

# Summit Playhouse Green Room Notes

## January 2005

### *Inspecting Carol* Opens on February 25<sup>th</sup> with a Special Set

**I**nspecting *Carol*, a hilarious comedy by Daniel Sullivan and the Seattle Repertory Company that has been performed in New Jersey only at the George Street Playhouse, will entertain Summit audiences from February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 12<sup>th</sup>. It concerns a run-down theater company presenting Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, their money problems, and a visitor from the National Endowment for the Arts. Our patrons are going to see a stage built upon a stage. In fact, the special set will resemble (on a small scale) that of the Equity production in New Brunswick two years ago. Because of the unavailability of experienced people in our group to design the tricky set that is required, we sought help from Christopher Bailey, Technical Director of the George Street Playhouse Scene Shop. Wait until you see the intricacies and special effects!

**Kate Schlesinger**, our director, has cast Playhouse members **Maureen Bentley**, **Pam Heller**, **Bill Roome**, and **Michael Schlesinger**. She also awarded roles to **Rosalind Seneca** and **Terri Sturtevant** and newcomers **Paul Bettys**, **Tim Day**, **Cy Friedman**, **Dell Hallman**, **David Neal**, and **Kevin O'Driscoll**. Veteran **Betty Kaus** is the producer. The production is being underwritten, in part, by the Powell Financial Group, Inc., while Dreyers Lumber & Hardware is covering the cost of the program.

If you liked Michael Frayn's *Noises Off*, you will love *Inspecting Carol*, which we expect to be a sellout. If you want your friends and neighbors to join in the fun, have them call (908) 273-2192 soon to order tickets or go online [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org). Prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students under 18 years of age.

**D**on't forget: (1) The Grand Summit Hotel is offering our ticket holders a generous 20% discount on food in the Hunt Club, so consider dining next door before the show. (2) If you do not intend to use your *Inspecting Carol* tickets, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can fill the seats with last-minute buyers

### Apply by March 1<sup>st</sup> to Direct Next Season

Playhouse members who are interested in directing in the 2005-2006 season should contact **President Nancy Boucher** by telephone (973-377-9058), e-mail [nboucher@patmedia.net](mailto:nboucher@patmedia.net), or letter (Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901). The Board of Governors, in choosing the season, will attempt to match in-house directors with play selections, which this year will be theme-based. If fewer than six members with directing experience express interest, we will seek non-members to direct next season.

### Our Two-Play Subscription for 2005 – A Special Occasion Gift Option

Our two-play subscription for *Inspecting Carol* and *A Delicate Balance* (\$20 for adults and \$14 for students under 18 years of age) will be available only while tickets for *Inspecting Carol* last. It makes a great house gift or a gift for a birthday or other anniversary! Call (908) 273-2192 soon to order a two-play subscription or go online [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org).

### Building Restoration Project; House & Grounds

Now that the Marjorie Jefferson Auditorium has a new roof, and the gutters, downspouts, and scuppers have been either repaired or replaced, we turn our attention to reglazing the windows on the ground level, replacing rotted wood, installing a new outside door to the Green Room, and painting. The contractor expects to begin this phase of the project in late January or early February. We continue to seek funds for this work. • Gary Arnesen is installing racks and shelves in the new costume closet. • Bids are being sought to replace the tile floor in the Board Room.

### A Barnes & Noble Bookfair to Benefit the Summit Playhouse, February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

**T**he Board of Governors has contracted with **Barnes & Noble Booksellers (240 Rt. 22 W, Springfield, NJ)** for a Bookfair from February 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, Presidents' Day. Playhouse members, subscribers, and friends will be asked to use special vouchers in shopping *at that store* during that five-day period. (Vouchers **cannot** be distributed in the parking lot or on the premises.) Barnes & Noble will contribute 15% of voucher sales up to \$2000, 20% from \$2000 up to \$10,000, and 25% over \$10,000. Books, music, CDs, magazines, café gift items (e.g., whole cheese cakes), and other merchandise are eligible purchases toward the Bookfair contribution, but gift cards, café consumables, educator, corporate or institutional discounts and other offers and promotions do not count in Bookfair totals. Information is printed on the back of the vouchers, which we hope you will distribute to friends who might wish to help the Playhouse. (On February 19<sup>th</sup> **Nancy Boucher** and **John Bauer** will be in the store to talk about our theatre. Throughout the day a short video narrated by **Rose Pancirov** will be shown.) **Please shop at Barnes & Noble during our Playhouse Bookfair!**

## Is Your Name on One of Our Playhouse Chairs Yet?

**John Bauer**, Director of Development, announced that **Michael J. Lunga** is our newest “chairholder.” For a \$100 contribution to our Building Restoration Fund, you, too, can have your name permanently inscribed in the theatre. John will be happy to discuss other giving opportunities with you (973-543-9570) [wj.bauer@patmedia.net](mailto:wj.bauer@patmedia.net).

### Development News

As announced in *Green Room Notes* for October, donors of \$100+ are receiving copies of *New Jersey Women’s Heritage Trail* (2004) and also free-of-charge dress rehearsal privileges at the **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra**. (Anyone who has not picked up this bonus book should do so at the ticket desk at a performance of *Inspecting Carol*.) The open NJSO rehearsal in February will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the NJPAC in Newark. **Maestro Neeme Järvi** will be working with the orchestra on parts of the program *Järvi Champions Youth*. New members of our \$100+ group are **Michael J. Lunga** and **Harriett and Neale Trangucci**.

### More Playhouse News

**Vince Balzano**, who raised over \$6500 with the *Two Guys and a Girl* benefit last fall, came through again as producer of *Fiorello!* with mostly sold-out houses. *Fiorello!* was the first musical to turn a profit at the Playhouse in many years. • **The Kiwanis Club of the Chatham**s is the recipient of the March 10<sup>th</sup> benefit performance of *Inspecting Carol*. • **Jo Ray** is planning an acting workshop to be followed by a performance. • A letter from loyal subscriber **Theresa Whitehead**, who has moved to Arizona, thanked the Playhouse for quality entertainment over the years. • A letter from **Barbara Gilland**, daughter of founding member **Norman Swartout** to whom the mural in the lobby is dedicated, thanked the Playhouse for the expression of sympathy upon the death of her husband, Edwin. • **We need a producer for Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth this summer. Call Nancy Boucher (973-377-9058).**

### Playhouse Members on Other Stages

**Maya Daniels** is hosting The Berkeley Heights Education Foundation's premier episode of *Hello, Berkeley Heights!* This half-hour magazine show currently airing on TV-34 discusses the purpose of the BHEF and highlights special people and events in Berkeley Heights. For more information, you can visit [www.BHEF.info](http://www.BHEF.info) or Maya's personal website [www.mavadaniels.com](http://www.mavadaniels.com) under the Television Section. • **Erin Mahon** and **Max Rissman** will appear in Summit High School's production of *Hello, Dolly!* on March 10-12. The choreographer is our own **Kelly Mott-Sacks**. • **Emily Balzano** has a role in *Seussical* at Kent Place School on March 4-5.

### Nancy Boucher and the Playhouse in the News

“*Playhouse Puts Accessibility First*” by Magaly Roig, an article on our accessibility project, appears on pages 7-8 of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance’s *Cultural Access News* (Winter-Spring 2005). Congratulations, Nancy! (Your pictures almost made the centerfold!)

### News from the Tri-County Community Theatre Association

**Westfield Community Players** are presenting *Witness for the Prosecution* on March 25, April 12, 18-19 (\$15). Playhouse members receive a \$2 discount with their I.D. card.

### Welcome to our Newest Members

Two father-and-son teams: **John and Jonathan Buscaino** and **Casey and Robert McGuire** [Editor’s note: Not sure which is which]

### More Subscribers, More Active Members, and More Volunteers Needed

It is no secret that we need more people both in our subscriber base and on our membership list, and recruiting them is everyone’s job. The number of members willing only to appear on stage has been growing, while the number of those willing to work behind the scenes has been dwindling. A letter from **Robbi Curtis** after the production of *Fiorello!* expressed some dissatisfaction with the backstage and dressing room support in the musical that had a large cast, multiple costume changes, many scene changes executed by the actors, and many props. Robbi also called for a review of job descriptions. Consequently, President Nancy Boucher held a special meeting of the Board of Governors on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the problem and to begin the updating of job descriptions.

Current members should ask themselves, “How many new people have I brought to the Playhouse this past year? How can I help the Playhouse grow and thrive? Do I know any potential subscribers? Have I used the \$5.00 discount coupon that I received with my membership packet to introduce a friend or neighbor to the Playhouse?” We need stage managers, carpenters, scenic designers, dressers, hairdressers, costumers, prop people, painters, choreographers, and ushers. We also need news writers and writers of grant proposals. Please volunteer. Please ask friends and relatives to volunteer. After ten hours of work you can be voted in as a member.

**The Playhouse Association, Inc., 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 (908) 273-2192**  
Nancy Boucher, President • Ed Johnson, Business Manager • John Bauer, Editor • [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org)