



the Valley Players News

May 2009
P.O. Box 441 ~ Waitsfield, VT 05673 ~ valleyplayer@madriver.com ~ www.valleyplayers.com

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www.valleyplayers.com

Clean Up Day! Sat., May 23 from 8 am on...

FREE LUNCH !!!

OK, so the early start time is for those of you who love to get up and get started and want to join early birds Doug & Jay (they promise coffee & donuts). But if it's too early...not to worry, there is plenty to do, so come any time from early morning through the afternoon.

Not only do you get a free lunch, but you will have the satisfaction of making your theater a brighter and lighter place!

Bring your friends and family for a few hours of mindless, convivial sweeping, throwing out, window washing, painting, yard work, sorting and socializing.

Bring your vacuums, your rakes, your cleaning rags!

Where else do you get to play near a giant dumpster!? Besides, we really, really need your help. If you can't be there that day, please contact Henry Erickson 495-4558 or Doug Bergstein at 496-6651 or email valleyplayers@madriver.com to get an assignment to do at another time...like yard work or painting!

30th Anniversary Celebration

It's hard to believe that it's been 30 years since we put on "Harvey" at the Fayston Elementary School in 1979...talk about pulling a rabbit out of a hat! Help celebrate 30 consecutive years of community theater in the Mad River Valley.

We are still in the planning stages for celebrations, projects etc and would like to have your help. Here's what we are doing and if you want to get involved in any or all of these projects, or have an idea for an event, please let any board member know...we are listed on the back.

July 10 - 12: 30th Anniversary Retrospective

Ruth Ann Pattee is the Artistic Director for this wonderful show. As of this printing she is looking for people who want to be involved as organizers, actors, directors, stage crew and more. It's a great trip down memory lane, so be sure to put it on your calendar or contact Ruth Ann at 793-4220 or thespians@gmavt.net if you have a snippet you want to organize from one of the productions or want to get involved.

July 25 ~ Summer Supper & Dance Celebration

The VP sees this as a way to thank the Mad River Valley for all your support over the years.

We need an organizer(s) for this, but the plan is to have a community wide party complete with food tent and dance band in the theater. We are thinking pot-luck or catered or a combo. We'll provide the band and ice and you bring a dish to share

Continued on back

Annual Meeting Picnic BBQ Sunday, June 14 ~ 4:30 p.m.

Please join us...

for our Annual Meeting & summer picnic BBQ at the theater. Find out how we've done over the past year, see awards given, talk about what we have planned, share your opinions and eat!

At 7:00 pm, after the BBQ, we hope to present a reading of the 2009 Vermont Playwrights Award Winner.

We provide the picnic: hamburgers and hot dogs on a grill, salads, dessert and beverages. You are very welcome to bring something else to put on the grill, or a dish or drinks to share. Bring your family and friends! Here's the basic timing:

4:30 ~ Polls Open & hors d'ouvres 5:00 ~ Business Meeting

6:00 ~ Food

7:00 ~ Play Reading

Please let us know you are coming by returning the enclosed form, calling Sharon at 583-6767 or by email to valleyplayers@madriver.com so we are sure to have enough food. If you don't know yet... then come on by anyway, we want to see you!

Board Slate

Kate O'Neill has asked for some time off from the board (I wonder why...full time mom, state worker and teacher, maybe?) But she has graciously agreed to continue as our Theater Rental Manager...Thank you Kate!

Henry Erickson and **Shannon Pitonyak** remain on the board. **Doug Bergstein**, **Jennifer Howard**, **Sharon Kellermann** and **Jim O'Neill** are offering their services for another two years.

Board Responsibilities

The board meets once a month to review the status of the VP, plan the next activities, get ideas and generally manage the VP business. In actual fact, this is a fun-loving working board that meets, talks and emails about a variety of stuff. Each board member takes on a responsibility to oversee some part of the running of such a vital organization. We do manage to have a good time and we eat really well.

Voting & Proxy & Membership

If you got this by snail mail, check your enclosed form. We hope you will join/renew, come and vote at the annual meeting. But if you cannot make the annual meeting and are a member now or until June, please return the proxy vote (with your membership renewal as appropriate). If you are not a member and wish to vote, please join us and fill out the form or call Doug or email valleyplayers@madriver.com and we will send you a proxy by email or snail mail.

and your own beverages.

We have great notes from the 20th anniversary, so if you like to organize, or if you want to make food or help out generally, contact Sharon Kellermann at 583-6767 or email valleyplayers@madriver.com.

Video/Slide Show

Shannon Pitonyak is in the throes of putting together photos and movies. She does need some technical help with digitizing videos & needs photos. If you have some expertise or interest in helping her with any part, give her a call at 318-0504 or email: smaxwellp@aol.com.

Archiving Videos (Check the website for video & phot list)

Jennifer Howard with the help of Don LeHaye and Alex Maclay is collecting videos and preparing them for borrowing/copying. There is a list on the website of the plays and those that we are missing. Let Jennifer know if you have one of the videos. Or do you have an old Beta machine that you want to give up or loan? Let her know at 496-3751 or jennifer@madriver.com.

Scrapbooking

We have a lot of shows that need scrapbooking. And it would be great to have someone who would like to head up that project. You can make it a party and we'll fund it. Many thanks to Linda Brownell for doing three of them already!

Ten-Fest Returns in August

The Vermont Playwrights Circle is back with more 10 minute plays by Vermonters! A Festival of the Arts event, last year's performance was sold out, so mark your calendars.

Want to be onstage or on Crew? Come to auditions or contact Jeanne Beckwith at 485-5636 or rialto@tds.net.

Auditions: May 19 & 20 ~ VP Theater @ 7 pm

Rehearsals: July Show: Aug. 20 - 23

The Opera is In the House!

We are delighted to welcome back the fabulous Green Mountain Opera Festival to our theater this spring. This year they are rehearsing "The Marriage of Figaro" and as usual it promises to be a wonderful performance.

You can watch some of the rehearsals and see the awesome talent in action. **Open Rehearsals are on May 29 & June 12 from 2-5 pm and on June 2 & 9 from 7 - 10 pm.**

For more info on the opera, check their website at: www.greenmountainoperafestival.com/

Advertise With Us!

- Do you
-want to help celebrate our 30th Anniversary?
-want to support the VP in a different way?
-work for a company that would like to advertise with us?
-have a product or service you want to promote?
-have a family member or friend whose praises you want to tout?

We have two opportunities this year. Buy a Year in the 30th Anniversary Retrospective booklet which we will have available all year for audiences. And you can take out an ad in our playbill (\$40 and up and one-liners for \$10)! Contact Playbill Coordinator, Jennifer Howard at 496-3751 or valleyplayers@madriver.com.

"Songs For A New World"

Lyricist/composer Jason Robert Brown says of the show: "It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back." The musical contains only songs, without dialogue scenes, transporting the audience from the deck of a 1492 Spanish sailing ship to a ledge 57 stories above Fifth Avenue and a startling array of characters.

Valley Players Production Team Tim Guiles, Teresa Langston and Ruth Ann Pattee are pulling this together for our Fall production. Auditions were happening just as this newsletter was being printed. The show calls for experienced singers who love a challenge. A second audition is scheduled for Tues. May 12 from 7-9 pm, by appointment. Contact Ruth Ann at 793-4220 or thespians@gmavt.net to set up a time or to volunteer.

Performances will be October 1-18.

**Mad River Valley Craft Fair
Labor Day Weekend ~ Sept 5 & 6**

Most of you know that we (the VP) have owned the Craft Fair since 1989! The fair is now 39 years old and doing very well. It is held every Labor Day Weekend at Kenyon's Field. at 10 - 5 on Saturday and 10 - 4 on Sunday.

Ours is a small (about 100 juried exhibitors), intimate fair with lots of heart and really excellent crafts, held rain or shine under a huge tent. We have great live music and of course there's a yummy selection of food vendors and once again this year we are the encore event for the August Festival of the Arts! Want to volunteer? Want to be in it? Have a suggestion for live music? Contact our wonderful show manager Laura Arnesen at 496-4420.

Want to be on our Listserv?

Get email information about upcoming shows, events and opportunities from VP & other performing arts org. Email valleyplayers@madriver.com and ask to be added to the listserv!

Board Members & Meetings

Meetings are usually held once a month, mostly at people's houses to meet and eat. It's fun! And you are welcome to join us. Please call or email any Board Member below to find out where we will meet next, to offer advice, comment, ideas and help!

- Doug Bergstein, Tech, Membership & Oddplayer 496-6651
duckberg@madriver.com
- Henry Erickson, Maintenance..... 496-4558
erickson@madriver.com
- Jennifer Howard, Chair, Web & Listserv..... 496-3751
jennifer@madriver.com
- Sharon Kellermann, Treasurer 583-6767
skellermann@sugarbush.com
- Kate O'Neill, Theater Rental & Calendar 496-3727
mialuna@madriver.com
- Jim O'Neill, Maintenance, Tech & Oddplayer 496-3727
northportjim@madriver.com
- Shannon Pitonyak, Secretary 318-0504
smaxwellp@aol.com

Join Us! Contribute Time &/or \$

Want to join the Valley Players?

We would love to have you!

Just fill out, cut out and send back the form below. (It fits in a handy #10 envelope)

You can include a check with your contribution or let us know you want to volunteer for a production, a project or theater maintenance.

Sample non-production jobs we have are:

Volunteer Coordinator

Scrapbooking: putting together past shows in a scrapbook

Putting up our more recent posters on our poster wall

Painting various parts of the theater

Fixing various parts of the theater

Building Shelves for storage

Tell us your area of expertise and we'll put it to use!

Thank you!



Valley Players Membership P.O. Box 441 - Waitsfield, VT 05673

Name _____ Date _____
as you want it in the playbill

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. _____ Email _____

to be added to the Valley Players listserv to receive Valley Players and other performing arts information

I would like to join as (check box below), enclosed please find: \$ _____

Benefactor (\$1000)

Backer (\$250+)

Angel (\$100+)

Patron (\$50+)

Sponsor (\$25+)

Contributor (\$10+)

I would like to volunteer, please call me.....

___ fund raising ___ producing/directing ___ backstage ___ art work ___ set building ___ find or make costumes/props

___ tickets/usher ___ organize stuff like photos, scrapbooks, props ___ maintenance on building: painting, carpentry, electrical etc.

___ other (use back) ___ whatever you need

Please use the back to suggest a play, a project, make comments etc.....