

HERITAGE HUNT LITTLE THEATER PLAY TIME

March 2017

www.hhlittletheater.org

Special March Event!!

March 16, 7 pm

Mountain View Room

Our March General Meeting will be a very special event for HHLT. Tina Mullins has arranged for Juy Elizabeth, well-known local actor and dialect coach, to present a program on "The Art of Dialect Development." Juy is a performing artist who has appeared in Europe and in many areas of the East Coast, including sharing a stage with the late Rosemary Clooney and Debbie Boone at the Valley Forge Music Fair. Her work includes experience in musical theater, opera, concerts, comedy and drama, and various films. Juy has been a director, musical director, dialect coach, and choreographer for various productions as well as a stage manager, Drama Instructor, Modeling and Television Instructor and general go-to gal. She is currently Directing/Musical Directing "The Secret Garden" with Fauquier Community



Theatre, May 5th-21st, and filming a double feature with Growth Media Services.

When not teaching or performing, Juy is a vocalist with her church's worship team. She has been teaching for over 15 years, coaching many individuals and groups within multiple organizations and age levels, and loves every minute she spends with her students. She has her own voice and acting studio in Manassas and looks forward to sharing her love and passion for the arts with all she meets.

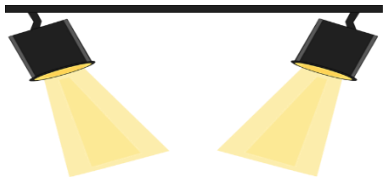
Please plan to attend and enjoy and learn from this extraordinary actor.

Off-Site Excursions

March 19--2 pm-- *Vania, Tonya, Masha, and Spike* at Hylton Center for Performing Arts

April 2--2 pm— *Twelve Angry Men* at Fauquier Community Theatre

See article on next page for more information



Off-Site Excursions

We're off to support **Tina Mullins** in *Prince William Little Theatre's* production of ***Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike*** on Sunday, March 19th at 2PM. The play takes place at the Hylton Center and tickets may be purchased on-line at www.pwlt.org or at www.hyltoncenter.org. If you'd like to join in on this *Off-Site Excursion*, all you need to do is buy your ticket, asap! As an added feature, an optional group dinner is being planned, following the performance on March 19th, at a restaurant nearby (to be determined). Complete details of dinner plans will be emailed 1-week prior to the performance. If you decide to join the group for dinner, you will be asked to RSVP at that time.

On our second excursion we are off to see **Gene Schmiel** in *Fauquier Community Theatre's* production of ***Twelve Angry Men*** on Sunday, April 2nd at 2PM. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.fctstage.org. If you'd like to join in on this *Off-Site Excursion*, all you need to do is buy your ticket,

asap! As an added feature, an optional group dinner is being planned, following the performance on April 2nd, at a restaurant nearby (to be determined). Complete details of dinner plans will be emailed 1-week prior to the performance. If you decide to join the group for dinner, you will be asked to RSVP, at that time.

OUR PREZ SEZ



Our Little Theater group just keeps getting better and better. The last meeting was a barrel of fun and that is a key goal for us this year, to have fun. Our general meeting this month will have a dialect coach to work with us. Another key goal is to create opportunities to learn. The next goal is to get more participation; and that is where everyone can get involved. Volunteer to help, come to meetings and help us meet this goal.



Thornton Wilder: Playwright of the Month



In the late 1930's, Americans were mired in the Great Depression and were looking for escapism both on the screen and on stage. Lavish sets and costuming were commonplace. Enter Thornton Wilder to shake things up a little.

Audience members arriving at the Henry Miller Theatre for the New York debut of Wilder's *Our Town* on Feb. 4, 1938 wondered if they had gotten the curtain time wrong as they gazed at the almost empty stage before them.

Wilder biographer Penelope Nixon said in an interview with National Public Radio that the playwright wanted audience members “to envision the play, to experience it, through the filter of your own life and your own imagination... He told us, soon after he had written *Our Town* that our true lives are lived in the imagination and the memory, and that was one of the principle reasons that he avoided props and sets and scenery.”

Wilder was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1897. He attended Oberlin College in Ohio and then transferred to Yale University, graduating in 1920. After spending a year in Rome, he took a job teaching French at a prep school in New Jersey and started writing on the side. Wilder published his first novel, *The Cabala*, in 1926 but he earned his first fame and recognition as a writer when he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (1927). The royalties from this novel allowed him to pursue writing on a full-time basis. Wilder soon became a literary celebrity, mixing with

the likes of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Gertrude Stein.

Stung by negative reviews of his 1934 novel *Heaven's My Destination*, however, Wilder turned to playwriting and to creating what he called “an allegorical representation of life” in *Our Town*, the fictional Grover's Corners, New Hampshire.

Wilder's main theme in *Our Town*—that we should appreciate the details of everyday life while we live them—became critical at a time when political tensions were growing in Europe. When the play debuted in Princeton, New Jersey in 1938, World War II was on the horizon, and citizens around the world were fearful of the future.

Our Town won Wilder his second Pulitzer and went on to become one of the most performed American plays of the twentieth century. Wilder earned a third Pulitzer for his 1942 play *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and his hit play *The Matchmaker*, a reworking of his earlier script *The Merchant of Yonkers*, was adapted as the 1964 musical *Hello, Dolly*. Wilder's screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt* is thought of as a classic psycho-thriller.

Thornton Wilder died in December 1975 at his home in Hamden, Connecticut.

Reprinted from Stage Milk

Written by Stage Milk Team, March 14th 2014



Cemetery scene from *Our Town*

Brain Teaser

Last month's birthday Brain Teaser was won by Jim Burwell who identified the



movie *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansbury. This month please identify the

Best Motion Picture depicted in the picture below and email your answer to Kathryn at geneofva@gmail.com.



Stage version of the above motion picture.



"Strange, these British. No security leak the whole damn thirty years it's been playing here."

What is Blocking?



With less than two months before production, the cast and crew of *The Dixie Swim Club* are hard at work. **Blocking** is complete as the cast, in addition to learning their lines, have learned where to stand, how and when to move, and how to interact with their cast members. Blocking often takes on aspects of dance as the cast members are choreographed to move around the set always mindful of the purpose of their position. Effective blocking plays a major role in the success of any dramatic production, and learning your place on stage can be just as hard as memorizing lines. Good blocking pays off as you will see when our spring production opens May 2-3-4.

Pictures from HHLT's Fourteenth Anniversary

Party January 2017

By Nick Ide



Four original founding members



Heritage Hunt Little Theater

General Meeting Feb. 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Harrison at 7PM. 29 members were present. He thanked the Activities Committee for organizing the meeting and welcomed new members.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Jan. 19, 2017 General Meeting were displayed, corrected and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported Income in Jan. of \$240 and Expenses of \$54.82. The Balance as of Feb. 1, 2017 is \$ 10,430.60.

Vice-President's Report: Bob reported that the Spring Play is under rehearsal. He is looking to start a play proposal committee to read plays that might work for future HH productions. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Bob. A sign-up sheet was available that night.

Membership Report: Gene recognized new members and had them introduce themselves. He also put out a sign-up sheet if you were interested in working on a membership committee to help gather new members and get them acclimated to our group.

At-Large Report: Ina reported that the TTT presented a Patriotic Program to residents at the Tribute that was very warmly accepted. If you are interested in being a member of this group, please contact Ina Mayer.

Activities Report: Val thanked the activities committee for preparing tonight's program. She announced that the March 16th program will be a dialect coach, Ivy Elizabeth.

Communications Report: Kathryn noted that Jim Burwell won the Feb. brainteaser. She also informed everyone that Walt Meyer was handling publicity for the Spring Production of "Dixie Swim Club". She has begun to highlight a well-known play write in our monthly newsletter.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: Kathy presented the Budget for 2017.

The Business meeting was adjourned by Bill at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Turner, Secretary