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THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATER

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

presents

Written By

Neil Simon

Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

Set Design by
Kent Murnen

Light Design by
Devin Coulter

Directed by
Julie Zatko

Produced by
**Laura Ahrens
& Jake Gordy**

Sound Design by
Julie Zatko

Set Construction
**Kara Ayers, Sarah??, Steve Mierzejewski,
Jeff Mills, Norb Mills & Bob Smith**

There will be two ten minute intermissions

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

CAST

Corie Bratter Elizabeth Palmer
Paul Bratter Matt Black
Victor Valasco Rob Turley
Ethel Banks Christine Young
Telephone Repairman Kenneth R. Wieland
Delivery Man Joel Spicer

SETTING

The play takes place in a roadside cafe in the California desert.

Act I: Summer 1940

Act II: Summer 1958

Act III: Summer 1981

Advisory - Some Adult Language

SPECIAL THANKS

APPLIANCE CONNECTION



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"Gee, thanks, you shouldn't have ... really."
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[http://www.cafepress.com/
villageplayers](http://www.cafepress.com/villageplayers)



PRODUCTION STAFF

Director: Julie Zatko

Producers: Laura Ahrens & Jake Gordy

Stage Manager: Thereasa Lumbrezer

Lighting Design: Devin Coulter

Asst. Lighting Design: Rob Wieland

Lighting Crew: Angela Metcalf & Pat Mahoney

Sound Design: Julie Zatko

Sound Crew: Amanda Marie Duffee & D. Nicholas Hansen

Costume Design: Bianca Marcia

Property Master: Ben Lumbrezer

Property Crew: Kara Ayers, Sarah ?? & Brad Riker

Set Construction: Kara Ayers, Sarah ??, Steve Mierzejewski,
Jeff Mills, Norb Mills & Bob Smith

Set Design: Kent Murnen

Scenic Art: Willard Misfeldt & Brad Riker

Set Decoration: Brad Riker

House Manager: Ann Veasey

Box Office Manager: Ann Veasey

Box Office Staff: Kimberly Bruggemann, Sandy Fry, Darlene Hatfield,
Barbara Heindel, Sue Holliger, Robin Jacob, Helene Kilcourse,
Rita Konecki, Rita Stobinski & Judy Wiederhold

Program: Laura Ahrens, Jake Gordy & Frank Venda

Program Art & Cover Design: Laura Ahrens

Program Printing: The Copy Center

Marquee Sign: Bob Smith

Theatre Photographer Frank Venda

THE DIRECTOR

Julie Zatko (Director)

If you were with us last May, you may remember the wonderfully touching *On Golden Pond*. Julie directed that show as well as *Psycho Beach Party*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, and *The Shape of Things*. Julie has been a valued director and lighting designer for us since 1999, directing shows such as *Painting Churches* and *Social Security*. Also, she has taken on two additional roles over the past two years; she co-produced *Tuna Christmas*, and was elected to the Board of Directors.

THE CAST

Elizabeth Palmer (*Corie Bratter*) Elizabeth is excited to be stepping on the Village Players stage once again. During the day Elizabeth works as a BA/Art Specialist facilitating art as therapy sessions with at-risk teenagers with emotional difficulties. At night she loves to step on the stage as her own form of therapy. Stage experiences include *Wally's Cafe* (Village Players), *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Croswell Opera House), *Godspell*, *Honk!*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Bedford Community Players), *Sugar* (Waterville Playshop), *Sound of Music* (Toledo Rep), and *Gypsy* (Toledo Rep/UT). She would like to thank all cast, Julie, and Thereasa for making *Barefoot in the Park* such an incredible experience.



Matt Black (*Paul Bratter*) This is Matt's first show at the village though he has starred in numerous other local theatre productions, including *Heaven Can Wait* and *Cats Cradle*. Matt is the production manager at 13abc and is allowed to also pursue his creative desires at work. Aside from producing local commercials and long form programming, he has also lent his face and voice to numerous television campaigns. Matt is a Toledo native,

born and bred, and is thoroughly tickled to death that this opportunity has arisen. Matt is paired up in life with his wonderful wife of 16 years Becky, and his sometimes feisty 15 year old daughter Nadine. He is honored to be a part of The Village Players and hopes to continue to be involved in this wonderful Toledo tradition.



Rob Turley (*Victor Valasco*) Happily returns to the Village Players after a busy few years of working on writing projects. Some of Rob's favorite past experiences on Bedford, Toledo, and Perrysburg stages include playing Dr. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*, Doc Porter in *Crimes of the Heart*, Tyler in *Crossing Delancey*, Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, and serving as the director of *Fool for Love*. Besides enjoying his full-time position

as Associate professor in the English Department at the University of Toledo where he teaches courses in drama, and mythology, Rob's other interests include travel, photography, painting, writing, and just working around his Michigan farm. Rob is delighted to be included in such a fun and talented cast and crew in this show.

Christine Young (*Ethel Banks*) This is my second performance with the Village Players - the first was about 20 years ago. I then got sidetracked with marriage and 6 children (ages 11-27) and now they are finally old enough that I can get back to the stage! I've always had a flair for the dramatic, theater offers a socially acceptable venue for that energy! Both productions in which I've been involved have been comedies -- I would like to try a serious play next. Besides being a rising "young" actress and divorced mother of six, I've been a secretary at Jeep for 22 years, I have a small candle business that I run from my home, as well as being a part-time travel agent. In the few quiet moments I have, I enjoy writing poetry. I'm looking forward to future opportunities to be involved in Village productions. Enjoy the show!!



Kenneth R. Wieland (*Telephone Repairman*) Ken is very happy to be doing his first show with the Village Players Theatre. Ken has appeared on many stages around the Toledo area. He was last in *Heaven Can Wait* as Mr. Jordan for the Coming Attraction Players, Edward in *Spiked Heels* at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, various character roles in *Gypsy* at the University of Toledo, Ms. Rose Dinner Theater, The North Coast Players Experimental Theatre, Riverside Theatre in Ypsilanti. Ken has been in several independent films that are in postproductions. He is



also acting in *The Friends Guide to Beer and Sex* currently being shot in Detroit. Ken is also a single father raising three boys. He is 45, a homeowner, and high school graduate with some college. He works full time for DaimlerChrysler at the Jeep plant where he has worked for 27 years. Ken's love of theatre comes from the hope he may meet single women, for a romantic liason.

Joel Spicer (*Delivery Man*) This is Joel's first appearance with the Village Players, and we're delighted to have him. He comes from a long line of Lord & Taylor delivery people dating back to a great great great granduncle who proudly wore the L&T uniform in 1601, so of course when this role opened up he had no choice but to reach for it. Well, actually, he was very active in acting way back in high school – not quite 1601, but close – but the realities of family and career took precedence as he and his lovely wife Wendy raised their three children. Now, with the kids gone and the career winding down, he auditioned for Barefoot in the Park and the rest, as they say, is history – or we hope it will be, with many more Village appearances to come.



The Village Players' 2006-2007 50th Season

G.I. Jukebox

Written by Rick Lewis

Directed by Wes Skinner

Produced by special arrangement with Select Entertainment Productions
September 15-30, 2006

During WWII, Hollywood stars and starlets made it their duty to entertain "the boys." G.I. JUKEBOX is a night at the Stage Door Canteen. The cast sings some of the best music of the twentieth century, mostly in four-part harmony. Act 1 is set in uniform khaki, while Act 2 brings out the tuxedos and gowns. The musical numbers span big band, swing and Latin - it's a musical retrospective of an America we'll never see again!

SlyFox

Written by Larry Gelbart

Directed by Julie Zatzko

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
November 3-18, 2006

To tickle the humor of today's audiences, Volpone has been moved from 17th century Venice to turn of the century San Francisco. Volpone is now called Foxwell J. Sly and he is the same scheming, rapacious miser bent on extracting fortunes from a trio of rich, greedy opportunists. Sly, pretending to be on his death bed, says he will name each of the three as his sole heir. The extent that the trio will go to acquire Sly's fortune knows no bounds. One goes so far as to disinherit his only son; another offers up his wife to the lecherous Sly. Sly is aided and abetted by his conniving servant in grabbing the other men's gold.

The Best Man

Written by Gore Vidal

Directed by Marc Malley

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service
January 12-27, 2007

The New York Post describes the plot as follows: "...William Russell, the ex-Secretary of State, is a wit and scholar with high liberal principles, beloved of the eggheads and suspected by practical politicians. Joseph Cantwell is a ruthless and hard-driving young man, a dirty fighter who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. And Arthur

Hockstader is an ex-President, who loves politics for their own sake, admires a rough-and-tumble battle more than a chivalrous one, and is determined to have the final say in the selection of his party's candidate.

Never Too Late

Written by Arthur Long

Directed by John Henry

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

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

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.

MEMORIALS

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JoAnne DeShetler
Marcia D. Keeler
Friends of Jack DeShetler

In Memory of Carol Kwiatkowski

Kate Argow
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Paige Price
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In Memory of Dan Marinik

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Wengrow
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