

# Curtain Call



## Curtain Call

Man of LaMancha

## When dreams come true!

The Wimberley Players  
For Our Members and Supporters  
Number 4, 2007

Special greetings to all our Players family. I have been cast as Don Quixote in the upcoming production of Man of La Mancha, a role I have waited 30 years to play. I was so moved by the first production I saw as a student in 1977, that this has been my "dream part" ever since. Now, my dream is coming true.

For many of you who know this 1967 musical, I'm sure it is a personal favorite. For those of you who have not been introduced to this classic, I extend a very special invitation to join us at the Playhouse. It is a very moving, exceptional show that I know you will love.

LeRoy Nienow, an original member of the Players now living in Austin, will direct this show for the second time. He gives us a brief outline of the story:

"It's the end of the 16th Century. Miquel De Cervantes, the writer of the classic novel 'Don Quixote,' is thrown into prison by the Spanish Inquisition. While he waits to appear before the Inquisition, his fellow prisoners conduct a trumped up trial against him in order to confiscate his possessions, including the unfinished manuscript of his life's work, Don Quixote. Cervantes decides to defend himself in the form of an 'entertainment.' He will tell the story of his 'Mad Knight' by using the prisoners to play the various parts. If they are moved by the story, he keeps his manuscript. If not, it gets thrown into the fire and burned."

This play within a play is very funny, dramatic and inspirational. It examines some very mature



l to r: Sancho (Nathan Villareal), Quixote (David Bisett) and Aldonza (Lee Coleé) celebrate that "Right has triumphed!"

themes, and in the end, it is a story of redemption and hope. "The Impossible Dream" is the best known song from the show, but all the music is great!

Among our fabulous cast are: Lee Coleé, director, actress and singing coach who directs "Summer Camp" at the theatre; Lee Stubbs, new director of drama at the Katherine Ann Porter School; Dan Stephens, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church; Carol Hofstad, pianist for St. Stephens Episcopal Church; director LeRoy; and Nathan Villareal, a tremendously talented actor, singer, director many of you know. We are having a great time in rehearsal and can't wait to share this special treat with all of you.

David Bisett  
President, Wimberley Players

The Man of La Mancha will run weekends from September 21 to October 14 at the Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Road. Performances are 8:00 on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 on Sundays. The opening night reception, September, will begin at 7:00 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres in the lobby. An after-show reception follows the performance.

Tickets can be reserved by phone starting September 10 by calling 847-0575. Beginning September 17, 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.

For more information on the Wimberley Players, go to [www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org)



## The ways and means of magic

We owe so much to so many, it is impossible to list them all. For example, the Players have been very fortunate over the years to receive grants from various organizations and individuals. Their generosity continues to make the impossible possible.

Grants from two generous sources have funded special improvements at the Playhouse that will be on view when the 2007-2008 season opens Sept. 21. The Burdine Johnson Foundation supported the purchase and installation of a new color camera and monitor that make it possible to watch the action on stage from the lobby! So, if you miss curtain or have to leave briefly during a show, you can keep up with the action on the 32" LCD monitor until a scene break makes it possible to return to your seat. The Foundation also helped us acquire a good digital projector and screen, introduced at our Annual Meeting last January.

A grant from the Wimberley Rotary Club has funded the purchase of a scrim and cyc, major theatrical drapes that let us do some great lighting effects — a big step toward our goal of enhancing production quality. These permanent “soft goods” will be on view as important elements of the design for *Man of La Mancha*.

And I haven't even mentioned the Grand Drape we hope to install soon and a lobby update that generous individuals are making possible... but for space we could go on and on. We thank all who have helped make the new Playhouse possible and for continued support of our efforts to create a quality theatrical environment for our community.

## Jenifer Carsrud to direct *Bell, Book and Candle*

Jenifer Carsrud will be director of the Players production *Bell, Book and Candle*, opening November 23 and running until December 9. This impish and suave fantasy, written by John Van Druten, features a heroine who casts a spell over the object of her affection to keep him away from her rival. Unfortunately, even modern-day witches can't fall in love, so a number of difficulties must be overcome before romance has its way.

Jenifer began acting as soon as she could walk and talk and continued performing well into her 20s. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Acting at the University of Houston under Dr. Sidney Berger, Founder and Artistic Director for the Houston Shakespeare Festival, and continued under his tutelage for a Master of Fine Arts in Directing.

Continued in next column...

While studying in Houston, she worked with renowned American and European Theatre practitioners such as Edward Albee, Sir Peter Hall, Lanford Wilson and Lois Chile.

A professor, Dr. Linda Dorff, suggested that Jenifer try directing since she approached acting like a director. Since that time, five years ago, Jenifer has never looked back. She is excited to bring light-hearted, family-oriented *Bell, Book and Candle* to the Wimberley Players. The most important thing to know about this production, Jenifer says, are the themes involved: love, honesty, and redemption.

## Joint Venture: *Wimberley Arts Weekend*

The stars have aligned over Wimberley for the weekend of Friday Sept. 21 through Sunday Sept. 23! *Man of La Mancha* opens at the Wimberley Playhouse and the Wimberley Valley Art League holds its annual Artist Studio Tour that Friday and Saturday 10:00 to 4:00.

The two groups have taken an innovative step to promote these special events together. In addition to the WP and WVAL, five restaurants and a wine bar are joining us as partners, including Wimberley Café, Leaning Pear Bistro, Ino'z, Juan Henry's, Cypress Creek Café, and Cliffords Original Wine Bar. That combination of theatre, art and food adds up to the Wimberley Arts Weekend.

All those involved will continue their own advertising and event promotions as usual. But a modest pooling of funds for the Weekend by each entity makes possible wide distribution of flyers in Wimberley and all surrounding communities. Ads for the Weekend are also scheduled in surrounding newspapers, including the Austin Chronicle, Austin-American Statesman XL section and several others. The goal is to attract new people, especially those beyond Wimberley, to our theatre, the artists' studios and our partners' eating and drinking establishments!

This is an opportunity for Wimberley Players to cooperate with our visual artists and the business community. Even if you attend *Man of La Mancha* on a later date, check out the Studio Tour and enjoy an “artful treat” prepared by the restaurants just for this weekend.

Tickets and maps for the Studio Tour are \$12 at the Visitors Center. The map also includes the Playhouse and locations of our partners.

Tickets for *Man of La Mancha* go on sale by phone Sept. 10 and at the Box Office beginning Sept. 17 from 1:00 to 5:00. Opening night, \$20, all other dates, \$15. The show continues weekends through Oct. 14. Call 847-0575.



Building Sets at the Playhouse...

## The days can be hard...the time spent is rewarding

The schedule says: Monday, June 25, Strike Show, Lengthen Legs.

Late in the afternoon we sit back looking at the remaining fragments and accumulated debris of the set for the recently staged musical, *The Music Man*. This is the moment reality sets in—we are not superhuman. Let's face it, most of us are sixty plus years of age. We are tired. We are scarred. We are beaten and bruised. Some of us are bleeding. We turn our heads toward the pile of wood that blocks the aisle in front of the stage. The lobby too is in a state of chaos. Nothing is not chaos. Yes, two negatives do make a positive—chaos reigns.

David Bisett drops in and his knees visibly began to buckle.

“Don't worry,” we say, “we'll fix it.”

False bravado.

Jim White is retired, and given his druthers he'd rather be riding his Harley. But he will be here all seven days from beginning to end. The beginning is never later than 9 a.m., and very often the end is twelve hours later. Nine to nine—banker's hours? Turns are taken to fetch hamburgers for lunch and dinner, they are gulped down, and then it is back to work.

Bob Caldwell is just a brother, (un?)fortunately for him, he's my husband's brother. He shows up often to lend a hand, for many hands are needed.

Marvin Wold is there the day we strike *The Music Man* set and marvels at how well everything was put together. “And I thought it was all staples and scotch tape,” Marvin remarks.

Marvin comes back often—more days than he originally allotted. He has places to go, things to do. Many charities rely on his helping hands. His job—painting a park bench bright orange. Most days Marvin is destined to paint outside in the sweltering heat and humidity, or dodge lightning bolts when it decides to rain...again.

Sawdust flies in the shop. They're making a mess, I think.

It is a pink and blue world here. Men saw, hammer and build. Women paint.

It is day seven. It is seven in the morning. The morning is Sunday—D-Day for us. The set must be finished by 5 p.m. I could say we are on the seventh layer of paint, on the seventh row of the seventh square, however that is an exaggeration...but not much of one.

“Do me a favor,” my husband says, “if you ever design another set, make sure the floor is a solid color.” I feel the same way, and seriously question my sanity, as we tape the stage floor once again from end to end horizontally and vertically...every fifteen inches.

At 9:30 p.m. Cynthia Knox and Jim White arrive. Cynthia works for the city of San Marcos, and sometimes her days start at 7:30 a.m., and continue on for another eleven hours. But if she knows she is needed, she arrives at the theater as soon as she can, paint brush or roller in hand, and quietly and efficiently sets to work. Even better, after she finishes she meticulously cleans-up whatever mess she—or others— may have made.

Finally.

It is 4:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Three of us sit and look at the finished set. It glows—how could it not? The panels have been painted and installed, the black curtains hung. The stage floor primed, painted, taped and painted again...and again...and then one more time. The pile of wood is gone. The floor has been vacuumed. The shop is clean.

The work is done...but still we linger, hating to say good-bye.

Many thanks to the following individuals for helping to strike the set of *The Music Man*, and for their contributions in bringing the set of *Bright Ideas* to life. Bob Caldwell, Michael Caldwell, Cynthia, Knox, Nancy Marlett, Russ Marlett, Shirley Marlett, Jim White, Marvin Wold. And many thanks to Monica Brown and her sister, Linda and John Addeo, and Adam Witko for assisting in bringing down the walls of *The Music Man*, formerly *Divorce Southern Style*, formerly *Blithe Spirit*. And thanks again to Adam Witko for creating the set of *Blithe Spirit*, which provided the great bones for the past two shows, and those shows yet to come.

Also...the Wimberley Players needs each of you. You don't have to be an expert. You don't have to know how to hammer a nail. You need not have done this before. Have you ever designed a set? No? Well, neither had I. You need...we the Wimberley Players need...two hands, two feet, two eyes, and a willingness to contribute...just a bit. Don't ask the same people to contribute twelve-hour days. Come make our days shorter. It is a community theater. It is your theater.

Come be a part of the creative process, I promise you will have fun.

Charlotte Caldwell

### Man of LaMancha Casting Call

YOU can be in *Man of La Mancha* with only 2 weeks of rehearsals! We need 5 cameo appearances, 2 guards and 3 hooded Inquisitors 25 to 55. No lines or singing to worry about, just your awesome presence! The Inquisitors could be played by women, since they wear hooded robes. Call LeRoy, (512) 891-9088 or Calvin 565-8402 if you'd like to join us.



Mekelzadek

## Membership Update

Lynn Adelson, Membership Director



Simba

## ReMember, our season opens 9/24

### Hey there, Wimberley Players!

We, Mekelzadek (the dog) and Simba (the cat) want to catch you up on the news from the theatre. Your Membership Director, Lynn Adelson, and her husband, Allen, have been enjoying traveling this summer. As they packed their suitcases and headed out the door, Lynn told us that since it had been “raining cats and dogs,” we might as well take control of things in her absence. Meow, did she really mean for us to be the guest authors of this article, meow?

Before she left, she told us that the Players’ most recent production, *Bright Ideas*, was very clever and funny, although it was raining that day. So they had to make a mad dash to the car after the show, getting thoroughly soaked! Grrrr, woof! It’s not fair to blame us, is it??

But, Mekelzadek and I (Simba) want all of you to know that you don’t have to leave town in order to visit another time and another place. Even if the river is rising, the

Wimberley Players productions can take you human animals to the land of live entertainment without even needing a passport.

For instance, when you come see *Man of La Mancha*, which begins Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, you’ll enjoy a musical visit to 16<sup>th</sup> Century Spain, where, we understand, the rain stays mainly in the plain!

Then, following *La Mancha*, you have four more great shows to take you “elsewhere” quite magically. You won’t need to hire a house or pet sitter, or take your furry friends like us to the kennel.

So, Lynn and Allen look forward to seeing you at the Playhouse, just don’t blame us if it’s “raining cats and dogs”. We would prefer it to rain catnip and dog biscuits!!

Enjoy the shows!

Mekelzadek and Simba Adelson

## AUDITIONS

John Van Druten’s

## Bell, Book and Candle

Time: 10/22 (Sat); 1-3 pm

10/23 (Sun) 6-7 pm

Place: Wimberley Playhouse

450 Old Kyle Road

Cast: 2 men: 20’s - 40’s

3 women: 20’s – 60’s

Scripts at Star of Texas Trading Post

The Lumberyard

111 Old Kyle Rd/512-847-1971

Show Dates: 11/23- 12/09

For more information, contact

Director Jenifer Carsrud (512)742-3815

Producer: Jana White (512)847-2620

## Season Tickets

If you have purchased Season Tickets, you have been mailed your tickets for every show in the 2007-2008 Season. We’ll see you at the Playhouse! (Didn’t receive them? Please contact Kathy Gamel, Box Office Director, immediately at 847-0575.)

### The Red Razzle Dazzles



We’d like to introduce the Red Razzle Dazzles, who attended a Sunday afternoon *Bright Ideas* performance. On the back row, left to right: Marrett Winkler, Pat Dorsey, Queen Mother Doreen Bohrer, Big Bad Beaver, Betty Wirtz, Lois Zint, Bette Myers and Deborah Penn. Front row, left to right: Nonnie Dierck, Betty Wissen, Barbara Mansur, Joanne Bixby and Shirley Hoff. “We enjoyed the play very much and the new Playhouse is wonderful! Thank you!” said Duchess Barbara Mansur. (Players members are in boldface.)