



# ad·lib

THE VERY LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

"Anyone who involves himself in theatre and doesn't love it is certifiable." *Michael J. Hume, an OSF actor*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Sunday  
December 4  
7:00 PM



- Saturday, Dec. 3, 8:00 pm:  
*Family Reunion* opens
- Sunday, Dec. 4 & 11, 2:00 pm:  
*Family Reunion* matinees
- Sunday, Dec. 4, 7:00 pm:  
Membership December Celebration
- December 8, 9, 10, 8:00 pm:  
*Family Reunion* evening performances
- Tuesday, Dec. 13:  
VLT Board Meeting (if needed)
- Wednesday, Dec. 21:



## December Celebration

Our 2010 December Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 4th at 7:00 pm. This year the party will be held in Stage Left as the sets for *Family Reunion* are not complicated and are easy to move. There will be sweets and savories for your enjoyment. The planning committee suggests that you eat a light meal before coming to the party but remember to save room for the treats.

This year we will be entertained by **Chris Hugo's** a capella women's group (*Sweet Refrain*). There may be additional entertainment as well. We will have our usual poinsettia giveaways. Please remember to bring canned goods for Food For Lane County and a new unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. **Nola Schulenberg** has suggested that the one item most needed and seldom given to FFLC is peanut butter, so that would be a good item to contribute.

If you would like to help with the preparations, please contact the person whose email address shows up below. Here are the volunteers so far who will be working to make our December festivities fun, yummy and beautiful:

**REFRESHMENTS COMMITTEE:** Tim and Paula Tendick ([tendick@comcast.net](mailto:tendick@comcast.net)), Nancy Boyett, Martha Greaney, Laurel LaFavor, Jean Miller, Eileen Peterson, Gail Rapp, Eliza Roaring Springs, Nola Schulenberg, Cindy Solari, Holly Stanley, Judi Wenger, and Adrienne West.

**DECORATIONS:** Holly Stanley ([stanley\\_holly@hotmail.com](mailto:stanley_holly@hotmail.com)), Gail Rapp, Judy Wenger and Adrienne West.

**PLANT GIVE-AWAY/GAMES:** Karen Scheeland ([karensch@uoregon.edu](mailto:karensch@uoregon.edu))

**ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATOR:** Eliza Roaring Springs ([elizars@earthlink.net](mailto:elizars@earthlink.net))



# Notes from the Prez

by  
Richard Scheeland,  
VLT President

I want to thank **Michael Watkins** and the Play Selection Committee for the countless hours they have collectively put in, reading over a hundred titles, and through a democratic process, choosing the slate of plays for our consideration. I think you will

find that they have come up with a varied and exciting selection. It is vital to the selection process that members read the plays when they become available.

It was delightful to see long time VLT members **Marv** and **Mary Krenk** at the November General meeting. Thanks to **Eileen Peterson** for getting them to the meeting.

Hope to see you at the December Holiday meeting. Come and enjoy some food, some entertainment, and an opportunity to see some friends.

Wishing you all a joyous and peaceful holiday season,

*Rich*



## Happy December Birthday Wishes To:

- Dec. 2 J Thibeau
- Dec. 8 Marla Norton
- Dec. 12 Joan Doering
- Dec. 16 Lucy Sullivan
- Dec. 18 John Michael McLean
- Dec. 28 Donald Aday
- Dec. 28 Rick Lloyd
- Dec. 29 Gail Rapp

monitored by Suzanne Shapiro

## Member Activities



### ENDGAME at LLTC

During November, **Tom Wilson** played Clov in *Endgame* at Lord Leebrick. The show closed November 20.

### LIE OF THE MIND

Also at LLTC, **Mike Hawkins** and **Achilles Massahos** have been cast in *Lie of the Mind* which opens next Spring.. Rebecca Nachison, who was last seen at VLT in *The Ruby Sunrise*, joins Mike and Achilles in the show.

## Play Committee - FINAL SLATE

(Here are eleven plays that the Play Committee has chosen as the slate for this year's membership vote. You will be informed where and when scripts will be available at a later date.)

### *Arsenic and Old Lace*

By Joseph Kesselring

Dramatists, Comedy, Full Length, Interior

11 men, 3 women (of the 11 men, some are minor bit parts):

The famous comedy success produced a smash hit in New York and on the road. We meet the charming and innocent ladies who populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously "acceptable" roomers; the antics of their brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt; and the activities of the other brother — these require no further description or amplification here. *Arsenic and Old Lace* is a must -- a ready-made comedy hit.

(The summaries continue on page 3)

### ***Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean***

**By Ed Graczyk**

Samuel French, Drama, Full Length, Interior, 1m, 8f.

In a small town dime store in West Texas, the "Disciples of James Dean" gather for their twentieth reunion. Now middle-aged women, they were teenagers when Dean filmed *Giant* two decades ago in nearby Marfa. One of them, an extra in the film, has a child whom she says was conceived with Dean during the shoot. The ladies' congenial reminiscences mingle with flash backs to their youth; then the arrival of a stunning but familiar stranger sets off a series of confrontations that smash their delusions and expose bitter disappointments.

### ***The Cripple of Inishmaan***

**By Martin McDonagh**

Dramatists, Full length Comedy/Drama, Flexible set. 5m, 4f

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland in 1934, *THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN* is a strange comic tale in the great tradition of Irish storytelling. As word arrives on Inishmaan that the Hollywood director Robert Flaherty is coming to the neighboring island of Inishmore to film *MAN OF ARAN*, the one person who wants to be in the film more than anybody is young Cripple Billy, if only to break away from the bitter tedium of his daily life.

### ***The Elephant Man***

**By Bernard Pomerance**

Samuel French, Full Length, Drama, Unit Set, 6 m, 2 f w/ doubling

*The Elephant Man* is based on the life of John Merrick, who lived in London during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A horribly deformed young man, victim of rare skin and bone diseases, he has become the star freak attraction in traveling side shows. Found abandoned and helpless, he is admitted to London's prestigious Whitechapel hospital. Under the care of celebrated young physician Frederick Treves, Merrick is introduced to London society and slowly evolves from an object of pity to an urbane and witty favorite of the aristocracy and literati only to be denied his ultimate dream, to become a man like any other. Winner of numerous Tony Awards including Best Play.

### ***Guys And Dolls***

**Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, Music by Frank Loesser, Lyrics by Frank Loesser, Based on The Idyll of Sarah Brown and characters by Damon Runyon, Two Acts, Book Musical, MTI**

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, this oddball romantic comedy - considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy - soars with the spirit of Broadway as it introduces us to a cast of vivid characters who have become legends in the canon. Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling have written a hilarious, fast-paced book and Frank Loesser a bright, brassy, immortal score, which takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City.

### ***La Cage Aux Folles***

**Book by Harvey Fierstein, Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman, Based on the play by Jean Poiret**

Samuel French, Musical, 7m, 3f, w/chorus of 10m, 2f. Various sets.

WINNER! Best Revival of a Musical - 2010 Tony Awards!  
WINNER! Best Musical - 1984 Tony Awards!

*La Cage Aux Folles* remains one of the all time biggest hits, adding new dimension to the boulevard comedy. After twenty years of un-wedded bliss Georges and Albin, two men partnered for better-or-worse get a bit of both when Georges' son (fathered during a one-night fling) announces his impending marriage to the daughter of a bigoted, right-wing politician. Further complicating the situation is the 'family business': Albin and Georges run a transvestite nightclub in St. Tropez, where Albin is the "star" performer 'Zaza'. Georges reluctantly agrees to masquerade as "normal" when he meets the family of the bride-to-be. But Albin has other plans, with hilarious results.

### ***Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Musical***

**Music and Lyrics by Ellie Greenwich and friends. Liner notes by Anne Beatts. Additional material by Jack Heifner. Based on an original concept by Melanie Mintz.**

Samuel French, Musical, Unit set, 4 m., 10 f., plus extras.

This hit Broadway musical retrospective celebrates the life and times of Ellie Greenwich, whose doo wop sounds skyrocketed to the top of the sixties charts. The story of Ellie's rise to fame and fortune is punctuated with the virtual Hit Parade of her music: "Chapel of Love," "Da Do Ron Ron," "Be My Baby," "Hanky Panky," "Do Wah Diddy," "And Then He Kissed Me" and, of course, the title song.

### ***The Little Foxes***

**By Lillian Hellman**

Dramatists, Drama, Full Length, Interior, 6 men, 4 women:

A milestone in American drama. Picture a charming home in the South. Into this peaceful scene put the prosperous, despotic Hubbard family — Ben, possessive and scheming; Oscar, cruel and arrogant; Ben's dupe, Leo, weak and unprincipled; Regina wickedly clever — each trying to outwit the other. In contrast, meet lonely intimidated Birdie, whom Oscar wed for her father's cotton fields; wistful Alexandra, Regina's daughter; and Horace, ailing husband of Regina, between whom a breach has existed for years. The conflict in these lives has been caused by Ben's ambition to erect a cotton mill. The brothers still lack \$75,000 to complete the transaction.

### ***November***

**By David Mamet**

Samuel French, Full Length, Comedy, 4m, 1f

David Mamet's new Oval Office satire depicts one day in the life of a beleaguered American commander-in-chief. It's November in a Presidential election year, and incumbent Charles Smith's chances for reelection are looking grim. Approval ratings are down, his money's running out, and nuclear war might be imminent. Though his staff has thrown in the towel and his wife has begun to prepare for her post-White House life, Chuck isn't ready to give up just yet. With Mamet's characteristic no-holds-barred style, *November* is a scathingly hilarious take on the state of America today and the lengths to which people will go to win.

### ***Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure***

**Adapted by Steven Dietz, based on the original 1899 play by William Gillette and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Dramatists, Mystery, Full Length, Flexible set, 6 men, 2 women  
Winner of the 2007 Edgar Award for Best Mystery Play.

The world's greatest detective has seemingly reached the end of his remarkable career when a case presents itself that is too tempting to ignore: The King of Bohemia is about to be blackmailed by a notorious photograph, and the woman at the heart of this crime is the famous opera singer, Irene Adler. With his trusted companion, Doctor Watson, at his side, Sherlock Holmes pursues first the case, and then the affections of Miss Adler — and in doing so, marches right into the lair of his longtime adversary, that malevolent genius of crime: Professor Moriarty. In this spirited, fast-moving and thoroughly theatrical adaptation, Steven Dietz presents Holmes at the height of his powers — surrounded by all the elements that fans of his exploits have come to expect: danger, intrigue, wit, humor and surprise. "The game is afoot, Watson — and it is a dangerous one!"

### ***The Sleeper***

**By Catherine Butterfield**

Dramatists, Dark Comedy, Full Length, Flexible set, 4m, 3f:

Winner of the 2004 Kaufman and Hart Award.

A suburban "security mom," shell-shocked by the new post 9/11 reality, finds herself irresistibly drawn to her son's tutor, a handsome young man with political leanings far different from her own. Her "awakening" leads to a bizarre series of events that blow the lid off her previously sheltered existence and change the lives of all around her. A dark and slightly zany comedy.

Very Little Theatre

**VLT**

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**Bits & Pieces**



*A Note  
of Thanks*

A sparkling "THANK YOU" to  
Nancy Boyett, Martha Greaney,  
Laural LaFavor, Jean Miller,  
Eileen Peterson, Eliza Roaring  
Springs, Nola Schulenberg,  
Cindy Solari, Holly Stanley, Tim  
and Paula Tendick, & Judy  
Wenger for volunteering to

coordinate refreshments for the celebration at our  
December Membership meeting.

**MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL Facts:**

The original Broadway production of Where's Charley? starred Ray Bolger

**VLT's Mission Statement:**

*The Very Little Theatre is a not-for-profit community theatre whose mission is to produce plays that entertain, educate and inspire its patrons, members and participants. Its commitment to artistic excellence and the advancement of theatre arts shall not be for professional gain, but for the love of theatre.*

Check out our website at [www.thevlt.com](http://www.thevlt.com)

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