


HHLT PLAY TIME

April  2015

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, April 16—7 pm—General meeting--Craft room
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday April 28, 29, and 30—Performances
Thursday, May 14—6 pm—Board Meeting (location TBD)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Candlemire
Christine King
Virginia Shumate

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OUR PREZ SAYS

At last the snow is gone, and our lawns are green with all the attendant chores. But spring has sprung and with it our spring production, A Bad Year for Tomatoes, directed by Dot Schuetze. I have the inside info that it is a fun play set in a small New England village and brought to life by seven of our primo actors. Time to call all your neighbors and share this treat with them. Reservation forms are on the kiosk at the front desk and the dates are April 28, 29, and 30. See you at the show!

Behind the scenes we've been reviewing the officers' job descriptions, as well as the bylaws, tedious work, but it will help us keep our infrastructure current. We are also developing a Donations Policy to address how we respond to requests and suggestions for donations. Input from members on all these projects is always welcome and all decisions will be shared with members.

Enjoy the warm weather!

Denny

NOTABLE NOTES AND NEWS

Longtime members now enjoy a **break from yearly dues!** Members with twelve years membership or longer will now be exempt from paying yearly dues. (Yippee—another bottle of wine!) Please let Helen Esposito (HelenEspo@comcst.net) know the year that you joined HHLT.

Another chance to **showcase talent!** HHWO will be sponsoring a talent show Oct. 20-21. Auditions will be held in the summer. More info coming.

Greetings From Your New Play Time Editor!

Taking over from Bets is admittedly a challenging task! You will obviously notice a change in the format as I search for a method I am capable of using! Otherwise I hope you will find the information clear and easy to access. I would like to appeal to everyone who has an interest to consider contributing to the Play Time: articles on theater, reviews of plays, and so forth. I would also like to initiate a series on member of the month—not an award or honor (though being in HHLT IS very rewarding), but just a bio of members. We have a wide and interesting variety of backgrounds with a common interest in theater. If I call on you, please consider being our Member of the Month! And thanks for your help and patience. Kathryn Schmiel

Message from Director Dot Schuetze about *“A Bad Year for Tomatoes”*

Excitement is brewing. Time is getting short. Will we be ready? Of course! Just need to tweak a few things here and there, finalize costumes, and hope we don't get bumped again using the ballroom for rehearsals. Posters are up, reservations are coming in, so yes, we are excited. Once the fantastic set is up, the actors are word perfect, we expect the audience to leave the ballroom with a smile on their faces after having been thoroughly entertained.

Theater Excursion to Staunton, Virginia

One of the hidden theater “gems” nearby is the American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia, where Kathryn and I spent an interesting three days earlier this year. Staunton is about two hours away via I-66 and I-81, and the theater is near the middle of town, just down the road (literally, given the hills) from Mary Baldwin College

The theater itself, now in its third decade, is an impressive structure, designed in the style of theaters in Shakespeare's day, where performances are done in that style: the lighting stays on at all times; the sets are minimal; many actors play many roles; and actors frequently play instruments before, during, and after the play, for example. Tickets range in price from \$22 to \$42 (less for senior tickets), and also as in Shakespeare's day, if there are open seats, you are free to move there. The theater invites brave souls to sit on the stage itself and, inevitably, become part of the performance – in one scene one of the actors “became ill” into his hat, which he handed to an audience member on the stage!

Not all the plays are by Shakespeare, and we saw “The Rover,” by a female playwright of Shakespeare's day, Aphra Behn, and also “Every Man in His Humour” by Ben Johnson. In the upcoming “spring” season (April 8–June 14), Hamlet, Dr. Faustus, Much Ado about Nothing, and Wittenberg will be performed. The theater operates all year round, and you can check www.AmericanShakespeareCenter.com for information about performances.

The actors themselves are a repertory group of primarily fairly-young folks. In a typical season each one plays a role in four or five plays – a daunting task. To help them along, the audience is told at the beginning of each play, that because of the difficulty of keeping four or five scripts in their heads and not confusing them, the actors are “allowed” to ask for a line from a prompter seated nearby. That only happened three times in two plays, underlining what good actors this crew was.

We enjoyed the plays and the atmosphere, and we recommend this as an interesting 2–3 day jaunt into the countryside.

Gene Schmiel

Brain Teaser

Last month's Brain Teaser (in which you were asked to identify the musicals in which 5 couples were characters) was won by Sharon Ferguson. Congratulations!

This month takes you back to a quote from a well-known play. Be the first to identify the play and win \$10 Starbucks gift card.

“He was liked, but not well-liked.”

*Heritage Hunt Little Theater Minutes
HHLT General Meeting March 19, 2015*

In the absence of President Denny Cumber, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandra Thompson at 7:01pm. Board Member Jim Burwell was also absent as was newly appointed Communications Director, Kathryn Schmiel.

Secretary's Report – in Burwell's absence, Treasurer Helen Esposito read the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting. They were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Helen Esposito reported an income of \$9,129.20 as of March 11, 2015. During this reporting period there was income of \$160.00 and expenses of \$538.99. The Report was accepted. Details are attached. Helen also reported that of the 75 paid members as of December 2014, 24 members have not yet paid their 2015 dues.

Vice President's Report – Sandra Thompson had nothing to report.

Activities Report – Georgiana Ide advised that Bets Knepley has declined the offer of a farewell party. Bets would appreciate letters or notes from members. Georgiana reported that in lieu of a summer picnic, she will be planning an event for October. Georgiana welcomes ideas for either fun or educational programs. Georgiana and her committee were thanked for a fun birthday party.

Membership Report – Ginny McCardle introduced new member, Christine King.

At-Large Report – Kathy Carrico reported that she has written to the HHLT Grounds Committee regarding the bench. She is waiting to hear back from them.

Communications – Sandra reported that Kathryn Schmiel has accepted the role of our Communications Director. As such, Kathryn will be handling "Playtime" and the monthly Horn article. Ina Mayer suggested talking to Joyce Mancini re doing the monthly Horn article. Kathryn will be looking to develop a communications team to split up various responsibilities. The Theater group is in need of someone to take responsibility for the web site.

Sandra reported that Sharon Ferguson is the winner of the March brain teaser. Georgiana advised all that the birthday party pictures are on the website.

Old Business –

Donation Policy – Sandra reported a policy should be finalized within the next two months.

By Laws update – Sandra reported that the committee will reconvene once the Communications matters are settled.

New Business –

Variety Show – the HH Women's Organization is coordinating this. Auditions will be held in August and the show is scheduled for October 20 and 21.

Play – “A Bad Year for Tomatoes” Director Dot Schuetze reported that the play is coming along. Some of the actors are already off book. Reservations forms are available in the Lobby. Arlene Maroney is handling ticket sales. Arlene is looking for greeters. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Esposito, Treasurer, Acting for Jim Burwell, Secretary