Ballet Arts Carrie Schantz. Middle: Blue grass band with David Atwood playing guitar on right. Bottom left: Marilyn Cugini as a noblewoman from the Pimpernel period, and Lida McGirr as Margaret Fuller. Bottom right: Who knew David Atwood could play a guitar?

YEARBOOK UPDATES

Several people have joined since the Yearbook went to print, so please add these names to yours if you wish.
 Pamela Dritt, 386 Border Rd., 978-287-0682, pameladritt@att.net
 Ben Marsh, 5 Wright Farm, 978-371-3019
 Valerie Narsasian, 8 Pelham St., Billerica, MA 01821, 978-667-0014
 Virginia Niles, P.O. Box 6153, Lincoln 01773
 Phillip Schultz, 25 Black Duck Rd., 978-369-4082, phil.schultz@att.net

Tom Richardson, 18 Sawyer Road, Wellesley, MA 02481, 781-237-7828, tomrichardson@comcast.net
 Emily Tamilio, 8 Danforth Lane, Chelmsford 01824, 978-250-1107, ften@verizon.net

Also, please correct in your Yearbook the email address for Bill and Alice Smith, which should be chit8475@comcast.net and change the email address for Jean Hill to jeanhill01742@comcast.net



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof's Big Daddy and Family; Maggie practices her smoulder; Brick resists Maggie's advances; Tom Veirs as Doctor Baugh, and Charlie Streff as Rev. Tooker.

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

The newsletter deadline 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>