



FRIENDS OF MONOMOY THEATRE, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 169, CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 02633

THE MAGPIE

SPRING EDITION

May, 2017

CELEBRATE SUMMER 2017 AT MONOMOY THEATRE

A Little Night Music will be in the air when the Monomoy theatre lights up once again on June 20!



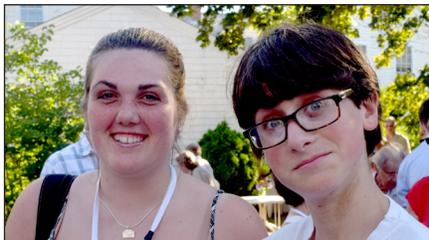
SAVE THE DATES!!!

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 ♦ 4:30 - 6:30
KICK-OFF PARTY

Come raise a glass in the Eleanor Baker Steindler Rehearsal Tent. Meet the 2017 company and enjoy a musical taste of what's to come!

Bring a friend!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 ♦ 4 - 6 pm
GARDEN PARTY
and annual meeting



Photos by Tim Wood



***A Little Night Music* – June 20-July 1**
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim,
Book by Hugh Wheeler
Directed by Alan Rust

The season begins with Stephen Sondheim whisking us away for a weekend in the country with this lush and elegant four-time Tony Award winning tour de force musical.

It's summer in Sweden, 1900. *A Little Night Music* goes inside the tangled web of affairs swirling around actress, Desirée Armfeldt, and the men who love her. There's the lawyer Fredrik Egerman and the Count Carl-Magnus Malcom.



When Desirée's tour performs in Fredrik's town, the estranged lovers' passion rekindles. A flurry of jealousy and suspicion flares between Desirée; Fredrik; Fredrick's wife, Anne; Desirée's current lover, the Count; and the Count's wife, Charlotte. And that's just in act one.



Both men and their jealous wives agree to join Desirée and her family for a weekend in the country at Desirée's mother's estate. With this cast of edgy characters in one place, the possibilities of new romance and second chances are endless and surprising. Though the summer sun refuses to set, the moon still manages to smile three times at this musical masterpiece.

Artistic Director, Alan Rust will direct the season opener and resident Monomoy maestro, Phil Rittner, will be the music director. The cast will include Monomoy favorite Holly Hol-

comb, last seen as Anna in *The King & I*, as Desirée, Mary O'Brady as Madame Armfeldt and Ricky Oliver, who Monomoy audiences will remember as John Adams in *1776*, will play Fredrick.

***The Game's Afoot* - July 4-8**
By Ken Ludwig
Directed by Kyle Metzger

Our second show is the comedy thriller, *The Game's Afoot* by Ken Ludwig. The author of the hilarious *Lend Me a Tenor*, that delighted Monomoy audiences in 2015, brings us this Sherlock Holmes story.

American actor, William Gillette, who was renowned for portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, invites his fellow players to his palatial home in Connecticut for a weekend of fun in December 1936.

The festivities take a sinister turn when one of the guests is murdered. Gillette becomes Holmes in his own house as he tries to track down the killer before another murder occurs.

Perennial favorite, Bill Kux, who was the "man in the chair" in last season's *The Drowsy Chaperone* returns to play the Sherlock Holmes. He'll be joined by long time Monomoy players, Nora Chester and Marsha Korb. Kyle Metzger, who gave us last season's stunning production of *Of Mice and Men*, will direct this murderously funny mystery.



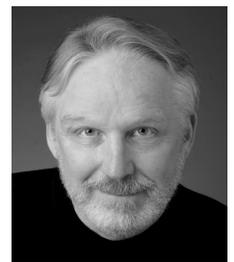
***On Golden Pond* - July 11-15**
By Ernest Thompson
Directed by Ricky Oliver

Retired, cantankerous professor Norman Thayer and his wife, Ethel, return to their summer home on the idyllic shores of Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. This year, they're visited by their adult daughter, Chelsea, her new fiancée and his teenage son, Billy.

When the new couple goes off on a European vacation leaving Billy behind for the summer, he instantly becomes the grandchild Norman and Ethel never had. Tart-tongued Norman teaches his "ward" about fishing and good books. Along the way he picks up some tips about current teenage awareness and some slang.

Chelsea returns, and tries to repair the long-strained relationship with her aging father before it's too late. As the summer draws to a close, other complications remind everyone that time is fleeting and another summer on Golden Pond is not guaranteed.

Ricky Oliver who'll play Fredrick in *A Little Night Music*, will make his Monomoy directing debut. Perennial Monomoy guest artists Ellen Fiske and Terry Layman return to play Ethel and Norman in this touching, funny and warmly perceptive study of a couple in their twilight years.





***A Flea in Her Ear* - July 18-22**
By Georges Feydeau
Directed by Ryan Holihan

As we reach mid-season we head for turn of the 20th Century France and classic farce. When he seems to lose interest in her, Raymonde suspects her husband Victor, is having an affair. Her best friend, Lucienne, develops a plan to test him.

Letters from secret admirers are written and exchanged, and assignments are arranged at the infamous Hotel Coq d'Or. Handwriting is recognized, identities are mistaken, murder is plotted, shots are fired, doors are slammed and speech impediments are cured, as a surge of guests descend upon the hotel and create hilarious chaos.

Come and laugh out loud as you watch Chatham favorites, Bernard Cornwell, Lou Maloof and many others sort out the comic madness. Ryan Holihan returns to direct the hilarity.

110 in the Shade
July 27-29 & July 31- Aug 5
Music by Harvey Schmidt,
Lyrics by Tom Jones,
Book by N. Richard Nash
Directed by Francesca James

Based on the hit play and the movie *The Rainmaker* that starred Burt Lancaster and Katherine Hepburn, *110 in the Shade* is the musical story of Lizzie Curry, a single woman who lives in a small southwestern town besieged by a long drought in 1936. Lizzie is worried that with no love interest in sight, she's about to become an old maid.



Then, a charismatic newcomer named Starbuck swaggers into town. He claims he has the power to make it rain. Lizzie sees a lying con man, but what she doesn't see is that this man may change her life forever if she can convince him to stop his lies and change his errant life.

This classic American musical about "cowboys, confidence and courtship," by the creators of *The Fantasticks*, will be directed by Francesca James. Monomoy audiences will remember her beautiful productions of *Death of a Salesman* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*. Guest artist, Sarah Killough last seen as Lorraine Sheldon in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* returns to play Lizzie, Alan Rust will play her father, H.C. Curry and Phil Rittner will provide musical direction for this beautiful score and conduct the FOMT orchestra.



***Candida* - August 8-12**
By George Bernard Shaw
Directed by Mary O'Brady

Candida is a classic comedy of the modern theater, by the Nobel Prize winning playwright.

Set in Northeast London, *Candida* focuses on the domestic turmoil that arises when impetuous young poet, Eugene Marchbanks comes between an idealistic progressive clergyman, the Reverend James Morell and his charismatic wife, Candida. Though the story begins as a sitcom-like romantic triangle, it raises deeper questions about the true nature of love, fidelity, and the imagination of the artist.

Written in 1894, Shaw's irreverent wit offers a spirited debate about men, women and marriage with a bit of reli-

gion and politics thrown in to liven things up. Provocative in any period, come and see how profoundly fresh, funny and thought provoking his ideas remain to this day.

Mary O'Brady who brought us Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Rumors* in past years as well as last season's *The Drowsy Chaperone*, returns to direct this delightful and timeless "feminist" comedy.



***The Good Doctor* - August 15-19**
By Neil Simon
Directed by Jay Stratton

Tony winning playwright Neil Simon has always said his favorite writer is Anton Chekov, who incidentally was also a practicing physician. In *The Good Doctor* Simon pays tribute to his hero as he retells Chekov's stories with humor, warmth and charm. The original Broadway production starred Christopher Plummer and introduced Simon to his second wife Marsha Mason.

The title character, a writer, speaks directly to us in the audience as he shares some of his favorite tales. Some are about his childhood, others are portraits of his friends and family. You'll meet a scrappy old woman who gives a bank manager a large piece of her mind. You'll be



delighted when a father decides his son needs to be initiated into the delights of sex, has second thoughts at

the last minute and leaves the boy even more confused.

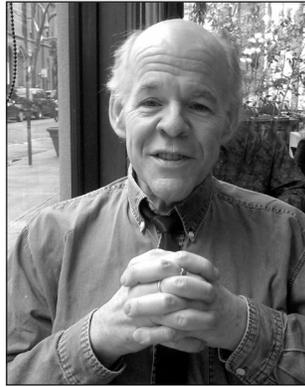
There's the one about the married woman who turns the tables on a confident seducer, the tale of a beleaguered bureaucrat with sinus issues, and the story of a man who offers to drown himself for three rubles.

The stories of these strikingly human characters are by turns, hilarious, sad, affectionate, moving and fun. Jay Stratton whose 2015 Monomoy production of *Pride and Prejudice* delighted us returns to direct. Don't miss Bernard Cornwell and the Monomoy company for this theatrical treat.

Once in a Lifetime - August 22-26
By Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman
Directed by Terry Layman

Called "the granddaddy of all tinsel town comedies" it was the first in a long line of hits for George S. Kaufman and the newcomer, Moss Hart.

In the winter of 1928 the biggest news in entertainment is the huge success of



Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*, the first all-talking picture. Three on-the-skids vaudeville troupers—the acerbic May Daniels, the fast-talking Jerry Hyland, and their slightly dopey pal, George Lewis, decide to head for Hollywood to try to make it in this new craze, the "talkies." They don't know what they're going to do there, but no one else knows anything in Hollywood either.

After a series of hilarious blunders, and with the aid of Hollywood's greatest gossip columnist Helen Hobart, (modeled after Hedda Hopper) and big time producer Herman Glogauer, the unassuming George is carried to fame and fortune (at least for now) and made head of production at Glogauer Pictures.

George's success is seriously in doubt. This is a lightning fast, comedic satire. Terry Layman returns to direct Artistic Director, Alan Rust, longtime guest artists, Michael John McGann, Ellen Fiske, and the Monomoy company as they take on 70 different characters in this wild spoof of the absurdities of Tinsel Town.



Your Membership Renewal form is included in the enclosed envelope.

Pass this newsletter with this form along to other friends, family, neighbors who might enjoy becoming part of the Monomoy Theatre experience. They'll thank you!

BE A FRIEND: JOIN F.O.M.T

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of Monomoy Theatre*

FOMT Circle	\$1,000+	Benefactor	\$500-\$999	Patron	\$250-499
Sponsor	\$100-\$249	Family	\$ 50 - \$99	Individual	\$ 30 - \$49

Date _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to FOMT, Box 169, Chatham MA 02633

Name (please print) _____

Winter Address _____

Summer Address (after June 1) _____

*If your company has a matching gift program, please consider completing the necessary forms.

As a FRIEND, your name will be printed in the Monomoy Theatre program insert and you will be invited to all FOMT functions.



All the Angels at Wanamaker Playhouse illuminated by candles.



FOMT 2017 TRAVEL ADVENTURE:

“Oh, there’s no place like London.”

by Jay Stahl

Travel writer Jess Flint, in *Departures*, wrote “Think London and inevitably you think of the stage. Yet the play’s not the only thing anymore.”

Every other January, Cape Cod theater enthusiasts journey to London as a group sponsored by Friends of Monomoy Theater, with valued assistance from accompanying Sidney Harvey of Northside Travel. The event begins each time on a P&B bus from the Monomoy Theater to Logan. On arrival, after being taken to a comfortable hotel near Buckingham Palace, the travelers receive theater tickets each has requested, and are immediately off on an entertaining and educational week. This past January, the twenty-two travelers chose to take in eighteen different productions. Theater opportunities varied from *Cirque de Soleil* at the huge Royal Albert, to the music of Carole King, to *All the Angels*, the tale of the introduction to the stage of the memorable music of George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*. This wonderful new treat was enjoyed by eleven of us, staged dramatically at the beautiful indoor Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare’s more than four-hundred-year-old Globe Theater, illuminated only by seventy-two wax candles in six chandeliers plus several in wall sconces.

Yes, London theater always proves to be great and the Friends of Monomoy trip is further enhanced by being taken back stage of this historic theater, through special arrangements made by Alan Rust.

Adding to the theater experience is a visitor’s access to the wonders of Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, St. Martin’s in the Field, St. Paul’s Cathedral, the Tate Modern, The Linnean Society of London, the British Museum, Churchill’s War Rooms, Buckingham Palace’s changing of the guard, Big Ben, the Tower of London and many more wonders. This theater trip to London is very special.

During unscheduled time, theater-goers find unexpected treats. With minds set on Handel, some of the group set out to find Handel’s modest residence during the 1700s, located at 25 Brook Street in London’s upscale Mayfair. Of interest were the first and second floor rooms where Handel composed and practiced music, including musical scores, and replicas of his bed and harpsichord. Then, as an added London surprise, it is pointed out that adjacent to Handel’s rooms, on the upper floors of the next building, 23 Brook Street, separated by a single wall, was the 1960s home of Jimi Hendrix, considered one of the greatest rock guitarists of his time.

These homes of two musicians who chose to live in London and changed music, separated by a single wall and about two hundred years, are being developed as the Handel and Hendrix Museum in London. The expected and unexpected of London are everywhere. To join this interesting trip, mark your calendar for January 2019.



Photo courtesy of the *Cape Cod Chronicle*

SEASON TICKET REMINDER

**Renew your subscription by
May 23 to guarantee
your previous seats!**

On-line orders begin in June.
Box Office opens Monday, June 13
Order in person or by phone: 508-945-1589

Season subscriptions:

Evenings - \$210; Thursday Matinees - \$190

Single Tickets

\$29 - Tuesday-Saturday at 8; \$27 - Thursday Matinee at 2

Musical Single Tickets:

A Little Night Music

\$31 - Evenings; \$29 Matinees

Also Monday performance, June 27 at 8

and Matinees Thursday 6/23 and 6/30 and Saturday June 25 at 2

110 in the Shade

Thurs - Sat, July 28-30 and Mon - Sat, August 1 -

6 \$31 - Evenings; \$29 Matinee (8/3)

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS!

By joining the Friends, you help nurture young artists and bring wonderful performances to Chatham and the Cape. FOMT supports the theatre by funding the orchestra for both musicals, providing stipends to the company, and funding other essential projects.

Special thanks to all our Matching Gift donors. If your employer or former employer offers charitable matching funds, this is a tremendously helpful way to support the Monomoy Theatre

2017 FOMT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Elsa Bastone, Sarah Kay Bryce, Jean Greenough, Mary Ann Harwood, Terry Layman, Cecile Maranhas, Mary O'Brady, Marsha Predovic, Linda Simonitsch, Carolan Whittle, Marie Williams, Jenny Wood

For more information, visit the theatre website
www.monomoytheatre.org