



FRIENDS OF MONOMOY THEATRE, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 169, CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 02633

THE MAGPIE

WINTER EDITION

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2014 - IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

by Bernard Cornwell

Photos by Sarah Sierszyn

One way to cheer up a cold and windy winter is to remember the sultry summer nights at Monomoy, and certainly the 2014 season began with a too darn hot production of *Kiss Me Kate*, directed by Mary O'Brady and choreographed by Kyle Brand. Cole Porter wrote the music and lyrics, while Bella and Sam Spewack provided the book, though all of them owe a lot to a certain



William Shakespeare who gave them the story of a shrew's taming. Caitlin Maloney guest-starred wonderfully as the trouble-on-wheels Kate who is wooed and eventually won by Petruchio, marvelously played by Stephen Mir (who stepped into the role at the last moment). Alan Rust and Terry Caza as the bard loving thugs, delighted us in a comic turn that earned plaudits from all the critics! Phil Rittner led

the marvelous orchestra sponsored by us, the Friends of the Monomoy Theatre!

From Padua we moved to chilly Norway where the spa baths of a small town are in serious trouble. *An Enemy of the People*, by Henrik Ibsen, has all kinds of resonance for another small town on Cape Cod. Let's not mention the row over the Mitchell River Bridge or



Route 28 in West Chatham or skydiving at the airport, but what does happen when a small town is riven by disagreement? The play was immensely powerful and beautifully cast with David Haugen and Terry Layman as the brothers who will fight to the finish. It was not comforting, injustice rarely is, but Aurora Held's production did justice to this classic from the "father of modern drama."

There was more injustice and misunderstanding in *Blood Knot*, Athol Fugard's searing attack on apartheid. The play was originally banned in his own South Africa, but has been performed worldwide. We were so fortunate to have Mbali Guliwe, a South African student at Ohio, who played Zachariah, bound



indissolubly by blood, love and resentment to his half-blood half-brother, Morris, played equally well by Jared Davis. This was a grueling play for the actors, just two of them on stage, who plumbed depths of emotion that left audiences utterly silent before exploding with applause. Directed by Shelley Delaney, this was a tremendous achievement we were

proud to have on the Monomoy stage.

How do you follow such serious fare? With murder, of course, and with Ira Levin's marvelously intricate and entertaining thriller, *Deathtrap*. A fine cast, cleverly directed by Nora Chester, misled us, deceived us, plotted, connived and astonished us in 1970s quiana shirts, turtlenecks and sideburns. The wonderful Laura Esterman guest starred as psychic Helga ten Dorp, and there were enough red



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Season Recap (Continued)

herrings to fill an aquarium. It was fun, it was murder, it had us laughing, it was terrific!

And so to the midway point of the season. For those of us lucky enough to work (part-time for me) at Monomoy the season passes so fast!

One week it's the first show opening and you scarcely seem to draw breath and the orchestra is back for the second musical, in this case the eternal favorite, *South Pacific*. Guest artist Steven French, in splendid form, returned to play Emil de Becque. Michael John McGann



directed Rodgers and Hammerstein's masterpiece, the cast numbered over thirty, the music was sublime as we washed that man right out of Nellie's hair (Nellie was the enchanting Alycia Kunkle, back at Monomoy for her second season), as we agreed there's nothing like a dame, nothing! Proven by Colleen Welsh's powerful Bloody Mary and with another marvelous turn from the FOMT orchestra *South Pacific* was, indeed, an enchanted evening.

More enchantment came with Shakespeare's comedy, *Twelfth Night*, directed by Catherine Steindler, and featuring Kat Bramley and Adam Connolly as the shipwrecked twins and Alycia again, as the Countess Olivia who is pursued by a pack of men, the least appealing of



whom is Malvolio, he of the yellow cross-gartered stockings, played by Abraham Adams. It's an enchanting play, love triumphs in the end, but on the way there

are arguments between puritans and libertines. One of which provides a line I love so much that I have it painted on a beam above my office desk; "Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?" Monomoy, surely, provides cakes and ale all summer for Cape Cod!



It was time for an American classic and the critics ran out of superlatives for Ryan Holihan's production

of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. What a wonderful evening! With a semi

autobiographical script by Neil Simon, the cast beautifully matched to the dysfunctional Jerome family with Nate Healey as young Eugene (Simon's alter ego) and



Andy Danford as big brother Stanley. More than a few of us left the theater remembering (hoping, dropping hints) that *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is the first of a tril-



ogy of plays about young Eugene Morris Jerome!

Comedy to end, and another classic, this one by the incomparable Moss Hart and George Kaufman, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Terry Layman directed and Alan

Rust and guest Sarah Killough led a huge cast to depict the tumultuous visit of Sheridan Whiteside, a larger than life character, to the Stanley household in a small Ohio town. This was another clash of puritans and libertines and, happily, the libertines win again, though not before they have reduced the lovely Stanley house to chaos. There were penguins, an octopus, an Egyptian mummy, and cockroaches. Lots of cockroaches. And there was laughter. The whole play takes place over Christmas. The old tradition was that Christmas ended on twelfth night with a lord of misrule and Alan Rust's Sheridan Whiteside was certainly that, abetted by Sarah Killough's sultry film-star. It was a wonderful production that served as a perfect curtain call for our delightful 2014 company, filling our theatre with laughter and the promise that the laughter will return in the 2015 season.

See you there!





2014 Alan Rust Award

Originally created by a generous patron of the theatre, the Alan Rust scholarship is now sponsored by the FRIENDS. and awarded each summer to a student chosen by fellow company members. This year's award went to Nate Healey, a sophomore in the Hartt School Actor Training Program at the University of Hartford. In addition to singing and dancing as a stagehand in Kiss Me Kate he also managed the production's 17 scene changes! Nate wore many hats last summer and appeared in many productions but audiences will remember him most as young Eugene Morris Jerome in Brighton Beach Memoirs. Congratulations!



FIRST NIGHT CHATHAM 2015

We welcome new board members Linda Simonitsch and Brenda Notaro along with veterans Mary Ann Harwood and Jay Stahl. Thanks to Catherine Steindler who leaves the board this year after completing her term. All other 2014 board members will be returning. The board for 2015 is as follows:

President – Mary O’Brady
Vice President – Jean Axline
Secretary – Cecile Maranhas
Treasurer – Sarah Kay Bryce

Board of Directors

Bernard Cornwell, Scott Hamilton, Terry Layman,
Gay Murdoch, Jill Notaro, Carol Penfield,
Mauny Plum, Marsha Predovic, Jan Rust,
Linda Simonitsch and Jay Stahl.

Start your celebration of first night with the Monomoy Theatre - 5 PM at the Methodist Church. Kyle Brand, Terry Caza, Bernard Cornwell, Bob and Annmarie Davis, Ellen Fiske, Sarah Killough, Terry Layman, Michael John McGann, Mary O’Brady and Alan Rust will ring in the new year with *Words and Music*.

MATCHING FUNDS

Special thanks to all of our Matching Funds donors. You made a big difference this year! If your employer or former employer offers charitable matching funds, this is a tremendously helpful way to support the Monomoy Theatre. ***We deeply appreciate year-end donations!***

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 _____

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*If your company has a matching 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.

'Tis the Season – coming soon . . .

While the rest of us await the start of the new season of “Downton Abbey” next month, 40 fortunate members of FOMT will be having high tea at Highclere Castle, the setting for the beloved TV series as part of the Friends London excursion. Artistic Director, Alan Rust will announce the Monomoy’s 2015 Summer Season at that event. For the rest of us, the season will be announced on the Monomoy Theatre website in early 2015. Stay tuned!



HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!



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Below are our prices for tickets.

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Monomoy Theatre, PO Box 779, Chatham, MA 02633

Sorry, at this time we can not accept credit cards.

Any questions, or to order by phone: 508 945-1589.

Our 2015 season will be announced early next year.

Season Tickets (8 shows) \$210 - Evenings; \$180 - Thurs. matinees

Individual shows: Evenings - \$32; Matinees - \$28