

Membership Update

Kay Henderson, Membership Director

Season Ticket sales close July 31

You can save 30% when you buy Season Tickets, getting 7 shows for the price of 5. The Wimberley Players are celebrating their 30th Anniversary with an amazing line-up of shows for the 2009-2010 season. Enjoy the same seat for every performance. Exchanges are easy if you cannot make it on your night. (Season Tickets are a perk for our members. We invite you to join us.)

Call (512)847-0575 or purchase tickets online at www.wimberleyplayers.org.

Wimberley Players 2009-2010 Season

Rumors	Sept. 25 – Oct. 18, 2009
Inspecting Carol	Nov. 20 – Dec. 13, 2009
1940's Radio Hour	Feb. 12 – March 7, 2010
Virtual Devotion	April 16 – May 9, 2010
West Side Story Jr.	June 18 - 27, 2010
Lee Coleé Studio Summer Camp*	*not included with Season Tickets
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	July 30 – Aug. 22, 2010
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers	Sept. 24 – Oct. 17, 2010
Pinocchio	Nov. 19 – Dec. 12, 2010

Members come together in April at Players Focus Luncheon and Dinner



The shirts may clash but John Addeo and Frank Wood don't.



Bernice and Charles Scott chat with former Players prez Al Sander.



Mary Southwell, Mary Goulden, Mary Thigpen, Barbara McCall and Sally England enjoy the social time.



Joe and Judy Navarro pause with Barbara Dawkin.

Curtain Call

The Wimberley Players

For Our Members and Supporters
Number 3, July 2009

Stop the World, I Want to Get Off opening July 31

Finding Out What Kind of Fool I Am

Stop the World, I Want to Get Off is set against the backdrop of a circus. Written by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse, *Stop the World* is directed by Jay Jennings and produced by Teresa Stankiewicz. This is the tale of Littlechap, a dreamer of dreams. He is determined to become rich and carry out excursions to Cannes, Capri and Royal Ascot. He imagines that the stairway to success is marriage to the boss' daughter. While he is dreaming of what could be, life happens.

Jennings, a 26-year veteran of Texas State University, returns to the Wimberley Playhouse after a very successful production of *Deathtrap* in 2008.

Littlechap, the role made famous by Anthony Newley, is easily created by singer, actor and dancer **Nathan Villarreal**. Nathan has been classically trained and has a deep love for the theatre. You may remember him in the Wimberley Players' production of *Man of La Mancha*. Nathan is especially happy to be sharing the stage with his daughter, Celeste.

Carole Hofstad portrays Evie, Littlechap's wife, and doubles as Vocal Coach. Carole hails from Minneapolis, MN, where she performed in a variety of venues including music ensembles to contemporary opera. She is also a *Man of La Mancha* veteran. Serving as St. Stephens Episcopal Church pianist, she is raising a budding actress/singer, her daughter, Samantha.

Littlechap's Russian mistress, Anya, is played by **Amber Lackey**. Amber has spent the past three years in New York working in theatre and is happy to be back on the Wimberley Players' stage for her first appearance since *Christmas Belles*. She holds a BFA in Acting from Texas State.

Juli Dearington's last performance on the Wimberley Players' stage was in *Christmas Belles*. Juli sings professionally with the Sentimental Journey Orchestra and Destination and works for Seton Healthcare Network. Juli plays Littlechap's American (New York songstress) mistress, Ginnie.

Dawn Young recently came from Cleveland, OH. Dawn has been a professional actor, teacher, and director and portrays Littlechap's German mistress, Ilse. In the roles of Littlechap's two daughters are **Celeste Villarreal** as Jane, and **Nicole Bennett** as Susan. Celeste has participated in many productions at the Emily Ann Theatre and is a Respiratory Care major. **Nicole Bennett** (Susan) makes her debut on the Wimberley stage in this performance. She is a junior at Texas State where she majors in musical theatre, and dance and mass communications.

The cast is rounded out by "The Chorus," consisting of several talented singers and dancers, including **Vance Loggins**, **Caroline Weaver**, **Kimberly Suarez**, **Falon C. Rucker**, **Reed Neal**, and **Deanna Lulich**. The live orchestra for the play features **Guy Ben-Moshe** (bass), **Michal Rosenberger** (musical director, piano), **Sean Palmer** (percussion), **Jonna Kay Beck** (bassoon), **Gerin Hood** (flute) and **Malcolm McLean** (keyboard).



Juli Dearington and Nathan Villarreal (photograph by Jim Gillock)

Stop the World, I Want to Get Off will run weekends from July 31 until August 23. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8:00pm, and Sunday matinees at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$15, except for the opening night champagne reception (\$20). Buy tickets online (www.wimberleyplayers.org) or call (512)847-0575. The Box Office will be open weekdays July 20 to August 1, 1:00 to 5:00pm.



Gwen Sandefur Remembered

Just So...

There was an elegance, a classiness that is so difficult to define, yet so easy to feel when in her presence. Most of **Gwen Sandefur's** friends would agree. If you look up "lady" in the dictionary, you get a small but quite obvious picture of Gwen. She was at her best when surrounded by friends and the "love of her life," Rob.

Gwen and Rob were married for 35 years, having met in Arizona (one of the many places Gwen had called home, along with Argentina, Florida and, eventually, Texas). Having moved to Wimberley in 2002, they eventually became fixtures wherever the Wimberley Players set up stage. A very talented painter, Gwen was a member of the Wimberley Valley Art League. Several of her memorable paintings decorate the living room of Julie Ray, who so graciously opened her home for a post-memorial reception. A credenza was crowded with photos of Gwen and Rob, their family, and beloved dog Molly. You couldn't help but notice the sparkle of happiness in their smiles. They were just so happy to be together.

Many friends and family recounted how Gwen enjoyed giving dinner parties, but being a perfectionist, no one could be let into the dining room until everything was "just so." She entertained as she loved, with her whole heart. To honor her guests, she wanted everything to be "just so."

Gwen passed away the morning of June 9, 2009. She will be missed, not only by Rob, close friends and family, but by everyone whose life was touched by her grace, soft voice, and friendly smile. The world is a better place because we had the pleasure of knowing Gwen.

- Linda Addeo



Rob and Gwen Sandefur (photograph by Jim Gillock)

Actors and Others

Wimberley Players is fortunate. So much talent abounds in Wimberley and the surrounding areas that the theatre is able to effortlessly produce sold-out productions on our compact stage.

Movies have often been the product of one person's vision, like a Hitchcock or Coppola. Many specialists are needed to create a finished production (actors, designers, editors, composers). Artists covering a range of disciplines work collaboratively to create complete performance experiences, such as a circus, a touring troupe or a summer stock company. This is the idea behind the formation of the Stock Movie Company. It is a group of people who combine their skills and multi-task to create movies.

The Stock Movie Company is developing a 10-minute movie, writing, developing the story, writing the screenplay and designing the production. The script is finished and Wimberley will be the setting for the production. The movie will be shot over the next several months and will be entered into local film festivals. This is a multi-talented group of friends who hope to start making successful, money-making movies.

The Stock Movie Company began with Rodger Marion. He spoke with **Lee Coleé**, who volunteered to be the casting director and acting coach. Auditions were held and actors were selected for the film, including veterans of many Wimberley Players shows: **Carla Daws, John Daws, Gina McClure, and Melinda Ellisor.**

Costume and Lighting Designers Honored

Texas State theatre student A. John Boulanger was recently announced as the winner of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Student Playwriting Award for his play *House of Several Stories*, one of seven shows presented at the Regional Festival hosted by Texas State during the last week of February 2009. *House of Several Stories* is a dark comedy about a dysfunctional family and their unusual guests. The production team included Texas State student and costume designer, **Abbey Moore Graf** (responsible for costumes in the WP production of *Leading Ladies*) and Texas State alum **Chris McKnight** (lighting consultant for *Leading Ladies*).

House of Several Stories was performed in the Family Theatre at the Kennedy Center on Saturday April 18th. It was the culminating event of the week-long National Festival.

Wimberley Community Civic Club brings happiness to box office

Thank you, Wimberley Community Civic Club, for your recent generous grant to the Players of \$2,500, which is being used for Box Office improvements. A new printer, headphones, and other needed equipment are in place and have made the introduction of e-tickets possible. Tickets to *Guys and Dolls - Junior* was the first show e-ticketed, and the process went very smoothly. Our Box Office volunteers are the best, and they are the most appreciative of all for the gift of the Civic Club - what a difference this donation has made in their work. Let's hear a big round of applause for this Club whose members are faithful supporters of the Players!

Seats with no name!

A few seats in our theatre have no name! Remember or honor that special someone with a lovely plaque on the back of a theatre seat for a donation of \$2500. The remembrance lasts forever, and our gratitude will be priceless. Please call Kay Allison at 847-1873.

Thank you, Rotary Club!

Thank you, Rotary Club, for awarding the Players a generous grant of \$2400 from proceeds of your recent Gala. Video projection and monitor equipment will be purchased for use during rehearsals and performances, and to save copies of shows in our archives - won't future generations of Players enjoy that! Please express appreciation to every Rotarian you know. The Rotary Club of Wimberley has long been a supportive friend of the Players.

Annual Fundraiser

Oaxaca is coming to Wimberley as we celebrate "Dia de los Muertos" on November 1, 2009, at Old Glory Ranch. We promise a spectacular party with fabulous food from a variety of vendors, a great band, select live and silent auction treasures, the perfect Wimberley setting, and the time of your life raising funds for a variety of needs at the Playhouse. Put the date on your calendar now!

Underwriter help is being solicited with the following levels:

Oscar Level - \$5,000 includes 10 complimentary Fiesta tickets, two 2009-2010 season tickets and an eighth-page ad

Golden Globe Level - \$2,500 includes 6 complimentary Fiesta tickets and six tickets to an upcoming 2009-2010 show

Tony Level - \$1,000 includes 4 complimentary Fiesta tickets



Emmy Level - \$500 includes 2 complimentary Fiesta tickets

People's Choice Sponsorship - \$250
All levels receive extensive publicity in Fiesta promotion materials.

The more underwriting donations we have, the more successful the fundraiser will be for the Players! Call Kay Allison at 847-1873. Co-Chairs are Suzanne McCord and Gina McClure, joined by committee member Kay Allison.

Join Us "Behind the Scenes" August 13

Join the Wimberley Players at the Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Road on August 13, 2009 6:00 to 8:00pm for wine and cheese and drawings for free theatre tickets. Learn the secrets of the stage.

- Check out the set for "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off."
- See how stage lights change color.
- See what's behind the scene shop door.
- See how they run that big red drape (no, it's not remote control).
- Discover the "secret" hallway behind the stage.
- Watch wig fittings and make up application in the dressing room.
- Say hello to the box office workers
- Greet some folks (always dressed in black and white) who serve as ushers.
- Find out about the lickers and stickers who work on the Curtain Call mailings.
- Meet the Village Store workers (wearing fashions from the VS).
- ...and much, much, more!!!!

Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!

Online Ticketing for Players Offerings

You can now buy your show tickets online. You can pick the performance and the seats of your choice (you can even exchange tickets online).

Just go to the Wimberley Players website and look for the words, "Buy tickets online." Click and buy! Come and enjoy! (www.wimberleyplayers.org)

Curtain Call is published five times a year, prior to each production, and is sent to members of the Wimberley Players.
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