

2001/2002 Season
Issue #4



THE PROMPTER

NEWS LETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE HOVEY PLAYERS

Strange Snow... Thoughts from Director John MacKenzie

We tend to hold on to fear and failure, and life can produce all sorts of demons within us. We tend to allow the past to effect our personallity and our future. The moment we face our fears, our demons, life starts to change. There is always hope ... the human spirit is usually stonger than anything we can throw at it, even war.

Metcalfé's play *Strange Snow*, is more than a story about the social effects of war. It is a play about real people, their hopes and fears. The dialogue is honest, full of humor, and true to life drama. I identify so strongly with all three of these characters that during rehearsals I find myself breaking into laughter and tears at the same time.

Hovey Players Would Like To Thank And Acknowledge Friends & Benefactors For Their Support

- ~ Miriam Alderstein
- ~ Robert and Carolyn Allen
- ~ Bruno Alterescu
- ~ Patrick Brennan
- ~ Community Opticians of Waltham
- ~ John Conway
- ~ Glenn Ellis
- ~ Jeanine Leonard
- ~ John Lerman
- ~ Martin Lerman
- ~ Lucille Lopresti
- ~ Eileen Marchurs-McGrath
- ~ Ann McCoy
- ~ Mary Murphy
- ~ John Murtaugh
- ~ Jason Myatt
- ~ Mike Peluso
- ~ Jean Roche
- ~ Henry Schwarzberg
- ~ Joan Smith
- ~ Herman and Joan Suit
- ~ Dan Taylor
- ~ Constance Tonner
- ~ Louise Tracey
- ~ David and Joyce Wilbourn

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Prologue to our Production of <i>Strange Snow</i> | |
| Cover | Cover |
| Friends & Benefactors | Page 2 |
| Lion Sleeps Tonight | Page 2 |
| Community Theatre, Why do we do it? | Page 2 |
| Summer Shorts Submission Deadline | Page 3 |
| Accepting Director Proposals for 2002/2003 | Page 3 |
| Thanks To All Our Volunteers | Page 3 |
| Hovey People on the Loose | Page 3 |

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
Web Site: <http://www.hoveyplayers.com>

After A Rousing Roar, The Lion Sleeps Tonight...

Well, Christmas with the Plantagenet family is over, and the lion is finally at rest. Last Saturday, it was with mixed feelings that I went to Hovey and watched as the stone walls and arches of Chinon Castle were pulled down to build the living room and kitchen for *Strange Snow*. *Lion in Winter* is over, and it's time for a new production. But the experience will stay with me forever.

I was so fortunate in my cast and crew. For the first time in over 20 years of directing, I had a cast with no weak link. All you directors out there know how wonderful it is not to worry about any of the performers—to just be able to sit back and enjoy watching all the collaborative work take life on stage. And it is so rare to find a cast that all gets along so well!

Thanks to **Jerry** for producing and making sure that people came to see the show. The design staff—that's you, **John, Michele, Carolyn, and Genevieve**—was outstanding. The set and lights were just as I had envisioned—although I never really could have imagined the loving detail of **Michele Boll's** scene painting. (My favorite detail—rusty nails painted onto the exit door.) And no one has ever built me furniture before! And the costumes were exactly right. The music (thank you, **Cinda**), the props (**Michelle**, you are amazing), the run crew (**Beth**, I owe you BIG TIME!), and running of sound (**Greta**, it was so much fun sitting in the booth with you), all contributed to making the show an amazing success. And then there is **Helene Andersson**, who was stage manager, assistant director, light board operator, therapist, and confidante. You are truly a theater goddess!

I am very proud of *Lion in Winter*. I think it was a production that showed everyone to best advantage and challenged everyone in the process. Thank you, **Hovey Players**, for giving me the chance to direct my dream show.

Ronni Marshak, Director

Community Theatre, WHY DO IT? by Jerry Bisantz

I am often asked, "How much money are you getting paid?" I love to see the look on their faces when I reply, "Nothing!" They usually look at me like I'm totally insane. (Which I am, but that's a story for another day.) It's hard for most to equate anything of value without attaching a dollar sign. I find that so sad.

Anyone who has ever worked on a full theatrical production from start to finish knows the incredible teamwork, dedication, sweat, and... yes, here's that word... "COMMUNITY" that it takes to achieve the goal.

So much of today's society is focused on SELF. "YOU deserve the best car, can't you just see YOURSELF in this fabulous suit... YOU deserve a break today." We have cell phones to plug in our ears, computers to talk to total strangers halfway around the world, it's not unusual to see people plugged into their own personal music as they walk down the beach... Do they know that the seagulls are sharing a song of their own? Do they care?

Community theater makes you care... No, I take that back... It DEMANDS that you care. If you don't do your job the show does not go on. Anyone who has not witnessed the thrill of opening night and the sense of fulfillment on closing night, the camaraderie of the cast and crew... Well, they are missing out on one of life's great joys.

I recently attended a party. Over half the people at that party met in one way or another at our fabulous little theater in a basement. You know what? I left that party feeling like a million bucks. It works on a whole bunch of levels. The shows you do live on in your memories. The friendships can last forever. I will always proudly

Submissions For
SUMMER SHORTS 2002

Deadline: 4/29/2002

Mail TWO copies to:

Summer Shorts

Hovey Players

PO Box 540101

Waltham MA 02454-0101

Hovey is currently accepting

Play Submissions
and/or
Director Proposals

for the
2002-2003 Season

Deadline: 4/1/02

Mail two copies of the
play and/or the proposal to:

Hovey Players
PO Box 540101
Waltham MA 02454-0101

Hovey Members & Friends On The Loose!

Tom and Leigh Berry are appearing in Israel Horowitz's *Widow's Blind Date*, directed by **Nancy-Curran Willis** at the Burlington Players.

Bill Doscher will be directing *Sweeney Todd* for The Footlight Club.

Kate Mahoney landed the lead in Burlington Players' *The Man Who Came To Dinner*.

Hovey board member, **Lida McGirr**, appeared in Concord players' production of *Sideman* which co-starred **Bob DeVivo** and **Marc Baumhardt**.

Phyllis Rittner performs in *Wives Of The Dead*, presented by the Bridge Theater Company at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Barrymore, a one man show starring **Jerry Robbins**, directed by **Joseph Zamparelli, Jr.**, Co-produced & stage managed by **Teresa Goding**.

Mark Sickler will be directing an off-off Broadway production of *Swimming In The Shallows* in New York.

Rocco Sperrazzo, Kate Tonner and **Wayne Vargas** will be appearing in Hovey's production of *Strange Snow*, directed by our own **John MacKenzie**.

Elizabeth Wightman, will be appearing in Boston Theaterworks' production of *Macbeth*.

Appearing in ACME's Hugely Successful 1st Annual New Works Festival: **Michelle Aguilon, Kim Anton, Tom & Leigh Berry, Patrick & Alyssa Brennan, Lisa Burdick, Elizabeth Marshall, Rob & Jen Mattson, and Jason Myatt**.

Congratulations Everyone!

Dear Hovey Friends and Members,

Thanks to those individuals who contribute their precious time to come down to Hovey to lend a helping hand when we need it.

I would like to personally thank the following who came down to volunteer for running crew of *The Lion in Winter* at a moment's notice: **Bill Spera, Kate Mahoney, Sarah Marshall, Steve Lilas, Jerry Bisantz, Kim Anton, Jason Myatt and Kate Tonner**. The show would not have been a success without you, so many, many thanks!

Hovey is always looking for anyone willing to help a hand, be it with concessions, running crew, costumes, props, clean-up crews and set building. Your contribution whether big or small would be greatly appreciated by the "Hovey Family" - yes, I say "Family", because no matter who has come down to Hovey, that person is always welcomed warmly and openly. AND, we have a lot of fun!

So, if you'd like to come down to contribute your time, please call the Hovey Green Room at (781) 647-1211 or the main number at (781) 893-9171 and leave a message.

Again, many thanks...

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

Distribution: 425



The Prompter

Hovey Players, Inc.

PO Box 540101

Waltham MA 02454-0101

NOW APPEARING AT THE ABBOTT MEMORIAL THEATER

Strange Snow **by Stephen Metcalfe** **directed by John MacKenzie**

March 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 8:00 p.m., Matinee Performance March 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Hovey Veterans: Rocco Sperazzo, Kate Tonner and Wayne Vargas.

Today, Joseph Meggasy will make good on a promise made on a battlefield more than 30 years ago. His arrival at the Flanagan House will re-unite him with his friend David and David's sister Martha. The three are lost souls, disheartened by the past. For David and 'Megs' it's memories of war, for Martha it's deeper and more personal; she describes herself as a "battleship with a face of an icebreaker." Love has passed her by...or so she thinks.

Filmed as "Jackknife" with Robert DeNiro, Ed Harris and Kathy Baker, the script is fast pace and full of humor and emotion. From Megs' antics and spontaneous dancing to Martha's sharp wit to David's brooding, Metcalfe's characters are contemporary and true to life. You won't want to miss this uplifting and timely performance.

Please note, there is strong language that may not be appropriate for younger children.

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

\$13 per seat per night, \$2 discount for persons over 62 years of age

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.