

The OP Happening

September 2009

Welcome Back!

The next Orange Players

General Membership meeting will be held

Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

at High Plains Community Center.

In addition to committee updates, our agenda will include electing the 2009 -2010 slate of officers and Pat Miller, the director of our fall production of *Picnic*, will discuss the production and answer any questions you may have regarding auditions. Light refreshments will be served.

Please join us as we kick off our 2009-2010 season. We would love to see each and every one of you, our many friends we've made over the years. And please encourage those new friends we have yet to meet to take part in the fun. All are welcome!!



AUDITIONS FOR "PICNIC"

Auditions for the Orange Players Fall production of William Inge's "Picnic" will be held on Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at High Plains Community Center. Callbacks will be on Thursday, September 17th if needed. Production dates are November 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th and 21st at High Plains Community Center. "Picnic" will be directed by Pat Miller and produced by Patt Brotschul.

"Picnic" opened on Broadway in 1950, featuring the young Paul Newman in his first Broadway role. "Picnic" was made into a movie in 1955, starring Kim Novak and William Holden. Inge's work springs from the heartland of America, illuminating the lives of ordinary men and women as they struggle to overcome problems from circumstances that have spun out of their control – a whirlwind beyond their understanding. The characters are beautifully delineated. The action of "Picnic" takes place in the adjoining back yards of neighbors in Kansas whose major focus of attention at the moment is on the upcoming picnic, a highlight of the social life of the town. A handsome drifter appears who precipitates a series of unplanned events.

Young actors are encouraged to audition, since the cast includes teens as well as middle aged actors. There are seven female roles and four male roles:

Helen Potts (60s)	Hal Carter (20s)
Millie Owens (teenager)	Bomber (teenager)
Irma Kronkite (20s-30s)	Howard Bevans (40s-?)
Madge Owens (18-20s)	Flo Owens (40s)
Rosemary Sydney (40s)	Alan Seymour (20s)
Christine Schoenwalder (20s-30s)	

There may be some flexibility in ages for some of the characters, depending on the tryout population.

Backstage and construction crew members are also needed, as well as other production staff.

WHAT DO YOUR DUES DO?



History Corner

Our outgoing co-president, Christine Gill wrote an article last year about the function of your membership dues. As we start a new season at OP, it seems appropriate that we republish an excerpt from that article.

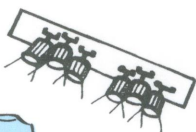
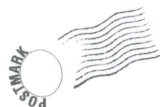
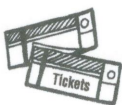
It can be such a drag. Hearing the same cry, over and over again. "Pay your dues! Pay your dues!" It can be an even bigger drag to beg "Send in your dues! *Please*, send in your dues!" But have you ever wondered just where your dues go? What they do?

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 2009-2010, 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.



For "Bracko, the Prince Frog", we had a circular thrust on the newly refinished gym floor of Mary L Tracy. We also had a pond with real water, which unfortunately leaked all over the new floor. We were almost exiled from Mary L forever. However, the damage was repaired and we remained in semi-good standing!

Prop food that we used in "Separate Tables" was set up every night by Mary Aloï and Peg Meisenhelder. The cast struggled mightily to simulate enjoyment and consumption of undiluted Campbell's soup. Not the most appetizing to contemplate every night! We had a great set for that show, with a wall featuring a massive fireplace. It was very realistic even it's weight, and consequently took several husky men and more than a few minutes to turn the other side out for a scene change.

One of our more elaborate shows with a big cast and sumptuous costumes was "Mame". For some reason, the owner of the costume rental shop (no longer in business) became incensed at something the producer said about payment and demanded the money immediately. He threatened to pull the costumes and insisted that the producers drive to Amity at 6:30 p.m. (the time of cast call that night) and hand deliver the check to him. They did and the show went on that night, but it was a close call!

"Harvey", again produced at Mary L Tracy, was directed by Bill Taylor and starred Woody Meisenhelder's Elwood P. Dowd. Dress rehearsal for that show was somewhat hectic, since we couldn't get in to hang the lights until that night—so lines were delivered with accompanying clangs, bangs and clacks from the crew. The director was not pleased; often the lines were completely drowned out—but that's Community Theater!

-- Pat Miller



ATTENTION STAGE CRAFTERS!!



The set for PICNIC is under development by our Technical Director John Miller. Soon many people will be needed in various capacities to build set pieces and flats and assist with set painting and set dressing.

If you would like to participate in the backstage artistic and technical aspect of PICNIC please contact John Miller at: JHMDESIGN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

OP MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your membership dollars do make a difference. If you haven't paid for 2009-2010, 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



Auditions for The Orange Players' fall production of *Picnic* will be held on
Monday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 15, 2009
from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT.
Callbacks, if necessary, will be held Thursday, September 17.



Performance dates are:

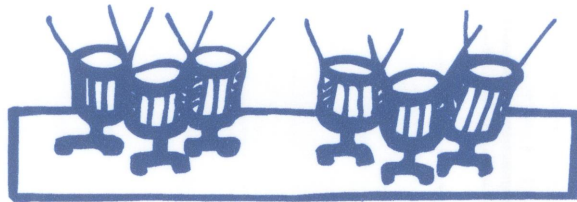
November 13, 14, 20, 21 at 8:00 p.m.

November 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Picnic will be directed by Pat Miller.

For more information about the production, please contact Pat Miller at
203-397-8915, or at patmiller605@sbcglobal.net





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

**Orange Players General Membership Meeting
Kickoff 2009-2010 Season**

Thursday September 10th 7:30 PM

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road

Auditions for PICNIC

Monday September 14 & Tuesday September 15, 2009 7:00 - 9:00 PM

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road

Performances for PICNIC

November 13, 14, 20, 21 at 8:00 PM and November 15 at 2:00 p.m.

High Plains Community Center, Orange Center Road