

Curtain Call

The Wimberley Players

For Our Members and Supporters

Number 2, 2007

Learning how not to *Divorce Southern Style!*

In need of cash to support her lifestyle, Eleanor Bander decides to lure her wealthy ex-husband to their family home in an attempt at reconciliation. The complications that result form the basis of a fast-paced, wildly funny farce, *Divorce Southern Style*, to be presented by the Wimberley Players April 13-29.

Eleanor's plot becomes more devious when she tells William that their daughter is about to be married, with the insinuation that it is to be a shotgun wedding. William shows up with his old high school flame, Gretchen, a former nemesis of Eleanor's. When daughter Elizabeth arrives, it turns out she is only toying around once again with the idea of marriage to her off-again-on-again fiancé, fellow schoolteacher Vince. When Walter learns the truth, Eleanor throws him a huge birthday party and uses her feminine wiles to try to ensnare him. It all backfires as the truth emerges about how their marriage ended 15 years before. A lecherous married optometrist and a boozing next-door neighbor further enliven the madcap pace of the play.

Playgoers who enjoyed *Blithe Spirit* will again enjoy the winning teamwork of director **David Bisett** and producer **Charlotte Caldwell**. **Nancy Weaver** is assistant director. The play was written by Jennifer Jarrett. It takes place in the modern day in Charlotte, North Carolina.

David Bisett, last seen onstage as John Adams in *1776*, plays the part of ex-husband Walter. Eleanor is portrayed by **Sandy (Billings) Zellers**, a veteran musical actor seen most recently at the Playhouse in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Elizabeth is played by **Rachel McGinnis**, a graduate of the theater program at Northwestern University and a member of the Screen Actor's Guild who has ap-



Eleanor (**Sandy Zellers**) is shocked when daughter Elizabeth (**Rachel McGinnis**) rushes out of the house and collides with Vince (**Rick Billings**).

peared in many films. Perennial fiancé Vince is played by **Rick Billings**, recently seen as the Scottish member of Congress in *1776* and in multiple roles (Clown, Jake the Fence and Ali Baba) in *A Christmas Carol*. **Gina McClure**, who played the Ingenue, Belle and Mrs. Fred in *A Christmas Carol*, is the neighbor, Elma Blue. Dr. Abernathy, the optometrist, is played by **Larry Landaker**, recently seen as Leading Man and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. **Melissa Etheridge**, Thomas Jefferson's melodic wife Martha in *1776*, is Walter's girlfriend, Gretchen.

"The crew of *Divorce Southern Style* have done an outstanding job in securing the unusual and building the impossible," says producer Caldwell. The stage set is one of the many highlights of this production.

The play will run weekends from April 13 to 29 at the Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Road (between the Square and FM 3237). Performances are 8:00 on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 on Sundays. The opening night reception, April 13, will begin at 7:00 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres in the lobby, and will end with a reception after the performance.

Tickets can be reserved by phone starting April 2 by calling 847-0575. They will be available for purchase at the theatre box office starting April 9. Box office hours

are 1:00-5:00, Monday through Friday. All tickets are \$15 except Opening Night (\$20). Visa and Mastercard are accepted.



The cast, from left: Larry Landaker, Gina McClure, Melissa Etheridge, Rick Billings, Sandy (Billings) Zellers, David Bisett and Rachel McGinnis



Opening Night... Come join in the fun!

The opening performance of any new play is the first public display of many weeks of intense and dedicated effort by the show's director, actors and the production crew. The two-dimensional script comes alive at last on the stage.

Join the special fun of Opening Night at the pre-show reception that begins at 7:00 on the first Friday of each show's run. Opening Night for *Divorce Southern Style* will be Friday, April 13.

The Hospitality team plans each unique reception. The evening starts with festive wine and light refreshments in the lobby decorated to reflect the show's theme—all building up anticipation as the audience gathers to see the new creation.

After the performance, the audience gathers again, this time with the cast and crew, to share a celebratory glass of champagne. This is an opportunity to say "thank you" to those who have worked hard and shared their amazing creativity with the public.

The Players Board recently voted to increase the opening night ticket price by \$5 to support the festive spirit of these special evenings—and the making of memories: "I was there on Opening Night, it was wonderful."

Rotary Gala to Benefit Players

For the fourth consecutive year, the **Wimberley Rotary Club** has responded to our application for funding with a resounding YES! Depending on net revenues from the 4th Annual Rotary Art Gala on April 29 at Red Corral Ranch, we'll receive \$4,000, the top amount available to community organizations. The Gala promises to be a smash hit, with an appearance by William Parks, the "Phantom of the Opera" who wowed Gala attendees two years ago. Let's support this fine organization that is supporting us! Call **Marcia Cooper** at Broadway National Bank, 847-5504 for ticket reservations.

AUDITIONS

Bright Ideas by Eric Coble

7-9 pm Monday, April 16 and Tuesday April 17
at the Wimberley Players Theater
450 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley

Rehearsals begin June 25

9 shows scheduled:

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sunday matinees
July 27 to August 12

Directed by Shirley Marlett
Scripts available at Unique to Antique

For more information, go to wimberleyplayers.org

Little Divas'... Farewell Concert

Lee Colee's charming Little Divas are graduating, i.e., those talented little girls have grown up! As a Little Divas' thank-you to the Players for their support, proceeds from their farewell concert will benefit our Building Fund. The date is Sunday, May 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Wimberley Playhouse. Open seating, tickets \$10 at the door. The Players *thank you*, Lee and Little Divas.

More entertainment: Saturday May 12, Lee's Studio Recital will be presented at 2:00 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. in the Playhouse. The public is invited at no charge.

Members: Season Tickets available soon

Coming right up! Wimberley Players Season Tickets may soon be ordered for the 2007/2008 Season, which begins Sept. 2007. It's going to be a blockbuster season!

Our new Season Ticket program is a benefit offered to our Wimberley Players members only. If you haven't yet sent in your dues for 2007, please do so right away (See below).

How will it work? In April, you will receive a brochure and an order form. You'll select the evening (or matinee) you would like to attend all shows (first Saturday night, second Sunday matinee, for example). Then fill out the form, include your check and return **by mail only**.

Orders will be processed in the order received. You will receive your tickets for all five plays later in the summer. Such a deal! You won't risk missing a show because it's sold out. How convenient! You put your theatre dates on your calendar way, way in advance and you have all your tickets before the season begins. How economical! Your season ticket gives you five shows for the price of four. And just wait till you see the lineup of shows!

Membership note: Wimberley Players operating budget is funded mainly by annual dues of our members. Dues are tax deductible. Levels of membership:

- Individual \$20-34
- Family (two adult members of a household) \$35-99
- Benefactor \$100-249
- Patron \$250-499
- Silver Patron \$500-999
- Gold Patron \$1,000-2,499
- Platinum Patron \$2,500 and up.

Please call **Lynn Adelson**, Membership Chair, 847-0356, for a member application form or send your check marked Membership to Wimberley Players/Membership PO Box 992, Wimberley, TX 78676.



Players' barn dance offers fundraiser kicks June 10

The summer fundraiser will be a festive Barn Dance at Kicking Horse Ranch, the home of **Marty and Kirsten Jacobvitz**, which is located on Mount Sharp Road on the top of a hill with a magnificent view of the Blanco Valley.

The event will include a catered dinner, dancing, entertainment and a performance by the **TexCelentes**. **TexCelentes** is a Gaited Equine Drill Team which has performed at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, Equus America, as well as many rodeos. The elegant Paso Fino horse reflects its Spanish Heritage through its proud carriage and natural four-beat gait. Their unique athletic balance allows the horse to dance to music.

The party will begin in the early evening, starting with cocktails while the **TexCelentes** perform, followed by dinner and dancing under the stars. **Buppy's Catering** will be in charge of the food. They have catered their famous chicken fried steak at parties given by **Willie Nelson, Reba McEntyre, Rem, George Strait, Brooks and Dunn, Chuck Norris** and the **Aggie** football team. **Teasips** can also attend!

Jean and I are delighted to be chairing this fun, casual event which we hope will attract many of our members and friends. Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 10th. Polish those boots and get ready to "Two Step" the night away!!!!

Al Sander

Screens, Monitors and Music!

The **Starlight Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by **Cina Crisara**, is at it again with their pops concerts entitled *Screen Play*. These fun-filled concerts will entertain all ages with music from TV series, movies and video games.

Performances will be Friday, May 4 at the **EmilyAnn Theatre** in **Wimberley** at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 5 at the **San Marcos Plaza** in **San Marcos** at 7:30 p.m.

Music from *SpongeBob SquarePants* and commercial theme music from the **De Beers Diamond** and **McDonalds** commercials will surely please the ears. Themes from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Lord of the Rings* will bring fond memories to all ages. Finally, for all you video-gamers, come hear the *Halo* theme and *Bounty Hunter* theme in a totally new way.

Performances are open to all ages, and admission is free. Donations are always welcomed. We invite you to bring the whole family and enjoy an exciting evening of screen music, where everyone can feel like a kid again.

The **Starlight Symphony (SSO)** is a 55-piece, regional orchestra serving students and adult musi-

(Continued in next column)

(Starlight Orchestra continued from first column)

cians in central Texas from south Austin to north San Antonio. For more information, call (512) 858-0324 or visit starlightsymphony.org. The SSO is a self-supporting branch of the **Wimberley Players** nonprofit organization for education and the arts. Donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you, special friends

Thanks to **Lucy Dysart** for donating the enhanced lobby lighting. The spotlights and dimmers are now installed and are making the environment in the lobby so much more inviting.

Duane Redus, owner of **Maui Wowi** in town, has been preparing coffee and bringing it to the **Players'** performances. Take the opportunity to buy a cup of her wonderful java!

Deer Creek of Wimberley has generously donated a wheelchair for use by **Wimberley Playhouse** patrons. It may be requested when making a reservation for any performance.

Bright Ideas opens July 27

This summer's **Wimberley Players** offering is a wickedly funny play, *Bright Ideas* by **Eric Coble**. It will run July 27 to August 12 at the **Playhouse**.

Genevra and **Joshua Bradley** are hyper-doting parents of three-year-old **Mac**. The **Bradleys** are anxious parents who strive to give their bundle of joy the best of everything, usually with the best of intentions. **Mac** is on the waiting list for the best pre-school around, **Bright Ideas Childhood Development Academy**. Just how far are his parents willing to step over the line to get him in?

Come see *Bright Ideas*, directed by **Shirley Marlett!**

WP 2007 Board of Directors

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Adam Witko	Production Consultant

Membership Update

Lynn Adelson, Membership Director

Our production, *Blithe Spirit*, was enjoyed by members and visitors from near and far!

Please take a moment to notice the address label on your current issue of the *Curtain Call*.

The calendar year noted in the right hand corner indicates the most recent year of your membership according to our records.



Annanette Harper (left) with **Jim and Sarah Jackson**, all members. The lobby lights are blinking, and these friends are ready for the second act of *Blithe Spirit*.



Shirley and Ben Sorrell join member friends, **Jim and Mary Wilson**. The doors are open to the Eastwood Theatre - it's convenient to meet and greet your friends here!



Al Sander (left), *Wimberley Players* past president, with **Ann and Norm Rolling**, founders of *The EmilyAnn Theatre*. A trio of theatre aficionados! Translation: they love live theatre productions!



Member **Sam Young**. He's a two-fisted coffee drinker! Or maybe it's decaf? Wife **Linda** is also in attendance, but not shown here.



Members **Courtenay and Janice Atkins**. *Blithe Spirit* playbills in hand, they're ready to learn all about the actors, members and sponsors!



Dorothy and John Threeton, members and concessions volunteers. Neighborly smiles and greetings come with the purchase of soft drinks and cookies at the theatre. Have you had yours lately?



Snowbirds come to roost from Wisconsin and North Dakota - (from left) the **Janes, Larsons and Jeans**. While staying in the New Braunfels area over the winter months, these 3 couples made the short trek to Wimberley for an evening with the spirits!



Members **Ceale and Bob Kirkham** with friends from New Braunfels, **Patsy and David Altenhoff**. Savoring their "spirited" experience at intermission!



Rae and Bob Widenor. Friendly Wimberley folks with stars in their eyes!

Jo Ann Ross, member, chats with **Petesie Lee**. Surprise, you never know when the *Curtain Call* camera will be pointed your way!



Terri Burney-Bisett (left), **John and Emily Stefanowicz**, and **Tom Perkins**. A fine foursome makes merry before the show!



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.

Proudly Published by The Wimberley Players

Vol. 3, Number 2

Acting talent from near and far

The process of putting on a production at the Wimberley Playhouse begins well in advance of opening night. Audition notices for the Players' next offering, *Divorce Southern Style* went out some time ago and auditions have already been held. **Shirley Marlett**, who will direct the Playhouse's summer offering *Bright Ideas*, has already begun the process of letting prospects for acting parts and crew work in that production know when and where auditions will be held, even though the play is not scheduled to open until July 27.

Notices of upcoming auditions are posted on The Players website, published in many area newspapers and in play programs. A mailing list of those wanting to receive audition notices is being revised and expanded. Interested persons can contact the theatre to be added to our audition notice mailing list. In addition, notices go to the websites of ACOT (Austin Circle of Theatres) and TNT (Texas Nonprofit Theatres) for cast and crew members both experienced and inexperienced for each production.

The recently concluded *Blithe Spirit* brought two new faces to that production. **Beth Burroughs** made her Wimberley Playhouse debut as Ruth. Originally from Virginia, Beth now lives the Austin area. She brought an impressive background to our local theatre, having had parts in numerous productions in the Austin area, including *Steel Magnolias*, *Plaza Suite* and *The Hasty Heart*. **Aleta Garcia** also made her debut in *Blithe Spirit* as the feisty Elvira. Aleta is originally from Tucson and is now an Austin resident. A partial list of her credits include



Beth Burroughs (left) and Aleta Garcia in *Blithe Spirit*

It Runs in the Family, *Pericles*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Oleanna*, *Reckless* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. In addition to these actors, **Edwin Reck**, who played the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*, is yet another talent who came to the theatre by way of an audition notice he saw in the 1776 playbill.

These and other new talents add strength to an already strong theatre company. The Players continue to recruit talent of this caliber throughout Central Texas as well as here at home, where *Blithe Spirit's* **Carl Galante**, "**Kera**" **Harmon**, **Judith and Martin Driscoll**, **Judith Laird** and director **David Bisett** are important members of The Players pool of talent.

The new Wimberley Playhouse is a great place for prospective actors and crew members to get into theatre. The Playhouse now has lighting, sound, and stage facilities that make it possible for participants in each production to raise it to an ever-greater excellence.

The call for proven talent, expertise and experience goes out early in the planning stage of each production, as does the call for new talent, new expertise and new experience. The Players have had much good fortune in finding both proven and new talent, but remember, inexperience is no barrier to joining in. Watch for those audition notices, and when they are published, consider joining in. Working in a theatre production is a great way to develop talent and learn about theatre craft.

Audition! There's no better or quicker way to become a Playmaker.



Beth Burroughs



Aleta Garcia



Edwin Reck

Stage Managers...they do a lot behind your back

What is a stage manager's job? It could be compared to the job of the conductor of an orchestra. A conductor must know all the parts that each section of the orchestra is to play, rehearse the musicians, and pull everything together into a seamless performance. What a conductor is to musicians and a director is to actors, stage managers are to all the behind-the-scenes aspects of what an audience sees onstage.

"A stage manager carries out the director's wishes," according to **Rob Sandefur**, Vice President and Artistic Director of the Players. Rob served as stage manager for the run of *Blithe Spirit*, The Players' most recent production. The stage manager, he says, "calls the show," making decisions regarding backstage operations and anything that happens onstage. The responsibilities of the job include sound, lighting and the set. The stage manager makes sure that all cues are properly handled and that the show flows smoothly. The manager's responsibilities also include resetting the stage for the next performance and holding discussions with the backstage crews on how to improve the show.

Judith Laird, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for the Players, will be stage manager for the next Playhouse production, *Divorce Southern Style*. She points out that work on a production begins well in advance of opening night. "Seven to ten days before opening, the technical crew has a rehearsal. It's a one-on-one rehearsal for practicing



The Tech Booth is "Control Central" for the Stage Manager. **Rob Sandefur**, *Blithe Spirit*

everything that will occur during the show. These rehearsals take place with the stage manager at a table set up in the theatre and the show is polished before the stage manager's operation moves to the tech booth."

Judith continues, "The new theatre has the advantage of having an intercom system that allows the stage manager to communicate with all members of the tech and backstage crews through their headsets. The benefit of having one person, the stage manager, in charge is

that the show can be coordinated and run more smoothly. Cast and crew get to know each other, and a stage manager can relieve the director and be ready to act fast if problems occur." In addition to all these duties, Judith says, the stage manager also communicates with the house manager to coordinate seating, the intermission break and see to it that the audience has returned to their seats in time for the next act.

Charlotte Caldwell, another Players volunteer who has been stage manager, says she found it fun. "The job is being the coordinator for everything. The stage manager reads the script and follows along as the action on stage is in progress. The job consists of cuing the actors and the light and sound technicians. Where the director's job ends, the stage manager's begins, and the object of the job is to make everything run like clockwork."

It might also be fun for the audience to follow along as well, and watch how a good stage manager's work goes unnoticed.



The Stage Manager has to be a traffic cop and keep everything moving smoothly. **Judith Laird**, *It Could Be Any One of Us*

Thanks to Mickey Trent for contributing these PlayMakers articles.