

The OP Happening

September 2008

From the
Desk of.....



We hope everyone had a terrific summer! Now that fall has arrived, one of our main goals is to create more opportunities for our membership to grow. It is time to renew your membership and support our group. Also, ask friends and family who are interested to become part of our organization.

A great deal is going on in Orange and our Orange Arts Council (headed by Pat Miller) is in the process of creating a small performance space in the former Library on Orange Center Rd. We should all support this and work toward completing this goal, as Orange Players will also be able to utilize this venue.

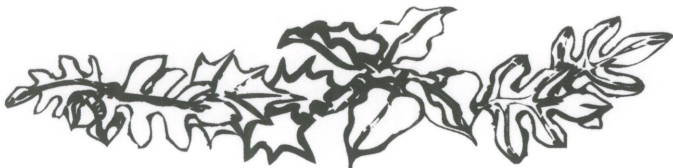
We are excited to announce our shows for this season. "It's a Wonderful Life, A Radio Show" will be performed at High Plains Community Center on December 5, 6, and 7th under the direction of Pat Miller and producer Andrea Shiffrin. It will be cabaret style seating so you can enjoy your entire evening out! In July 2009, our musical production is "A Grand Night for Singing." This is a wonderful script and score showcasing the music and lyrics of Rogers and Hammerstein!

Our world changes day to day and we can always hold onto our memories, but Orange Players must strive to **progress with the times and yet keep the "unity"** of our membership. Please support your group (Orange Players) by having a wonderful season with us!

Sincerely,

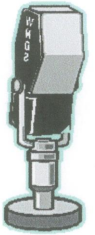
Marianne Miller and Christine Gill

Co-Presidents Orange Players



Auditions For

It's A
Wonderful
Life



Pat Miller, Director and Andrea Shiffrin, Producer announce auditions for "It's a Wonderful Life", a live radio play, will be held on Tuesday, October 14th and Wednesday, October 15th, with callbacks on Thursday, October 16th (if necessary) at 7:30 p.m. at High Plains Community Center.

The production will utilize 5 - 11 actors, depending on talent displayed. Versatility is the key, since all actors will play several characters of various types and ages. The play is a derivative work of Frank Capra's famous movie, adapted for the stage by Joe Landry as a live radio play of the period. The action takes place in a radio studio, with microphones and a sound effects table - since all or most sound effects will be made in view of the audience. In the era of old time radio, sound effects men, and occasionally women, collected an enormous array of objects used in the creation of live sound effects. Depending on turnout for auditions, sound effects will be done by the actors cast or by two people cast specifically for that function. There are two commercial breaks during the course of the play, which serve as mini act breaks. The commercials are inspired by those of the period.

Rehearsals will begin the 22nd of October with a read-through and thereafter will be two or three times a week until the tech week, Dec. 1st - 4th when rehearsals will be nightly.

Performances will be Friday and Saturday December 5th and 6th at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 7th at 1:30 p.m. at High Plains Community Center.

This should prove to be an interesting creative endeavor - OP has never done anything quite like this before.

Questions regarding "It's a Wonderful Life"?
Call Pat at 397-8915 or Andrea at 799-9328.



WHAT DO YOUR DUES DO?

[Note: An abbreviated version of this article appeared in our March newsletter. We were unfortunately unable to print the full text due to insufficient space. We hope you will take a moment to read the original article as it was intended to be read.]

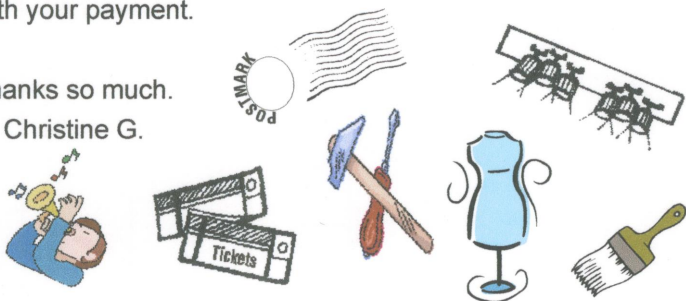
It can be such a drag. Hearing the same cry, over and over again. "Pay your dues! Pay your dues!" It can be an even bigger drag to beg "Send in your dues! Please, send in your dues!" But have you ever wondered just where your dues go? What they do?

Your membership dollars are vital to the operations of the Orange Players. We could not survive solely on box office receipts. Here are just a few of the things your membership dues help to provide:

- ▶ Insurance, so that you are protected should you be injured while working on an O.P. production;
- ▶ Copying and postage costs for newsletters and mailings;
- ▶ Custodial staff at High Plains so we have a place to perform;
- ▶ Printing costs for box office tickets and posters;
- ▶ Everything you already know requires \$\$\$\$. Here are just some of them:
 - Fees paid to licensing companies who license the performing rights to plays and musicals;
 - Creative staff stipends;
 - Pit orchestra musician stipends;
 - Costume rentals;
 - Sound equipment rentals;
 - Lighting equipment rentals;
 - Supplies for set building.

As you can see, your membership dollars do make a difference. Fifteen dollars is such a modest amount to donate each year. If you haven't paid for 2008-2009, won't you kindly take a moment to send us a check? Please complete the membership form at the back of the newsletter and include it with your payment.

Thanks so much.
— Christine G.



History Corner

After 34 years, I am sure we all have treasured (and maybe some not so treasured!) memories of past OP experiences. Here are some more of mine.

Bob McKay made his OP debut in the children's play "The Last Clock". He played The Supreme Magistrate—wearing a hat with plumes from the Metropolitan Opera production of "Manon Lescaut" lent to us by Hilda Reggio of the Connecticut Experimental Theatre (Marian Drobish's mother). The impetus for trying out was his participation in an acting workshop run by the American Shakespeare Theatre for OP. where we had an exercise involving memory and birthplaces. I'll never forget that Bob was born in Tillicoultry, Scotland!

"Bye Bye Birdie", directed by Jack Thomas, was the first musical produced at Amity High School. The multi level 'telephone' set was a triumph as well as the shimmering silver curtain for the icehouse scene. Our Conrad Birdie, John Savino wore a hairpiece so he could toss his long locks while gyrating in his gold lame outfit, and the ladies swooned in the audience! "Birdie" was Brad Blake's first show with OP. He played Albert to Marian Drobish's Rosie.

Speaking of hair—the dress rehearsal taping of "Oh, My Stars!", a children's play written for the Bicentennial, shows actors in powdered wigs— strands of which were madly escaping their bounds. Mark Kolligan and John Cassulo, along with Gary Scarpa and Joe Arena sported 'wild man' hairdos—more Neanderthal than Colonial. The situation was remedied for performance by white hair nets and plenty of hairspray.

"Anything Goes" featured over forty actors dancing their hearts out on a multilevel ship set. Janet Arena directed—and everybody on stage took tap lessons with the choreographer and everyone tapped in performance! We still have the Angels costumes, or we did, until we had to move costumes to the room in the basement. They have been utilized over the years in many guises.

We'll continue to reminisce in the next OP newsletter. Anyone who has something to share—and I'm sure many of you do—please send to patmiller605@sbcglobal.net so it can be included in future issues.

— Pat Miller

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

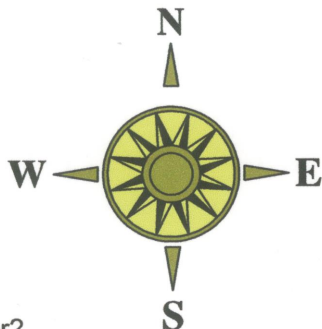
OP Membership Chairperson

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.

ORANGE PLAYERS BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009 SEASON

Co-Presidents: Marianne Miller & Christine Gill

Past Presidents: Rich Moran & Christine Gill

Presidents Elect: Suzanne Powers & Marianne Miller

Treasurer: Bob Rich

Assets: John Miller

Performance/Program: Pat Miller

Newsletter: Patt Brotschul

Reading Committee: Ken Lenz

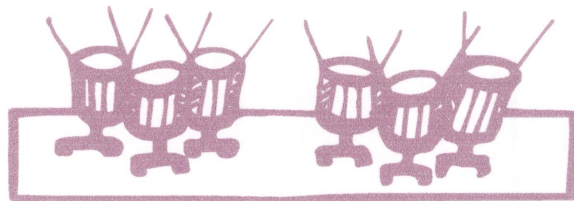
Membership: Brenda Jacobson

Publicity: Andrea Shiffrin

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION POSITIONS

Bob McKay - OP Liaison

Scott Tietjen - Communications



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

Auditions: It's A Wonderful Life

Tuesday, October 14th and Wednesday, October 15th 7:30 p.m.

Callbacks Thursday, October 16th (if necessary) 7:30 p.m.

All auditions and callbacks to be held at High Plains Community Center

Performances!! It's A Wonderful Life

Friday and Saturday December 5th and 6th at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m.

All performances to be held at High Plains Community Center

Next OP General Membership Meeting

January 2009

High Plains Community Center