



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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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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Luann, the Musical, May 16-17, 2008

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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.
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Book and Lyrics By
Willie Reale

Based on the books by
Arnold Lobel

Music By
Robert Reale

Produced by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International

Set Design by
Wes Skinner

Directed by
**Paul Palmisano &
 Tom Wagner**

Produced by
**Don Weber &
 Kathie Weber**

Light Design by
Andrew Todd

Costume Design by
Pam Kelso & Kathie Weber

Sound Design By
Don Weber

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

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

CAST

Frog Jim Latimer
Toad Don Weber
Lady Bird 1, Mouse, Squirrel 1, Young Frog, Mole 1 Mary Wagner
Lady Bird 2, Turtle, Squirrel 2, Mother Frog, Mole 2 Pam Kelso
Bird, Snail, Lizard, Father Frog, Large & Terrible Frog, Mole 3 Jeff King

Musical Numbers

Act I

Opening Three Birds
A Year with Frog and Toad Three Birds, Frog, Toad
Spring Frog, Toad, Three Birds
Seeds Toad
The Letter Snail
Getta Loada Toad Turtle, Mouse, Lizard, Frog
Underwater Ballet Turtle
Alone Frog
The Letter #2 Snail
Cookies Frog, Toad, Three Birds

Act II

Entr'Acte Orchestra
The Kite Frog, Toad, Three Birds
Leaves: A Year with Frog & Toad Reprise Three Birds
He'll Never Know Frog, Toad
Shivers Father Frog, Mother Frog, Young Frog,
Large & Terrible Frog, Frog, Toad
Snow Ballet Snail
The Letter #3 Snail
Down the Hill Frog, Toad, Moles
Snow Ballet #2 (Alone reprise) Moles
I'm Coming Out of My Shell Snail
Toad To The Rescue Toad, Moles
Merry Almost Christmas Frog, Toad, Moles
Finale: A Year with Frog & Toad Three Birds, Frog, Toad



Toad's Pond, as seen in "A Year with Frog & Toad,"
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THEATRICALY THINKING

THEATRE LOGIC

Author Unknown

In is down, down is front,
out is up, up is back,
off is out, on is in,
and of course -
right is left, and left is right.

A drop shouldn't and a
block and fall does neither.
A prop doesn't and
a cove has no water.

Tripping is O.K.
A running crew rarely gets anywhere.
A purchase line will buy you nothing.
A trap will not catch anything.
A gridiron has nothing to do with football.

A Strike is work
(in fact a lot of work).
And a green room, thank God, usually isn't.
Now that you are fully versed in theatrical terms,
Break a leg...
but not really!

You need three things in the theatre -- the play, the
actors and the audience, and each must give something.
- **Kenneth Haigh**

The stage is not merely the meeting place of all
the arts, but is also the return of art to life.
- **Oscar Wilde**

Theater is life, film is art, television is furniture.
- **Unknown**

Good theater anywhere is good for theater everywhere.
- **Frank Schneeberger**

You have two kinds of shows on Broadway -- revivals and the same kind of musicals over and over again, all spectacles. You get your tickets for 'The Lion King' a year in advance, and essentially a family comes as if to a picnic, and they pass on to their children the idea that that's what the theater is -- a spectacular musical you see once a year, a stage version of a movie. It has nothing to do with theater at all. It has to do with seeing what is familiar. We live in a recycled culture.
- **Stephen Sondheim**

The life of the arts, far from being an
interruption, a distraction, in the life of
a nation, is close to the center of a
nation's purpose -- and is a test of the
quality of a nation's civilization.
- **John F. Kennedy**

In creating and performing in a play, there is a
sense of common purpose, of living something
outside of yourself, of hauling to one common
goal. All these different artistic disciplines are
corralled into one purpose, and in the process,
incredibly strong bonds are created.
- **Eric Stern**

The cast, staff, and crew of a live theater work together toward a common goal: a good performance. Thus, theater is necessarily a group effort. However, it is never a group effort of vague fellow committee members, but of associated autocrats--a playwright, a producer, a director, a stage manager, designers, and, above all, actors. Each accommodates the others, and may overlap others in function when necessary. But each autocrat assumes distinct responsibilities and accepts them completely.
- **Lawrence Stern**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Directors: Paul Palmisano & Tom Wagner
Producers: Don Weber & Kathie Weber
Choreographer: Carol Mahn
Stage Manager: Debbie Marinik
Assistant Stage Managers: Tom Wagner & Marcia Weisenburger
Piano: Christine Ehinger
Guitar, Banjo: Marty Brogan
Bass: Joe Kelso
Percussion: Larry Hays
Lighting Design: Andrew Todd
Light Crew: Andrew Black, Adam Duckworth,
Debbie Marinik, & Jeff Mills
Sound Design: Don Weber
Sound Crew: Marc Malley & Paige Price
Costume Design: Pam Kelso & Kathie Weber
Costume Crew: Paula Hayes, Pam Kelso, Diane Porturalski,
Judy Scharren, Loretta Skowronek, Brenda Sweeney, & Kathie Weber
Dressers: Kate Argow, Brenda Sweeney, & Joanne Toth
Prop Gatherer: Sue Dennis
Prop Crew: Ernie Brown, Jean Brown, Joyce Calmes,
Glenna Ford, Pam Kelso, Ellison Weber, & Brian Weisenburger
Stage Crew: Rich Chesko, Chris Hall, & Bob Smith
Set Design: Wes Skinner
Set Construction: Andrew Black, Rich Chesko, John Henry,
Steve Mierzejewski, Bob Smith, Tom Wagner, & Don Weber
Set Dressing: Jean Davis
Scenic Art: Ruth Greenburg, Heather Kelso, Joe Kelso,
Mike Kelso, Pam Kelso, Judson Lohman, & Wes Skinner
House Manager: Ann Veasey
Box Office Manager: Ann Veasey
Box Office Staff: Kimberley Bruggemann, Sandy Fry, Darlene Hatfield,
Barbara Heindel, Sue Holliger, Carol Hojnacki, Rita Konecki,
Debbie Krieger, Diane Nowakowski, Jinny Patterson, & Judy Wiederhold
Publicity: Pam Kelso & Kathie Weber
Program: Jake Gordy, Laura Hansen, Pam Kelso, & Frank Venda

PRODUCTION STAFF

Program Art & Cover Design: H.O.T. Graphics
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DON & KATHIE WEBER
PERRY WOODWORTH

THE DIRECTORS



Paul Palmisano (*Director*) Village Players patrons will remember Paul as Ex-President, Art Hockstader in last year's production of *The Best Man*. 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*. Some of his musical directing credits include *The Music Man*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Kismet*, *How to Succeed in Business ...*, and *The Most Happy Fella*. He worked with Rod Serling, then a writer at WLW-TV in Cincinnati and starred in a PBS Children's Hour opposite Kaye Ballard, who played his wife. Paul is a retired Human Resource Director from St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center and enjoys his volunteer work there, as well as puzzles and traveling. This past June he was elected to the Board of Directors of The Village Players.

Tom Wagner (*Director*) Tom has been directing and performing on stages from Seattle to Sylvania for nearly 40 years. He is a three-time Ohio Community Theater Association award winner and holds a B.A. degree in theatre from Pacific Lutheran University. Locally, in addition to The Village Players, Tom has worked with The Toledo Rep, The Valentine Theater, Waterville Playshop, Black Swamp Players, Three B's Productions and both the Grand Rapids and Sylvania Historical Societies. He has also worked extensively on the West Coast.



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Harry Schulman
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Evie Siminiak
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Sally Sussman
Brent and Alison Swartzmiller
Linda Tippett
Jerry Westphal
Carol and Dave Zenk
Mary Zraik

Friends - \$10

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Kate Argow
Ethel Baer
Dolores Bauerschmidt
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Robert and Mary Brushaber
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Russ and Donna Clark
Leona Diehl
Norm and Charlotte Dymar
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James Garbers
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In Honor of the Marriage of Derek and Laura Hansen

Kate Argow and Tom Rychlewski
Joanne R. Toth

Questions and Comments Welcome

Do you have a question, comment, or idea that you'd like to share with The Village? Are you interested in acting, directing, or helping out behind the scenes?

Send an e-mail to VPlayers@gmail.com, we'd love to hear from you!

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Nancy Ibarra
Jean Rose Janney
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Clarence Kalmbach
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Nancy Morningstar
Dave and Judy Murray



Carol Mahn (Choreographer) Carol has been a dance instructor, studio owner, and choreographer in the Toledo area for 28 years. She has worked with Arts Unlimited, Central City Ministries, and Napoleon Public Schools to bring dance to elementary and junior high school children. She has also choreographed several musicals for area high schools.

Carol was Artistic Director of the former Dance Image Dance Company and now holds that title at the newly formed Harmony, a company of dancers most noted for *The Performance in the Pond*. She was also the promoter of the first annual Artists on the River Festival on Labor Day weekend.

THE CAST

Jim Latimer (Frog) Jim appeared at The Village Players last season in *G.I. Jukebox* and as Captain Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He also played the role of Arvide Abernathy at the Valentine Theatre's recent performance of *Guys and Dolls*. During his many years living in California, he appeared in various community opera performances including: Mephistopheles in *Faust*, King Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Colline in *La Boheme*, Ferrando in *Il Trovatore*, Morales in *Carmen*, and Bonze / Prince Yamadori in *Madame Butterfly*. Having worked much of his career in engineering and international business, he now is an ordained minister serving at the Point Place United Church of Christ, here in Toledo.



Don Weber (Toad) Don is an award-winning actor, having performed with numerous theatre companies in the area for over 37 years including The Village Players, The Crowell Opera House, The Toledo Rep, and the former Westgate Dinner Theatre. He lists his favorite roles as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Oscar in *The Odd Couple*. His favorite moment on stage, however, came last season when his wife, Kathie, with script in hand, stepped in at the last moment to play his on-stage wife when the lead actress was hospitalized. "I think I was more nervous than she was, but she really pulled it off. A well-respected actress in the audience that evening told her, 'After five minutes I forgot you had the script in your hand.' High praise, indeed." Don retired last May from WNWQ-TV, NBC 24 after more than 34 years in television production.





Mary Wagner (*Mouse & others*) Mary has been involved in theatre for over half her life span. She's stage managed, assistant directed, and choreographed as well as performed throughout the Ohio community theatre circuit. Most recently she was seen in Waterville Playshop's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Over the last 12 years some of Mary's favorite roles have included Chris Gorman in *Rumors*, Winnie and Dolly Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun*, The Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, and Beauty in *The Masque of Beauty and the Beast*.

Pam Kelso (*Turtle & others*) Pam is Vice President for Public Relations for The Village. She has been active in theatre in the greater Toledo area since she arrived here from Cleveland in 1971. Some of you may remember her from Friar Tuck's in Maumee where she performed professionally in *Who was Depressed in the Depression?*, *World War Two*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* and all the other theatrical shows that were put on there from 1975 to 1990. She has appeared at Ms. Rose's Dinner Theatre as Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly* and in the musical review *Side by Side* by Sondheim. Most recently she performed in the show *Love Letters* at the Elk's Lodge in Maumee. Pam is the mother of two grown sons and grandmother to four; two boys and two girls. Her husband, Bob, has been a New York Life agent for more than 24 years.



Jeff King (*Snail & others*) Jeff is thrilled to return to The Village Players. Past shows that you may have seen parts of him include *The Full Monty* (Toledo Rep/Croswell Opera House), *Monky Business* and *Suds* (Village Players), *Sussical the Musical* (Orphan Productions), or *Sugar* (Waterville Playshop). His being cast as Snail from the *Frog & Toad* collection of children's literature could not have come at a better time. After the passing of his father-in-law, Jerry Milks, Jeffrey has come to a startling realization: "It's not how fast you go somewhere or when you stop; it's what you do along the journey that makes the difference." Jeffrey would like to thank his beautiful wife, Korinne, for her tireless support of his on and offstage antics and would like to dedicate his performance in honor of Jerry Milks.

The Village Players' 2007-2008 51st Season

Tuesdays With Morrie (Drama)

Written by Jeffery Hatcher and Mitch Albom

January 11-26, 2008

Directed by Larry Farley

Auditions Mon., Nov. 5, 2007, 7:00PM

Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist, rediscovers Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor, in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing Morrie is dying of Lou Gehrig's Disease, Mitch resumes his Tuesday visits, just as he did in college. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final class: "Lessons in How to Live."

Let's Murder Marcia (Comedy)

Written by Monk Ferris

Feb. 29 - March 15, 2008

Directed by Pat Mahoney

Auditions Mon., Nov. 12, 2007, 7:00PM & Tue., Nov. 13, 2007, 7:00PM

A happy housewife, named Marcia, is obsessed with murder mysteries. The laughs begin when she overhears a conversation, which leads her to believe that family members are planning her demise. She attempts to turn the tables on the would-be murderers only leading to confusion in the household.

Don't Dress For Dinner (Farce)

Written by Marc Camoletti

May 2-17, 2008 (Matinee May 4th)

Directed by Norb Mills

Auditions Mon., Jan. 14, 2008, 7:00PM & Tue., Jan. 15, 2008, 7:00PM

This farcical concoction involves a married couple, an old friend, a voluptuous mistress and an outlandish cook who's enlisted to take on different identities in a succession of lies, deceptions and misunderstandings. The plot is a recipe for hilarious confusion with more twists than a corkscrew.