October 2012



PlayTime

—Calendar—

October General Meeting

Thursday, Oct 18, 7pm LSTV's Bill Whyte will discuss Sound & Lighting Refreshments will be served Craft Room

Fall Production

October 23-25

Love, Loss and What I Wore

November General Meeting

Thursday, Nov 15, 7pm Annual Election Craft Room

December

No Meeting



Inside

Local Theaters	Pg 2
Why Clap?	Pg 2
Prez Sez	Pg 3
2012 Board	Pg 3
Member News	Pg 3
From the VP	Pg 4
Thank You	Pg 4
September Minutes	Pg 4



PlayTime is being revamped as I am learning a new program. So please be patient and, hopefully, PlayTime will morph into something more interesting over time.

Thank you. Bets Knepley, Editor & Publisher

From the Director...

by M.J. Brickach

As I write this, we have sold 390 plus tickets to *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. Wednesday night will soon be sold out but we still have plenty of seats for Tuesday and Thursday. My thanks to all of you who have "talked this up" and brought in many friends, family, neighbors, etc. Let's keep it going!

The cast is ready! Three months of rehearsals have paid off. What remains now is bringing it all to fruition with costumes, makeup, lighting, sound, and set. Nora Ephron would have been proud.

Next Sat- urday and Sunday Ted Day will need lots of helpers to transport stuff. Please call him to volunteer, especially if you have a van or truck or car with an empty trunk.

Help is also needed on Friday, October 26, in the morning to "deconstruct" the set and clear out the Ballroom. They have an event scheduled for mid-day and all traces of this production have to be gone! I know you will cooperate.

By the way, don't forget to read Joyce Mancini's article in the latest Horn. She gives new meaning to the term "sugar and spice" and promises everyone that they will get their money's worth. Ten bucks. \$ WHAT A BARGAIN!

See you soon,



Synopsis of

Avocado Island Adventure

by Kathryn Schmiel, Playwright

Avocado Island Adventure, winner of the 2012 HHLT Play Writing contest, is a comedy in two acts. The play is set on a lush, but remote Caribbean island, reputed to be the hangout

of drug smugglers and rum runners. When a group of shipwrecked tourists find themselves marooned on the island and learn that one of their companions is an escaped convict, troubles abound. Difficulties in finding food, water and shelter are compounded by attempts to track down the convict and search for reputed buried treasure. In the end a large reward is shared by the ingenious survivors when they turn over the mobster and his partner to the authorities.

A dramatic reading of *Avocado Island Adventure* will be open to all residents of Heritage Hunt and will be presented in late January. Watch for details in the January edition of The Horn.

PlayTime-October 2012 Page

Local Little Theaters

by Bets Knepley

In September I conducted a course for the Lifelong Learning Institute-Manassas on our local little theatres. I thought I knew a lot about them, but after I did more research I was surprised at what I didn't know.

I found out that the little theatre movement developed in the U.S. around 1912 in several large cites such as Chicago, Boston, Seattle and Detroit.

And did you know that little theatre is the largest, by far, of theater's numerous segments and has the best chance of reaching the average citizen and family. Little Theatre is held accountable as an art form and not just a form of recreation and social intercourse.

Little Theatre, or Community Theatre, as it often is called, occupies a peculiarly important position in the American theater picture. It engages more people in theatrical activity, albeit part-time, than all the rest of the American theater put together, including schools and colleges. This statement may be difficult to believe, but when I counted up all the little theatres in the metropolitan DC area, I could imagine how this could be true!

There are over 55 local little theatres around the DC metropolitan area. And most of these theatres perform at least three plays annually. And most of them are affiliated with our two local theatre organizations, the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) and NVTA, both of which were founded to further involvement and support among community theatres.

What is the Clapping All About?

by Bets Knepley



What is clapping/applause all about? It would seem that there's nothing mysterious or difficult about it, but is that true? Think about it for a moment...there are different traditions/rules for clapping at different types of events. For example, take sporting events (football/golf/tennis/boxing/etc) where there are differences on when and how to clap. The more cultural

events (ballet, opera, theatre, concert) have their own rules. And the less cultural events (pop concerts/Vegas/night clubs/bars/speeches) have, perhaps, no rules. However, since this is a newsletter about theater, I will force myself to discuss only theater.

Applause is primarily a form of nonverbal mass communication which is a simple indicator of the average relative opinion of the audience. The louder and longer the applause (or noise), the stronger the sign of approval.

Blame the ancient Romans who started this ritual. They had a variety of ways to express approval—starting with snapping the finger and thumb, next—with clapping, and ending with the highest level—waving of a handkerchief.

We all know that the "<u>standing ovation</u>" (S.O.) is a form of applause where members of a seated audience stand up while applauding after what they deem as an extraordinary performance. Some New York critics think that the S.O. is overdone in NYC and it doesn't mean a thing anymore. For these audience members, standing up to applaud at the end has become of the Official Broadway Experience. And of course, if you've spent big bucks for seats, an S.O. seems to help confirm that the money wasn't wasted. I haven't found the S.O. overdone in the local little theatre performances I have attended. However, what does one do, when those around you are standing up and you don't believe that the performance rates a S.O.? H'mmm, quite the time to make a quick exit then...no?

Then there is "entrance" applause which is sweet music to any actor's ears, but does tend to break the mood of the scene. Entrance applause is a holdover from another time, when stage stars were worshiped (think of the Barrymore clan). It is still with us, but rare. A recent example was the entrance applause for Ed Asner in the preview performance of Craig Wright's *Grace*. It is assumed this applause was some sort of tribal sign of respect and a reward for Ed still being alive and able to memorize lines (Ed's 83, ready for Senior Theatre, no doubt!!).

I mustn't forget to mention the "slow clap" which has different meanings. In some cultures, slow, synchronized clapping by displeased audience members is considered not applause, but the opposite: a form of heckling, or an expression of mocking. It is occasionally employed to the opposite effect

Last, but not least, consider the "claque" (French for "clapping") which is an organized body of professional applauders who were paid by the performer(s) to create the illusion of an increased level of approval by the audience. So, you see that clapping/applause is a deep subject.

Cla	pcl	·lapcl	lapcl	ap

The Prez Sez...

Bravo! Bravo!

On Friday, October 5, I, along with several other HHLT members, had the pleasure of seeing Dot Schuetze and Gene Schmiel in the Vpstart Crow production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. They were outstanding! If you made it to one of the performances, you know what I mean; if you didn't, you missed a fun, professional event.

Dress for Success

Last Thursday, I watched the dress rehearsal of *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and I will be back to see it again on opening night. It is intense, humorous and poignant. The costumes are fabulous and may only be eclipsed by the makeup. You have to look two or three times to figure out whom you are seeing in some of the roles. The players were almost flawless, which speaks highly of their dedication and of M.J.'s direction. If you haven't made your reservations, do so soon. You won't be disappointed. As of Thursday, we were over 350 in ticket sales.

Elections in November

The nominating committee has put together a slate of three candidates to fill the seats of Betty Hitchcock, Sandy Mills and Ed Prendergast. At the meeting, we will be taking nominations from the floor, and again, right before the election at the November meeting. If you're interested in running for office, ask someone to nominate you.

Grease Paint

No, actually, latex paint. That's what several of us have been using to paint the sets for *Love*, *Loss and What I Wore*. It's a fun, group activity. Think about doing it for future plays. No talent needed. We still need a few extra hands to erect and tear down the sets. If you can pitch in, contact Ted at 2085 or drop him a note at margetedd@comcast.net.

HHLT, We Have A Problem

With the Marsh Mansion closing for renovations and the consequential moving of groups to the clubhouse that normally use MM for their activities, space for rehearsals at the clubhouse are going to be scarce, for a spring play. We're going to discuss options at the meeting. Also, a few people have expressed an interest in directing the next play. If you would like to take a crack at directing, contact Kathryn Schmiel.

Lights, Action, Sound

Activities Chair, Art Moscatello arranged for a presentation by Bill Whyte, on how LSTV does its magic for our productions, after the meeting. Refreshments will be served.



2012 HHLT BOD

President

Walt Meyer (2011-13)

Vice President

Kathryn Schmiel (2011-13)

Secretary

Sandy Mills (2010-12)

Treasurer

Mary Glascock (2011-13)

Activities

Art Moscatello (2011-13)

Membership

Betty Hitchcock (2010-12)

Member-at-Large

Ed Prendergast (2010-12)

Member News

Lynne Block



Long time member Lynne Block has taken ill and is hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

WELCONE

New Member Carole Gathright

We extend a big welcome to Carole Gathright who lives on Bullen Bluff Terrace, Break a leg, Carole.

Newsletter is edited & published by Bets Knepley

Contact Bets at

bjknepley@comcast.net

703-743-1360

http://www.hhlittletheater.wordpress.com/

PlayTime-October 2012 Page 4

Notes from the VP

by Kathryn Schmiel, Vice President

The slate of nominees for new officers will be announced at the October 18 general meeting. There are three vacancies coming up for the 2013-2015 Board. Leaving the Board will be Sandy Mills, Betty Hitchcock and Ed Prendergast. Three members have agreed to run: Tom Taggart, Joan Patton and Bill Harrison. Elections will be held in November with nominations from the floor accepted at that time. A brief bio of each nominee will appear in the November Play Time. If you will be unable to attend the November meeting and would like an absentee ballot, please contact Kathryn Schmiel (1305) by November 8.

Still looking for a spring director and play!! Lots of great plays are in the HHLT library and lots of experienced and willing help is available. Take the plunge and go outside your comfort zone! It's a rewarding and creative experience!

Newly-arrived in the HHLT Library! The Carol Burnett Show *The Old Folks Comedy Sketch Collection* is a collection of eight short comedy sketches originally performed on Carol's beloved TV show. *The Old Folks* consists of eight scripts and is one of a three part collection of Carol Burnett comedy kits. Possibilities abound for using some or all of these sketches as part of a comedy show. If interested in reading, contact Kathryn.

Still in the planning phase: a dramatic reading of last year's prize-winning play *Avocado Island Adventure*. Renovations at Marsh Mansion have made securing a location for the reading a challenge. Other options are being considered and investigated.

Last, but by no means least: HHLT's wonderful fall play, *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, is in its final stages of production. Be sure to come and see this great work by Nora and Delia Ephron, directed by M.J. Brickach.

Thank You--Thank You

We wanted to thank you all so very much for coming to see us perform in the VP Start Crow production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Every night we were pleased to look out into the audience and see our good friends and colleagues from HHLT cheering us on. It made us both happy and proud to be part of Heritage Hunt's best group! Thank you for your support and applause -- we very much appreciated it.

September General Meeting Minutes

President Walt Meyer opened the meeting at 7pm. Treasurer Mary Glascock reported a balance of \$8024.29. Ed Prendergast volunteered to call the few members delinquent on dues.

Vice President Kathryn Schmiel there will be a slate of candidates for office ready in October. She also reported that dates for the spring production have been reserved, but there is a need for a director.

Walt praised the publicity poster for Love, Loss, and What I Wore, made by the Knepleys.

Art Moscatello, Activities Chair, has run into problems scheduling the picnic and we may have the picnic in the spring or have an indoor picnic. Betty Hitchcock reported one new member, Carole Gathright.

Sandy Mills gave an update on the hospital benefit in 2013. The board has agreed to help pay the costs of having the affair in the ballroom by chipping in for the cost of the bartender.

M.J. Brickach reported that the play is going well, but could use a few more volunteers for painting, etc. Sharon Ferguson was given thanks for saving the club hundreds of dollars by creating posters which are required to be used in the play.

Kathryn reported that, in response to a suggestion from Roger del Rosario, a staged reading of her play, *Avocado Island*, will be held in January. It will require 9 actors and Kathryn will act as narrator.

Sharon Ferguson reported that the Playwriting Contest Committee elected Bets Knepley as chairperson. There was a short discussion of the storage problem. Sharon Ferguson suggested asking permission to erect a shed in the area of the maintenance facility. Problems getting this approved were discussed.

There was a plug from Jean Gentry for Vpstart Crow's current production, starring 2 of HHLT's members. Full minutes can be read on HHLTs website http://www.hhlittletheater.wordpress.com/