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(Dates subject to change)



From the President...

Welcome Village Players Family,

2008-2009 was a wild ride for our country and for our city. While this recession does not come close to the hardships that many experienced during the Great Depression, it does remind me of America's ability to roll its sleeves up and get the job done when the chips are down. The "can do" optimism of the American people was pointed out by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he said: *"The country needs and, unless I mistake its temper, the country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: if it fails admit it frankly and try another. But above all try something."*



So what does this have to do with theatre?

The essence of community theatre is the coming together of a diverse group of people for a common goal: to "try something." All the sore muscles and occasional bruises of the crew building the set, the lost sleep for the gal sewing last minute costume adjustments, the headache for the actor who's been saying the same word over and over again until they get the inflection right or until their spouse threatens divorce, the near death experiences of the techies hanging lights, the increased car mileage for that person searching all over Toledo for that one special prop - all this blood, sweat and tears comes to fruition on opening night.

We Vippiies grin with inner satisfaction the moment the curtain opens. We finally exhale as you the audience show your appreciation with laughter, applause or perhaps even a tear. Every time the lights go up you are witnessing the product of our "persistent experimentation;" the labor of love from dozens of people standing in the shadows of the spotlight.

We invite you to join us in this collaboration. Roll up your sleeves and join us in this labor of love in any way you can. Volunteer, donate, tell your friends. Together, we make the magic of live theatre.

Your fellow laborer,
Laura Hansen

THE TOLEDO REPERTOIRE THEATRE is proud to present the exciting 2009/2010 Season! "A SEASON OF SMILES"

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Hats! The Musical <i>by Marcia Milgrom Dodge and Anthony Dodge</i>	September 11-27, 2009
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Auntie Mame - a classic <i>by Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee</i>	April 16-May 2, 2010
Victor/Victoria (Owens Community College) <i>Book by Blake Edwards</i> <i>Music by Henry Mancini & Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse</i>	June 4-13, 2010
A Christmas Carol (Stranahan Theater) <i>by Charles Dickens</i>	December 4-6 2009

EDGY REPEREADINGS

The Man Who Had Three Arms (Owens Community College) <i>by Edward Albee</i>	October 10, 2009
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Would you like information on "Sold-House" opportunities at The Village Players Theatre: how your group, church, or other organization can purchase a performance and raise money through ticket sales?

Musical "Sold-Houses" are \$800.00 per show; other productions are \$700.00 per show. The theater seats 165 patrons. You determine the ticket price for your show and how much profit you make! A punch reception is provided at no additional cost. Show dates are limited.

Please call Judy at (734) 847-7746 for more information on "Sold Houses."

2009-2010 VILLAGE PLAYERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Front Row: Kara Ayers, Laura Hansen, Ann Veasey, Paul Palmisano, Marc Malley
Not Pictured: Dan Finkel



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THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATRE

2740 Upton Ave.
Toledo Ohio
<http://www.thevillageplayers.org>

presents

The Fantasticks

Directed by
Paul Palmisano

Produced by
Rich Chesko, Jr. & Jean Mills

Set Design by
Brad Ray

Light Design by
J. Judson Lohman

THE FANTASTICKS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

Since it's opening in May, 1960, at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York, and its subsequent revival at the Snapple Theatre Center, The Fantasticks has become the longest running production of any kind in the history of American theatre. Continuing its run in New York City, please visit www.FantasticksOnBroadway.com.

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Note: Please set all cell phones and pagers to "off" or "vibrate."

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATRE

The Village Players Theatre presented its first play, *The Great Sebastians*, starring Rosemary Kahle and Edward C. Ames in 1957, in the Ottawa Hills High School. The original group performed in schools, churches and even in tents. The first musical, The Village Player's fifth production was *Plain and Fancy*, which opened on February 25, 1958, in the Lincoln Hall at Collingwood Presbyterian Church. The show was directed by Arthur Lithgow, father of the television and movie star John Lithgow, and starred a whole cast of who's who in Toledo.

The Theatre stopped moving from site to site in 1960. We put down roots when we purchased this building and converted it from a church to a theater. That Theatre Board took a leap of faith when they agreed to pay \$45,000 for the church. However, because of their faith in the future of the theatre and the city of Toledo, literally hundreds of plays and thousands of actors have crossed these boards.

In thankful recognition of the continuing support of our members and volunteers, The Village Players Theatre culminated its 50th season celebration with the successful Rhinestone Ball held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens on June 29, 2007. In the 51st season, the Board was pleased to provide new seating for our patrons. In our 52nd season we installed a new stage for our actors. This past summer we were able to waterproof the basement, and rebuild the exterior stairwell which used to be a source of flooding. These projects are the direct result of responsible management of monies earned through Sold Houses and special donations over the years.

The Village Players Theatre has no paid year-round staff — volunteers keep it running. We take great pride in this and invite you to join us as we continue to add to the history of an organization making a significant cultural difference to our community.

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CAST

El Gallo (Narrator)..... Dave Dysard
Luisa (The Girl)..... Emily Applebaum
Matt (The Boy)..... Andy Dysard
Hucklebee (Matt's Father)..... David Engel
Bellomy (Luisa's Father)..... Tom Wagner
Henry (Old Actor)..... Larry Farley
Mortimer (Man Who Dies)..... Paul Palmisano
The Mute..... Matthew Oster

Setting

Act I

Try To Remember..... El Gallo & Compay
Much MoreLuisa
Metaphor..... Matt & Luisa
Never Say No..... Hucklebee & Bellomy
It Depends On What You Pay El Gallo, Huckelbee, & Bellomy
Soon It's Gonna Rain Matt & Luisa
Abduction Ballet..... Company
Happy Ending Company

Act II

This Plum Is Too Ripe..... Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, & Bellomy
I Can See It..... El Gallo & Matt
Plant A Radish..... Hucklebee & Bellomy
Much More Reprise.....Luisa
Round And Round El Gallo, Luisa, Hucklebee,
Bellomy, Henry, & Mortimer
Beyond That Road..... El Gallo & Matt
They Were You Matt & Luisa
Metaphor Reprise Matt & Luisa
Try To Remember Reprise El Gallo, Matt, Luisa, Hucklebee, & Bellomy

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director: Paul Palmisano
Producers: Rich Chesko, Jr. & Jean Mills
Stage Managers: Debbie Marinik & Laurie Mix
Keyboard: Christine Ehinger
Vocal Coach: Brenda Sweeney
Choreographer: Lindsey Denham
Lighting Design: J. Judson Lohman
Light Crew: Andrew Black, Rich Chesko, Jr,
David Hutte, Larry Janney, Marc Malley, & Laurie Mix
Costumes: Becky Farley, Jean Mills, Elizabeth Piel, and Cast
Props: Joyce Calmes
Props Crew: Jean Brown, Ernie Brown, Joyce Calmes,
Laura Ordorica, Joyce Rupley, Mary Wagner, & Bob Yarger
Set Design: Brad Ray
Set Construction: Brad Ray
Scenic Art: Brad Riker
Set Dressing: Brad Riker
Painters and Dutchers: Lisa Cromwell, Jean Mills, & Brad Riker
Bookholder: Marc Malley
House Manager: Ann Veasey
Box Office Manager: Ann Veasey
Box Office Staff: Kimberley Bruggemann, Pam Engle, Sandy Fry,
Darlene Hatfield, Barbara Heindel, Sue Holliger, Debbie Krieger,
Dianne Nowakowski, Jinny Patterson, Susan Rice, & Judy Wiederhold
Publicity: Kara Ayers
Program: Jake Gordy, Laura Hansen, & Frank Venda
Program Art & Cover Design: H.O.T. Graphics
Production Logo and Posters: Music Theatre International
Program Printing: The Copy Center
Marquee Sign: Derek Hansen
Theatre Photographer: Frank Venda

Special Thanks
Ottawa Hills High School

THEATRICALY THINKING

When I was in college, all the pretty women were in the theatre, so I auditioned for a play.

-Judd Nelson

Theatre is more exciting in the sense that you can actually see the audience in the eye. You know there are no takes and retakes. You have one chance to do your job... and you better do it well!

-Christine Lahti

The good die young but not always. The wicked prevail but not consistently. I am confused by life, and I feel safe within the confines of the theatre.

-Helen Hayes

But I loved the theatre and I was just doing theatre 24/7 and kept dropping courses because I didn't have the time and the chancellor thought that wasn't a good idea after awhile.

-Mandy Patinkin

I still think of myself as a stage actor. When I do film and television I try to implement what I was taught to do in theatre, to try to stretch into characters that are far from myself.

-Tony Shalhoub

When you come into the theater, you have to be willing to say, "We're all here to undergo a communion, to find out what the hell is going on in this world." If you're not willing to say that, what you get is entertainment instead of art, and poor entertainment at that.

-David Mamet

The color, the grace and levitation, the structural pattern in motion, the quick interplay of live beings, suspended like fitful lightning in a cloud, these things are the play, not words on paper, nor thoughts and ideas of an author, those shabby things snatched off basement counters at Gimbel's.

-Tennessee Williams



Friends - \$25 (cont.)

Mary Jane Joehlin
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Pat Koehchley
Dick & Martha Kudner
Richard & Charlotte Lauer
Maryruth Mabbitt
Jane Miller
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In Memory of Skip Wiess

Edward and Nancy Kelley

In Memory of Ardath Chesko

Norb & Jean Mills

THE DIRECTOR



Paul Palmisano (*Director, Mortimer*). Paul's last appearance with The Village Players was in this season's opener, *Squabbles*. He was assistant director for *A Year With Frog And Toad*. *The Fantasticks* is his first directorial assignment for The Village Players. Most of Paul's experience in musical acting and directing was with the Cincinnati Music Theater, Major musical directing credits with CMT were: *Music Man, Kismet, The Most Happy Fella, Carousel,* and *How to Succeed in Business....*

Paul was elected to The Village Players Board in 2007. He calls our season ticket holders and audiences the FANStastics. He would like to thank them for their support. Also, two big thumbs up to the cast and crew for their amazing hard work and dedication. Finally, to his beloved wife, Jean, for her patience and support.



Brenda Sweeney (*Vocal Coach*) *The Fantasticks* is one of Brenda's favorite musicals with many happy memories of summer stock at Huron and the Westgate Dinner Theatre. She is delighted to hear all the clever dialog again, and has enjoyed helping this terrific cast learn the wonderful music. Hope you all have a fantastic theatre experience.



Lindsey Denham (*Choreographer*) is very excited to be choreographing her first show at The Village! Lindsey has been choreographing in the area for the past 4 years. She is also the full time dance teacher at Imagine Clay Ave. Community School. Past choreography credits include *Kiss Me Kate, Bye Bye Birdie,* and *Pajama Game*. She has also trained and performed in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. In addition, Lindsey will also be choreographing the Toledo Rotary's annual fundraiser ITZA Ball this year! In her spare time, she is getting ready to open her own Dance and Acting Studio downtown, as well as playing Norma Cassidy in The Toledo Rep's production of *Victor/Victoria* in June. "Thanks to the cast for being so open and willing to do anything I put them through! Thanks and Break a Leg to all of you!"





Christine (King) Ehinger (*Pianist*) started piano at the age of six and holds a BA with emphasis in piano performance from Siena Heights College. At The Village, she played for *Frog and Toad*. Since the 70s, her credits include being a rehearsal pianist at the Crosswell Opera House; pianist and assistant music director at Grandma Rose's Dinnertainment; and pianist with the Perrysburg Symphony Chorale. Currently, Christine is pianist for the Suburban Singers and filled in as interim director this past year. She teaches private piano lessons and is also the church musician and choir director of New Hope Lutheran Church in Point Place. Her 'day job' is at Richard's Music on Central Avenue. She is married to Craig and they have six children and one grandchild. Her leisure time activities include cooking, sewing, puzzles, and scrapbooking (and a little music on the side).

Caresse Michelle Boyers (*Harpist*) This year marks Miss Boyers' tenth at the harp bench. She has grown up in Wauseon and teaches there as an affiliate of the Harp School, Inc. She holds degrees in harp and piano performance and pedagogy from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. She studies harp with the artistic director of the Harp School, Carol McClure. In 2009, she performed Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with the Defiance College Singers. In 2005-2008, she played harp with the Siena Heights University Youth Symphony. Caresse is often sought out as a soloist and has performed at the Grand Rapids Gospel Festival, Fayette Opera House, Sauder Historic Village, Lakeside, and many places of worship. Welcome to The Village, Caresse.

THE CAST

Dave Dysard (*El Gallo*) enjoys musical theatre in Toledo. He has performed with TLC Productions, The Rep, The Ohio Theatre, North Coast Theatre and, of course, The Village Players where he appeared in *GI Juke Box*, *Monky Business*, and *Everything ... I Learned in Kindergarten*. To pay the rent, Dave leads 360 talented and dedicated teammates at the Ohio Department of Transportation District 2 who are "Moving Ohio Into a Prosperous New World." He knows that he can only pursue his love of theatre with the support and understanding of his beautiful family - thanks for your help and sacrifices. Happy graduation, Tommy.



CONTRIBUTIONS

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The Rainmaker (Dramedy)

Dates: March 11-26, 2011

Author: N. Richard Nash

At the time of a paralyzing drought in the West, we discover a girl whose father and two brothers are worried as much about her becoming an old maid as they are about their dying cattle. For the truth is, she is indeed a plain girl. The brothers try every possible scheme to marry her off, but without success. Nor is there any sign of relief from the dry heat. When suddenly from out of nowhere appears a picaresque character with a mellifluous tongue and the most grandiose notions a man could imagine. He claims to be a rainmaker. And he promises to bring rain, for \$100. It's a silly idea, but the rainmaker is so refreshing and ingratiating that the family finally consent. Forthwith they begin banging on big brass drums to rattle the sky; while the rainmaker turns his magic on the girl, and persuades her that she has a very real beauty of her own. And she believes it, just as her father believes the fellow can actually bring rain. And rain does come, and so does love.

Adrift in Macao (Musical)

Dates: May 13-28, 2011

Book and Lyrics by: Christopher Durang.

Music by: Peter Melnick

Set in 1952 in Macao, China, *ADRIFT IN MACAO* is a loving parody of film noir movies. Everyone that comes to Macao is waiting for something, and though none of them knows exactly what that is, they hang around to find out. The characters include your film noir standards, like Laureena, the curvaceous blonde, who luckily bumps into Rick Shaw, the cynical surf and turf casino owner her first night in town. She ends up getting a job singing in his night club – perhaps for no reason other than the fact that she looks great in a slinky dress. And don't forget about Mitch, the American who has just been framed for murder by the mysterious villain McGuffin. With songs and quips, puns and farcical shenanigans, this musical parody is bound to please audiences of all ages.

President **P**uxedo.

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Emily Applebaum (*Luisa (The Girl)*) is thrilled to be playing Luisa at The Village Players. A student of ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and contemporary, she has been dancing since she was three and has performed in *The Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan*.

Emily is a sophomore at OHHS where she is a member of their Choraliers, acted in *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Pippin*, and *Annie*.

She has also done productions at the Toledo Rep, studies voice and dances at the Company C Dance Club. Last summer, Emily attended Interlochen Center for the Arts for six weeks to study musical theater and played the role of Charity in *Anything Goes*. This coming summer, Emily will return to Interlochen and perform in *Aida*. We celebrated Emily's sweet sixteenth birthday during rehearsal for *The Fantasticks*.



Andy Dysard (*Matt (The Boy)*) At 24, this isn't Andy's first go at acting and singing. Some of his roles include: Snoopy (*You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Joseph (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*), and Father Drobney (*Don't Drink the Water*). He played Bobby Holland in The Village production of *Office Hours* last season. Andy feels it is an honor and a blast

to be sharing the stage with his father, David, as they take part in the "family sport" together. He'd like to thank everyone who has supported him since the day he was born!



David Engel (*Hucklebee (Matt's Father)*) is a local chiropractor who inherited the acting bug from his daughters, who have appeared in numerous productions. Enjoying his role in last season's *Office Hours*, David is delighted to be cast in *The Fantasticks* and has enjoyed rehearsals with cherished friends from last season and great new ones in this talented cast. David

expresses his love and gratitude to Phebe, who has not only endured his eccentricities through the years, but his absences preparing for this play.



Tom Wagner (*Bellomy (Luisa's Father)*) is a three-time OCTA award winner and holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Pacific Lutheran University. He has been performing, directing, and working backstage in theaters from Seattle to Sylvania for 40 years.

Locally, Tom has worked with the Toledo Rep, Waterville Playshop, Black Swamp Players, Valentine Theatre Productions, 3 B's Productions and, of course, here with The Village Players. His most recently played Artie Barnes in *Office Hours* and Hector Lopez in *Squabbles*. Tom is currently serving on The Village's Board of Directors. In addition to owning Promotional Resources Company, he also works in the special education department at Gateway Middle School in Maumee.



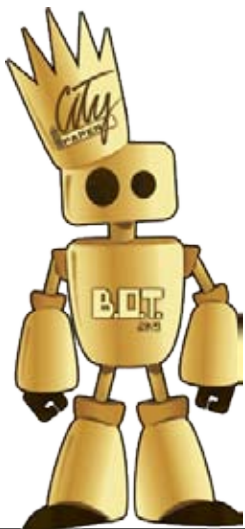
Larry Farley (*Henry (Old Actor)*) first appeared on The Village 32 years ago as the "Gentleman Caller" in *The Glass Menagerie*. Once known as a young, virile and handsome actor, who, many times dashed across the "boards" as hero and romantic leading man, is now gracing our stage in a part that shows what he has become; old, doddering, with "aged wrinkled cheeks ." However, Larry's manta remains as Shakespeare wrote "with mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come."



Matthew Oster (*The Mute*) A veteran of community theatre, Matthew is excited to work with The Village for the first time. He has worked at the Toledo Rep (Ethan Girard in *The Full Monty*), Waterville Playshop (Paul in *Kiss Me Kate*), and many other shows. He has extensive backstage experience as well as assistant directing *Don't Hug Me* for the Waterville Playshop. To support his theatre "habit," Matthew works at Manhattan's restaurant, Dance Expressions Studio in Holland and for Uptown Studios with choreographer Lindsey Denham. Matthew would like to thank Lindsey, Jake, and Derek and Laura Hansen for getting him involved with The Village Players.

Thank You!!

Voted "Best Local Theatre Group" by readers of The Toledo City Paper for TWO years in a row!



The Village Players' 2010–2011 54th Season

Play On! (Comedy)

Dates: September 10-25, 2010

Author: Rick Abbott

The hilarious story of a theater group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from a haughty authoress who keeps revising the script. Act I is a rehearsal of the dreadful show, Act II is the near disastrous dress rehearsal, and the final act is the actual performance in which anything that can go wrong does. When the authoress decides to give a speech on the state of the modern theatre during the curtain calls, the audience is treated to a madcap climax to a thoroughly hilarious romp.

Flemming (Comedic Mystery)

Dates: November 5-20, 2010

Author: Sam Bobrick

Bored by his privileged but mundane life, Henry Flemming sells his lucrative brokerage firm to become a detective. On his very first case - to the horror of his wife, Karen, and his two crazy neighbors, Suzy and Stan - the Flemming living room begins to fill up with dead bodies. Karen is further annoyed when one of them turns out to be her father. Even though Henry keeps showing up at home every day more disheveled and beaten up, he couldn't be happier. Henry is convinced he's found his life's work and Westport, Connecticut is safer for it. The play is a spoof of the film noir thrillers from the 40s and 50s. Selected play in the 2008 International Mystery Writers' Festival.

The Underpants (Comedy)

Dates: January 7-22, 2011

Author: Steve Martin

adapted from Carl Sternheim

The renowned comic actor and author of *Picasso* at the Lapine Agile provides a wild satire adapted from the classic German play about Louise and Theo Markes, a couple whose conservative existence is shattered when Louise's bloomers fall down in public. Though she pulls them up quickly, he thinks the incident will cost him his job as a government clerk. Louise's momentary display does not result in the feared scandal but it does attract two infatuated men, each of whom wants to rent the spare room in the Markes' home. Oblivious of their amorous objectives, Theo splits the room between them, happy to collect rent from both the foppish poet and the whiny hypochondriac.