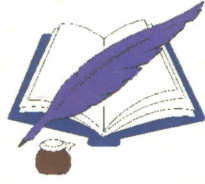


The OP Happening

March 2009

From the
Desk of.....



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

7:30 P.M.

We are now getting ready for our next Orange Players Production entitled **A Grand Night for Singing**.

Auditions will be held on March 30th and 31st, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at High Plains Community Center for a cast of five voices, two males and three females. "Grand Night" is a vivacious musical review of the show tunes of Rodgers and Hammerstein. The director, Chris Mahn and musical director, Judy Webber, will be looking forward to working with the Orange Players this spring!

OP members will get a chance to meet the director and musical director at our next general membership meeting on March 24th, also at High Plains Community Center, beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will also be a nice evening to get together with your old OP friends after the Holidays. We would love to see you so please come!

"A Grand Night" goes up at 8:00 p.m. on June 5th and June 6th, with a final matinee performance on June 7th. The Players will need many volunteers to help on the production. Whether you have a lot of time to volunteer or only a little, our co-producers, Rich Moran, Christine Gill and I will be pleased to discuss with you how to best put your time and talent to work for this production. Many hands make light work, and working on a small cast musical is such a delight. Even if you cannot volunteer before the show, help is needed during the performances. Kindly contact Christine at bullmastiff98@yahoo.com if you are able to help out.

We are also looking forward to seeing you in the audience. Happy spring to everyone as we welcome it with open arms after such a memorable winter!

Sincerely,

Marianne Miller

Co-President Orange Players

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at High Plains. It's been a long, cold winter and it's time to get together with your buddies from OP for a little business and a little pleasure.

Why should you come to the next membership meeting?

- You're dying to get the latest dirt from the board about how we're doing and what we're doing;
- You haven't seen your theatrical pals in a while and you miss them;
- There is always a great array of snacks; and
- You want all the scoop on our next show.

Yes, I knew the last one would get your attention!

We are thrilled to be producing this summer our first mainstage musical in three years. **A Grand Night for Singing** is a clever and creative review of some of the most beautiful music in the Broadway repertoire. Director Chris Mahn and Music Director Judy Webber will be attending our membership meeting to provide you with their vision of the show and answer all your questions. Both members of our creative staff have worked with OP before and I'm thrilled they comprise our team for this production.

Some of you had the opportunity to work with Chris on stage in **Best Little Whorehouse in Texas** three years ago. In addition to his acting talents, he also led a dance workshop for us in 2007. Chris is a former equity actor who has performed extensively throughout the United States, and more recently, choreographed, directed, and acted with numerous community and semi-professional groups throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island.

(continued on page 2)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

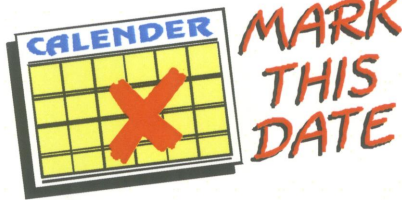
MEETING *(continued)*

We have had the pleasure of working with Judy in a number of musicals here at OP, including *Guys and Dolls* and *Cabaret*. But Judy has been a busy beaver throughout the state for decades – playing and/or music directing for musicals in school systems and community theatres to rave reviews. She has a terrific flair for this genre and as co-producer, I have great confidence that she will provide this show with outstanding musicality.

Please see further details about auditions in this newsletter, or at our web site at www.orangeplayers.net.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Christine Gill
Co-President



It's a Wonderful Life

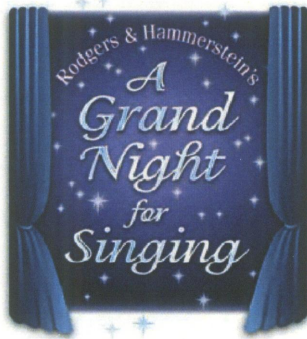
A Radio Play

As Director of *It's a Wonderful Life*, I can tell you that for me, it was a wonderful experience! The cast and crew were exceptionally talented and committed to working together to deliver a show of which we could be proud. I have seldom seen a more supportive and responsive group. I have to thank all of them for their efforts, which brought a new dimension to the Orange Players. It was a piece that demanded much of all actors, who each played several varied roles and worked hard to develop individual characterizations for each. They were also invaluable, along with the production crew, in locating objects for the non-recorded sound effects (in keeping with the period) that were all produced live by Lanette Errante, with the assistance of the actors, in full view of the audience.

The cast included new Orange Players and veteran Orange Players. Marianne Miller, OP Co-President, added much to the varied roles she played by also being the songbird of the commercials done during the play. Bruce Spiewack played the leading role of George Bailey with an astonishing range of emotions. He and his family have been with us for several years. (He even brought his own stage makeup, bought for the OP revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*). Bill Taylor, our supervising angel Joseph, has directed several shows and programs for OP and appeared in *Spoon River Anthology*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Fiddler*, and *Mame*, among others. Kate Rakowski, a recent graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in theatre, played Mary, George's girl friend and eventual wife, showing considerable range as an actress. John Cloud played our audience-appealing angel Clarence (who eventually earned his wings), as well as the emcee of the radio show who sang parts of the commercials. John is a veteran actor and has countless TV commercials to his credit. Bonnie Coppola is a retired French and Spanish Language teacher from the Orange School System, whose last stage appearance was thirty years ago in a PTA show! She shouldn't have stayed away so long -- her characterizations were right on! David Gregory, our malicious Mr. Potter (whom we disliked as a character, but loved as an actor and a person!), was a professional stage manager for many years.

Congratulations

AUDITIONS



The Orange Players is proud to announce auditions for *A Grand Night for Singing*, a first-rate revue based on the Rodgers & Hammerstein canon conceived by Tony Award winner Walter Bobbie.

Monday, March 30

or

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

7:00 p.m.

**High Plains Community Center
Orange Center Road, Orange, CT.**

OP MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your membership dollars do make a difference. If you haven't paid for 2008-2009, won't you kindly take a moment to send us a check? Please complete this membership form and include it with your payment.

Please check your membership type:

Regular \$15 Sponsor \$25 Angel \$50
Add \$1.00 for each additional household member on the membership you selected.

First Name (s): _____
Last Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Mail this form including your check made payable to Orange Players to:

Brenda Jacobson
OP Membership Chairperson
32 Westwood Road, #2
New Haven, CT 06515



It's a Wonderful Life (continued)

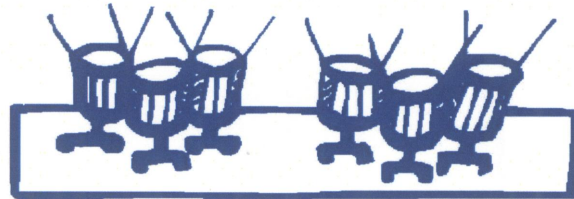
Betty Mc Cready, who played many diverse parts, is one of the most versatile actresses with whom I have worked, and just wound up a run of A.R.Gurney's *Indian Blood* at Stratford's Theater One. Rob Palermo, new to our group, played our bumbling Uncle Billy so well and was truly one of the best cheerleaders for the play, always coming up with ideas for promotion, ticket sales, etc. And Sergio Rodriguez—a New Haven Alderman and activist for children, civil rights and job placements, skillfully played many parts utilizing several different accents and also managed to be a most valued morale builder for the cast and crew. Lanette Errante, with the assistance of the cast, produced and skillfully managed the multitude of sound effects that were such an important part of the show.

There were other people besides the cast who made this show happen. Producer Andrea Shiffrin made and answered many phone calls and saw to many details, starting before casting and ending after performance. Patt Brotschul was Stage Manager, one of the most efficient and professional with whom I have worked. In *IAWL*, there were 101 sound cues, 46 light cues and 27 music cues – all of which had to be coordinated and integrated into the performance, which she did admirably.

Our Set Designer/Technical Director was John Miller. He and I spent many hours outside of rehearsals discussing details of set design, construction and lighting, which then came to fruition through his efforts. Thanks to the connection with Hunter Spence and the Yale Drama School, we were able to obtain a wind machine, operated in performance by David Gregory, which was crucial in establishing atmosphere. The minimalist set was well done — and it came in under budget! John also hung lights with Dave Spence and ran lights for the show. Mike Brotschul, our talented Scenic Artist, painted the incredibly detailed city scene that backed the flown window on the set. To Robin Lewis, our Accompanist and Music Director, we all owe tremendous gratitude. During the final week of rehearsals, she had to cope with an enormous personal tragedy, which she kept from the cast until the last performance, and continued to fulfill her role flawlessly! She is a lady of strength and commitment – I am proud to be associated with her.

I am also grateful to Bob Rich and Robin Lewis for doing Tickets, Sandy Kline for taking cast pictures, Karen Lynn of Hair Loft for doing period hairstyles for our actresses, and Rich and Colin Moran for their help in setting up on Friday. More good news — we made a nice profit!

- Pat Miller



The OP Happening
55 Raynham Road
New Haven, CT 06512-5016

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 7:30 p.m.

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road

Auditions - A Grand Night for Singing

Monday, March 30, Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:00 p.m.

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road

Performances - A Grand Night for Singing

Friday June 5, Saturday June 6, Sunday June 7, 2009

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road