

Acting is merely the art of keeping a large group of people from coughing.

— Ralph Richardson

Newsletter of the Heritage Hunt Little Theater



Play Time

NOVEMBER 2007

From the President

by Nanette Ross, President

The state and local elections have passed. The HOA elections are imminent. Elections for members of the HHLT Board will be held this month on November 27th at our General Meeting. That makes me a lame duck for half a month and makes this my last letter to you as President of the Board. The transition meeting will take place at my home on December 13 at 7pm.

I have enjoyed serving as a Board Member. I thank those who served with me for diligently fulfilling their respective roles, therefore making my job easier. I am pleased that so many of you are running for Board positions. Involvement is the key word for a successful organization. Serving on the Board is rewarding and fun. Taking part in productions is rewarding and fun. Joining us at planned social events is fun. Offering suggestions at General Meetings to make HHLT even better is vital to our growth and development.

It is my hope that HHLT will continue to grow in membership, theater activities, social events and community service. I will not be a member of the Board next year, but I'll continue to be an active member.



Love Letters, Part 3

by Bets Knepley

The *Love Letters* Cast has been selected. We had twenty-two members audition—six guys and sixteen gals. Thank you all for auditioning and for your support.

With all the great talent to choose from, the Audition Team found it very difficult to select the four teams.

The four teams chosen were: Ina Mayer & Sil Zinicola; Alan Mager & Lanna Krogman; Dot Schuetze and Bill Harrison; Denny Cumber & Rick Sullivan. Break a leg, kids!

Stage Manager Goldie Grandy, Set Designer Joey Wagner and I continue working hard behind the scenes. Joey moved a car load of props to the Card Room to see how our minimal set will look in place. And it looked great! I met with Dave Milbradt and the LSTV team to discuss the new sound equipment just installed in the Card Room. Goldie was kept busy getting ready for the first and only group rehearsal at her home on November 16th.

Our new method of selling tickets, using the Blue Form, has hit

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☑ A discussion on ways to increase and retain membership was initiated. Bets Knepley suggested that we should adopt the Golf Club's strategy of actively recruiting new HH residents by mailing them information. Midge Teahan suggested that we might attend the periodic newcomers' orientation meeting to introduce the club. Nanette suggested that the Membership chairperson might call those members that seem inactive and encourage their participation. It was decided that the new BOD should be encouraged to embrace a strategy.

☑ Joyce Mancini announced *The Grapes of Wrath* is the movie for November 3. A Halloween Costume Party is scheduled at Sil and Janice Zinicola's home on October 30. On December 9 at 6pm Bill and Betty Harrison will host a Christmas Party. Christmas Caroling will be followed by wine, dessert and coffee.

☑ The November 10 Workshop will be read-thru of Old Time Radio Shows. An Old Time Radio Show Production is planned for June 2008 and will need a large cast so many members can participate.

☑ The slate of candidates for next year's Board was announced by Bill Harrison. Each candidate present gave a brief speech telling why they want to serve. The election will be at November's meeting which is on November 27 due to Thanksgiving Holiday. Absentee ballots are available. The Nominees are: Art Moscatello; Joey Wagner; Jane Becker; Ina Mayer; Arlene Maroney and Sil Zinicola. Bets Knepley withdrew her name due to the production load she has agreed to take on.

☑ The Transition Meeting for the HHLT Board of Directors is scheduled for December 13 at Nanette's home. There will

be no general meeting in December.

☑ MJ Brickach gave an update on the planned 2008 Fall Production of *Twelve Angry Men*. There still is no decision by the Facilities Committee on the use of the Billiards Room. She stated a possible royalty issue requiring permission to have a "restricted performance."

☑ MJ discussed the initiation of a Heritage Hunt Performing Arts Center Council which was started to be "Friends" of the new Prince William Theater Center under construction. The object is to make sure we are involved in Community Theater. A suggestion was made that HHLT might buy a "Chair."

☑ Bets announced that there will be a Senior Theater Festival in Baltimore June 10-15, 2008, and this might interfere with planned Spring Production. The Board will look into the possibility of rescheduling it.

☑ Auditions for the February Production, *Love Letters*, will be held in the Board Room on November 2, 3 and 4. Interested parties should call Goldie Grandy, Stage Manager.

☑ No Workshop in December, but a January 5 Workshop is planned with the subject of using voice in theater.

Board of Directors

President

Nanette Ross

Vice President

Bill Harrison

Secretary

Denny Cumber

Treasurer

Rick Sullivan

Activity/Program Chair

Joyce Mancini

Communications Chair

Pat Boggs

Member-at-Large

Jim Burwell



Put these Dates on Your Calendar

November General Meeting DATE CHANGE

Tues, Nov 27 at 7pm-Craft Room
Vote for New Board Members

The Flick Fest
None in December

December Newsletter Article Deadline
Monday, Dec 17

The January Workshop
Sat, Jan 5-9am-Craft Room
Using Your Voice
by Professor Lisa Nanni-Messegee
YOU MUST CONTACT BETS TO RESERVE
A SPOT IN THIS WORKSHOP

Auditions for *Old Time Radio Production*
TBA

Feb 2008 Production Dates
Love Letters in the Card Room
February 5, 15, 20 & 28 at 7:30pm

May 2008 Production Dates
Old Time Radio Programs
May 20-23

Senior Theatre USA 2008 Fest
June 5-10 in Baltimore, MD



The Workshop

by Bets Knepley,
Workshop Coordinator

There will be no Workshop in December. But we have a treat coming up in January. A Workshop

on "How to Use Your Voice" will be held on Saturday, January 5 at 9am in the Card Room. We can relax and sip coffee or tea and nibble on assorted pastries before the Workshop begins.

Professor Lisa Nanni-Messegee will conduct this Workshop. She is a working Actor, Director and Playwright with an M.A. in Acting from Kansas State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from Minnesota State University. She is a college professor here in Virginia where she teaches in the Theatre Departments of George Mason University and NOVA —Manassas. She's also taught at University of Mary Washington.

So please put this on your calendar. It'll be informative as well as fun. Please let me know if you're coming, so I'll have a head-count to give to the caterer. Thanks.

The November Workshop was a Read-Thru of several old time radio scripts that we may use for our May Production. All seventeen members who attended had a lot of fun (and hammed it up) while reading *The Shadow*, *Vic & Sade*, *Fibber McGee & Molly* and *The Romance of Helen Trent*.



Travelling Theater Troupe

by Ina Mayer, Coordinator

The Travelling Theater Troupe continues to enjoy performing for senior venues. There are now three groups—"Just For the Fun of It," "God Bless America," and "Summertime." We have found that incorporating music into our presentations helps those whose cognitive awareness may be impaired as well as bringing old favorites to jog memories. Most love to sing along with us.

I have commitments in September and will be away for a good part of October, but when I return I'll get some other groups started. There is a holiday show and a winter show that are good choices for the upcoming months. If you are interested, please email me at chia35@comcast.net or call #1906. There are opportunities for people who would like to substitute when the original cast members cannot perform. Since there is nothing to memorize this is easy to do.



Activities Report

by Joyce Mancini, Chair

Here's a big "Thank-Boo" to Janice and Sil Zinicola for hosting our Halloween Party. We had a great turnout and lots of

wonderful costumes. Good food and loads of fun. From funny to funnier. Everyone used their imaginations to dress up. We whacked a pinata for candy and, in general, behaved like kids. That's what Halloween is all about.

There will be no Classic Movie Night in December as the old calendar is very full for everyone. We will start again in January.

Our last event of the season will be a Christmas Party at Bill and Betty Harrison's home at 6200 Settlers Trail Place. The date is December 9th. The time is 6pm. Come with us as we go caroling through the neighborhood. Then back for some vino or cocoa and cake. Coffee and tea will also be served. Spouses are welcome. It's a great way to spend a Sunday and welcome in the holiday season.

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a snag. I have been told that the Blue Form cannot be used unless the food cost is \$15 or more. So, Elena Portoles and Sandy Mills have volunteered to help set up a ticket selling system and are working with Jeanna Hilton on it.

The Production Team would like your help in getting the word out about all the changes that *Love Letters* will bring about—such as a new venue, a new menu, a different type of play and a new ticket selling system. Flyers will be available at the November meeting along with Forms that will be used for reserving a seat. If you would distribute them at all the HH groups that you belong to, it would be a great help in making this Production a success. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

So, you see, things are moving along. If you'd like to help, please call me at 1360. Thanks.



A Review: *Greater Tuna*

by Bets Knepley

Greater Tuna is the first in a trilogy of comedic plays set in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas, the "third smallest" town in the state. Through a series of twenty eccentric characters of both genders, various ages and unique types, it offers an affectionate comment on small-town, Southern life and attitudes but with a withering satirical nod. Now, after being restricted from local theaters in the Washington DC area since it first appeared 25 years ago, this hilarious, off-beat comedy was performed by the Elden Street Players from October 26 to November 17 in Herndon.

It was a very interesting play to see. One, for the amazing super quick costume changes of the two actors. The four dressers played a major part in this play, chang-

ing wigs, padding and clothes in a blink of an eye. Secondly, the two actors changed their voices and posture to create a unique personality for each character.

The scenery was minimal. The props almost nonexistent, as many of them were mimed.

The theater had "new" seats, donated by the Alexandria City Public School system. It took very nearly 1,000 volunteer man-hours of labor from a team of forty-five volunteers to remove the old seats and install the "new."

The actors did a fantastic job despite a whopping distraction—the tremendous cacophony from a "Sweet" Sixteen Birthday Party taking place next door. The police had to be called, but only after many left at intermission. However, the actors managed to work in some very funny ad-libbing about the noise.