

2001/2002 Season  
Issue #5



# THE PROMPTER

NEWS LETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE HOVEY PLAYERS

## Meeting an Old Friend by John MacKenzie, President

It was late afternoon and we had just finished a rehearsal. I was standing at the back of the Abbott Theater tugging on a beer, leaning over the house rail, deep in thought about the next production. At first I didn't notice the gentleman standing next to me.

He was neatly dressed in a dark blue suit, a distinguished older man with chiseled features and cotton white hair. He looked familiar but I didn't place him right away. He spoke first, "Old place looks good, looks like you're doing a good job." Suspecting that I should know him, I turned to him and extended my hand, "I'm John MacKenzie," I said. "I know," he replied taking my hand, "I'm Homer Ditmier."

I hadn't seen Homer in nearly twenty years, we had only worked together on one production in 1980, Mound Builders. I was only nineteen but I remembered that he treated me well and I enjoyed his company. The history I was part of never really sunk in before that moment. I realized then, for the first time in twenty years, that I was a Hovey Player.

Many area thespians roam from group to group and do not know the benefits and rewards of being a part of a truly wonderful organization like Hovey Players. A good theater company offers members a sense of belonging and a chance to contribute beyond the 6 or 8 weeks of rehearsal. For me Hovey is a year-round experience where I spend time with close friends and share my talents and abilities with like-minded people.

Consider rooting yourself in the community-theater of your choice. Not that you shouldn't audition where you please but find yourself

a home and offer some of your time, talent and friendship to one of the many groups that give you the chance to create and perform. While you're searching for a home base, we hope you'll consider the people and the good work we produce at the Abbott as well as our rich history. All you need to do to become a member is subscribe to our season and let us know you'd like to be an Active Member. *(Details on Page 3)*

Perhaps someday decades from now you'll be standing at the back of a theater, and you'll see an older bearded "gentleman" looking about saying, "Old place looks good, looks like you're doing a good job." You'll introduce yourself and god willing you'll be shaking my hand.

I hope to meet you soon, downstairs at the Abbott.

## Hovey's Annual Meeting ...and Party!

We will be hosting our annual meeting and party August 11, at 2PM. There will be refreshments, perhaps some entertainment as well. At this party we will be honoring four long-time active members of Hovey Players, **Edward Biggins, John Conway, Lissi Engvall, and Ralph Tomeo.** Please join us in celebrating the achievements of these four members.

We'll also be electing officers for next season. Any member interested in joining our Board of Directors can apply by sending an email to [BoxOffice@Hoveyplayers.com](mailto:BoxOffice@Hoveyplayers.com).

This event is open and is not limited to members. If you plan to attend please RSVP to our reservation line 781-893-9171 or [BoxOffice@hoveyplayers.com](mailto:BoxOffice@hoveyplayers.com). There is no fee to attend.

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### Where To Find Us

**Abbott Memorial Theater**  
9 Spring Street at Joel's Way  
Waltham MA

Reservations: 781/893-9171  
Green Room: 781/647-1211

Email: [boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.hoveyplayers.com>

□ AUDITION NOTICE □

**Fuddy Meers**

by David Lindsay-Abaire  
Directed by Michael Tonner

Auditions will be readings from the script on: Tuesday July 30th and Wednesday July 31st at 7:00PM.

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**

September 20th through October 5th

Claire has a form of amnesia that causes her to lose her memory each night as she sleeps; so, every morning her husband Richard greets her with a cup of coffee and a book that explains her condition. But, this day is to be like no other day for when a limping, lisping, half-blind, half-deaf man in a ski mask jumps out from under her bed, Claire begins a hilarious often harrowing journey through a surreal landscape of bizarre characters--each of whom reveal as much about themselves as they do about her. At the end of this dark, antic, ultimately sweet comedy Claire has learned --if nothing more--that while sleep may bring forgetfulness, it offers is no escape from who you are.

Roles: four men (including a 17 year old) and three women. (Note: the 17 year old could possibly be played by a woman.)

□ Congrats to Hovey Members □

**Tom and Leigh Berry**

who are expecting a baby boy in the very near future!  
On behalf of Hovey, we wish you great joy.

**It's a wrap! *The Seagull***

by Anton Chekhov, Translated by Tom Stoppard  
Directed by Jason Myatt

Hovey reached back to turn-of-the-century Russia for its latest production, *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov. This richly textured play marked an important milestone in dramatic writing, paving the way for modern playwrights to take the elements of dialogue, style, and character in new directions. *The Seagull* is a challenging play to produce, but not merely because of the period and location where it's set. Chekhov created complex, real-life characters whose passions, dreams, and disappointments lie just below the surface of their words. A successful production must weave together the elements of character, set, lighting, sound, and costumes into a seamless organic whole. Hovey's production of *The Seagull* accomplished this feat beautifully through the thoughtful, skillful, dedicated efforts of the phenomenal cast and crew.

**Hovey Summer Shorts Festival 2002**

**WEEK 1, July 11- 13**

*The Cheese Sculptor* by Elisabeth Burdick  
Patrick Cleary Directing

*Rondeau* by Andrew S. Burns  
Robert Runck Directing

*Full* by Bill Doncaster  
Maria Silvaggi Directing

*Wax* by Bill Donnelly  
Tom Lawlor Directing

*Date Night* by Glen Doyle  
Fred Robbins Directing

*Jeans* by Leora Falk  
Ronni Marshak Directing

*Pageant Monologue* by Elizabeth Marshall  
Jerry Bisantz Directing

*Mrs. Morrissey* by Saul Slapikoff  
Jerry Bisantz Directing

*Sharing Sean* by Steve Smith  
Lisa Burdick Directing

**WEEK 2, July 18-20**

*Do You Believe Me Now?* by David Andrews  
John MacKenzie Directing

*Freaks* by Jim & Jean Anton  
Jim Anton Directing

*Sex Education* by Jerry Bisantz  
Jerry Bisantz Directing

*Taking Liberties* by Patrick Brennan  
Sarah Powell Directing

*The Illusion of You* by Patrick Cleary  
Nancy Curran-Willis Directing

*Bob & God* by Greg Flick  
Jason Myatt Directing

*Trigger* by Norman Lasca  
Wendy McDowell Directing

*Jennifer Grey Has Disappeared* by Robert Mattson  
Robert Mattson Directing

*Balloon Bending* by George Sauer  
Wendy Golden Directing

# Presenting Our 2002-2003 Season

September 2002

## Fuddy Meers

Farce  
by David Lindsay-Abaire

November 2002

## Escape From Happiness

Black Comedy  
by George F. Walker

January 2003

## \*Observatory

Drama  
by Kate Snodgrass

March 2003

## Twelfth Night

Comedy/Classic  
by William Shakespeare

May 2003

## Dangerous Corner

Mystery  
by J.B. Priestley

July 2003

## Summer Shorts

Festival of New Works by Local Authors  
{Festival admission is not included in subscription price}

\* Observatory will be accompanied by a short one-act play to be announced.  
Kate Snodgrass, received the Best Play IRNE - 1999 for Observatory, sharing the honor with Boys at Play author, Jerry Bisantz.

Become a member  
and

# Save up to 15%

## Subscribe today

Congrats to Hovey Member **Frank Kjaersgaard**   
who ran The Boston Marathon and finished in less than  
three hours. This means that out of near 17,000 runners,  
Frank was under 1000!

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM HOVEY PLAYERS 2002-2003 SEASON

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer correspondence via email

Number of Subscriptions ~~\_\_\_ 5X \$5~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Senior ~~of~~ subscriptions \_\_\_ x \$4<sup>00</sup> = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Totals Subscribers \_\_\_\_\_ Total Sub \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hovey's success depends on the generosity of patrons and friends. Additional contributions are always appreciated and are tax deductible.

Optional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using this form more than one person - list their names below along with an address, (if different from yours)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'm not able to subscribe this season but I would like to make a donation to your company. I've enclosed a check in the amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

A subscription entitles you to one admission to each of our five productions, currently a \$65 value. Future ticket prices are subject to change. Subscribing protects you from cost increases later in the season. Our Summer Shorts festival is not included in the subscription price. Purchasing subscriptions doesn't guarantee you a particular seat or performance date. Subscribers are still required to call in a reservation prior to the performance. If you are unable to attend a performance, you may offer your ticket to a friend. Subscriptions are non-refundable.

Please make checks payable to: Hovey Players, Inc.  
Mailing payment to  
Hovey Players, PO Box, 540 Waltham, MA 02250-0101

You may contribute items of interest to **THE PROMPTER**  
c/o PO Box 540101, Waltham MA 02454-0101  
or via e-mail to [hoveyplayers@excite.com](mailto:hoveyplayers@excite.com)  
Distribution: 425



# The Prompter

Hovey Players, Inc.

PO Box 540101

Waltham MA 02454-0101

NOW APPEARING AT THE ABBOTT MEMORIAL THEATER

## *Hovey's Summer Shorts 2002*

Hovey's incredibly popular Summer Shorts Festival of New Works storms into the Abbott Theater for its fifth season with new plays by some of the area's hottest playwrights. "The number of submissions was overwhelming this year", enthused producer Kim Anton. We received more than seventy submissions and the quality was extremely high. Included in this year's offerings are favorite playwrights of past years including Rob Mattson, Glen Doyle, George Sauer and Lisa Burdick, but some new people have come forward with some impressive offerings. "We received a script from a senior in high school that just really moved me", says co-producer Jerry Bisantz. "Her name is Leora Falk and she's a young lady to watch. Add to that, the recent winner of the Best Play Award at Playwrights' Platform, Bill Doncaster's *Full* will perform. We also have many new people offering their directing talents and are happy to welcome Nancy Curran-Willis from Gloucester Stage who is lending her expertise to the cause." As with past years, an incredible amount of actors, directors, and technical staff will come together to present two weekends of "fresh, just-off-the-shelf short plays that are guaranteed to keep you rocking all evening. We guarantee that Summer Shorts will have something for everyone. Bisantz sums it up: "We are proud to have reached this level of talent and production values and we are looking forward to having a blast!"

*(Line-Up on Page )*

**WARNING: Summer Shorts sells out like crazy, so call soon.** No reservations for more than two people can be held without money in advance. Tickets are \$10 for Thursdays performances and \$13 for Fridays and Saturdays. No discounts apply.

***Abbot Memorial Theater, 9 Spring Street at Joel's Way, Waltham***

*For reservations please mail your check in advance of performance to:*

*Hovey Players, Inc., PO Box 540101, Waltham MA 02454-0101, or call: 781/893-9171*

*Seating is limited to 52 per evening.*