



ad·lib

THE VERY LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

"The play's the thing...." William Shakespeare

**GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Sunday
December 5
7:00 PM**

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

Thursday, Dec. 2, 8:00 pm:
Lenny Bruce is Back...
Special benefit preview
performance.

ALSO: The first day of **H
anukkah**

Dec. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 8:00 pm:
Lenny Bruce is Back...
evening performances

**Sundays, Dec. 5, 12,
2:00 pm:**
Lenny Bruce is Back... matinees

Sunday, Dec. 5, 7:00 pm:
VLT December Celebration


T.B.A.:
VLT Board

**Saturday, Dec. 11,
12:00 noon:**
Auditions for the March
musical

Friday, Dec. 25:

Merry Christmas
Sunday, Dec. 26:

**HAPPY
KWANZAA**



December Celebration

Our 2010 December Celebration will be held on Sunday the 5th at 7:00 pm. The format of this year's celebration will be similar to the one we used last year due to the fact that once again Stage Left is in use for a production. There will be sweets, treats and relishes 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.

On the mainstage will be David Bull and fiddler Linda Danielson presenting their wonderful rendition of Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Later, **Lydia Lord** will be at the piano to lead us in some holiday singing and we will have our usual poinsettia give-away. Don't forget to bring new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots and canned goods for Food For Lane County. Please know that FFLC especially needs canned/non perishables with an emphasis on healthy foods

Come one, come all!

Notes from the Prez

by
Richard Scheeland,
VLT President

Well my term as President is almost half over. It has been a challenging six months: a major change on the Board of Directors, dry rot in the building and a rodent in the basement and now, as you can read in this month's Ad Lib, a change in the musical for our season due to a problem securing the rights to *Chicago*. (See *Follies* article below.) I hope the next six months will be less tumultuous.

Yesterday **Dave Sherman** and I gave a brief review of the history of VLT and a tour of our facility to Bob Jackson of Seattle and Deb Ziegler of New York City. They are the children of Elizabeth Scruggs, a 1933 graduate of the U of O Drama Dept who appeared in several VLT shows, including the 1936 production of *The Father*, a picture of which is currently in our lobby. They remembered their mother talking about acting at VLT and found her picture on our web site. They were visiting sites from their mother's early years and asked if they could tour the facility. Hearing about their mother's experiences at VLT and how important it was to her made me think about all the lives our organization has touched over the years.

Ms. Ziegler asked just how all the work involved in producing 8 shows was accomplished. I told her we were an all volunteer organization with a membership of approximately 80-90 members, but I had to add that there was a core group of 30-35 people who did the lion's share of the grunt work that keeps us going. So let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you who pull shifts in the box office, usher, help out in the costume shop, show up at strike when you are not involved in either the incoming or outgoing show, show up at paint parties, work on opening night galas, and regularly attend membership meetings. You are the heart and soul of this organization without whom we could not do what we do.

Rich



FOLLIES

Book by
James Goldman
Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

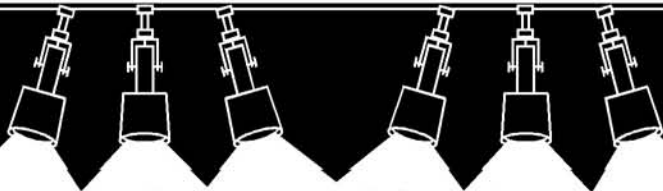
Due to licensing problems, VLT has been unable to secure the rights to *Chicago* for the current season. President **Richard Scheeland** has made many phone and written contacts with Samuel French to no avail. **Michael Watkins**, our director of the musical for the season, feels that the glitz and glamour of *Follies* is a good substitution for *Chicago* and the Board and the Membership have agreed. We have applied for the rights and have already received the contract from Music Theatre International. Here is MTI's summary of *Follies*:

"A true theatrical event, this legendary masterpiece is considered by many to be the greatest musical ever created.

The time is 1971, and theatrical impresario Dimitri Weissmann (famous for his garish Weissmann Follies of yesteryear) hosts a reunion of ex-Follies performers in his crumbling theatre, setting the stage for a parade of brilliant '20s, '30s and '40s pastiche numbers that have become every bit as famous as their models: "Losing My Mind," "I'm Still Here" and "Broadway Baby," to name a few. Amid the reminiscing, two middle-aged couples confront some unpleasant truths about their past and present and come face to face with the future.

Surreal, sophisticated, compelling, heart-wrenching and epic in scope, "Follies" uses the musical theatre as a metaphor for the collapse of American innocence and naivete in the post-Kennedy years. It is a showcase for powerful dramatic actors, featuring a large cast rich in character, which provides opportunities for seasoned older performers."

AT VLT



A "Thank You" from Alan

Facilities Manager **Alan Aldrich** says, "Thanks to J Thibeau for pressure washing our sidewalks and stairs with **Vern Haffner's** machine. They saw something that needed to be done and just did it. That's the spirit we need!"

Theatre Superstitions & Traditions

At the November Membership Meeting, **Wanda Grabau** made a presentation about theatre superstitions. The program contained questions with participating members guessing the answers. Some answers were known; some were not. Can you answer a few of the questions?

1. What is a ghost light?
2. Why is it unlucky to wear green on stage?
3. Why is whistling not allowed backstage?
4. What animal is considered good luck around the theater?
5. Why is it bad luck for an actor in costume to be seen by the audience before a show?
6. When should flowers be presented?
7. What famous play is never referred to by name?
8. Why say "Break a leg!" instead of "Good Luck"?
9. What does a bad dress rehearsal portent?

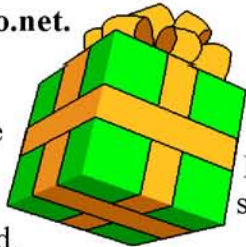
Check with Wanda if you don't know the answers.

NEED GIFT IDEAS?



VLT merchandise makes excellent gifts. There are mugs, key chains, quarter zip and crew neck sweatshirts, and t-shirts. If you would like to make some purchases please contact:

Mike Hawkins at 541-729-4947 or mdhawk.1@netzero.net.



SPECIAL: There will be a special sale for those in attendance at the 5th celebration. The sale applies only to stock on hand. Fleece will be \$15 and all other items \$5

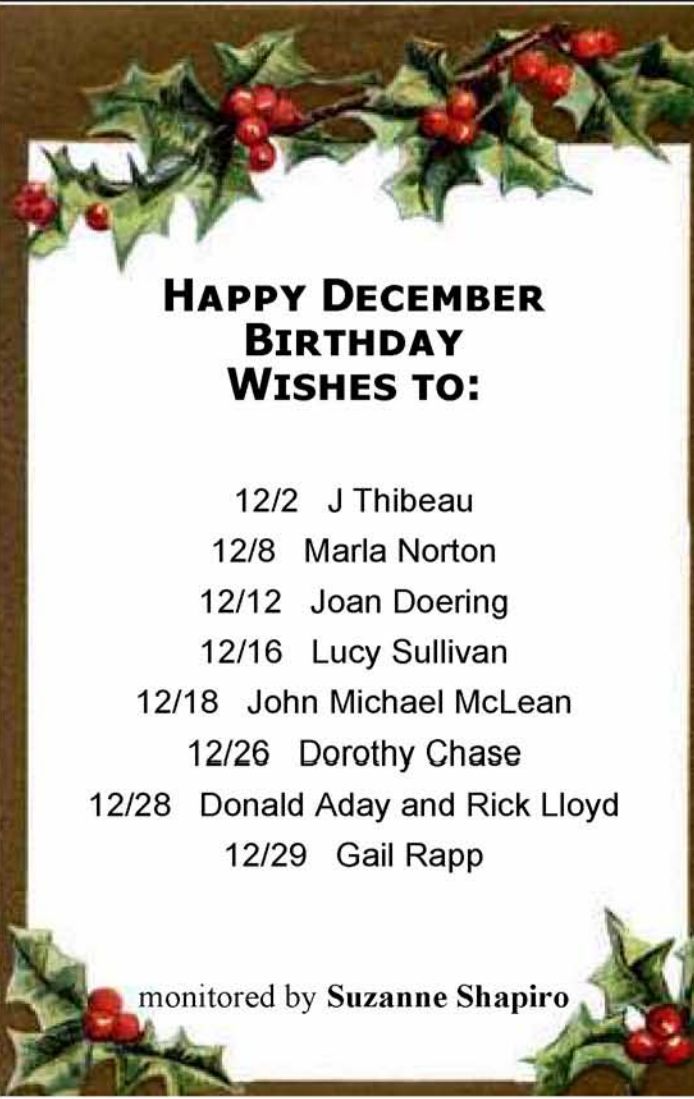
New Member Profile

PAUL RHODEN

Paul moved to Eugene after living in Los Angeles for 30 years. He has always loved community theatre and came to VLT in 1998 when he performed in *Lost In Yonkers*, directed by **Melina Neal**. Paul fell in love with VLT. He feels the physical structure of the building is perfect for theatre and the quality of the shows are the best in town. He has made some wonderful friends here and really enjoys working with them. He said that when he is choosing roles to perform, it's not just the script but the chance to perform with his friends that attracts him.

Paul just recently played the part of Joey Brown in *Shakespeare In Hollywood*. He said it was the first time he had played a part in drag and he had a great time. He is also starring in the upcoming play, *Lenny Bruce Is Back...* in Stage Left.

Paul is a single dad and lives in Eugene with his 16 year old son, Tobias. He is a school teacher and says Eugene is his favorite city. Welcome Paul!



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- 12/2 J Thibeau
- 12/8 Marla Norton
- 12/12 Joan Doering
- 12/16 Lucy Sullivan
- 12/18 John Michael McLean
- 12/26 Dorothy Chase
- 12/28 Donald Aday and Rick Lloyd
- 12/29 Gail Rapp

monitored by **Suzanne Shapiro**

Member Activities



SHAKESPEARE SHOWCASE

Don and Diana Aday will be acting in the next Shakespeare Showcase at Lane Community College on December 4th. Show times are at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

A SCHUBERT CANTATA

During Lent, **Christine Kuenning** will be singing a Schubert Cantata - Stabat Mater - with a choir at the First Christian Church on Oak Street. She encourages other VLTers to get involved. An anonymous benefactor is underwriting the project with the result that the performance will have hired soloists and a full orchestra. BUT, they don't have a very big choir. They need other women but they especially need male singers. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesdays in January and will run from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. There will probably be a full scale run-through a day or two before the performance - the date of which is unknown. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Christine at 541-342-3247.

Beauty and the Beast at CT

Don't miss **Michael Watkins** as Lumier and VLT regular, Cate Wolfenbarger as Belle in Cottage Theatre's production of *Beauty and the Beast* which opened November 19th. Other familiar faces you will see in the show are Sue Schroeder-White, Samantha White, **Martha Greaney**, Chris Hugo, **Shelly Jones**, and Melissa Miller. The show is being directed by **Peg Major**.

Return Service Requested



Bits & Pieces

*A Note
of Thanks*

A glowing "THANK YOU" to all those helping with refreshments and planning for the December Celebration: Tim and Paula Tendick, Nancy Boyett, Twilo Scofield, Tami Keller, Adrienne West, Karen Scheeland, Bob Rubinstein and Martha Greaney.



STAGE LEFT: LENNY BRUCE IS BACK...

Don't forget that on Thursday, December 2nd, there will be a special preview performance for *Lenny Bruce is Back...* This is a benefit performance to help Cindy Solari with her medical expenses. Curtain will be at 8:00 pm. Regular evening performances are December 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The 5th and the 12th are 2:00 pm matinees.

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sharon Wetterling <> smw@toast.net <> 687-1783