

The best two days in any theater person's life are the day he starts a new show and the day the damned thing is over with.—Oscar Wilde

Newsletter of the Heritage Hunt Little Theater



Play Time

OCTOBER 2007

From the President

Heritage Hunt Little Theater has high expectations. We expect dressing rooms, backstage access to toilet facilities, storage areas for props, flats and backdrops, professional sound and lighting equipment, more comfortable theater seats for our audience, more guaranteed rehearsal time on stage. Our wish list grows. It's good to have high expectations. We aim to provide better, more professional theater. Yet other little theater groups do with so much less.

My husband and I saw a production of *Inherit the Wind* presented by Prince William Little Theater. We were motivated to see this production because its cast included our own Lanna Krogman who has acted in many HHLT productions. The theater was set up in the all purpose room of the Baldwin Elementary School. The lunch tables were set on end and creatively draped with black curtains. The action took place on a tiny, curtainless stage with a lower platform constructed to provide added acting space. In spite of the limited facility, the play was well received. It was the quality of the play and the quality of the acting, by the lead actors, which made for its success.

I applaud our move to present quality plays in smaller venues. I look forward to the productions of *Love Letters* in the card room and *Twelve Angry Men*, produced in our billiard room. Even our Spring Production, which will return us to the stage, will move us in a different direction because it will be old time radio. Let's continue to be innovative as we provide good theater experiences to the residents of Heritage Hunt.

Nanette Ross

Love Letters Cont'd

by Bets Knepley



With the read-thru at our October 20th Workshop, the production of *Love Letters* has officially begun. Eighteen members attended

and, so far, eleven have scheduled an audition. I call that a fabulous beginning!

There's still time to schedule your audition which will take place in the Board Room on Friday, November 2nd from 7 to 9:30pm; Saturday, November 3rd from 10am to 2pm and Sunday, November 4th from 2 to 4:30pm. Call Stage Manager Goldie Grandy at 1548 to schedule your slot and get the audition packet. If you have any questions about the play, etc, please contact me at 1360 or bjknepley@comcast.net

I know that auditions are often not fun and can be stressful. Believe me—when I

Continued on pg 5

INSIDE

September Minutes	Pg 2
Dates to Remember	Pg 3
PRC	Pg 3
Senior USA Festival	Pg 3
HHLT Board Elections	Pg 3
The Workshop	Pg 4
Activities Report	Pg 4
BOD	Pg 5
Voice: Pitch	Pg 5



☑ **Nominations for 2008 Board of Directors**—Denny Cumber presented the slate for prospective Board members: they are Art Moscatello, Bets Knepley, Joey Wagner, Jane Becker, Ina Mayer, Arlene Maroney and Sil Zinicola. Nominations from the floor will be received at the October General meeting as well as prior to the election in November. Candidates will have an opportunity to speak at the October meeting about their qualifications and goals.

☑ **Play Reading**—Bill Harrison will contact the play reading committee members next week to review the status of potential plays.

☑ **Membership**—There are currently 68 members, seven with unpaid dues. Pat will phone these members to see if they wish to stay active.

☑ **Activities**—Joyce suggested a costume Halloween party on October 31st. Sil and Janice agreed to host the party. Sandwiches, dessert and coffee will be served and prizes offered for the funniest, scariest and prettiest.

Bill Harrison agreed to host a Christmas Party, probably following caroling, at his home. Wine, soft drinks, coffee and cake will be available. Bill will give us possible dates at the next meeting.

Classic movie night with *Lawrence of Arabia* is planned for October 13th at Joyce's.

Nanette proposed asking Jackie Schmerman if she is interested in directing a one-act play for the Theater Workshop in either March or April.

☑ **TTT**—Summertime group will present on October 1, 15 and 29.

Just For the Fun of It will present on the 18th and 19th.

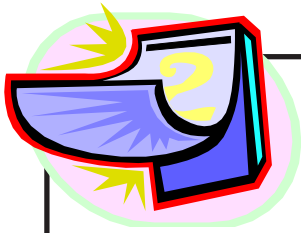
The Patriotic group is scheduled for the Caton Merchant Center during October.

☑ **Rest Room Update**—Arlene Maroney and Everett Medlin reviewed the plan and found that it would cost approximately three times the original projection. We can consider using black drapes to shield a way for the actors to get on and off stage. Pat Dews will check on the drapes.

☑ **Use of the Billiard Room**—On September 6th, M.J. submitted a written proposal to the Facilities and Grounds Committee to use the Billiards Room for one week only in November 2008. The biggest objection is moving any of the billiard tables. M.J. has assured the committee that she will research information on moving and balancing the tables and return them to the original condition. This will be discussed at the October 4th meeting and M.J. requested that as many HHLT members as possible plan to attend the meeting to support the proposal. *Twelve Angry Men* is a smaller show and would work well in a smaller venue. Access to the Ballroom for rehearsals is an ongoing problem. Frequently, up to 50% of the rehearsals in the Ball Room are cancelled and must be moved to other locations.

☑ **February Production, *Love Letters***—Goldie Grandy reminded members of a read-through of *Love Letters* at 10am on Saturday, October 20th. She has audition packets and scripts available for those wanting them. The auditions are scheduled for November 2-3-4.

☑ **November Meeting Date Change**—Because of Thanksgiving, the November meeting and elections will be held on Tuesday, November 27th. Absentee ballots will be available for those members unable to attend.



Put these Dates on Your Calendar

October General Meeting

Thurs, Oct 25 at 7pm—*Craft Room*

Halloween Party

Wed, Oct 31st—7pm at the *Zinicolas*
6580 Alderwood Way

The Flick Fest

Sat, Nov 3—7pm at Joyce Mancini's
Movie: *Grapes of Wrath*

Love Letters Auditions

Nov 2, 3 & 4—*Board Room*
Call Goldie X1548 to schedule slot

The November Workshop

Sat, Nov 10th—10am—*Craft Room*
Read-Thru of Old Time Radio Scripts
for the Spring 2008 Production

November Newsletter Article Deadline

Friday, Nov 16

November General Meeting

TUESDAY, NOV 27—Election of Officers

Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec 9th at 7pm
Betty & Bill Harrison's

Feb 2008 Production Dates

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

2008 Senior Theatre USA Festival

June 10-15, 2008
Baltimore, MD

HHLT PRC

by Bill Harrison, Vice President

The Play Reading Committee has agreed we need more plays suitable for a mature cast and audience. We will be obtaining a group of plays for the PRC to review. If anyone has any thoughts on a suitable play, please let Bill Harrison know. His phone number is x1644.

Senior Theater USA 2008 Festival

from AdArt Publications Website

Senior Theatre USA is a national organization that produces festivals and conferences to encourage older adults to explore the performing arts.

The 2008 Senior Theatre USA Festival will be held in **Baltimore** from June 10-15. Like the previous festivals, it will bring together hundreds of performers, professionals, and other Senior Theatre lovers. There will be shows from many different types of Senior Theatre companies, plus workshops, and social events to give you plenty of time to network.

When all the details are complete, a festival brochure will be available.

Watch *Play Time* for more details. Until then, please place the dates on your calendar and plan on joining the celebration next June!

HHLT Board Elections

by Bill Harrison, Vice President

The following individuals are nominated for the 4 vacant board positions for 2008: Jane Becker, Bets Knepley, Arlene Maroney, Ina Mayer, Art Moscatello, Joey Wagner, and Sil Zinicola. We will accept nominations from the floor at the general meeting on October 25 (Thursday) and November 27 (Tuesday). The voting will take place on November 27.

Nominees will be expected to say a few words at the general meeting on October 25.

If you are not able to attend the general meeting on November 27, you may request an absentee ballot by contacting Bill Harrison at x1644 or e-mailing him at wiharrison@comcast.net. You may do an email ballot, or one by regular mail, or drop it off in person to Bill. **All absentee ballots must be in Bill's hands by Monday, November 26: no exceptions.**



The Workshop

by Bets Knepley,
Workshop Coordinator

A review of the 2007 Workshops held: **January**—Read-Thru of *The Cemetery Club*; **February**—*How To Read a Play*, presented by Bets Knepley; **March**—*St. Patrick's Day Celebration* with Irish songs, skits and poems performed by members; **April**,—none; **May**—*Search for the Heritage Hunt IDOL*, canceled due to lack of participants; **June**—*Character Analysis*, led by Kathryn O'Sullivan, Professor of Drama at NVCC, Manassas Campus with guests from the Fall Run Players in Fredericksburg; **July**—a reading and discussion of A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters*; **August**, *Set Design for the Heritage Hunt Stage* presented by Alan Mager; **September**, *Where Did I Put My Keys?*, which dealt with memory improvement, presented by Joey Wagner; **October**, *Read-Thru of our February Production*; **November**—changed to *Readings of old time radio shows* for our Spring Production; **December**—none.

Did you miss any of the above? If you had attended all of them, just think how much you'd have learned about performance and the theater!! If you have a theater subject that you'd like to know more about, please let me know. Thanks.

Do you have a subject that you'd like to discuss or present to HHLT members? We need your participation. Volunteer by calling me at 1360 today.

I am trying to get Katherine to return and lead off 2008 with a *Using Your Voice in Acting Workshop*. Cross your fingers!

Please do try to attend next month's Workshop, when we will read-thru some old time radio scripts that may be used for our Spring 2008 Production. There are several different types—such as mystery, soap opera, quiz show and adventure. Also required is a crew for the sound effects that, hopefully, can be done "live" on stage and perhaps a small trio of singers who can replicate some old advertising jingles. What fun!!

Boo Bash Alert

by Joyce Mancini,
Activity/Program Chair

Get out those costumes, ladies and gents. Our Halloween Happening—our Scary Soiree—Our Gory Gathering are all happening on Halloween, October 31st at 7pm. Sil and Janice Zincola have graciously invited us to gather at their home to celebrate ghosts and goblins and things that go bump in the night. There will be prizes for funniest, scariest and most creative costumes. See what you can create!! I'll bet that you can come up with some great ideas to wow the crowd. Refreshments will be served. Sandwiches and salads and such. Spouses are invited. Come and join us for a fun time. Food, friends and fun!! What could be better than that?

Save this date!! Our Holiday Happening will be at Betty and Bill Harrison's home at 6200 Settlers Trail on Sunday, December 9th at 7pm. A-Caroling we will go. Dessert and coffee and a trip through the neighborhood singing carols to entertain Heritage Hunt. Rewards will be a nice glass of wine, a cup of coffee or tea and lots of good talk and companionship. A wonderful way to start the holiday season. Hope to see you there.

Next month's flick, *Grapes of Wrath*, will be viewed on Saturday, November 3rd at 7pm. Popcorn and soft drinks will be offered during the movie—coffee, tea and cookies after. Join us, it's fun.



direct, I feel anxious for all auditioners and try to make the process as pleasant as possible. We just must do the best that we can at any particular moment.

Check your calendars to see if you have time in your busy schedule for this play that requires no memorization, little blocking and few rehearsals. Since there are only seven rehearsals, it will be important to attend each one in order to give a good performance.

I have been scanning other community theater websites for their experience with *Love Letters*. Most of them claim to have had a successful production run. As with all shows, some critics love it while others consider it to be "soppy." You'll have to decide for yourself.

We may have the opportunity to take this show "on-the-road." It will depend on what the performers would like to do and whether we can perform in a good setting, such as Dunbarton or the Marquee.

Stage Manager Goldie Grandy, Set Designer Joey Wagner and I have met already. It seems we have some exciting ideas that will help to make *Love Letters* a successful experiment.

This Production will be the first to use the "blue form" for getting tickets. Although it means less work for us, I am a bit sad to lose that special connection that we have developed over the years with our audience through our personal ticket selling method. Now we are no different from all the other HH organizations.

Even though I have directed five plays for HHLT, I still feel challenged and excited to have been granted the opportunity to direct and produce this unusual play. However, I can't do it alone. I hope I can count on your participation to make *Love Letters* a memorable experience for our HH audiences.

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

The First P of Voice: Pitch

Have you ever been to a lecture where the speaker never varies his pitch? You will find it boring and probably tune it out unless you make a great effort to concentrate. What you need to do is create "word pictures" and one of the ways is by using your voice's ability to change in pitch.

Most of us speak naturally in the middle range, which is pleasing unless it is used without variation or inflection. We all change the pitch of our voices to indicate various emotions: anger, love, surprise, authority, happiness, guile, nervousness, hatred, serenity, anxiety, rudeness, sexuality, enthusiasm, moodiness, confidence, etc. We can also change our tone by going "nasal" or "breathy" or "throaty." Can you think of other ways to change your voice pitch or tone?

Some exercises to consider: 1) Read aloud every day for at least 15 minutes. Read articles from the newspaper, a magazine or even the back of the cereal box: 2) Take time to occasionally record your readings: 3) Listen to the recording later and take notes on how you can improve: 4) Occasionally try to imitate the voices you hear while watching TV or listening to the radio.