

Deathtrap

Be prepared to expect the very unexpected

Be prepared for an exciting departure from the usual “whodunit” when you enter into the mystery thriller *Deathtrap*, the next production at the Wimberley Playhouse. This deliciously clever play, opening April 4, keeps you on the edge of your seat with its many creative twists and unexpected turns. Just when you think you know where the story is headed, you’re jolted with the unexpected.

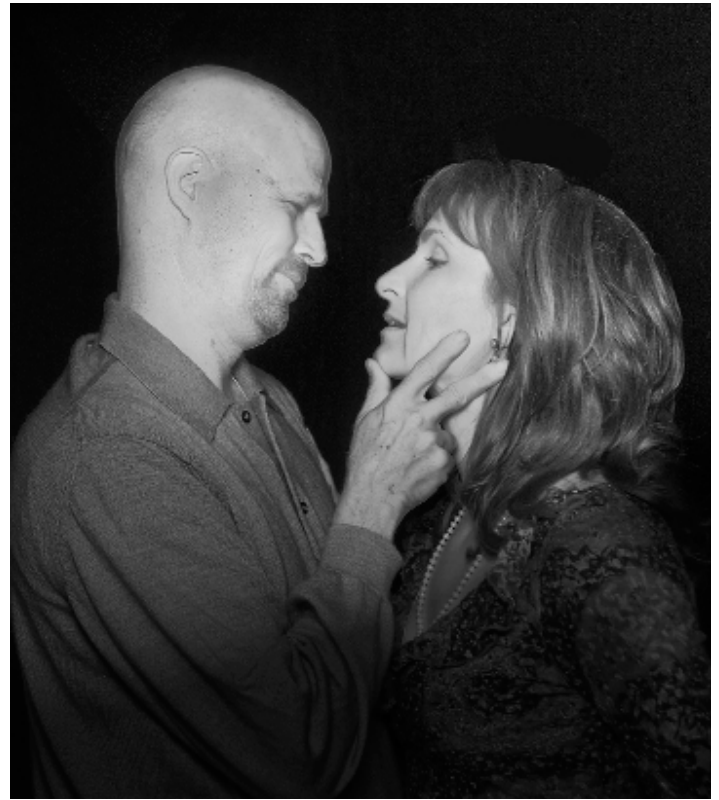
The underlying question is: How far is a playwright willing to go to get that perfect script and get back into the world of theatre? Sidney Bruhl, living deep in the Connecticut woods with his ailing wife, Myra, is suffering severely from writer’s block. A talented former student of his, Clifford Anderson, shows up with a well-written script that Sidney is “dying” to get his hands on.

The next-door neighbor, a psychic named Helga Ten Dorp, enters from time to time and increases the suspense with her extra-sensory perceptions of what is happening. Sidney’s lawyer, Porter Milgrim, also arrives and adds tension to the scene.

Put these five characters into the witch’s kettle and stir them carefully. You will come out with a mystery thriller, a play full of cat and mouse. Audiences will see some new flavors stirred into this production, especially in terms of lighting and sound. Most plays utilize music before, after, and as transitions surrounding the action. But “*Deathtrap*” music will be heard under many scenes, much like a movie.

Deathtrap was written by Ira Levin, novelist and playwright famous for *Rosemary’s Baby*, *The Stepford Wives* and *The Boys from Brazil*. It debuted in Baltimore in 1978 and became the longest-running comedy thriller on Broadway. The movie *Deathtrap* (1982) starred Michael Caine, Christopher Reeve and Dyan Cannon.

Jay Jennings, director of the play, is a twenty-five year veteran of Texas State University. He teaches movement and acting and has directed or choreographed over 40 productions at the university. His latest production, *The Rocky Horror Show*, broke all box office records. **Pam Shultz**, producer of *Blithe Spirit*, is back at the Playhouse to produce *Deathtrap*, and Gina McClure, board member and frequent actor, is assistant director. **Scott Wade**, set and scene designer, has performed on drums and percussion for several shows and has composed and performed numerous original scores for plays directed by Jay Jennings. His unusual art can be seen at www.dirtycarart.com.



Sydney (David Bisett) “lovingly” caresses his wife, Myra (Melinda Ellisor), in one of many suspenseful scenes in Deathtrap.

David Bisett, director of *Marvin’s Room* and star of *Man of La Mancha* at the Playhouse, heads the cast as flailing playwright Sidney. **Melinda Ellisor**, recently seen as sister Lee in *Marvin’s Room*, returns to the Players stage as Myra. **Clint Williams** plays aspiring playwright Anderson; **Terri Burney Bisett**, former treasurer of the Players and frequent actor, is psychic Ten Dorp; and **David Harrison** completes the cast as Milgrim.

Deathtrap will run weekends from April 4-20 at the Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Road. Performances are 8:00 on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 on Sundays. On opening night, April 4, a special reception will be held before and after the show, with fine hors d’oeuvres and beverages.

Tickets can be reserved by phone starting March 24 by calling 847-0575. Beginning March 31, tickets are available at the theatre box office Monday through Friday from 1:00-5:00. All tickets are \$15 except Opening Night (\$20). Visa and Mastercard are accepted.



Talking to shadows

in Neil Simon's *Rose's Dilemma*
July 25-August 10



Whitney Marlett Mollahan
Director

Rose's Dilemma is a touching, funny and unpredictable romantic charmer by Pulitzer Prize winning Neil Simon. Imagine a celebrated female writer running out of ideas and money when she is offered a "far out" suggestion by her deceased former lover. You guessed it, a ghost writer is required to carry out his plan.

Whitney Marlett Mollahan, director, says, "I am so proud to bring this show to you with its

poignant and truly funny moments.

"I have lined up an all-star cast of talent from Wimberley, Austin and San Marcos and these people rival any performers I have ever watched in New York or Los Angeles. Come and see *Rose's Dilemma* and you will, perhaps, talk to your own shadows as Rose talks to hers. I guarantee, shadows or not, you will experience a wonderful night at the theatre."

The Wimberley Players production will run July 25-August 10 at the Playhouse.

Check out our beautiful redecorated lobby!

The remodel of the Playhouse lobby was the brain-child of board member **Suzanne McCord**. She and her husband **Charles** donated the funds for the project. Suzanne met with members of the lobby committee to discuss ideas for making the lobby a warmer and more inviting space. She solicited recommendations from a long-time friend, interior decorator **Laura Weems**, who also donated her services to the Players.

The major elements of the remodel included painting the walls a warmer color, replacing our already stained carpet with high grade carpet squares that can be individually replaced if damaged, replacing the plastic baseboards with wood, and adding a crown molding along the ceiling. We even have plans for a Phase II. So, keep a lookout for future developments!

We thank Suzanne for not only conceiving of the project, but also for following through with the funding, design elements and scheduling of contractors.

Rotary Gala will support Players

For the fifth year, the **Rotary Club of Wimberley** has honored the Wimberley Players with a pledge of funds raised at the Rotary's Annual Arts Gala. For 2008, we will receive a minimum of \$2,800 toward costume sewing equipment, if the Rotary reaches its goals for expected proceeds of the Gala.

This is always a great party! Members of the Players can thank the Rotary and help our cause by attending the Gala – sure to be one of the best ever, with the theme of "Deep in the Art of Texas."

Date: April 13, beginning at 6:00

Place: Salt Lick Pavilion in Driftwood

Dinner: Salt Lick's world-famous Prime Rib

Entertainment: **Elana James**, internationally acclaimed violinist and singer. (Elana has toured with Bob Dylan and performed with Johnny Gimble, Willie Nelson, Ray Price and Merle Haggard.)

Live and silent auctions will include artwork, jewelry, a wine wagon and a week's private accommodations in Paris.

Tickets are \$75 per person, reservations required. Call **Marsha Cooper** at 847-5505 to reserve. Deadline is March 31.

The Joy of Creation

With permission, we share an email to the cast and crew of "Marvin's Room" sent one week after the last performance, one month after opening night:



Melinda Ellisor

"At 8 pm this evening, I am going to make it a point to have a glass of wine in my hand; I will raise my glass in honor of the good work we did and the new friends I now have the pleasure of calling my own.

"The beauty of theatre, for me, is the chance to work and create something that has the power to change, move, or just entertain people. The energy we have and share is released into the ether, neither destroyed nor lost. It lives in the hearts of those we affect, not the least of whom are ourselves."

From Melinda Ellisor

(Melinda played the part of Lee in *Marvin's Room* and will play Myra Bruhl in *Deathtrap*.)



Behind the Scenes

Have fun and help the Players -- Have a great time at Market Days! Stuff hot dogs, layer on the barbeque, serve drinks and see your friends – all while helping the generous Lions, who are super supporters of the Players. If you are interested in working any Market Days morning for only three hours, please contact **Kay Allison** at kaya40@verizon.net or 847-1873. Can't beat that!!

E-Mail list -- Would you like to receive news about upcoming shows, prop needs, season tickets, and special events by e-mail? The Wimberley Players is now sending out its announcements in colorful html format. If you are not already subscribed to the e-mail list and would like to be on it, send a request to jane@wimberleyart.com.

Coleé to Broadway -- **Lee Coleé** is going to Broadway! She is traveling to New York in March to work with **Thomas Young**, an original member of the smash Broadway show, *3 Mo Tenors*. Mr. Young is a classically trained tenor who is also well known in the international opera field, with contemporary composers writing roles for him specifically in opera and oratorio literature. He invited Coleé to New York to sing with him, discuss vocal technique, share mutual career goals and talk about future appearances.

A Sad Farewell

The Players bid a fond good-bye to the following active members who passed away in 2007. Their combined contributions spanned multiple productions from 1982-2007, and all had worked on projects up to their last year.

- Betty Pollard** - actress, director, producer, board member
- Alice Bourque** - graphic artist for numerous playbills and posters, and production artist for set pieces -- the two portraits for *Harvey*
- Albert Rouse** - actor, director

Advertising in Program

If you are interested in advertising in the Wimberley Players program (playbill) throughout the 2008-09 season, contact Judith Laird at 512-392-4407.

Season Ticket Alert!!

How sweet it is to be a Season ticket holder. Members of the Wimberley Players will once again be receiving **season ticket sign-up** applications in early April for the 2008-2009 season. Remember, you receive a 20% savings, that's five shows for the price of four, **and** enjoy the same seat for all shows. You will receive your tickets for all five shows before the season begins in September. **Exchanges are easy**, so no worries if you can't come on your chosen day. Don't delay once you receive your application, your reserved seat is waiting for you. . . .

Wimberley Players 2008 Board of Directors

- Lynn Adelson**, President
- Dell Hood**, Secretary
- Judith Laird**, Artistic Director
- Kay Allison**, Vice-President, Development
- Jane Dunham**, Vice-President, PR & Marketing
- Joe Maverick**, Vice-President, Finance
- David Bisett**, Vice-President, Administration
- Kay Henderson**, Membership
- Dee Ann Story**, Membership Database
- Kathy Gamel**, Box Office Manager
- Jana White**, Theatre Manager
- Barbara Alexander**, Fundraising
- Charlotte Caldwell**, Hospitality
- Steve Thurber**
- Julie Ray**
- Russell Cox**
- Adam Witko**, Assoc. Director, Production/Facilities Mgr.
- Gina McClure**
- Michael Iles**
- Suzanne McCord**



2008 Players Board

- Front Row:** Cox, McCord, Maverick, Caldwell, Iles
- Middle Row:** Gamel, Hood, Laird, McClure, Witko, Alexander
- Last Row:** Ray, Allison, Adelson, Bisett, Dunham, White
- Not Shown:** Henderson, Thurber and Story

The spotlight is on you!

Our 29th Anniversary year is proving to be a banner year for membership with a record-breaking (290) renewals and new memberships so far. Give yourselves a **Standing Ovation**. As your new Membership Director, I'm thrilled to be joining this vibrant group of multi-talented people. With your continued enthusiasm and support we are well on our way to the best year ever.....

How Sweet It Is!

Speaking of sweet...if you're like me, you've already forgotten all about that New Year's resolution and are ready to feed your sweet tooth. So plan now to join us for our first ever members-only dessert party. Your invitation will be arriving by both snail-mail and email, if you have shared that with us. (Note: please update your email by sending a request to jane@wimberleyart.com, if necessary). But first, because we value your opinion, we want to invite you to attend our "Focus on Members" small group luncheons (see dates below). These luncheons will give our members an opportunity to chat with other members, and share ideas and feedback about the Wimberley Players. There will be limited seating so you'll want to be among the first to respond to your invitation.

Our very successful Annual Meeting was attended by

an overflowing house of well-fed (thanks to Linda Allen Catering's delicious buffet) slightly mellow (compliments of Wimberley Spirits) members who loudly applauded the Dylan Meek jazz piano concert. Another highlight was the first ever Drammy Awards handed out that evening. (See PlayMakers in this newsletter.)

Dates To Remember

April 16 - Focus on Members Luncheon

April 17 - Focus on Members Luncheon

May 4 - Members Deserts Party

It's not too late to become a member. There's a membership application in every production Playbill and online at www.wimberleyplayers.org. You may also call me at 722-3170 (no 512 needed) and I'll have one sent to you.

Thank you so much for joining our happy band of players and we look forward to seeing you at all future productions.

Kay Henderson

Opening night celebrants for *Marvin's*



Players PR Director Jane Dunham and hubby, Cleon, enjoying the fruits of her work.



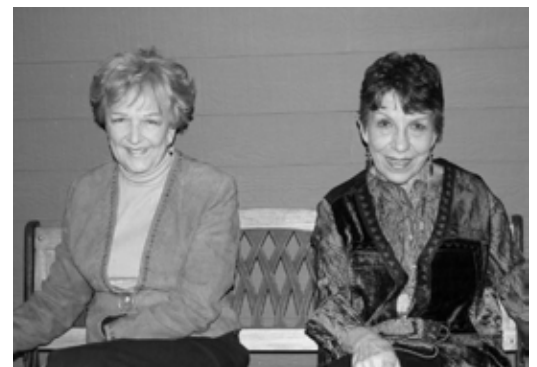
Jan Strickland, attending opening night of *Marvin's Room*. Was she the medical advisor?



The Casanovas, Lisette and Butch, add some style to opening night.



Cara Wernli is all smiles after Act I.



Jean Adams (left), a new Wimberlyite, learning the ropes from Char Moreland.

Behind
the
curtain
with

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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. 4, Number 2

Terri Burney-Bisett Long-time popular Player and still cookin'

Last month *Playmakers* featured a talented newcomer to the Wimberley Players. This month we feature another talented actor who has been a part of the Wimberley Players family and a major contributor to the organization for more than 20 years.

Terri Burney-Bisett has been a Player since she helped with the work on the conversion of a greenhouse building at the Woodcreek Resort into the Greenhouse Theatre in 1980. In the fall of that same year, Greenhouse Theatre opened with Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. In 1981, Terri became a Players member. Since then, she has been all over the lot with the Players. She has been a performer and a crew member and has served in many other capacities, including as a member of the Board of Directors off and on for some ten years.

"I was living in San Marcos when a friend told me about a theatre group in Wimberley. I said, 'There's a theatre in Wimberley?' Not long afterward, I saw my first show and was very impressed with the passion and quality of performances and the production. I always wanted to do theatre, so I auditioned and got a part. I had always liked Wimberley, and when a chance for a job opened up at a health food store, I decided to move here. From that point, my interest and involvement have never ceased to grow." Terri's next appearance on the Playhouse stage will be in the part of psychic Helga Ten Dorp, the nosy next-door neighbor in *Deathtrap*, opening April 4.

"My favorite parts have been as Doris in *Same Time Next Year* and as Lizzie in *The Rainmaker*. Doris ages 20 years in the course of the play." In both of those plays Terri was the only female in the cast. "One of the things I enjoy most about theatre is the camaraderie that develops as a production progresses. Every new show creates a whole new family and as a group, ours is the best as far as that spirit of camaraderie is concerned."



Terri and Clint Williams rehearsing a dramatic scene for *Deathtrap*.

When she's not in rehearsal or onstage, the multi-talented Terri takes the role of teacher at her own cooking school, CasiNada Cooks. Terri started teaching cooking in 1999. Anyone who asks "What's cooking?" can be sure of getting a yummy answer every time. Terri's motto, "I cook, therefore I am," pretty well says it all. More can be found about Terri as a teacher on the internet

at www.CasiNadaCooks.com. There you can find information about her classes, tips about seasonings, and some very tempting recipes.

Terri wears yet another work life hat in the office of CPA Lynda Morgan, where she handles payroll accounting and reporting for business clients.

Before the footlights, rattling those pots and pans or filing payroll tax returns, Terri Burney-Bisett is a star. Along with her husband, she continues to bring talent, wit and energy to whatever she does. Terri, **David** and many others like them have been, and will continue to be, the heartbeat of The Wimberley Players.



Just as Terri loves to share her acting talents with her audiences, she also loves to share her cooking talents with her CasiNada Cooks attendees.

“Drammy” Awards

Hard-working volunteers are recognized

The television industry presents an “Emmy;” musicians get a “Grammy.” Not to be outdone, this year some of our loyal friends and volunteers were surprised at the Wimberley Players January annual meeting with the theatre’s first ever “Drammy” awards....

And the 2008 “Drammy” winners are:

Long Distance Member Award

Judith Brenninkmeijer

Refer-A-Member Award

Bill and MF Johnson

“Flashiest” Award

Jim Gillock

Behind the Curtain Call Award

Annanette Harper

Pin Cushion Award

Nelda Williams

You Light Up My Life Award

Michael Caldwell

Sweet Talker Award

Jan and Paul Prasek

Got It Nailed Award

Jim White, Cindy Knox,
Carol and Dirk Dierking

You’ve Got Mail Award

Mickey Trent

Friends and volunteers play a vital part in the life of any community theatre. This year The Players board of directors chose to honor some of the many members who give time and support to making ours the best little theatre company in Texas.

Long Distance Member Awardee **Judith Brenninkmeijer** lends an international flare with her support for the theatre regardless of which side of the pond she might be living in at the moment. Long-time Wimberley residents **Bill and MF Johnson** are stalwart spreaders of the word about the theatre to their friends and have brought in many new members. **Jim Gillock** has chronicled in photographs every aspect of the life of The Wimberley Players from rehearsals to performances to parties, but he doesn’t stop there. He’s layout man for *Curtain Call* and has of late taken to the stage with parts in *Man of La Mancha* and *Marvin’s Room*. **Annanette Harper** is the mailroom guru who oversees the volunteers who prepare over 600 pieces for mailing; you can thank them each time you receive your *Curtain Call* newsletter. Both actors and scenery

might well be bare were it not for the talents of seamstress **Nelda Williams**. Nelda creates just the right costumes and drapes for each production. **Michael Caldwell** controls the lighting to create a mood that perfectly enhances the action onstage. **Jan and Paul Prasek** are long-time volunteers at the theatre box office, taking orders for tickets, answering questions, and being the theatre’s “voices with a smile.” Two teams of set builders, **Jim White, Cindy Knox and Carol and Dirk Dierking**, are hammer and nail artists who bring play set designs to life by building and painting backdrops and scenery.

For all the time an audience spends enjoying a performance at the Wimberley Playhouse, there are many hours of rehearsals and many hours of preparation by those who work behind the scenes. It is work of vital importance to the professionalism and quality of each production. In future editions of *Playmakers*, we will zero in on volunteers such as those honored last month with the inauguration of The Wimberley Players “Drammy” awards.

A chat with any of these theatre volunteers will convince you that not only do they volunteer for love of the theatre, they also volunteer because they find what they do rewarding and just plain fun.

Mickey Trent, writer of *PlayMakers* articles, sends digests and calendar items to local media, and maintained the e-mail list for the *Players* for years.



“Sweet Talker Award” winners, Paul and Jan Prasek, are considered the “voices with a smile” at the Playhouse box office.