

The OP Happening

November 2008

From the
Desk of.....



We have had a great start to the 2008-2009 year and want to continue its success through you, our membership. If you have not done so already, please send in your dues and pass on the information to your friends and family so we can "broaden our horizons."

We were extremely successful at painting the faces of children at the Orange Pumpkin Palooza sponsored by the Orange Events Committee. We had lines of kids the entire time and they were so well-behaved! The teacher part of me just had to say this!

Pat Miller is working diligently directing our next show, It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Show! The performance dates are December 5, 6, and 7 so please call Robin Lewis and Bob Rich at (203) 876-8137 for your tickets! This production is great seasonal entertainment designed to get you into the holiday spirit. After Orange Players Sunday's performance you can continue your holiday celebration with our Town's Festivities in the Library and then on to the Green for the tree-lighting ceremony!

We are so excited about our new website! Please visit us at www.orangeplayers.net and let us know what you think and if you have something to add! I want to personally thank Christine Gill, my co-president for her help and work in making our website possible!

The Orange Players Board meets the first Monday of each month. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (203) 795-3906 and I will do my best to address them.

On behalf of my co-president, Christine and the entire Orange Players Board, we wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season! Hope to see you at the show!

Sincerely,

Marianne Miller

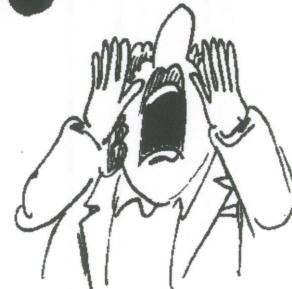
Co-President Orange Players

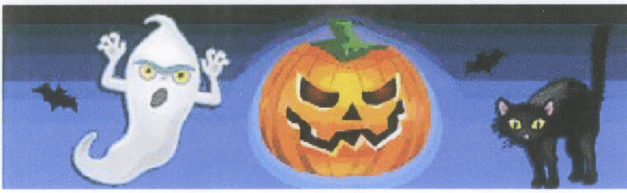
Reading Committee Looks Ahead

Ken Lenz, chair of the reading committee is seeking three volunteers from the general membership to add to the three board volunteers for the committee. The job of the committee is to review potential plays and musicals for the next season and then to narrow down the choices to recommend three shows to the Board for each opening. The Board has identified two openings in the 2009-2010 season, one a small-scale musical, and a comedy.

Ken anticipates the reading committee will begin meeting in January, with about four meetings over the following four months. In a departure from the last few reading committees, Ken would like the committee meetings to include readings out loud of play segments, in order to give the committee a better understanding of the characters. It is a lot of fun and not a large time commitment. Please call Ken at 795-3906 if you would like to join the reading committee.

Volunteers!





Pumpkin Palooza

The Orange Players were busy painting Halloween designs at the Pumpkin Palooza! Many little faces decorated with pumpkins, cats, ghosts, spiders, and autumn designs traveled around the field of High Plains during the event. We had continuous lines of children with their parents and they were so well behaved! Chairperson Marianne Miller would like to thank Andrea Shiffrin, Pat Miller, Ken Lenz, and Dawn and Rich Moran for helping to make the face painting a continued success!

Remember, you do not have to be an artist to do this and you may surprise yourself once you have tried it! Please keep this in mind for next year since we can surely use more painting hands! If you have any questions you can call Marianne at (203) 795-3906.

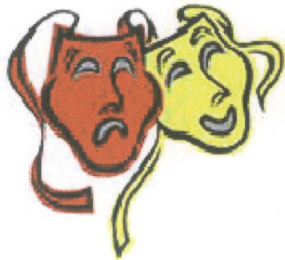
ON THE WEB

Well, Friends, in case you haven't heard the good news, the OP website is no longer under construction. Our new home is open for business at: www.orangeplayers.net

Please take some time to nose around the site when you have a moment. You can find all the latest information on auditions, show dates and tickets, membership forms, installments of the Historian's Corner – our now regular feature in every newsletter, as well as the latest *OP Happening*.

I hope you will come to use it as another resource for your OP news. Feel free to refer others to the site, as well. It is our intent that the website should serve both the Players and the Connecticut theatre community.

– Christine G.



Historian's Corner

Tell us what you remember as highlights of the Orange Players experience. A few random memories follow. In the first production of "Fiddler on the Roof" (Gary Scarpa, who directed it with his wife, Francie, was our fiddler on the roof—literally sitting high up outside the proscenium arch with a fiddle to open the show!) there were over sixty people in the cast. Every night before the performance, all of us gathered outside the stage door in back and Francie led us in the traditional Orange Players energy circle. When the strains of "Tradition" filled the air, ALL of us were on the Amity Stage—the old one!! Something I remember from that show is that, as Fruma Sarah, I made my entrance on the shoulders of one of our very talented male dancers. My filmy white costume came to the floor, so it looked as if I were airborne. One night, I nearly was. That night the young man started whirling madly around the stage, with me aboard. I held on, with knees clamped so tightly around his neck and shoulders, it's a wonder I didn't cut off his circulation—singing at full volume the whole while. At times, I thought I would land on top of the piano, and Peg Meisenhelder, the pianist, thought so too. We survived—barely-- and suspected that the young man had partaken of an illicit stimulant before going on stage—a theatrical no no! It happened only once!

"Brocko, the Prince Frog", featured an elaborate set and visual effects. Performed at Mary L. Tracy, we found that the water effects had seeped onto the gym floor, where a thrust stage had been built, causing minor damage to the newly refinished gym floor. Somehow, it was repaired, to our great relief!

"Separate Tables", the Terrence Rattigan play, was also produced at Mary L. Tracy. This was a two set show-with a magnificent fireplace that took several husky men to turn for the second scene. Not as long as the scene changes for "Pajama Game", but longer than anticipated. The scene set in the dining room required each table to be set with edibles. Mary Aloï and Peg Meisenhelder were responsible for this aspect, and kept the actors from ptomaine poisoning, by making sure that they (the plates) were made up fresh every night.

"The Music Man" saw us back at Amity. The tryouts for that show brought out droves of auditioners. There were 75 children alone, not counting the adults. About 60 of them sang "Tomorrow" as their audition piece. There were about 60 people in that cast. Elaborate hats were made for the ladies under the direction of Ruth Ray. Some of these creations may still be found in our costume closet.

(continued on page 3)

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

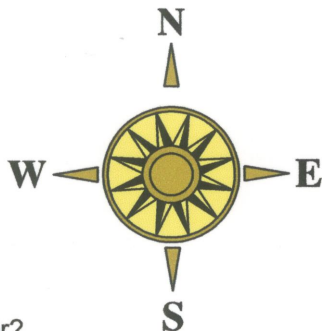
OP Membership Chairperson

32 Westwood Road, #2

New Haven, CT 06515



WHERE ARE YOU?



Have you moved?

Changed your phone number?

Switched internet providers?

Please help us to keep in touch with you. If you have changed any of your contact information – address, phone, e-mail – please be sure to let us know. Contact our Membership Chair, Brenda Jacobson, at bjacobson@yahoo.com with any updates. This way she may ensure that our Newsletter Editor and Communications Director are provided with your changes. Then we may ensure that you receive every newsletter as well as all e-mail notices.

We want to keep you informed!

-- Christine G.

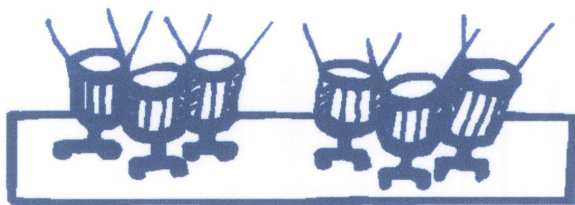
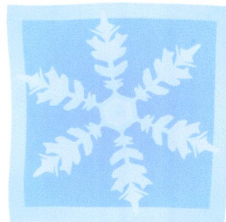
Historian's Corner (continued)

That show was the first that Hunter Spence, former property master of the Yale Repertory Theatre and an instructor at the Yale School of Drama, designed for us. The hand painted books on the shelves in the library scene and the train for the opening salesman's scene were memorable, created by Hunter and assistant Marty Saverese (her son Michael played Winthrop). There was a revolving interior/exterior set piece for Mrs. Parou's house (played by Joan Stenner), which this time revolved with ease. An Orange Players romance, which started in "Flower Drum Song" resulted in the marriage of Barbara Oxsalida and John Romano, who were involved in this production as well, – Barbara as Marian, the Librarian, and John as the Musical Director. A cast member overheard the kids in the uniformed children's band onstage planning to put "Hi Mom!" on the tops of their hats, which they planned to doff at the end of their number. Needless to say, the plan was nipped in the bud!

Tell us your favorite (or not so favorite) memories. We'll be glad to share them. (patmiller605@sbcglobal.net)

-- Pat Miller

Happy Holidays
from your friends at
Orange Players



The OP Happening
55 Raynham Road
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IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE A LIVE RADIO PLAY

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Saturday December 6th 8:00 PM

Tickets \$20

Matinee

Sunday December 7th 1:30 PM

Tickets \$18