



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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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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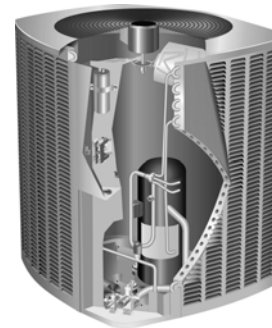
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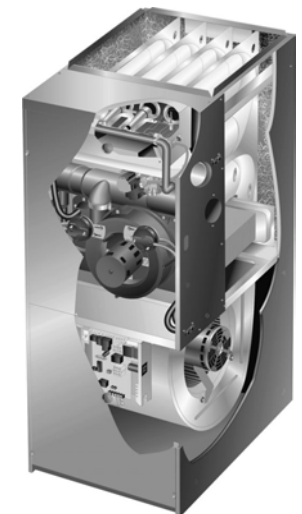
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Grandma Steps Out, February 15-16, 2008
Luann, the Musical, May 16-17, 2008

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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.



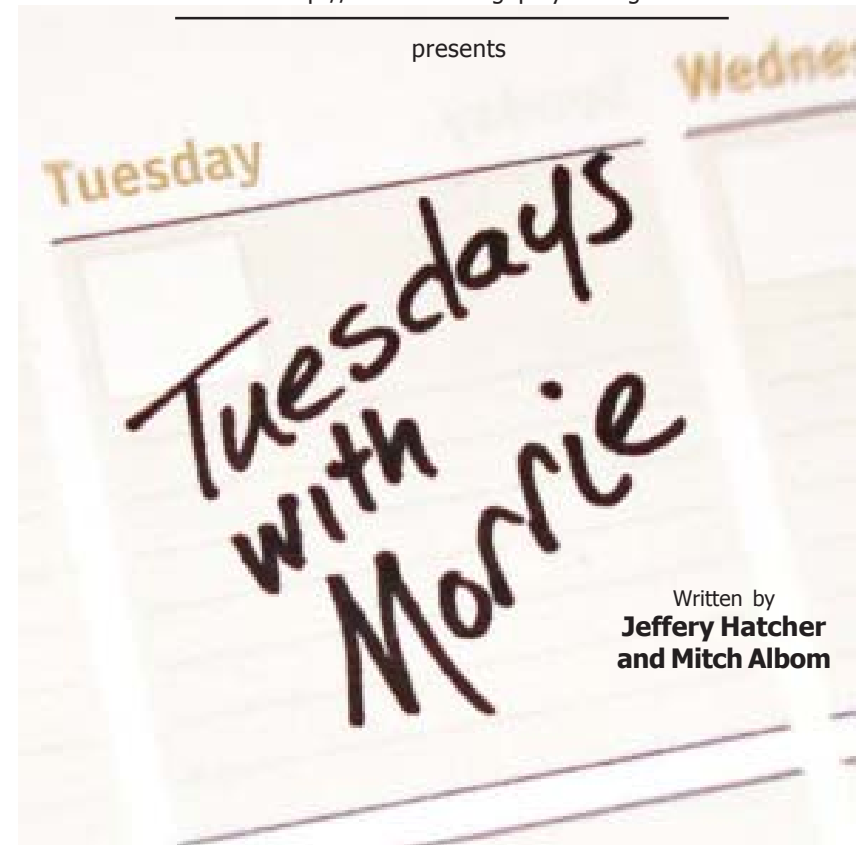
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THE VILLAGE PLAYERS THEATER

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



Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Set Design by
Wes Skinner

Light Design by
Andrew Todd

Directed by
Larry Farley

Assistant Director
Debbie Marinik

Produced by
**Marc Malley &
Jean Mills**

Sound Design By
Don Weber

There will be no intermission

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

CAST

Mitch Albom John Jennens
Morrie Schwartz John Henry
Janine Nicole Heitger

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The Village Players' 2007-2008 51st Season

Let's Murder Marsha (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.



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Mary Zraik

Friends - \$10

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Russ and Donna Clark
Leona Diehl
Norm and Charlotte Dymar
Richard and Alice Edwards
Shirley Gaffney
James Garbers
Helen A. Gillen
Don And Lynn Harter
Cheryl Hoffman
Charles J. Kehres
Craig Knowle
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Diane Kornowa
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Richard and Charlotte Lauer
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Mary Rose Rohr
James and Mary Rooney
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Kathleen Traynor
Michael Vorbau
Christine R. Whitaker

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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!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director: Larry Farley
Assistant Director: Debbie Marinik
Producers: Marc Malley & Jean Mills
Stage Manager: Debbie Marinik
Lighting Design: Andrew Todd
Light Crew: Andrew Black
Sound Design: Don Weber
Sound Crew: Marc Malley
Costumes: David Stives
Prop Gatherer: Jean Mills
Prop Crew: Chris Hall & Paige Price
Stage Crew: Tom Davis, Larry Farley, Larry Janney,
Debbie Marinik, Jean Mills, Norb Mills, & David Stives
Set Design: Wes Skinner
Set Construction: Tom Davis, Wes Skinner,
Bob Smith, Don Weber, Kathie Weber
Set Dressing: Jean Davis, Tom Davis, & Brad Riker
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
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Program: Jake Gordy, Laura Hansen, Pam Kelso, & Frank Venda
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THE DIRECTORS



Larry Farley (*Director*) For Larry this production marks 30 years of participation at the Village. From his first appearance as the Gentleman Caller in *The Glass Menagerie* to his present role of director of tonight's production, Larry has either, acted in or directed, over 20 productions at our theatre. Larry was last seen performing on our stage *Gun-Shy*. An interesting note, Larry first worked with Debbie

Marinik in 1979 in *Romanoff and Juliet*. How many of you remember seeing that show?

Debbie Marinik (*Asst. Director*) A performer since she was a child, Debbie has been involved at the Village since the 70's. She is as comfortable performing backstage as she is in front of the audience. In fact, Debbie is doing double duty in this show serving as both assistant director and stage manager. She was last seen on our stage in *Gun-Shy* with both John Jennens and Larry Farley. Debbie even recalls working with John Henry when his hair wasn't gray.



THE CAST



John Jennens (*Mitch Albom*) first worked at The Village with John Henry 15 years ago in *That Championship Season*. Since then, 'John the Elder' has directed 'John the Younger' in *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*, *LuAnn Hampton Lavery Oberlander*, and *Pvt. Wars*. OCTA presented each of them awards for *Pvt. Wars*. Village audiences may also recognize John from *One Flew Over the*

Cukoo's Nest, in which he played the role of Chief, and as Carter in *Gun Shy*.

In real life, John has made appearances in film, radio and TV commercials. As coincidence would have it, he has been gainfully employed as a radio announcer and a television sports anchor. John is also a member of The Around the Bend Players improv comedy group.

John Henry (*Morrie Schwartz*) John is currently serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Village Players. His last involvement in a Village production was directing this season's *Wrong for Each Other*, and he was last seen on stage as Senator Carlin in last season's *The Best Man*.



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