

## Rose's Dilemma

# Things you can and can't do with a ghost

A famous playwright in her decline, Rose Steiner, is desperate for a way out of her creative doldrums. Her solution to her problems forms the underlying story for the Neil Simon play, *Rose's Dilemma*, to be presented by the Wimberley Players July 25 to August 10.

*Rose's Dilemma* is a sweet, sentimental, funny walk through a once-famous writer's life. Rose consults the ghost of her former lover, Walsh McLaren, and together they work out a way to save Rose's dwindling bank account as they reminisce about their wild ride together during their prime. The fact that their former relationship was far from platonic makes the goings-on between one lover here and the other "elsewhere" quite provocative. "Did you ever really smell a strong, interesting man?" she asks Arlene, her assistant, as she overindulges herself in flowers. "If they could bottle that, there'd be no lonely women in the world."

The principal lovers also set the stage for a budding romance for the next generation of writers. To solve Rose's writer's block, Walsh offers her an unfinished story of his own and recommends a budding young male writer, Clancy, to give her a hand with it. With attractive young Arlene in the house, the ingredients for romance are all there.

**Whitney Marlett Mollahan** returns to the Wimberley Playhouse as director of *Rose's Dilemma*. She was last seen onstage in *Bright Ideas* and directed the Players in *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, which starred her mother, **Shirley Marlett**. Shirley is changing the roles for this production by serving as producer. She is an award-winning theatre veteran who has directed numerous plays, including *Bright Ideas*, for the Wimberley Players. The family combination is a winning one!

Rose is played by **Judith Laird**, last seen as Madame

Acarti in a Noel Coward production, *Blithe Spirit*. Laird is Artistic Director for the Players and a frequent actress on our stage. **Lee Stubbs**, recently seen in *Man of La Mancha*, plays Walsh McLaren. He has directed, taught, produced, written and acted in a variety of roles for 35 years, and is currently Theatre Arts and Choir Instructor at Katherine Anne Porter School. **Perry Redden**, featured in the PlayMakers section, is Clancy, and **Suzan Kurry** plays Arlene. Suzan has an extensive theatre background, including stage managing "Foursquare" recently at the Long Center in Austin.

"I am so proud to bring you this show with its poignant, truly funny moments," says Mollahan. "I have lined up an all-star cast of talent from Wimberley, Austin and San Marcos. Come and see *Rose's Dilemma* and you will, perhaps, talk to your own shadows as Rose talks to hers. I can promise you will experience a wonderful night at the theatre."

*Rose's Dilemma* will run weekends from July 25 to August 10 at the Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Road. Performances are 8:00 on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 on Sundays. On opening night, July 25, a special reception will be held before and after the show, with fine hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Tickets can be reserved at 847-0575 starting July 14. Beginning July 21, tickets will be 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.



Showing their pride at being the first Players cast to work with the new Grand Drape are, from the top, Judith Laird, Lee Stubbs, Suzan Kurry, and Perry Redden with director Whitney Marlett Mollahan. See related article on page 3.



## Thank you, thank you...

A \$3200 grant was made recently to the Wimberley Players from revenues of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Art Gala. In response to the Players' application for funds, the **Wimberley Rotary Club** had committed at least \$2,800, with the possibility of a larger amount if the Gala was highly successful. It was! The grant will go toward professional equipment for a costume shop to be located within the prop storage room at the Playhouse.

In May, the **Wimberley Community Civic Club** responded to our request with a generous grant of \$2,500, also toward development of the costume shop. Those machines should be whirring soon!

From **LCRA**, the Players have been approved for a grant of \$4,624. The funds will be applied to exterior lighting to greatly enhance parking lot safety for patrons as well as for cast and crew members crossing Old Kyle Road from parking spaces across the street. The LCRA grant is administered by **Pedernales Electric Cooperative**.

## The Wimberley Playhouse became... The Land of Oz

It was a bewitching experience as the youthful cast of *The Wizard of Oz* followed the yellow brick road on the Playhouse stage in June.

In just two weeks of preparation time, **Lee Coleé** pulled together 41 Summer Boot Camp kids, ages 7-15, for 10 stellar, sold-out performances of the L. Frank Baum classic. They quickly learned how to sing and dance to familiar old tunes such as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and "We're off to See the Wizard." Over 29 local businesses contributed scholarships to make the experience possible for these children.

**Callum McBeath**, 11, did tech for the first time, running the spotlight and some of the special effects, as well as pre-setting the props and set pieces. He was ably mentored by the Players' own **Michael Caldwell** and **Adam Witko**. **Coy Branscum**, 15, and **Christian Bruns** alternately roared as the Cowardly Lion. **Malory Mazzarella** and **Lacey Ellis** shared the role of Dorothy. **Rachel Dunk** and **Samantha Hofstad**, both 13, alternated as the Wicked Witch, and **Colin Iliff** and **Reed Neal**, 12 and 14, took turns at playing the Tin Man. **Auden McBeath**, 9, and **Konnor Callender**, 12, portrayed the good witch.

Several of the kids have performed in the Wimberley Players' regular productions. There is now an expanded roster of young stars from which to draw performers and technical crew!

## Members' Focus Luncheons You came.. We listened

The Playhouse was buzzing at noon on May 16 and May 17 as we gathered for delicious lunches and great discussions, and you shared questions, concerns, suggestions, comments and lots of enthusiasm about plays and the theatre. **Kay Henderson**, Membership Chair, did a dynamite job planning and hosting the gatherings.

As Board members took notes, you gave us lots to think about. Among your suggestions were handrails in the theatre, having a short synopsis of the play in the Playbill, advertising at Market Days and working with local restaurants to plan special theatre supper nights. You liked the idea of group discounts and talked about ways to reach out to different groups. We found out that you like season tickets – especially since changes can be made easily – and that the availability of gift certificates needs to be advertised more. You enjoy variety in play selections, and a family show was appealing to you, as were plays of substance. Your many suggested titles were passed on to our reading committee, and your creative fundraiser ideas were given to the development committee. You even shared your thoughts on increasing our volunteer corps.

The Board thanks you for your interest and your time and most of all for your support of the Wimberley Players. We want your theatre experience to keep getting better and better!

### 2008-09 Season at the Wimberley Playhouse

#### *Dracula*

Sept. 26 - Oct. 19  
directed by Lee Coleé-Atnip

#### *Christmas Belles*

Nov. 28 - Dec. 14  
directed by Shirley Marlett

#### *The Mousetrap*

Feb. 6 - March 1  
directed by Lee Stubbs

#### *Leading Ladies*

Apr. 17 - May 3  
directed by David Bisett

#### *Stop the World - I Want to Get Off*

July 31 - Aug. 23  
directed by Jay Jennings

For information about these plays, check our web site:  
[www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org)



## A very Grand Drape

The beautiful new wine-red drapes in the theatre are the gift of **Skip** and **Vicki Hujsak**, in memory of his parents, **Dorothy** and **Karol Hujsak**.

The senior Hujsaks were lifelong theatre aficionados, attending plays, orchestra and opera performances. They often visited New York City and attended operas at the Met. Dorothy described the “curtain call” as one of the most enjoyable parts of these performances. Dorothy felt the thrill of watching the female leads being presented bouquets onstage and taking a flower out to give to the male vocal lead.

The funds for the Grand Drape were given in the Fall of 2006. The Players had to move lights, get an engineering review (for the extra weight) and find an opening in a busy production calendar to install the drapes.

Skip and Vicki will be attending the opening night of *Rose's Dilemma*, and will see firsthand what their gift has done to improve productions at the Playhouse. Thank you, Hujsaks!

## Advertise in the Players' playbills

Let the local community know about your business and the services you offer! Place an ad in the playbill for the Wimberley Players 2008-09 Season. Ads are available in a variety of sizes and run in the playbills for all five productions. That's a lot of visibility. The deadline for ad submission is August 1. For information and rates, contact Jana White at (512) 847-2620 or (512) 422-6161 (cell).

**Save the Date**  
**Día de los Muertos Fiesta!**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST**  
**AT OLD GLORY RANCH**  
COME AS YOUR FAVORITE STAR,  
BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE,  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO VERY FAR,  
FOR A WIMBERLEY PLAYERS NIGHT!  
FABULOUS DANCE BAND, PHENOMENAL SILENT &  
LIVE AUCTION, FANTASTIC FOOD & BEVERAGES  
RESERVATIONS \$125 EACH  
WWW.WIMBERLEYPLAYERS.ORG • 512-847-1572

## 2008-09 Season Tickets

It's not too late to order season tickets for the 2008-09 productions of the Wimberley Players. Such a deal at 20% savings – five shows for the price of four, you are assured of tickets for even the most popular productions, and you enjoy the same good seats for each show.

Exchanges are easy. If an unexpected conflict arises in your schedule, you may exchange a ticket for a different date, providing seating is available.

Season tickets may be purchased only by members of the Wimberley Players. The deadline for application for the 2008-09 season is **September 1, 2008**. If you have already ordered season tickets, they will be sent to you in mid-August.

For more information on membership, call (512) 847-0575 or go to the Membership page at [www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org).

## Your help is needed

Want to meet some great local people, have fun working on a common task, and contribute to the work of the Wimberley Players? Do we have a spot for you! The Village Store, 300 River Road, is a community thrift shop. It gives the proceeds of its sale of used items to the non-profit organizations whose representatives work at the store. Each hour worked at the store adds dollars to the contributions made to six participating community groups.

Nelda Williams of the Players (see PlayMakers, page 2, this issue) says, “It's really flexible. You don't have to work at a certain time each week. It's also a lot of fun. We celebrate birthdays once a month and on Mondays, when the store is closed, we eat together.”

Interested? Call Hugh Campbell, Village Store manager, at 847-5400.

## Countdown for the Count

The infamous Count Dracula is heading from Transylvania to Wimberley to open the 2008-09 season for the Wimberley Players!

Steven Dietz's critically acclaimed stage adaptation of the classic Bram Stoker novel will be performed September 26-October 19 at the Playhouse. It is a heart pounding thrill ride, an exhilarating and terrifying journey through the dark world of Count Dracula and his victims. **Lee Coleé** will direct this classic tale of Good vs. Evil.

# Dog Days of Summer

Usually the “dog days of summer” hold off till August, but summer seems to have arrived with a vengeance. Hope you are reading this sitting in your AC with a tall glass of iced tea.

April and May were busy times for Players members with two extremely successful Focus Luncheons and a delightful Cinco de Mayo Dessert Party. The Focus Luncheons provided invaluable information and dialogue and the Dessert Party was a fiesta par excellence with wall to wall chocolate, delicious tres leches cake and pralines galore, with music provided by a

strolling mariachi. The turnout was excellent for these events, and you were missed if you couldn't be there.

As of this month our membership has grown to 341 and we are expecting it to grow even more. Member support makes all the difference – the Players couldn't operate without you. If you haven't had the opportunity to look at the upcoming season schedule you will be pleasantly surprised. The 2008-2009 season is the best ever. Bring a friend and enjoy the excitement on stage!



*Wish we'd been invited.*



**Scott Wade and his wife, Robin Wood.** *Scott, of Dirty Car Art fame, was the set designer for Deathtrap.*

*New members, Casey Marinucci and her mom Carolyn Finkelhoff, originally from Bucks County, PA. Carolyn's husband was a writer, director and producer in NYC and Hollywood.*



**Weldon Hawthorne and Camilla Shannon-Hawthorne** *have been members since moving to Wimberley and are enthusiastic audience supporters of all of our productions.*



**Pat Davis, Bert Ray and Deborah Elliott** *enjoying intermission at Deathtrap.*



**Barbara and Darrell Piersol** *have the plot all figured out.*



**Laura and Rob Peyton** *enjoy the play as well as the luscious opening night buffet.*

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. 5, Number 2

## Perry Redden... Almost lost nerve before winning 4 parts

A common thread we have found in talking with many subjects for the Playmakers articles is that those who have later become actors or volunteers for other jobs with the Wimberley Players were greatly impressed by their first experience at the theatre.

This issue's headliner, **Perry Redden**, is no exception. He told us that his first brush with the Wimberley Players was attending the production of *Dial M for Murder* at the old Greenhouse Theatre. "It was impressive that they were able to do so much with so little space," he told us. "The quality of the production also impressed me, and when later I saw an audition notice in the paper, I decided to take the plunge and audition for *Bright Ideas*.

"When I got to the audition my feet got cold and I was on my way out the door when I met **Payton Lawrence**," he added. "When she asked where I was going, I told her I'd changed my mind about the audition. She grabbed me and said to get back in there." Perry did and that landed him not one, but four parts in *Bright Ideas*. He played Ross, Mr. Scott, Coach Angus and the Airline Steward. He is now rehearsing the part of Gavin Clancy in the Players summer production, Neil Simon's *Rose's Dilemma*, opening on July 25.

Perry hasn't limited his involvement with the Playhouse to appearing before the curtain. He built the glass wall that was part of the set for *Marvin's Room*



Perry as Ross in *Bright Ideas* with Rachel McGinnis

and learned about lighting at the same time. He worked with **Adam Witko** on sets and helped out with backstage work during the run of *Man of La Mancha*. "I've learned a lot with help from **David Bisett** and **Shirley Marlett**, among others," he said. "All the theatre people are good to work with and they're always generous about sharing their knowledge of stagecraft." In addition to his theatre credits with the Players, Perry is also a singer, musician and short skit performer. He was a member of a band that performed at the Magnolia Opera House back in his Houston days.

In "real" life Perry works for Thyssen-Krupp Elevators. Like many who arrived here over the past decade, Perry discovered Wimberley by accident. He was being transferred by his company from Houston to Austin and discovered Wimberley during his move. "It was one of those moments when you look around and think *this is where I want to be*." Perry and his wife **Donna** have lived here for nine years.

Thanks to people like Perry and the many others who have seen Wimberley and thought *this is where I want to be*, we have a vibrant community with a theatre company that continues to grow, improve and delight audiences. All it takes to get involved as a Player is to plunge right in—but be ready to mind Payton because she will *never* let you waltz out of an audition on those cold feet of yours.



Perry as the exasperated airline steward in *Bright Ideas* with Rachel McGinnis

## Annanette Harper and Nelda Williams... A distribution wiz and a versatile dynamo

At its last membership meeting, the Wimberley Players inaugurated a new tradition—the Drammy Awards. Awards were presented to a number of volunteers for their work on behalf of the theatre over the previous year. In the last issue of Playmakers, readers were introduced to two Drammy winners. In this issue two more of the honorees are featured.

Each time you receive an issue of *Curtain Call* all nicely folded, placed in an envelope and labeled, you can think of **Annanette Harper** and the crew of helpers who work with her. “We usually have seven or so volunteers to get out the mailing, but we could always use more help,” she told us. “The entire process takes only a couple of hours to complete when we have a full crew working.”

Annanette told us she has lived in Wimberley 13 years, and that’s longer than she has lived in any one place since she left home for college. After majoring in Elementary Education, Annanette taught first grade and kindergarten and raised a family, all the while moving with her late husband’s job assignments. “We lived overseas, in New Orleans and Houston, too,” she added.

When we asked about the whereabouts of her Drammy, a decorated, star-shaped cookie on a stick, Annanette laughed and told us it was delicious. “I couldn’t decide about eating it, but I did and it was one of the best cookies I’ve had.”

For more information about the mailing crew, call the theatre at 847-1592 to join in the fun.

“Dynamo” would not be an exaggeration when describing **Nelda Williams**, the winner of the Pin Cushion Drammy. “**Judith Laird** was trying to figure out how she was going to get six or eight leather pouches to complete the costumes for *Man of La Mancha*,” Nelda explained. “She had some leather, so I told her I

could make pouches for her.” And that’s how Nelda became a Drammy Award recipient.

But wait! There’s more: Nelda’s work for the theatre goes back awhile, and she has taken on a number of jobs for the benefit of the theatre. For several years she has coordinated the program that recruits workers for the Village Store. Their volunteer hours translate into

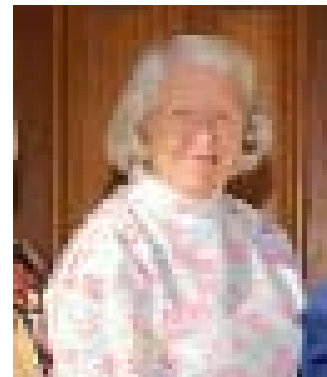
income for the Players. Nelda works with store manager **Hugh Campbell** keeping track of our volunteers. She is always looking out for new people to work at the store. In a recent year, the theatre received some \$22,700.00 in income generated by the hours our volunteers have worked. Nelda also volunteers at the store doing all kinds of work.

“Last year I asked Hugh if I could be in charge of organizing the trailer for seasonal donations. All seasonal items are boxed and taken out to the trailer, where I separate them, price them and get them on display back in the shop for the appropriate season.”

Nelda told us she has lived in Wimberley since 1982 and owned land here for 25 years before moving to town. She owned and operated Jean’s on Ranch Road 12 for 17 years, has been a teacher in the Pasadena schools, and... well, you get it...she is a dynamo!



*When mailing *Curtain Call*, Annanette (left) appreciates the help and the smiling face that postal clerk **Cindy Smith** always gives her at the Wimberley Post Office.*



*Dynamos don’t stand still long enough to get their photo taken. But we were able to find this recent photo of Nelda in front of the Village Store.*