

Curtain Call

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The Wimberley Players

For Our Members and Supporters

Number 4, 2006

1776

A year to remember...a performance you won't forget



A decisive moment in American history will come musically to life when the Wimberley Players' new Playhouse opens its doors in September with the production *1776*. The play was written by Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone.

The spirited historical musical follows John Adams of Massachusetts, Ben Franklin of Pennsylvania, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and other key figures as they try to convince their fellow members of the 22nd Continental Congress to vote for independence. The Declaration of Independence is the grand call to the people of a fledgling nation to shake off the shackles of the British monarchy.

The Wimberley Players' production of *1776* is being directed and choreographed by **Lee Coleé-Atnip** and produced by **Jana White**; **Donna Williams** is Assistant Director. The talented cast of 27 gustily sings ensemble songs that bring the American founding spirit to life. The production is also supported by over 20 energetic crew members.

"All these characters based on the founding fathers are fascinating," says Director Coleé-Atnip. "They are passionate about their country. Yet they have traits much like people we all know today. They can be petty, visionary, anti-social, or charming. Even the so-called villains are adorable, wonderful characters." As playgoers will see, they sometimes even come to blows.

"Authenticity" is the production mantra. The players will wear specially created period costumes down to vintage belt buckles and walking sticks, right up to the powdered wigs.

The production will run four weekends, from September 29 to October 22. Grand Opening Weekend (September 29 and 30 and October 1) will feature special pre-show catered fare beginning at 7:00 p.m. for the evening performances and 1:30 for the Sunday matinee.

Tickets can be reserved by telephone beginning September 13 by calling 847-0575. They will be available for purchase at the box office at the theatre, starting Sept. 25. The new Playhouse is located at 450 Old Kyle Road (between the Square and FM 3237). Box-office hours are 1:00 -5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All tickets are \$15 except those for Grand Opening Weekend, which are \$25. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

For more information and directions to the theatre, visit our website: www.wimberleyplayers.org.

1776 Cast Members

Rick Billings as Col. Thomas McKean
David Bisett as John Adams
Coy Branscum as Courier
Marvin Carson as Roger Sherman
Carla Daws as Dr. Josiah Bartlett
John Daws as Stephen Hopkins
Caden Dean as Jacob
Martin Driscoll as Rev. John Witherspoon
Allan Eastwood as Andrew McNair
Melissa Etheredge as Martha Jefferson
Beverly Galante as Joseph Hewes
Carl Galante as Benjamin Franklin
Bill Graham as John Hancock
Kirk Griffith as Robert Livingston (10/20-22)
Amber "Kera" Harmon as Matthew
Chris Higgins as Thomas Jefferson
Carol Hofstad as Abigail Adams
Larry Landaker as Robert Livingston
Cary Michaels as Richard Henry Lee
Carol Mitchell as Lewis Morris
Jim Mitchell as Caesar Rodney
LeRoy Nienow as Edward Rutledge
Bill Peeples as Dr. Lyman Hall
Stephen Reynolds as Samuel Chase
Gene Ritter as James Wilson
Calvin White as Charles Thomson
Dan Williams as John Dickinson
Gary Yowell as George Read



Three Grand Receptions for Grand Opening Weekend

It's a triple celebration! When the new Wimberley Playhouse opens with the smash hit *1776*, the last weekend of September will become a red white and blue inaugural like none other! "Three festive occasions are planned that weekend, so ticket-holders attending any one of the performances will enjoy grand refreshments and wine, special music and decorations," said Lucy Dysart, Players, Chair of Hospitality.

Festivities begin Friday Sept. 29th at 7:00 p.m. when the first reception begins in the lobby of the new Playhouse, prior to the 8:00 p.m. curtain. On Saturday, Sept. 30th, the celebration will be repeated with a reception at 7:00, curtain at 8:00. On Sunday Oct. 1st, the reception begins at 1:30 p.m. preceding the 2:30 performance.

As guests enter the parking lot, they will be greeted by patriotic music provided by fife and drum players **Lisa Gross** of Dripping Springs and **Dan Stephens** of Wimberley, representing the Hill Country Band.

The lobby will feature a table laden with gourmet treats prepared by the Players' **Terri Bisett** of **Casinda Cooks** (Friday night), and by **Beth Watson** of **Our Lady of the Lunch** (Saturday night and Sunday afternoon).

Costumed wine vintners who will man three stations include: **Bill Cline**, **Bill Cooper**, **Cris Criswell**, **Gordon Dysart**, **Charles Jennett**, **David Joiner**, **Bob Kirkham**, **Jody Lander**, **Joe Maverick** and **John Wilcox**. **D.A.R.** members, coordinated by **Margie Criswell** will assist as costumed hostesses. **Sally Wilcox** and **Jean Sander** have designed the centerpiece and **Jane Lander** will provide name tags. **Judith Laird** coordinated the purchase of wine.

An outstanding display of artifacts circa 1700-1800 will be on display, courtesy of the local **D.A.R.** group. **Eagle Mountain Flag Co.** is donating flags for the event.

It will be a Grand Opening Weekend for sure! The Wimberley Players thank our members and many friends, old and new, who are working to make it a truly memorable weekend for our community.

And the excitement doesn't end there, as performances of *1776* will continue each weekend through Oct. 22 at the new Wimberley Playhouse.



Kathy Gamel, checking on all the details for Box Office move

Players Box Office... ...the early movers

The Wimberley Players box office will move from the Ozona Bank Lobby to our grand new Playhouse, located at 450 Old Kyle Road. Tickets for *1776* will go on sale BY PHONE (847-0575), Wednesday, September 13, 2006. Beginning September 25, the box office will be open at the new theatre from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. You may phone us or come to the "walk-up" window at the theatre to purchase your tickets. Remember we accept M/C and VISA only.

For Grand Opening Weekend, September 29 - October 1, tickets will go on sale for \$25.00. Tickets will be \$15.00 for the remaining performances. *1776* will run from September 29 until October 22. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m.

I would like to thank all of our box office volunteers for their continuing dedication. First impressions are lasting ones, and the first impression of The Wimberley Players begins at the Box Office. We are very fortunate to have enthusiastic support from all of our volunteers. If you are interested in assisting at the box office, Monday - Friday from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., please call us at 847-0575. This is an exciting year to become part of our team. You will feel great satisfaction knowing that you made a difference in a brief period of time. This is your time to volunteer. Looking forward to visiting with you,

Kathy Gamel, Manager, Box Office Ticket Sales



KWB digs the new Playhouse

The funniest sight of the summer.....in support of the Players.....was longtime member **Martha Knies** and **Keep Wimberley Beautiful** compadre, **James Barta**, along with **Ceale Kirkham**, stomping down free mulch in the beds of their pickup trucks when they forgot to bring the requisite tarps for their loads. This trio was on a mission to landscape the grounds of the Playhouse, and as it turned out, to escape the police on the way back to Wimberley. But landscape they did! **To all Keep Wimberley Beautiful members, we appreciate you.**



Left to right: **Ceale Kirkham, James Barta and Rosemary Barta.** **Martha Knies is not pictured.**

D.A.R. members bring heritage to Grand Opening

They're the real thing: Daughters of the American Revolution are descendants of "revolutionary ancestors" and there are 56 members of the national organization living in Wimberley and San Marcos. Coordinated by **Margie Criswell**, a group of D.A.R.s will assist at the 1776 receptions throughout Grand Opening Weekend. Margie explained that each member's lineage goes back to a colonist who declared allegiance to the new republic and committed to fighting for freedom or supporting the cause with funds. "Our purpose is to promote patriotism and preserve our American heritage through education," she said. The ladies will be wearing colonial costumes for the Players' receptions - a wonderful touch of history before the story of the nation's birth unfolds on stage!

New season for Starlight Symphony Orchestra



The new season for The Starlight Symphony Orchestra starts with a really *cool* fall concert entitled "*Water Works*," with performances on Saturday evening, October 14 and Sunday afternoon, October 15.

The orchestra is again under the able leadership of our artistic director and conductor, **Cina Crisara**. Cina's program of water-related, musical imagery will douse Central Texas with a much-needed respite from the drought. The program will delight audiences with refreshing works beginning with Aaron Copland's echoing and harmonic *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Handel's *Water Music Suite* will quench the thirst for tradition before the strings accompany professional trombonist, **Bob Tull**, in a *Concerto for Bass Trombone* by McCarty. The merriment of Gliere's *Russian Sailor's Dance* is another the public will recognize. The water journey also rocks and sparkles with Sullivan's *Overture to The Pirates of Penzance* and Beethoven's *Wellington's Victory*, depicting a sea battle between Britain and France.

The First Christian Church, 3105 Ranch Road 12, just west of San Marcos, will be the site of our 7:30 p.m. concert on Saturday, October 14. On Sunday, October 15, at 4:00 p.m., The Starlight Symphony will perform at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 6000 RR 3237, Wimberley.

We invite you to bring family and friends and join us. We are confident you will enjoy the performance of this talented group of musicians.



Enjoying a night at Clifford's Original Wine Bar at their Wimberley Players Philanthropy Night in July were Terri Bisett and Lee Cole-Atnip. The Players received \$360 from the evening.

Behind
the
curtain
with

PLAYMAKERS

It's about *all*
the people who
magically transform
a starkly empty
stage into a
wonderfully
performed and
produced play.

Be a Playmaker in our new fantastic Playhouse

You can make “volunteer” a beautiful word! Become a Playmaker! Your talent, skill, and expertise— your eyes, hands, and ideas—are the heart of The Wimberley Players. Have a little time? Have a lot of fun!

Box Office

Duties: Take phone and walkup reservations

Hours: Staff Box Office 1-5 M-F beginning one week prior to opening until the end of the run

Contact: Kathy Gamel (847-8081)

Village Store

Duties: Assist customers and staff at store

Hours: Two-hour shifts during Store hours: (Tue-Sat 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Thur. ‘til 9 p.m.)

Your donated hours translate into donated dollars for the Players!

Contact: Nelda Williams (847-1283) or Hugh Campbell (847-7231)

House Managers

Duties: Assist patrons, supervise concession sales, and log reports

Hours: On show nights, from one hour prior to curtain until performance ends

Contact: Jana White (847-2620)

Ticket -Takers

Duties: Take tickets, seat patrons, and serve concessions

Hours: On show nights, from one hour prior to curtain until performance ends

Contact: Jana White (847-2620)

Construction Team

Duties: Builders, Painters and Set Foremen

Contact: Adam Witko (847-2825)

Wardrobe Team

Duties: Seamstresses, Costume Consultants, Dressers, Inventory Maintenance

Contact: Judith Laird (512/392-4407)

Props Team

Duties: Procurement, Organization & Inventory

Contact: Debbie Nordyke (847-8768)

Artistic Team

Duties: Set Design, Lighting Design, Sound Design

Contact: David Bisett (847-3779) or Adam Witko (847-2825)

Show Team

Duties: Actors, Directors, Producers, Asst. Directors, Stage Mgrs, Tech Booth Operators

Contact: Rob Sandefur (847-3081)

Publicity Team

Duties: Writers, Poster Distributors, Advertising Coordinator, Press Liaisons

Contact: Jane Dunham (512/732-0545)

Playbill Team

Duties: Ad sales, Playbill Production

Contact: Judith Laird (512/392-4407)

Community Liaisons

Duties: Facilitate group ticket purchases & represent Players at your group meetings

Contact: Judith Laird (512/392-4407)

Data Bankers

Duties: Input data, Maintain a data bank, Bookkeeping

Contact: Ceale Kirkham (847-3512) or Terri Bisett (847-3779)

Hospitality Team

Duties: Plan, organize, and set up social functions

Contact: Lucy Dysart (847-9958)

Call one of these contacts if you have an interest or want more information.



Dramatic 2006 – 2007 season announced

The new season for the Wimberley Players promises to be exceptional! The play selection committee has been hard at work putting together a top notch series of plays and musicals, and you won't want to miss any of them.

The season kicks off with the popular musical *1776*. This rousing patriotic musical revisits the days leading up to July 4, 1776. Directed by **Lee Coleé-Atnip**, *1776* is the dramatic opener for our new theatre on September 29 and running through Sunday, October 22.

Our holiday show, *A Christmas Carol*, is a very unique adaptation of the Charles Dickens' tale. It will be directed by **Judith Laird**, with musical collaboration by **Cina Crisara**, conductor of the Starlight Symphony Orchestra. The play will open on Friday, November 24, the day after Thanksgiving, and run through Sunday, December 10.

The winter season kicks off with a Noel Coward classic, *Blithe Spirit*, directed by **David Bisett**. The play involves a dinner party séance and the result is bedlam, with hilarious consequences. The play opens Friday, February 9 and runs through Sunday, February 25.

Our spring show is the dramatic comedy *The Cocktail Hour*, by A. R. Gurney. The story deals with a play written by John, the son of Bradley and Ann. In his play, John reveals the comic and bizarre goings on within the family – things that should never be told! **Rob Sandefur** is director and the play opens on Friday, April 13 and runs through Sunday, April 29.

Mark your calendar for each of these wonderfully entertaining shows for the coming season! ***And, all of our plays will now be in the new Playhouse.***

Rob Sandefur, Artistic Director

Anticipation...

Our very own theatre is no longer a dream or a campaign or a blueprint. The *real* doors to the *actual* Playhouse will open this month! Without spoiling the surprise, The Players would like to answer a few questions on members' minds. We'll start outside and work our way toward showtime.

Need tickets? Our new Box Office is located on our own property! Guests may walk up to the Box Office Window at the entrance to the Playhouse. Conveniently located adjacent to the parking lot and under the covered porch, the Window will be open for ticket sales and ticket pick-up. (*See Box Office article on page 2.*)

Concerned about parking? The new parking lot is level and well-lit, insuring our guests' safe and trouble-free arrival. The large lot is well laid out and is environmentally friendly. Our neighbors have graciously agreed to let us use their parking spaces for overflow.

(Continued in next column)

What about a lobby? The front doors open directly into a roomy rectangular space where guests can mingle comfortably. A concession area and the office adjoin the lobby, and spacious new restrooms are down a short hall.

Is the theatre itself very different? Oh yes indeed! The stage is bigger, the lighting and sound equipment much superior, the seats more numerous and more comfortable. But one crucial aspect has not changed: the intimacy. The actors and the audience will share the magic in-accessible in a huge auditorium.

Have trouble hearing? The Playhouse has installed a hearing-assist system that can accommodate all guests who request it.

Wheelchair-bound? The Playhouse theatre has several "parking spots" for wheelchairs on the front row. Each can easily be reached by ramp access.

Bored? Lazy? Listless? Come watch your Players perform on the stage you've built for them. You've always enjoyed their enjoyment, and vice versa. Come feel the energy generated by their excitement and gratitude. Come see...the Playhouse is *alive!*

Come see for yourself!

The Wimberley Players AUDITIONS

Dickens'

A Christmas Carol

Adapted by Doris Baizely

When: Wed. Oct. 11, 7-9 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 14, 12-2 p.m.

Where: NEW THEATRE!!!
The Wimberley Playhouse
450 Old Kyle Road

Cast: 8m; 3w; 1boy
Actors play multiple roles!
Innovative yet traditional!

Scripts: Unique to Antique
111 Old Kyle Road
(512)847-6556; 10-5 daily

Show dates: Nov24-Dec 10
(Fri & Sat 8; Sun 2:30)

Contacts: Judith Laird (512) 392-4407 (Director)
Charlotte Caldwell (512)847-8015 (AsstDir)

What We Did This Summer!



*Avid supporter and Night in Old Santa Fe committee member: **Maxine Stevens***



*Everyone's favorite pianist, **Bruce Billingsley** and his lovely **Claire***



*Enjoying *A Night in Old Santa Fe*: **Susan Holt** and **Char Moreland***



*Night in Old Santa Fe Co-Chair, **Allen Adelson***

When the curtain fell on **Lee Coleé-Atnip's** summer production of *Oklahoma*, the Players went into hibernation awaiting September's COOL opening of the new Playhouse. A previously scheduled production of *The Cocktail Hour* was postponed until the 2007 season so that volunteers could get ready for this really, stupendous, long-awaited event. And no, the ladies weren't getting their hair done just yet!

Typically found groping around a dark stage re-arranging props, **Debbie Nordyke** came in, along with regulars **Judith Laird**, **Jana White**, and **Terri Bisett** to sort through costumes and props, figuring out what to move and what to discard. **Kay Allison** was preparing for a preview party for the Founders' Club, that special group of Players' supporters who had vision and faith in the Players' building plans from the very beginning. They opened their minds and pocket-books generously and frequently. The building committee of **Curt Busk** (Chair), **Bob Kirkham**, **Al Sander**, **Frank Austin**, and **David Bisett** met every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. to plan and problem solve. Frank is the sole survivor of the original building committee and recently stated that he never thought he would serve three years on the Board and then another two years volunteering before the building opened. Well, Frank, thank you for your patience; we're glad you hung in there! Architect **Bob Kirkham** served as the volunteer construction administrator and the go-to person for many of the problems typical of construction. Bob was up early and often on the phone late.

If the Players were an athletic team, the whole town of Wimberley would probably be wearing jerseys emblazoned with **Adelson** this fall. **Lynn and Allen** quarterbacked a team of volunteers for June's *Night in Old Santa Fe* fundraiser at **Lois Richard's** ranch with so much zest and passion that committee member **Maxine Stevens** declared, "I've worked on a lot of committees And I mean A LOT OF COMMITTEES! This was the very best group ever." Gutsy Maxine and sidekick, **Susan Holt**, went about seeking underwriters and proved so successful that we've pegged their names for another winning run. They were only two of the Adelsons' team who braved heat and perspiration, all for the love of the Players.

Summer's over! Ladies, get your hair done!



*Looking akin to Georgia O'Keefe, **JoRene Newton** at NiOSF*



*Two cute kids: Players' Starlight Symphony Liasion **Skip Jorgensen** and **Mary Ann***



*Players' Patron Liasion **Kay Allison***



*The beautiful **Lucy Dysart**, Hospitality Committee Chair*