

POST OFFICE BOX 169, CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 02633

SPRING EDITION

THE MAGPIE

May 2015

IT'S OFFICIAL. WINTER IS OVER!!! CELEBRATE SUMMER AT THE MONOMOY THEATRE





SEASON TICKETS ARE GOING FAST. Renew by May 23rd and your seats are guaranteed.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 4:30 TO 6:30 PM: KICK OFF PARTY

Help launch the 2015 season! Come raise a glass, meet the company, and enjoy a musical preview of *Damn Yankees* in the rehearsal tent.



SAVE THE DATES!



Photos by Sarah Sierszyn





4 TO 6 PM – FOMT ANNUAL MEETING AND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9:

GARDEN PARTY



2015 SEASON NOTES

BY MARY O'BRADY AND TERRY CAZA

DAMN YANKEES June 23 – July 4

by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop Music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross Directed and Choreographed by Kyle Brand Music Director Phil Rittner

A regular guy makes a deal with the devil to beat the despised New York Yankees. No, he's not a member of Red Sox Nation but a fan of the hapless 1950's Washington Senators. Joe Boyd would "sell his soul" for a long ball hitter to help the Senators win the pennant and the mysterious Mr. Applegate is happy to oblige. He transforms Joe into a handsome, young slugger in exchange for giving up is wife, his home and his soul. Joe wisely includes an escape clause but to ensure he doesn't use it, the demonic Applegate enlists a cunning temptress to seduce young Joe and seal the deal. After all, "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets." Or does she? *Damn Yankees* first opened on Broadway in 1955. Directed by George Abbot and choreographed by Bob Fosse, it ran for over 1000 performances. Fosse was reluctant about the newcomer up for the role of Lola and demanded to meet her first - her name was Gwen Verdon. She got the job.

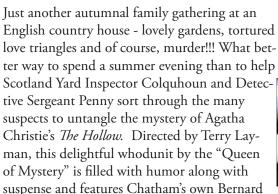
This summer's opening production will be directed and choreographed by Kyle Brand and features returning company member



Juwan Crawley as Mr. Applegate and guest artist Sarah Killough as Lola, the flaming haired femme fatale. Artistic Director, Alan Rust plays Van Buren, the team's manager, who reminds his players and the rest of us "You Gotta Have Heart."

THE HOLLOW July 7-11

by Agatha Christie directed by Terry Layman





Cornwell as the aristocratic Sir Henry Angkatell and guest artist Ellen Fiske as his eccentric wife Lady Lucy.

LEND ME A TENOR July 14 – 18

by Ken Ludwig directed by Francesca James

When 1930's Cleveland opera impresario Henry Saunders brings Tito Morelli, the world famous Italian tenor to town to perform Verdi's *Otello* for the locals, he expects to produce "the greatest event in Cleveland Opera History." But Morelli, known as "Il Stupendo" has an eye for the ladies and a jealous wife. Throw in a seductive soprano, an overworked assistant - himself an aspiring singer - whose sometime girlfriend, the impresario's daughter is also infatuated with the famous Morelli, put them all in a hotel suite with lots of doors ... and the result... mistaken identities, chase scenes and fast paced fun filled farce! Nominated for 9 Tony awards, Ken Ludwig's hilarious backstage comedy gives the Marx Brothers a run for their money. Francesa James directs the rollicking midsummer madness.

THE UNDERPANTS July 21 – 25

by Steve Martin directed by Peter Hackett

Legendary comic genius Steve Martin has created a hilarious new version of Carl Sternheim's classic 1910 comedy *Die Hose*. One Sunday morning Louise and Theo Maske's conservative, straight-laced life is upended when Louise's bloomers fall to her ankles right in the middle of town. Although she quickly restores them to their proper position, Theo is afraid the scandal will cost him his job as a government clerk. As they try to repair the damage caused by the underpants incident, the Maskes are approached by not one, but two "curious" men both wanting to rent the spare room in the Maskes' home. Eager to collect not one, but two times the rent, Theo splits the room between the poet and the hypochondriac, unaware that they have ulterior motives for being close to Louise. Peter Hackett directs and Monomoy favorite and Broadway veteran Bill

Kux returns to play the harried clerk, Theo Maske.





25TH **ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** July 30 – August 8

Rebecca Feldman with music and lyrics by William Finn Directed by Annmarie Kelly Davis Music Director Phil Rittner Choreographed by Justine Rosales

What began as an improv comedy sketch was developed into an ingenious, original and utterly charming off-broadway musical. It moved to Broadway in 2005, won multiple Tony awards and helped launch the career of Modern Family's Jesse Tyler Ferguson. Putnam County Spelling Bee is the tale of six lovable, middle school misfits whose struggles include a chronic sinus condition, a mortifying lisp and the requisite raging hormones. As they eagerly compete to win the Bee our hilarious young heroes manage to stumble onto some self-esteem along the way. This marvelous ensemble piece directed by Annmarie Davis gives the talented young Monomoy company a chance to shine and each performance will draw on the talents of some lucky audience members recruited for the comic adventures. Don't miss it!

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE August 11 – 15 by Jon Jory from the novel by Jane Austen directed by Jay Stratton

Jane Austen's beloved 19th century classic remains one of the most popular works in all of English literature. Adapted many times for the screen, the 1995 version starred Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy and Jennifer Ehle, (1987 Monomoy Company) as the quick witted, opinionated and fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet. Forbidden by law from inheriting the family's modest estate, custom dictates that Elizabeth and her four sisters must be suitably married off, preferably in order. When Mr. Bingley, a wealthy bachelor moves to town and forms an attachment to the eldest sister Jane, not everyone is delighted in this class-conscious society, including his dashing but arrogant companion, Mr. Darcy who finds himself drawn to Elizabeth "against his better judgement." Part Dickensian comedy, part social commentary, Jon Jory's clever and energetic stage adaptation

shows why this enduring love story continues to delight. The Monomoy production, directed by Jay Stratton, features Ellen Fiske as the flighty Mrs. Bennet and Alan Rust as the beleaguered patriarch.



BILOXI BLUES August 18 – 22 by Neil Simon

directed by Mary O'Brady

The second chapter of Simon's semi-autobiographical coming of age trilogy, Biloxi Blues begins on 19 year old Eugene Morris Jerome's first night away from home in 1943. On the train from Brooklyn to Mississippi, as he heads for Army basic training, Eugene is crammed in with a disparate bunch of raw recruits, naïve to what's waiting for them - Sgt. Merwin Toomey. Played by Christopher Walken in the Mike Nichols film version, Toomey is brutal, possibly insane and determined to turn boys in to soldiers at any cost. Still the aspiring writer, Eugene continues to document his army adventures in the diary that will one day become his memoir. In addition to not getting killed, his agenda includes losing is his virginity and if possible, falling in love – and with the help of a literary Catholic and an understanding prostitute he manages to do both. One of Neil Simon's most acclaimed works, this Tony winning script finds wit, humor and compassion in the rough realities of army life (anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia) and moves with quicksilver skill between life and death drama and heart warming comedy. Mary O'Brady directs and Nate Healey returns to the company to reprise his role as Eugene.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

(In Chatham) August 25 – 29 by William Shakespeare Directed by Robert Davis

Certainly one of Shakespeare's most popular and often performed comedies, *Midsummer Night's Dream* follows the adventures of four mismatched lovers, mischievous magical creatures and tradesmen turned amateur theatricals as they're manipulated by the fairies who live in the forest. This romantic fantasy never lets us forget that "the course of true love never did run smooth." Guest Artist, Terry Layman will play Bottom and Bernard Cornwell leads the comic "mechanicals" as Peter Quince.

Midsummer is frequently transplanted from its original setting to other locations and time periods. Rather than the ancient Athenian woods, Monomoy's production directed by Robert Davis will materialize in a scenic seaside resort/fishing village that may look familiar... come enjoy "what fools these mortals be!"





ELDREDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY LEARNING SERIES

Thursday discussions on four plays from the Monomoy Season will take place at ELP. Due to family obligations Shannon Griscom will not be in Chatham this summer. The discussions will be led by Barbara Wells. As always, reading the selections in advance is recommended.

May 28 - The Underpants by Steve Martin

June 4 - *Pride and Prejudic*e by Jon Jory based on Jane Austen

June 11 - Biloxi Blues by Neil Simon

June 18 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

FOMT Board for 2014-2015

President - Mary O'Brady Vice President - Jean Axline Secretary - Cecile Maranhas Treasurer - Sarah Kay Bryce

Board of Directors: Bernard Cornwell, Scott Hamilton, Mary Anne Harwood, Terry Layman, Gay Murdoch, Jill Notaro, Carol Penfield, Mauny Plum, Marsha Predovic, Jan Rust, Linda Simonitsch, Jay Stahl

FOMT Circle \$1,000+



The 2015 Friends London adventurers at "Downton Abbey" The trip raised \$4,000 for FOMT. Thanks to one and all!

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 for over half of the company, giving scholarships to outstanding company members and supporting other essential projects.

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

Patron

\$250-499

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

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

Renefactor

\$500-\$999

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 (aft	er June 1)					

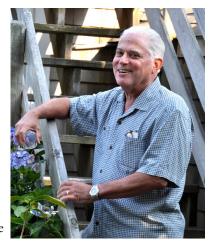
As a FRIEND, your name will be printed in the Monomoy Theatre program insert and you will be invited to all FOMT functions.

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



YOU GOTTA HAVE HARTT . . . (AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD)

FOMT would like to officially welcome the University of Hartford as the Monomoy Theatre's primary sponsor. While this season, marks their first year in this capacity, U of H has played a major role at the Monomoy Theatre since Alan Rust and Malcolm Morrison founded the Hartt School Theatre division, now a major professional training program, in 1996. Hartt students have been an essential part of every company since then and many of your favorite returning guest artists including Steve French, Holly Holcomb, Ricky Oliver, Caitlin Maloney, Kyle Brand and Sarah Killough are Hartt grads. Our Monomoy maestro, music director Phil Rittner is on the faculty and each summer the Friends of Monomoy Theatre orchestra is composed largely of students and graduates of the Hartt School of Music.



In addition to being Wellfleet homeowners, University President Walter Harrison and his wife Dianne are long time Friends and supporters of the Monomoy Theatre. "All of us at the University of Hartford are very pleased to be joining the FoMT in sponsoring the theatre this summer. The Monomoy has provided outstanding theatre throughout its history. It helps make a summer on the Cape both entertaining and thought-provoking. We can't wait for this season to begin."

The University of Hartford has been a contributing sponsor since 2012 and our theatre community is deeply grateful for their increased support of this invaluable educational experience and to President Harrison for stepping in to help continue this unique and wonderful summer tradition in Chatham.

















Let's get this party started!







