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# THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATER

2740 Upton Ave.

Toledo Ohio

<http://www.thevillageplayers.org>

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presents



*The light blinds us....and we're all afraid of the dark.*

- Gore Vidal, "The Best Man"

Produced by special arrangement with

**Dramatists Play Service**

Set Design by  
**John van der Meer**

Produced by  
**Jean Mills**

Directed by

**Marc Malley**

Light Design by  
**Dan Finkel**

Sound Design by  
**Don Weber**

Set Construction

John Henry, John van der Meer, Steve Mierzejewski,  
Norb Mills, Bob Smith, & Don Weber

**There will be one fifteen minute intermission**

**Note:** *Please turn all cell phones or pagers off during the show.*

## CAST

Fmr. Sec. of State William Russell .....	Norb Mills
Alice Russell .....	Jean Mills
Dick Jensen .....	Pat Mahoney
Catherine .....	Kara Ayers
Sen. Joseph Cantwell .....	Ben Lumbrezer
Mabel Cantwell .....	Maggie Koehler
Don Blades .....	Charles Crockett
Ex-President Arthur Hockstader .....	Paul Palmisano
Mrs. Sue-Ellen Gamadge .....	Diana West
Sen. Clyde Carlin .....	John Henry
Dr. Artinian .....	Nicholas Aharon Boggioni
Sheldon Marcus .....	Brad Riker
1st Reporter & Delegate .....	Chris Hall
2nd Reporter & Delegate .....	Megan Ray
3rd Reporter & Delegate .....	Frank Venda
4th Reporter & Delegate .....	Kara Ayers
5th Reporter & Delegate .....	Brandon Ware

### Setting:

A presidential convention in Philadelphia, 1960.

### Act I:

Scene 1. A Sheraton Hotel suite.

Scene 2. Senator Joseph Cantwell's suite. The same evening.

Scene 3. William Russell's suite. The following morning.

### Act II:

Scene 1. Cantwell suite. A few minutes later.

Scene 2. Russell suite. A few minutes later.

Scene 3. Cantwell suite. A few minutes later.

Scene 4. Russell suite. The next morning.



How many times did you say ..

*"Gee, thanks, you shouldn't have ... really."*

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## THE DIRECTOR

**Marc Malley** (*Director*) By day Marc is a teacher with the Bedford Public Schools. By night Marc pretty much does it all at The Village... acting, producing, directing, set construction, sound tech and Board secretary. Having assistant directed a number of shows for The Village, this is Marc's first solo directing debut. Known as a rather intense political junkie, "The Best Man" is a perfect fit.



## THE CAST



**Norb Mills** (*Fmr. Sec. of State William Russell*) A long time Village Player, Norb's credits include roles in *Cabaret*, *Mixed Emotions*, *Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolias*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Wrong Turn at Lungfish*, *Tuna Christmas*, *Alone Together*, and *Company*. Norb, a retired University of Toledo professor, has won acting and directing awards from OCTA (Ohio Community Theatre Association). He loves golf, dancing and travel.

**Jean Mills** (*Alice Russell*) A teacher at Maumee High School, Jean also serves as President of The Village Players - also a fulltime job. Her numerous roles include Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*, and Ethel in *On Golden Pond*. Other favorite productions ... *Social Security*, *Cabaret*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Sylvia*. She also enjoys dancing and travelling (see Norb).



**Pat Mahoney** (*Dick Jensen*) An all 'round theater buff, Pat directs, acts and sings. His directing credits include *Everybody Loves Opal*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Funny Money*. As an actor he has appeared as Allan in *Play it Again, Sam*, Ken in *Rumours*, Charlie in *On Golden Pond*, and the Constable in *Fiddler on the Roof*. As a singer, he is proud of his performance as Flatware in *Beauty and the Beast*. Pat earned an MBA in Finance and serves as a Board Member for the Association of Two

Toledos and the Oregon Community Theatre. Hobbies, when he can find the time, are sports, poker, playing the guitar, travelling and filmmaking.



**Kara Ayers** (*Catherine, 4th Reporter, & Delegate*)

Please welcome Kara back to our stage after her debut performance in *Sly Fox*. Her first theatrical experience was working props last year for *Barefoot In The Park*. She's really enjoying being on-stage and isn't as nervous as she thought she would be. During the day, she is a civil drafter for a civil engineering and surveying firm in Maumee. Welcome to the stage, Kara!

**Ben Lumbrezer** (*Sen. Joseph Cantwell*) Ben has been active at The Village Players and various Toledo theaters for the past 14 years. Roles at The Village have included Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing* and George in *Of Mice and Men*. At Harvest Theatre of Toledo, Ben has appeared as Tom in *Glass Menagerie*, Bernie Dodd in *The Country Girl*, and last but not least 22 roles in 90 minutes at Harvest Theatre's One Page International Play Fest. When not the trodding the stage, Ben's hobbies include backpacking and kayaking. Ben is production manager at Gilbert Mail Service.



**Suzanne Jennens** (*Mabel Cantwell*) Suzanne has portrayed the angry May in *Fool for Love*, the conniving Countess in *A Little Night Music*, the selfish Lee in *Marvin's Room*, and the evil Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, all for Village audiences. Some of her other favorite roles include Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Kate in *Sylvia*, and Bella in *Lost in Yonkers*. She has performed throughout much of the Toledo area

in Tiffin, Adrian, Bedford, at the University of Toledo, Ms. Rose's and the Toledo Rep. Suzanne, a former drama and English teacher, presently teaches Spanish at Whitmer High School by day.

**Charles Crockett** (*Don Blades*) Although this is Charles's first show at The Village, he has appeared in numerous productions at The Toledo Rep including; Jake in *Christmas Carol*, Murray in *Odd Couple*, the Undertaker in *Our Town*, and Hoke in *Driving Miss Daisy*. Charles is also involved in the drama ministry at First Church of God and is proud to say "he's somebody's grandfather".





**Paul Palmisano** (*Ex-President Arthur Hockstader*) A newcomer to The Village stage, Paul has years of acting and directing credits in and around Ohio. A few of his favorite roles include Fiorello LaGuardia in *Fiorello*, John Adams in *1776*, Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, and Iago in *Othello*. Numerous directing credits include *Rainmaker*, *Picnic*, *The Most Happy Fellow*, *Kismet*, and *The Big Knife*. He worked with Rod Serling and made a film for PBS Children's Hour. Paul is a retired Human

Resource Director from St. Vincent/Mercy Medical Center and enjoys volunteer work, puzzles, reading, travel and collecting.

**Diana West** (*Mrs. Sue-Ellen Gamadge*) Diana is a seasoned and talented actress who has been involved in theater in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio for the past 30 years. During her 20 year association with The Village just a few of her credits include Chloe in *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* and roles in *Not Waving and Abandoned Houses*. Diana is employed as office manager for a local firm.



**John Henry** (*Sen. Clyde Carlin*) As I enter my 38th year as a member of the Village, I would like to thank the theater for giving me the opportunity to count so many kind and talented people as friends. I enjoy directing and some acting (if the part isn't too large) but more than that, I love being a part of this thing we call community theater. Thank you all.

**Nicholas Aharon Boggioni** (*Dr. Artinian*) This is Nicholas's first role at The Village. An attorney by profession and a writer and avid gardener by avocation, his novel *The Nativist's Daughter* was published in 2006. Previous credits include performances with the Toledo Bar Association as well as filming two courtroom TV commercials. He is currently working on a play *In Search of Susan Sontag*.



**Brandon Ware** (*5th Reporter & Delegate*) Brandon's previous roles were those of The Chief of Police in *Sly Fox*, and Doc in *West Side Story* at Whitmer High School. He is a classic car restoration enthusiast, an amateur painter, and a tattoo artist. Welcome back to The Village, Brandon.



**Brad Riker** (*Sheldon Marcus*) Brad was most recently on our stage in *Sly Fox*. Before that was *Psycho Beach Party*, *Much Ado About Nothing* as Don John. He has a thing for summer stock, me thinks. Brad has also been seen in other shows including *Underpants*, *Mousetrap*, *Wait Until Dark*, *On Golden Pond*, *Born Yesterday*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and *Rebecca*. Brad's day job as a Visual Manager for Elder Beerman came in handy while building the set. His keen eye and artistic abilities were

indispensable! Thanks for being with us, Brad!

**Chris Hall** (*1st Reporter & Delegate*) Chris's previous roles include those of Moses and Joseph in plays at First Unity of Toledo. A self-employed industrial electrician, Chris's hobbies include collecting books and antique gasoline and steam engines. His love of steam engines provided him the opportunity of working on Tom Monaghan's steamboat and his skill as an electrician were valuable to the band Judas Priest in 2002.



**Megan Ray** (*2nd Reporter & Delegate*) Megan is 24 and a 2001 graduate of Whitmer High School. This is her eighth show at The Village. Previous shows include *Sly Fox*, *G.I. Jukebox*, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, *A Little Night Music*, *Suds*, *The Sunshine Boys*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Other shows include *Grease*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Gypsy*. She would like to thank her friends and family

for all their support. "I couldn't do it without you."

**Frank Venda** (*3rd Reporter & Delegate*) Frank's previous roles at The Village include Warren in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and Dale Laverty in *LuAnn Hampton Laverty Oberlander*. In the printing industry by trade, Frank's enjoys bicycling - he takes part in Bike to the Bay every summer - and photography. As the official photographer of The Village Players and his work can be seen in and around our lobby. He would like to thank his wife for her support and Marc Malley for letting him be a part of such a talented set of actors.



## **The Village Players' 2006-2007 50th Season**

### **Never Too Late**

Written by Arthur Long

Directed by John Henry

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Auditions: Jan. 15 & 16, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

March 9-24, 2007

This Broadway hit is about a married man in his fifties who suddenly learns he's becoming a father again. His last child, a girl, was born 24 years ago and, considering the boob she married, he finds the prospect of another unthinkable. His daughter and son-in-law live with him. She gets up for breakfast at lunchtime and he is curiously addicted to solitaire. It's not only the impending birth that startles him; his previously meek little wife begins to lay down the law. There's to be a nursery, a new bath, and she's to have her own checking account. Such dour capitulation you'll never see again.

### **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**

Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

Music by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Brenda Sweeney

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

Auditions: March 12, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Call Backs: March 13, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

May 4-19, 2007

"Tragedy tomorrow, comedy tonight!" Broadway's greatest farce is light, fast-paced, witty, irreverent and one of the funniest musicals ever written – the perfect escape from life's troubles. "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000 year old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave (Pseudolus) struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan (Philia) for his young master (Hero), in exchange for freedom.

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