

Curtain Call

The Wimberley Players
For Our Members and Supporters
April, 2011

Night Watch

Elaine can't sleep...you might not either

If you like sitting on the edge of your seat and biting your nails, you've got to see *Night Watch*, opening April 29th at the Playhouse. It's full of suspense, some terror and a whole lot of plot twists and turns that keep you guessing, maybe scared, but thoroughly entertained. *Night Watch* was written by Lucille Fletcher and was the basis for a 1973 movie by the same name and starring the late Elizabeth Taylor.

Troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears, Elaine Wheeler is unable to sleep and paces the living room of her Manhattan townhouse. Her husband, John, tries to comfort her but when he steps away for a moment, Elaine screams as she sees (or believes she sees) the body of a dead man in the window across the way. The police are called, but find nothing except an empty chair. Elaine's terror grows and shortly after that she experiences another equally frightening trauma. By now the police are skeptical and pay no heed to her frantic pleas. John, claiming that Elaine may be on the verge of a breakdown, calls in a lady psychiatrist, who agrees with his suggestion that Elaine should commit herself to a sanitarium for treatment.

The plot moves quickly and grippingly with this cast of characters actively adding to the suspense: Elaine's old friend and house guest Blanche; Appleby, the inquisitive and rather sinister man who lives next door; the nosy German maid Helga; and Lieutenant Walker, the beleaguered and skeptical police investigator. An array of other interesting characters all contribute to the deepening suspense and mystery of the play as it draws towards its riveting and chilling climax.

Night Watch is directed by **Nathan Villarreal**, a popular and frequent visitor to our Playhouse. Nathan is usually associated with big musical productions,



Celeste Villarreal

both as a very talented entertainer and as a director. He was delighted to accept the director's job for *Night Watch* because it allowed him to take his many years of live theatre experience and put it into a much different form of entertainment. His last appearance at the Playhouse was as Littlechap in *Stop The World, I Want to Get Off*. Supporting Nathan in key production positions are: **Adam Witko**, Exec. Producer; **Christie Yowell**, Set Designer and Decorator; **Calvin White**, Sound Designer; and **Jason Jones**, Lighting Designer.

The cast includes: **Celeste Villarreal**, who has often appeared on stage with the Players since the age of 12, is Elaine Wheeler; **Chris Kelly**, new

to the Playhouse, is Elaine's husband John Wheeler; **Kimberly Suarez**, last seen in *Stop The World*, plays Elaine's friend Blanche Cooke; **Kate Conroy** just appeared at the Playhouse in *The Heiress* and is Helga the maid; **Guy Ben-Moshe**, appearing frequently at the Playhouse, is next door neighbor Curtis Appleby; **Gary Yowell**, also a popular Playhouse regular, is police Lieutenant Walker; **Carl Galante** is a frequent Playhouse talent and plays police detective Vanelli; **Ashley Errico**, another welcomed newcomer to the Playhouse, is psychiatrist Dr. Tracey Lake; and **Bill Claussen**, a first timer with the Players, is Sam Hoke.

So, if you're going to sit on the edge of your seat, you better get your seat now. *Night Watch* runs from April 29 – May 22. Evening performances are Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 each (\$20 each opening night including a wine and cheese pre-show reception at 7 p.m.) and may be purchased at any time on-line at www.wimberleyplayers.org. The Box Office is open prior to each performance weekend during the following days and hours: Wednesday & Thursday, 2 - 5 p.m., Fridays 2 - 6 p.m., Call 847-0575 and leave a message.



A special for Curtain Call **Reviewing my memories** *by Oda Lisa*

I have enjoyed many Wimberley Players productions since 2000 when shows were at the Greenhouse Theatre. Over the years, the troupe's acting abilities and directing had inspired me to write a few local newspaper features and reviews. The deep personal commitments and varied talents of the people involved were well worth mentioning. I applaud all the volunteer actors and staff, past and present, for their dedication to their craft.

My first Wimberley Players production was *Letkice and Lovage*. I fell in love with the Greenhouse Theatre. So what if my chair leaned a little to the left? The amusing storyline and convincing characterizations centered my attention to the stage and kept it there.

Butterflies are Free drew me in because I was interested in how a blind character would be handled. The lead actor did a fine job with the part, but I did give him a suggestion based upon my own life experiences. I told him, "The next time you play a blind man, bump into the furniture every once in a while. You're too perfect! The artistic execution of *Bright Ideas* made quite an impact upon me. For weeks after that lively production, I frequently craved and consumed pesto. The moment when the poor victim landed face down in a plate of pasta perfectly punctuated the dark-humored play's intentions.

My first musical at the Wimberley Playhouse was *Man of La Mancha*. I attended that production twice, partly to support the Baptist church's choir director who played a priest with a golden voice. I think that all of my fellow choir members went for the same reason. Another motivation for me to see the musical again was to compare opening night and closing matinee shows. The two events were consistent in performance power.

The three sisters in *Christmas Belles* were superbly portrayed. Once again, all involved put on a jolly good show. That production gave me one of my favorite jokes, going something like this – One woman says, "My husband is an angel." Her friend says, "You're lucky, mine's still alive." Catty for sure, but it is funnier if told with a southern accent.

There is not enough printed space here for me to write about every WP production that I have seen. Attending *The Heiress* makes me current. For once, I did not know any of the actors involved, and only one staff member's name was familiar. Clearly, it is time to reacquaint myself with the Wimberley theatre scene. I plan to do just that.

Incidentally, I may be one of the playhouse's toughest customers. You see, I am totally blind. That means that I am not swayed or distracted by pretty costumes or handsome faces. My attention is tuned into dialogue

and emotional inflection. I assure you, I listen and listen closely. I look forward to more fine entertainment from the Wimberley Players in the future.

Oda Lisa is Poet Laureate for Wimberley. She has recently contributed an article to Christian Ethics Today entitled "Last Rights." She published a novel in 2004 entitled "A Question of Trust" and was the author of a short fiction, "Memory Shorts," in 2010. Oda Lisa is a frequent contributor to the Wimberley View and the Hill Country Sun. She has had her poems published in Dialogue, Christian Ethics Today, AMATYC Review, poetry.com and others. She is the founder/facilitator of Wimberley Wordsmiths and has conducted bi-weekly poetry readings at Maui Wowi. Curtain Call is pleased to have Oda Lisa as an editorial contributor now and in the future.

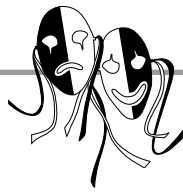
New Curtain Call series... How did they do that?

There's no business like show business, or so you've heard. But so often we attend shows at our local theatre without giving a thought to the "business" of the show. What goes into the production of the marvelous event before our eyes? Do you know the first step? Can you carry out the strategic plan that moves the play from step one through 12 performances and off the stage? Somehow it happens time and again at The Wimberley Playhouse, so let's learn together how it's done.

Welcome to the first in a series of articles about what goes on behind the scenes at The Wimberley Playhouse. In the first article of the series (appearing in the next issue of *Curtain Call*) you'll read about play selection and gathering the key figures. You didn't think in a volunteer company like the Wimberley Players that a season of plays to entertain you were easy to pick, did you? Or that one person took responsibility for selecting five plays to show you? Learn more about the process used to select plays at The Wimberley Playhouse in the first article of this series. In that same article, see how our staff finds the right producer, director, stage manager, and design team for each play.

As the series unfolds, you'll also read about how sets are built and how plays are cast. Then we'll get down to the nuts and bolts of getting a show ready for the stage. How do directors and actors and so many others get together to design and rehearse a show and how do the house managers and box office prepare for opening night and the run of a show? Finally, we'll look to see how the production team operates and what goes on behind the scenes during production, while even looking at the roles of the cast, crew and Board post-production.

So, come with us on a journey as we put on a show and show you "how we did it" in a series of articles appearing in upcoming editions of *Curtain Call*.



Wimberley Players... onstage and online

by Jane Dunham

Did you know that the Wimberley Players have an active web site, where you can find lots of information about the productions, volunteer needs, extra activities, and more? You can even buy your tickets to plays and special events, or exchange your season tickets for a different evening, through a link on the web site.

The Players (www.wimberleyplayers.org) site provides the following information:

- **Upcoming shows** for the rest of the season (under "Tickets/Shows")

- **Directions** -- How to get to the Playhouse from six different directions, plus a map of the Playhouse area. You can't possibly get lost!

- **About Us** -- How we got started and where we are going. A link on this page takes you to the current membership of the Board of Directors, and gives you the Vision and Mission of the Players

- **Information on Disability Assistance** -- we have hearing assistance and special wheelchair spots, plus ADA-compliant entry and restrooms

- **Join Us** -- Instructions on how to join the Players, so you can support community theatre in Wimberley and have the option of buying Season Tickets (and get 5 shows for the price of 4)

- **We have wonderful Facilities!** Planning a recital? Need a place for a catered party? Check out the information on how you can use the Playhouse when it is not too busy with a production.

- **What Volunteers can do to help the Players**-- 8 different categories, plus contact information for each. We really need you to get involved and enjoy the camaraderie of other theatre nuts!

- **Back issues of "Curtain Call"** (from September 2006 onward), the Wimberley Players colorful newsletter that gives information on the current or upcoming play plus lots of information on such things as special Players events, cast and crew

- **Gift certificates** -- how you can purchase a gift in any amount you choose, letting someone else have the chance to enjoy the productions

- **Links to important organizations** in the Wimberley area, plus a link to all the sponsors who support the Players with ads in our annual playbills for the shows

- **Photos of recent activities**, and messages about auditions, upcoming events, and other special news

Have you been around Wimberley for a while? Do you know lots of people who have been involved with the Players over the years? We have some archived resources linked through "About Us" that may interest you:

- List of all the plays the Players have produced since they began in 1979. Most of the play titles have links to the playbills that went with the shows. You might find some names you recognize in the credits!

- The lead story and a few photos of each play since 1776

Got your attention??? You can find the links to these two archives at the bottom of the "About Us" page.

I have served as web master for the Players for several years. If you would like to see something else on the web site, or you have suggestions for changes, please let me know.

Check us out frequently and tell your friends and relatives about it:

www.wimberleyplayers.org

Jane Dunham recently retired from the Players board where she served as Vice President, Marketing & Public Relations for the last several years. As part of her responsibilities, she also served as web master for the Players website. During her tenure on the board, Jane created, designed and produced the website into its current excellent and user friendly form. Jane has generously agreed to continue as web master - even in her retirement.

Starlight Symphony presents "A Night at the Opera"

The Starlight Symphony Orchestra will close out their 2010/2011 season with the annual Pops Concert on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8. Under the direction of **Dr. Donald Miller**, the orchestra will entertain the audience with selections from Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Phantom of the Opera*, music of Gilbert and Sullivan and *The William Tell Overture*. A special treat is in store as guest soloists, **Susan Olsen** and **Deborah Hammons**, will sing selections from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Hansel and Gretel* and Bernstein's *Candide*.

Saturday, May 7 (7:30 p.m.), the performance will be at the First Baptist Church, 15951 Winters Mill Parkway in Wimberley and on Sunday, May 8 (4:00 p.m.) at the Southwest Hills Community Church, 7416 West Hwy. 71 in Austin.

Players Bulletin Board

Who Do We Appreciate?

Kay Allison, President

Remember the cheer “Who Do We Appreciate?” Well, there is no doubt in my mind – it is you, our generous and loyal membership! Gifts from our members fund every aspect of our organization from paying the bills to putting on the plays. Many of you also share your love of theatre by volunteering your time and expertise at the Playhouse, perhaps constructing or painting sets, helping in the Box Office, working on publicity, gracing the stage, or working behind the scenes during a performance. I urge you to find a place to help, and I guarantee you will have fun, learn a bit, and get to know others for whom the performing arts play an important role in their lives.

I look forward to seeing you all in the audience at every play this season. I know you don't want to miss out on the quality entertainment you help offer our patrons. Pass the word on to your family and friends – our research has shown that word of mouth is the best promotion we have to fill our theatre. The more people you tell, the more tickets we sell!

If you haven't activated your 2011 membership yet, don't delay. Join now. You will be glad you did for your membership donation (tax deductible) will allow the Players to continue bringing entertaining productions to Wimberley. We need you. We appreciate you. See you at the Playhouse!



Wimberley Playhouse was one of the stops for Anne Wimberley-Robinson's visit to our town...

It's been over 40 years since Anne last visited Wimberley. She has always had a historical tie to our town dating back to when her ancestors helped establish this community. Anne has been living with her husband in Oceanside, California for over 35 years and has been very active in all aspects of Community Theater there for almost all of that time. When she found out that Wimberley had a live theater venue, she was extremely excited and had



Jason Foreman (stage manager) gives recognition to *The Heiress* director **Robert FitzGerald** at gathering of cast & crew.



This handsome Wimberley couple, **Emily and Jim Watson**, should be on stage, not in the lobby.



Wimberley Poet Laureate **Oda Lisa** (right) with her friends and friends of the Players, **Claire and Bruce Billingsley**. (See Oda Lisa's article on page 2.)



Kay Stephens (left) from Willis, Texas hosts three friends from all over Texas: **Betsy Smith** (Pearland), **Sherri Nabors** (Temple), **Jane Smith** (Odessa). Kay has had a second home in Wimberley for 6 years.

Out-of-town visitors feel they're part of Wimberley when they visit the Playhouse.



From Cryress & Tomball, Texas, from left, **Wayne Gloyer, Karin Gloyer, Na-Dean Eads and Rodney Eads**. The Gloyers have also owned a home in Wimberley for almost 15 years.