

January 2010



In the Wings

The Newsletter of The Concord Players

Editor: Robert Runck



*The cast of **The Man Who Came to Dinner** in an early rehearsal, busy working on a crowd scene.*

MEMBER NEWS

We have new members to celebrate: Carol and Dave Antos, and returning to the fold, Jean and Miranda Reinhard.

PASSAGES

It is with great sadness that we announce that Dorothy Shamel, mother of Concord Players' member Rick Shamel, passed away on Dec. 18.

Rick is a member of The Players' Board and also the current President of FOPAC.

Donations in her name may be made to the Memorial Fund, Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord, MA 01742.

The Players also want to announce the passing, on Jan. 1, of long-time member Sarah (Sally) Dallas, wife of George Dallas.

Donations in her name may be made to the Trinity Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 81 Elm St., Concord, MA 01742.

GIVE YOURSELF A WINTER TREAT!

Come see *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, an award-winning classic American comedy with an all-star cast! Performances are Feb 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 at 8 p.m. and a matinee Feb 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets for both *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and the spring musical, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, are now on sale. For details, go to <http://www.concordplayers.org/tickets.html>

REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP!

The Annual Meeting is March 14 at 7 p.m. The Play Director Selection Committee has isolated a group of comedies, musicals and dramas for consideration, and director interviews will take place in early February. Following that, the slate will go to the CP Board, and may be announced at the meeting. We will also talk about the the projects we have engaged in, the projects still needing to be fulfilled, the financial picture, and vote for new 2010–2011 board members. There will be entertainment, lots of socializing, and yummy refreshments. Please put the date on your calendar!

CAST NAMED FOR *THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL!*

Singing and acting their hearts out in the upcoming Concord Players spring musical will be Ethan Butler as Percy, James Tallach as Chauvelin, Laura Shofner as Marguerite, Laura Prior as Marie, James Sheehan as Armand, Ryan DuBray as Dewhurst, Andrew Swansburg as Ozzy, Craig Howard as Elton, Phillip Berry as Hal, Brian Bakofen as Ben, Mike Lague as Mercier, John Lynch as Coupeau, Michael Govang as the Prince of Wales, and Tom Richardson as Jessup. (Yet to be cast are Farleigh and St Cyr/ Robspierre.)

In the Female Ensemble are Carly Evans, Stephanie Mann, Kathy Lague, Nectaria Kordan, and Connie Benn, with one more member to be selected.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!

Bob Carter, Honorary Chair of the Line Set Installation Fund, and The Concord Players are very grateful for the generous donations received to date. We have reached our goal to cover the cost of the pipes that were installed in August. Gifts have been given in honor of **Bob Carter, Art Crooke, Cheri Fletcher, Heddie Kent, Bill Maxwell**, and Costumers All: Past, Present and Future. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please send a check made out to The Concord Players, and send it to P. O. Box 22, Concord, MA 01742. The Concord Players are a 501(c)(3) not for profit Corporation. Your donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

PLAYERS ACTIVITIES AROUND THE THEATRE WORLD

Concord Player **Lis Adams** will be appearing in the Young Actors Winter Festival January 21–23 at Turtle Lane Playhouse, and in the Gecko Festival at Cambridge Adult Education Center on January 31.

Katy Blair is starring in Hovey Players' *Joined at the Head*. Dates are Jan 15, 16, 22, 23, and 28–30 at 8:00 p.m., and Jan 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Abbott Memorial Theater in Waltham. For reservations, please call 781-893-9171 or email reservations@hoveyplayers.com

Mickey Coburn, director of *Hay Fever*, recently went to Los Angeles to attend the LA Femme Film Festival, where her screenplay, *The Woman's Voice*, was a finalist. It is a very exciting time for her. She is also coaching individual actors for auditions and scene work, while looking for her next directing gig.

Crisanto Guadiz, cast member in *Cabaret*, is directing choreography for *Mame* for Colonial Chorus Players

of Reading, to be performed this spring (dates to come). His husband Randy Sutton is directing the show, which is to be performed at The Rogers Center, Merrimack College, North Andover, MA. Joey Bernsen is Musical Director. Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, January 10 at 2 p.m. and Monday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

Corey Jackson is currently directing *The Boys Next Door* for Reading Memorial High School and preparing for the beginning of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* rehearsals at Concord Players in February.

Concord Player **Kathy Lague** is currently directing *Princess Ida* in Sudbury and Concord Players member Jim Miller is in the ensemble.

Kimberly McClure, (*Cabaret*), and **Shana Dirik** are rehearsing *Side Man* at Burlington Players.

Concord Player **Lida McGirr** is directing and acting in a staged reading that goes up January 17, and producing, directing and acting in the Gecko Festival, an adult education course at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education on January 30.

Nancy Curran Willis, director of *Cabaret*, is directing *The Shape of Things*, by Neil LaBute, for the Quannapowitt Players. Also in the cast are **Gordon Ellis** (Concord productions *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Side Man*); **Bill Stambaugh** (*Cabaret*); **Jennifer Shea** (set designer for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*); and **Kristen Dattoli** (*Hay Fever*). Production dates are March 19–21 and 26–28, and April 2 and 3. For more information visit <http://www.qptheater.com>

Concord Players in the cast of *Man of La Mancha* at Turtle Lane Playhouse are **James Fitzpatrick** as Cervantes, **Tracy Nygard** as Aldonza, **Kevin Cirone** as Carrasco, and **Shonna McEachern** as Antonia. Performances are Friday, February 19 through Sunday, March 7. Times are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

COME SING OR SEE *DIE FLEDERMAUS!*

FOPAC is sponsoring a semi-staged production of the Strauss comic opera, *Die Fledermaus*, on March 26 and 27, at 8 p.m. and Sun., March 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25/\$20. This event is a collaboration of The Concord Band, The Concord Orchestra, and The Concord Players. Alan Yost is conducting and Sarah Telford is directing. Any person who might like to join the chorus, come to the first rehearsal on Feb. 14 from 7-9:30 at 51 Walden, or contact Sarah Telford at stjelford@aol.com No audition is required. Scores will be available for purchase. More information including a list of soloists is at <http://www.51walden.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?

PBS just broadcast a fascinating documentary on the founder of the precursor to The Concord Players, “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women.” Orchard House Executive Director **Jan Turnquist** was featured on the documentary, which focused on relatively unknown aspects of Louisa’s very dramatic life and personality. The Concord Players congratulate Orchard House on its upcoming 100th anniversary as a museum. Once again, The Players will present the play *Little Women* in spring 2012, done every ten years.

The *Concord Journal* just published an interview with **Stephen Newbold**, son of **Leroy Newbold**, both of whom have built many sets for The Concord Players since the 1960s. Stephen is now a successful architect for the entertainment industry. He has designed the studios for ABC/Good Morning America in Times Square and MGM’s City Center. He, his wife and two children recently moved to Concord from New York City. Mr. Newbold said in the interview, “There is unlimited potential in the arts. ... We had to come up with some pretty tricky things backstage, which I still carry forward whether it’s designing things for Disney or Cirque du Soleil—all of it comes back to ‘How did we do it back at Concord Players?’ and it’s that confidence that I can take on anything.” Welcome back to Concord, Stephen!

The Concord Players have continued to work on community outreach. Last month Concord Carlisle High School’s production of *March of the Falsettos* included an ad for *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, the result of our networking with CCPOPs, the parent

organization which supports the arts at the high school. We hope to see more theatrical high school students and their parents get involved as volunteers working on productions at The Players. Members, please consider attending the high school productions and talking up The Concord Players there.

The Players are talking with The Trustees of the Reservations’ Old Manse staff about additional performance opportunities for The Players on their grounds. They are interested in sponsoring a Summer Solstice concert or play event in June. Stay tuned, you members who love to sing and perform. We may have work for you this summer!

The Concord Players are considering getting involved in the Town of Concord’s 375th Anniversary celebration weekend, September 11 and 12, 2010. Members are invited to help us think about how we can best display our talents to the town during the celebration, raising the profile of our wonderful theatrical organization. If you are interested in getting involved in this possibility, please contact **Cheri Fletcher**.

This month Marketing Co-Director **Marilyn Cugini** is producing a short cable television promotional spot for The Concord Players to recruit new volunteers. **Corinne Kinsman, Jay Newlon, Cheri Fletcher, Laura LeVan, and Liam McNeil** have agreed to appear in it. The shoot will occur on Jan. 16, and we hope you will see it on CCTV Channel 8 toward the end of the month! In the meantime, don’t be shy, ask everyone you know if they would like to get involved with The Concord Players, and send them to **Laura LeVan**, The Players volunteer coordinator, so she can put them to work for us!

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>