



From the President...

Dear Patrons,

We are still smiling over the success of The Rhinestone Ball, our 50th anniversary celebration held last June 29, 2007. Approximately 200 people enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, dancing to the music of Chuck Neal's The Nighthawks, watching a video presentation of theatre highlights, talking with actors, etc. The Village Players Board provided this evening to its members and volunteers in gratitude for their years of support.

If you have not yet become a season member, we invite you to join more than 800 of your friends and neighbors who already have signed up for this cultural bargain.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to entertain you. We are grateful for your support.

The stage manager has called "places." Enjoy the show.

Sincerely,

Jean E. Mills, President

PS: If this is opening night, please join us in the lobby after the performance for the traditional opening night celebration and meet our wonderful actors and volunteers!

If you wish to recycle your program, place it in one of the baskets at the exits..

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FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

AT THE VILLAGE

Would you like information on "Sold-House" opportunities at The Village Players Theatre, and 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, and other productions are \$700.00 per show. The theatre seats 165 patrons. You determine the ticket price for your show, and how much profit you make! Punch reception provided at no additional cost. Show dates are limited.

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



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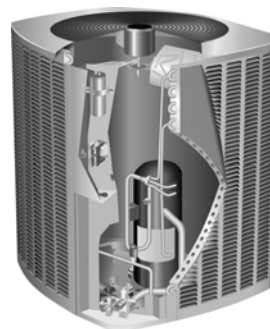
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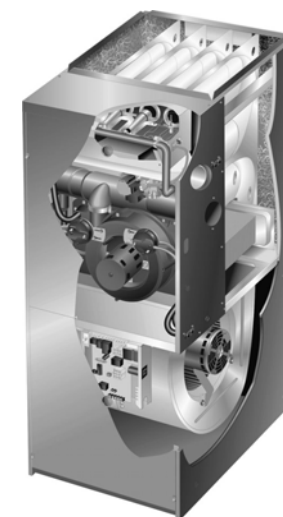
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATRE

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. They put down roots when they purchased this building and converted it from a church to a theatre. 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 this 51st season, the Board is pleased to provide new seating for our patrons beginning with our second production. This project is 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 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.



Hours:
Mon, Wed, Thur 10-8
Tue, Fri, Sat 10-5
Sunday (Sept-May)
1-5

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THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATER

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

presents

Written by
Marc Camoletti



**Don't
Dress
for
Dinner**

Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

Set Design by
Wes Skinner

Directed by
Norb Mills

Produced by
**John Henry &
Paige Price**

Light Design by
Andrew Todd

Sound Design By
**Steve Essick &
Don Weber**

There will be one 15-minute intermission

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

CAST

Bernard Jimmy Pickle
Jacqueline, his wife Suzanne Jennens
Robert, his friend Matt Black
Suzanne, his mistress Elizabeth Palmer
Suzette, the cook Clara Engel
George, her husband John Jennens

Setting

Time: The Present

Locale: In the main living-room of a country house
some distance from Paris.

Act I

Early Evening

Act II

Later that Evening

SPECIAL THANKS

CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP
DORIS WOHL

First Look Series

The Village Players in conjunction with Aural Stage will present readings of 4 new plays written by local authors and directed by David DeChristopher; Saturday June 7, Sunday June 8, Saturday June 14, and Sunday June 15 at 7 p.m. These readings are free and open to the public. Auditions for the readings will be held Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the theatre.



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THEATRICALY THINKING

I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.

- **Oscar Wilde**

The stage play is a trial not a deed of violence. The soul is opened, like the combination of a safe, by means of a word. You don't require an acetylene torch.

- **Jean Girardoux**

The theatre, like the fresco, is art fitted to its place. And therefore it is above all else the human art, the living art.

- **Roman Rolland**

Drama - what literature does at night.

- **Jean George**

A nation that does not support and encourage its theater is -- if not dead -- dying; just as a theater that does not capture with laughter and tears the social and historical pulse, the drama of its people, the genuine color of the spiritual and natural landscape, has no right to call itself theater; but only a place for amusement

- **Lorca Federico Garcia**



donations free pick up tax benefits retail store

Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity and its ReStore proudly support the Village Players Theatre by providing materials used in the building of their production sets!

The ReStore is a great place for homeowners to shop, where they find first quality and gently used items for their remodeling projects at really reasonable prices.

Additionally, the ReStore is a great place to donate materials that you have leftover. Doors, cabinets, plumbing fixtures, windows, furnaces, hot water tanks, appliances and furniture are all things we sell. All donations are tax deductible and pick up is available.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Director: Norb Mills
 Producers: John Henry & Paige Price
 Stage Manager: Andrew Black
 Lighting Design: Andrew Todd
 Light Crew: Sara Speelman
 Sound Design: Steve Essick & Don Weber
 Sound Crew: Kara Ayers & Marc Malley
 Costumes: Pam Kelso
 Assisted By: Kate Argow
 Costume Crew: Joyce Calmes & Debbie Marinik
 Prop Gatherer: Suzanne Dennis
 Prop Crew: Joyce Calmes & Debbie Marinik
 Set Design: Wes Skinner
 Scenic Art: Kara Ayers, Andrea Blake, Laura Hansen, Heather Kelso, J. Judson Lohman, Brad Riker, & Sara Speelman
 Set Construction: Andrew Black, Steve Mierzejewski, Norb Mills, Wes Skinner, & Don Weber
 Set Dressing: Brad Riker
 House Manager: Ann Veasey
 Box Office Manager: Ann Veasey
 Box Office Staff: Kimberley Bruggemann, Sandy Fry, Darlene Hatfield, Barbara Heindel, Sue Holliger, Debbie Krieger, Diane Nowakowski, Jinny Patterson, & Judy Wiederhold
 Publicity: Pam Kelso
 Program: Jake Gordy, Laura Hansen, Pam Kelso, & Frank Venda
 Program Art & Cover Design: H.O.T. Graphics
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 Marquee Sign: Larry Janney & Norb Mills
 Theatre Photographer: Frank Venda

THE DIRECTORS



Norb Mills (*Director*) has been active with The Village Players for 27 years having first appeared on stage in the 1981 production of *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*. Since then, he has appeared in over 25 productions in a variety of roles. Norb has received recognition awards from OCTA four times; three for acting and one for co-directing *Pvt. Wars* with John Henry. Norb

and his wife Jean love to travel and list their recent trip to Egypt as one of their most memorable. Now that they are both retired, they hope to continue traveling, golfing and dancing. Norb would like to extend his appreciation to co-producers Paige Price and John Henry for their efforts on the current production.

THE CAST



Jimmy Pickle (*Bernard*) Most recently, Jimmy appeared in last season's *Sly Fox*. With over 25 years of experience, other performances at The Village include roles in *Psycho Beach Party* and *Of Mice and Men*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Lion in Winter*. At other area venues, his credits include *Heaven Can Wait*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Barnum*, *Esanaba in da Moonlight*, *Jeffrey*, *Hello*

Dolly as well as improvisational theatre in Chicago. Jimmy would like to dedicate this performance to his family, friends and co-workers for their love and support, but most of all his Mother who is watching from heaven.

Suzanne Jennens (*Jacqueline*) has portrayed numerous fascinating roles on many Toledo area stages. You may have seen her as the angry May in *Fool for Love*, the conniving Countess in *A Little Night Music*, the selfish Lee in *Marvin's Room* or the evil Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at The Village Players. At the Toledo Rep she performed in *Eleemosynary*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Lysistrata* and as Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Suzanne has traveled to Tiffin to appear as Bella in *Lost in Yonkers* and to Adrian to perform as Lee in *Stanton's Garage*. She and her husband, John, have shared the stage in *Sylvia* at Ms. Rose's and at UT. Presently a Spanish teacher at Whitmer High School, Suzanne is also a former drama teacher.



Barbara Myers
Virginia and John J. Myers
Gail Odneal and Mel Honig
Jinny Patterson
Randy and Jane Pozniak
Bob and Judy Rank
Kellie Salsbury
Harry Schulman
Marge Shugar
Evie Siminiak
Louis and Jean Snyder
Lynda Lee Stern
Sally Sussman
Brent and Alison Swartzmiller
Linda Tippett
Jerry Westphal
Carol and Dave Zenk
Mary Zraik

Friends - \$10

Anonymous
Marie Adkins
Kate Argow
Ethel Baer
Dolores Bauerschmidt
George and Kayrl Boos
Robert and Mary Brushaber
Crystal Carr
Russ and Donna Clark
Leona Diehl
Norm and Charlotte Dymar
Richard and Alice Edwards
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Michael Vorbau
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In Honor of the Marriage of Derek and Laura Hansen

Kate Argow and Tom Rychlewski
Joanne R. Toth

You Too Can Become an Active (voting) Member of The VP if you have:

1) paid yearly dues (\$10) or made an equivalent monetary donation or are a season subscriber

AND

2) have volunteered during the year (e.g., ushering, working refreshments, box office, committee member, board member, worked on/in a production)

CONTRIBUTIONS

Sponsors - \$125

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Contributors - \$25

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Matt Black (*Robert*) This is Matt's second show at The Village. He previously played the role of Paul Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park* back in 2006. He has starred in numerous other local theatre productions including *Heaven Can Wait*, *Cat's Cradle* and *Harvey*. 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 extremely excited to be performing at The Village once again. Matt has been married for 17 years to his lovely wife Becky, and together they have one daughter, Nadine, who is 17. He is honored to be a part of The Village Players and hopes to continue to be involved in this wonderful Toledo tradition.

Elizabeth Palmer (*Suzanne*) is honored to once again step on The Village stage, last seen in a favorite role as Corie Bratter in *Barefoot in The Park*. Others stage favorites include *Dracula* (Lucy), *Urinetown* (Little Becky Two Shoes), *Quilters* (Daughter), *Wally's Cafe* (Janet), *Godspell* (Robin/Self), *Honk!* (Dot), and many others. Recently her acting has expanded into local commercials, independent films, and she is a proud member of Toledo's CW Green Team. Elizabeth holds a bachelor's in Art Therapy, master's in Social Work, and is currently working towards a degree in graphic design. She thanks family and friends for continually supporting her dreams, the cast for sharing their fabulous talent and humor, and Norb for his witty direction. 'If you can imagine it, you can create it. If you can dream it, you can become it.' Dream BIG and laugh LOUD!!



Clara Engel (*Suzette*) Although this is Clara's first show with The Village Players, she loves acting and has appeared in several other community theatre productions. When she's not on stage, Clara is a journalist for the Toledo City Paper, a marketing consultant at The PR Store, and enjoys yoga, running, reading, writing and spending time with family and friends. She would like to thank her family and friends...and especially Mrs. Hawkins, for helping her to learn her lines!

John Jennens (*George*) most recently appeared at The Village as Mitch Albom in *Tuesdays With Morrie*. A few of his other efforts at The Village include: *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*, *LuAnn Hampton Lavery Oberlander*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Gun Shy* and *Pvt. Wars*. In real life, John has made appearances in film, radio and TV commercials. He is also a member of The Around the Bend Players improv comedy group.



The Village Players' 2008-2009 52nd Season

Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks (Dramedy)

Written by Richard Alfieri

September 5-20, 2008

Directed by Wes Skinner

Cast: 1 male - 40s; 1 female - 60s+

Auditions Sun., June 22, 2008, 7:00PM & Mon., June 23, 2008, 7:00PM

A formidable woman hires an acerbic dance instructor to give her lessons at her gulf-front condo in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Antagonism between this man and this widow of a Southern Baptist minister gives way to profound compatibility as they swing dance, tango, cha-cha, and execute contemporary dances while sharing secrets, joys and fears. During the sixth and final lesson, she reveals a closely guarded secret. He shares his greatest gifts - loyalty and compassion.

My Three Angels (Comedy)

Written by Sam and Bella Spewack

November 7-22, 2008

Directed by Marc Malley

Cast: 7 men; 3 women

The year is 1910. The scene is French Guiana, a region where on Christmas Day the temperature has graciously dropped to 104 degrees. Three convicts are employed as roofers by a family whose roof is in desperate need of maintenance. On their way from France is an evil-minded cousin who wants to oust the father of this family from the business and his cold-blooded nephew, who is jilting the father's daughter for an heiress. The three convicts (2 murderers and 1 swindler)"take on" the visitors. All three convicts have warm hearts and are passionate believers in true justice. Possessing every criminal art and penal grace, they set matters right. In doing so, they redeem themselves as real life angels to the grateful family.

Don't Hug Me (Musical/Comedy)

Books and Lyrics by Phil Olson

January 9-24, 2009

Directed by Brenda Sweeney

Cast: 3 men; 2 women

Bunyan Bay, Minnesota. It's the coldest day of the year and cantankerous bar owner, Gunner Johnson, wants to sell out and move to Florida. Cara, his wife and former Winter Carnival Bunyan Queen, wants to stay. Their pretty waitress wants to pursue a singing career. Her fiancé wants her to stay home. It's a battle of wills. When a fast-talking karaoke salesman promises to bring romance into their lives through the "magic" of karaoke, all heck breaks loose!

Out of Sight-Out of Murder (Mystery/Comedy)

Written by Fred Carmichael

March 6-21, 2009

Directed by John Henry

Peter Knight is grinding out a murder story in an old mansion where another author was murdered years ago. A weird electrical storm affects a cosmic snafu and his characters come to life. They are quickly out of control and their bodies pile up. Can Peter find the killer before the killer gets his author? Is romance with the ingénue leading anywhere? Where is the fortune mentioned in the will?

Office Hours (Comedy)

Written by Norm Foster

May 8-23, 2009

Directed by Pat Mahoney

Cast: 16 characters can be played by as few as 3 men and 2 women

On a Friday afternoon in six different offices in a big city, we follow six different stories which are somehow related. It's a wild ride with an ending that sends the audience into a collective howl.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

As you may have heard, we are undertaking the renovation of the stage. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help us demolish the existing stage, and remove it to a dumpster that will be onsite.

June 18-20, we will be cleaning out under the stage, as well as the Prop and Green Rooms. June 21-22 we will be razing the stage in preparation for the construction.

Of course the "moms" of the group will see that there are refreshments for all, and that no one is overworking, or overlifting with that maternal wag of the finger. But think of the pride that will come next season when you see the new stage, and smile to yourself when you remember "I was part of that!"

Please call the Theatre at 419-472-6827, and leave your name, phone number(s), and the dates and times that you're interested in, so that we can get you on the list.

