

Duct tape can fix everything
except a dropped line.

September 2011

The Newsletter
of the
Heritage Hunt
Little Theater



Play Time

Come play with us!

Calendar

General Meeting
Thursday, Sept 15 at 7pm
Craft Room

Annual Potluck Picnic
Sunday, Oct 2 at 3pm
Betty Hitchcock's Home

Fall Production
Nov 9, 10 & 11—Ball Room
Performance—7:45pm
Cash Bar at 6:45pm



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Play Time Newsletter
Editor & Publisher: Bets Knepley

HHLT Website

Web Master: Bets Knepley

November's Play

by Bets Knepley

I asked Co-directors Ina Mayer and Bill Harrison a few questions about their experiences as co-directors.

Their answers are quite interesting and informative.

You may recall that this isn't the first time they co-directed. Their first was the "double feature" of the plays, *Blind Woman's Bluff* and *In Memoriam*, in November 2009. Since that production, they had considered the possibility of co-directing another play. And after they read and studied *A Few Good Years*, they knew that this was the right one to do! It felt right to them and it seemed to fit our community to a tee and the roles were age appropriate for HHLT. Another factor that made *A Few Good Years* special were the mimes who add a whole new dimension and challenge to what has previously been done.

Asked about their first co-directing experience, they answered: "We were both a bit apprehensive with our first attempt, but found that by collaborating together it wasn't so frightening. Plus, with busy schedules and Bill still working,

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*Co-director Bill Harrison discussing
AFGY at the August meeting.*

A Huge Round of Applause for Helen & Bill

Let's extend a huge round of applause to Editor Helen Esposito and Publisher Bill Harrison for continuing our newsletter for three wonderful years. Thank you for keeping our members informed and a job well done! ▲



Local Theaters

by Bets Knepley

You don't have to travel to NYC or DC to see great/good theater. We have many local little theaters not far away. And many of their productions are superior and reasonably priced.

Over the next few issues I'll be discussing these theaters. And, if you want to chime in, please do!

The closet local little theater and probably the one you're most familiar with is the Fauquier Community Theater located just down the road from Heritage Hunt in the old Vint Hill Army Base. It was organized in 1978. The theater seats around 200, has an orchestra pit and adequate backstage facilities for small plays or large musicals.

The facility is old, but spirit, young. This little theater was the only one I attended for several years after I moved to HH. Their selection of plays is usually one that will play to a large audience, with a few edgy or less well known ones thrown in occasionally.

The FCT has also been quite generous to HHLT. In the past, it has lent us props, furniture and costumes.

Their 2010-11 season is *Godspell*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *And Then There Were None* and *Into the Woods*. That sounds like a great season for anyone! Their website is fctstage.org.

Next month I'll talk about the Winchester Little Theater, one of my favorites. ▲

Continued from page 1

two heads were indeed better than one. We also got a lot of positive feedback from the actors." They seem to balance each other out.

When asked about their hardest decision as directors, they answered, "Selecting cast members from many members who audition well and matching the chemistry of the performers."

The AFGY's cast includes: Libbi, Dot Scheutze; Larry, Jack Merelman; Dolores, Mary Glascock; Grace, Gail Chisholm; Don, Walt Meyer; Actress, Joyce Mancini; Actor, Gene Schmiel; Narrator & Mime, M.J. Brickach; Mimes: Helen Esposito, Nanette Ross, Goldie Grandy and Tina Mullins.

The Production Crew includes: Co-Directors, Bill Harrison & Ina Mayer; Producer, Denny Cumber; Set Design, Joey Wagner; LSTV, Bill Whyte; Assistant LSTV, Sandy Thompson; Sound, Sandy Mills; Make-Up, Sandy Iasiello; Props, Sandy Thompson; Publicity, Goldie Grandy & Joyce Mancini; Tickets, Treva Whyte; Poster, Bets & Ed Knepley; Scene Change Posters, Kathryn Schmiel. ▲



*AFGY's Cast
at one of
their first
rehearsals
looking so
serious!!*



The Prez Sez...

C o m m u n i c a t i o n s
News! As you know, as of September, Bets Knepley is our new Communications Chairperson, and she will be responsible for our newsletter, website and overall communications effort. Welcome Bets!

Also, farewell and many thanks from all of the HHLT members to Bill Harrison and Helen Esposito, who have been formulating the newsletter for several years. Great job, well done, Bill and Helen!

A Few Good Years!: Rehearsals have begun for our new play, and we are sure it will be a great success. Ina and Bill will give us a progress report at our September 15 meeting at 7pm in the Craft Room.

Play and Director Selection: The Board has been discussing the methodology for selecting directors and plays. We have decided on a new procedure which will both systematize and simplify this process. Please read the copy of this new procedure that has been emailed to you, along with the newsletter. Note the deadline for applying to be the director for next spring's performance.

Storage of HHLT Inventory: We hope to have a report and a recommendation for action soon. If anyone has any ideas, or would like to volunteer their lower level (aka basement) for storage of our inventory, we would love to hear from you. ▲

Gene Schmiel



They do it with the lights on!

by Bets Knepley

I disliked Shakespeare...no, I really hated Shakespeare. Or I used to. Now, after I've seen nine plays at the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) and spent five days immersed in a Road Scholar Shakespeare course, I see his work in a different light. I still can't say I love his work, but...

I **can say** that I love the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. Ed (my husband who patiently lets me drag him to play after play) and I recently saw four plays back-to-back during a weekend.

The playhouse itself is so different from any of the other local little theaters that I know. It is a stunning re-creation of the first indoor theatre in the English-speaking world—one which William Shakespeare and his colleagues built on part of London's Blackfriars Monastery. This 300-seat Blackfriars Playhouse opened its doors in September 2001 and was the product of years of research by the ASC founders.

The ASC troupes (there are two—one travels) are amazing actors and so full of energy that I can feel and almost see the sparks. At any one time, the actors may be in several plays and perform in a different one each night or even during the day, if there's a matinee. And Shakespeare's plays have many parts, so there is doubling with some actors playing as many of seven roles in a single show. Can you imagine remembering all those lines!!

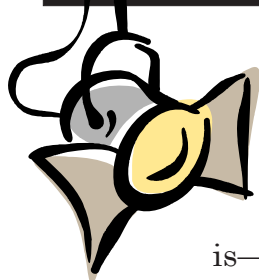
The actors also entertain the audience with music before the play and during intermission. Most of the songs are chosen fit the play. The genre of music is wide. The plays always seem to have a few little unexpected moments, too.

Shakespeare's company performed on a large wooden platform unadorned by fixed sets or scenery. ASC uses a few props to spark the audience's imagination.

Costuming was important in Shakespeare's day for three reasons. First, the frequently lavish costumes provided fresh color and designs. Second, costumes made it easy to use one actor in a variety of roles. Third, costumes helped an audience "read" the play quickly by showing them at a glance who was rich or poor. Costumes are important to the ASC in the same way.

Shakespeare's actors could see their audience, *so the house lights were never turned off*. ASC never turns their lights off either. **THEY DO IT WITH THE LIGHTS ON!!** The actors can see you and when an actor can see an audience, they can engage with the audience. There are seats on both sides of the stage called 'gallants' stools' and members of the audience are invited to sit there during the play. Just don't be surprised when an actor sits on your lap or asks you questions or involves you in the play in another way!!

For more info about the ASC, check their website <http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com> ▲



The Spotlight is on... Lois Potter

by Bets Knepley

I named Lois "The Keeper of the Book"—that is—Lois is our Historian and makes sure that our scrapbook is up-to-date. She has been our Historian for many years, taking over the task from Sandy Mills. Lois has also been a participant in many production crews. She hasn't dipped her toe into acting yet, though I've encouraged her to try one in the near future...as many of us realize it can be great fun.

Lois moved to Heritage Hunt with her husband Charlie in April 2001 from New Jersey. Charlie was very ill when they moved here, but he did get to enjoy our golf course for several years before he passed away in 2004. They had lived in eight different cities, including Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, before ending up in Gainesville to be near a daughter.

Chicago is her home town and she still loves it...except in January, February and March!! She just doesn't like that cold windy weather any more. However she remembers a time when she didn't mind the weather and didn't miss any school due to the Chicago winters.

Her three daughters live in California, Chicago and Virginia. She has five grandchildren—four boys and a girl. The oldest grandson attends the Naval Academy.

Lois also supports the HH Women's Organization, the Garden Club and a bridge group. She has worked for eight years at Aerojet two days of the week—job sharing with another HH resident.

Please say "Hello and Thanks" to Lois next time you see her. ▲



The Nerves

from the AWOL Website

"The Nerves" is what happens when your performance matters to you—when you want to do good work. Of course, excessive nerves can get in the way of doing good work. So here is one tip on how to keep control of your performance and prevent excessive nerves from creeping in.

Memorize your lines *as early in the rehearsal process as possible*. There are many "tricks" to memorization. (Memorization tricks will be in the October issue.)

Memorizing your lines early will free you from the burden of the physical script. It will allow you as much time as possible to explore the action, character relationships, sub-text, your character and all the other things you can't do well if your eyes are always glued to a script in your hand. ▲



JPAC

by Art Moscatello

The Little Theater recently joined the Men in Song, Women of Note, Concert Series and Variety Show events in establishing the Joint Performing Arts Committee (JPAC). The JPAC facilitator is Art Moscatello, and members of the Committee are Ina Mayer, HHLT; Bob Cloud, MIS; Barbara Kenefake and Terry Bisaga, WON; Joan Donnelly, CS; and John Gatt, VS.

The primary objective of JPAC is to coordinate the scheduling of all HH chartered events and to present a unified schedule to the Food and Beverage Committee (F&B). This precludes conflicts of performance dates, and simplifies the coordination process with F&B. JPAC also provides LT and other chartered events with a stronger position in negotiations with F&B. Another objective of JPAC is to provide a forum for the potential interchange of talents, ideas, scenery, costuming etc. which could reduce costs, and enhance entertainment provided to the residents.

Currently JPAC is negotiating with F&B to enable use of Clubhouse facilities for JPAC events independent of partnering with F&B for food and/or beverage. This would result in optional concert style seating and reduced admission costs to residents. We will provide updates as negotiations evolve. ▲

HHLT BOD

President

Gene Schmiel

Vice President

Ina Mayer

Secretary

Sandy Mills

Treasurer

Treva Whyte

Activities

Betty Hitchcock


Membership

Ed Prendergast


Member-at-Large

Goldie Grandy




 Treasurer Treva Whyte reported a balance of \$9592.60 in the treasury.



 Activities Chair Betty Hitchcock reported a good turnout for our Cuban dinner. And that there is still a need for a host for our annual pot-luck picnic.



 Roger Del Rosario stated that three people have expressed interest in our play writing contest.



Art Moscatello, facilitator of JPAC, reported results of their last meeting. Billy Casper personnel stated that HHHOA loses money when HH organizations have concert-style seating. However they appear willing to work with organizations involved to arrive at a solution for this dilemma.



Did You Know?


by Bets Knepley

Did you know that the words— audience and theater both come from the Greek? Theater is a place where one “sees.” Audience are those who “hear.”

Most of us work strictly in an “amateur” theater—which is from the French for doing something “for the love of.” ▲



Play Writing Contest Update



It's been said that everyone has a book inside of them. Do you think it's true for plays? The Play Writing Contest Committee hopes to see numerous entries. So, come on. Get your creative juices moving. There's still plenty of time to write about that great idea you have. ▲



Annual Pot Luck Picnic

by Gene Schmiel

The annual picnic will be on Sunday, October 2 at 3pm at the home of Betty Hitchcock, 6373 Avington Place. Thank you, Betty! Please be prepared to volunteer at the September general meeting to help, bring food and drink, etc. etc. ▲




It's near that time again. Time to consider running for the HHLT BOD. There will be four positions open this year. It's a fun job. The Nominating Committee will soon be canvassing for candidates.

We all have ideas about where and what HHLT should be doing. This is your opportunity to steer HHLT into new places where it has never gone before!! ▲

Newsletter & Website Update

by Bets Knepley



 It's great to be back editing and publishing the HHLT newsletter, which I did for the first five years under the name of *PlayTime*. So don't be confused about the name change.

I'm also excited about becoming HHLT's new webmaster. I've never been one before, so this is a completely new experience! The site isn't finished yet, but getting there. It takes many many hours to enter eight plus years of data. Check out our site at

<http://hhlittletheater.wordpress.com/> ▲