



FRIENDS OF MONOMOY THEATRE, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 169, CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 02633

THE MAGPIE

SPRING EDITION

May 2014

It's time for
Another Op'nin', Another Show
... eight shows actually!

The Monomoy Theatre lights up on June 17th

Season tickets now on sale!

www.monomoytheatre.org



Photo: Joe Stigliano

Save these Dates!!

Thursday, June 12th
Opening Wine and Cheese Reception
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Help us kick off our 57th Season in the Eleanor Baker Steindler Rehearsal tent.
Come raise a glass, meet the company and enjoy a musical preview of season opener *Kiss Me Kate*.



Sunday, August 10th
Garden Party and
Annual Meeting
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Meet in the theatre at 4:00 for the brief meeting then retire to the patio for fun, food and frivolity with the cast and crew including our annual raffle.



Photos by Sarah Sierszyn



2014 SEASON NOTES

BY MARY O'BRADY AND SARAH SIERSZYN

KISS ME KATE - June 17-28

Music & Lyrics by Cole Porter

Book by Bella & Samuel Spewack

Directed by Mary O'Brady
Choreography by Kyle Brand,
Music Direction by Phil Rittner

Cole Porter's madcap, musical twist on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, this backstage comedy has something for everyone. Producer, Director, Actor, Fred Graham is trying to get his musical version of "The Shrew" from Baltimore to Broadway. If only he can tame his tempestuous leading lady and ex-wife, now a film star engaged to someone else. Throw in an ambitious nightclub singer, her hooper boyfriend, and a pair of gangsters and the sparks fly both onstage and off. In addition to Porter's glorious music and lyrics (So In Love, Always True to You, Brush up Your Shakespeare), this opening production welcomes Richard Barth back from three years with the Broadway tour of *Les Misérables* as Fred Graham. Alan Rust and Terry Caza are the gangsters with a bent for the bard and Kyle Brand will keep things Too Darn Hot as Bill Calhoun.



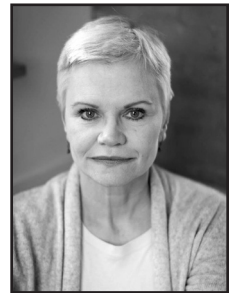
remains as current as ever . . . particularly in an idyllic seaside resort. Directed by Aurora Held, ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE features guest artists Dennis Delaney, David Haugen, and Terry Layman

BLOOD KNOT July 8-12

By Athol Fugard

Directed by Shelley Delaney

Last December the world lost one of its greatest voices in the fight for human rights with the death of Nelson Mandela. The Monomoy Theatre brings you the seminal work of another son of South Africa, actor, director and playwright Athol Fugard. An emotionally stirring parable of 1960's apartheid, *Bloodknot* is the story of two half brothers, Morris and Zachariah, living together in a single ramshackle room. They share a black mother but as the son of a white man, Morris, originally played by Fugard, himself, is able to "pass" for white. The brothers care for and depend on each other but beneath the surface the conflict and confusion of racial identity strain their fraternal bond.



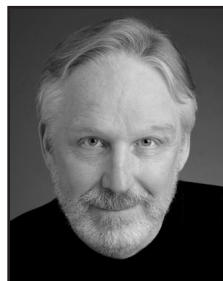
AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

July 1-5

By Henrik Ibsen

Directed by Aurora Held

This summer at Monomoy, the political is about to get very personal. In this fast-paced thriller, Dr. Thomas Stockmann discovers toxic contamination in the water used at the local baths in his Norwegian resort hometown. The doctor expects to be hailed as a hero for his discovery, but since the baths are the town's main source of revenue, the community fights to silence him. Dr. Stockmann learns that there are forces more powerful than truth. Once aptly described as "Jaws without the shark," this dark satire of democracy gone bad by one of the world's most revered and influential dramatists



The 1961 premier of *Blood Knot* in Johannesburg marked the first time a black actor and white actor shared the stage in South Africa. The play was banned after one performance, the actors arrested and laws passed against races mixing onstage or in the audience. Like Mandela, Fugard's voice would not be silenced. Productions in London and New York enlisted international audiences in the battle against apartheid. Still described as a "sparkling theatrical innovator" his plays continue to be produced around the world with several made into successful films including "The Road to Mecca" and "Master Harold and the Boys." *Blood Knot* was revived on Broadway to great acclaim in 1985 with its original cast. In 2011, fifty years after its premier, this groundbreaking work, directed by its creator, again brought New York audiences to their feet. Shelley Delaney directs this political and literary powerhouse.



DEATHTRAP July 15-19

By Ira Levin

Directed by Nora Chester

Cunningly clever and comically twisted, *Deathtrap* is a murder mystery masterpiece that is so wickedly good... it's to die for! Famed playwright Sidney Bruhl debuts the latest in a series of Broadway flops and returns to his Long Island home. His fortunes turn when a young writer shares a brilliant new script with blockbuster potential. Resolved to resurrect his collapsing career, the covetous playwright, along with his wife Myra, cook up a scheme to snare the script and take credit for its creation. Murderous machinations and some intervention from a psychic neighbor lead to a heart-stopping conclusion. The 1982 film directed by Sidney Lumet and starring Michael Caine and a young Christopher Reeve followed the popular thriller's remarkable four-year run on Broadway with John Wood and Victor Garber as Sidney and Clifford. Directed by Nora Chester and featuring Laura Esterman as Helga Ten Dorp, the psychic neighbor. Ira Levin's whodunit about writing whodunits will leave audiences breathless.



SOUTH PACIFIC July 24 - August 2

Music by Richard Rodgers,

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Oscar Hammerstein II & Joshua Logan.

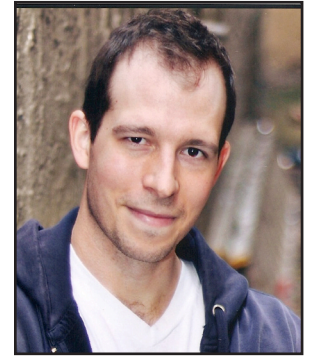
Directed by Michaeljohn McGann

Choreography by Aurora Held

Music Direction by Phil Rittner

When this groundbreaking work premiered in 1949, musical theatre was never the same. Based on James Michener's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Tales of the South Pacific*, and set in the midst of the World War II, the romance between an American nurse and a widowed French plantation owner went beyond musical comedy and challenged audiences to take on serious and controversial subject matter in a musical setting. Considered by many to be their greatest collaboration, the Rodgers and Hammerstein hit ran for nearly 2,000 performances and made a star of Mary Martin. With its magnificent score including *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Bali H'ai*, *Younger than Springtime*

and *There is Nothing like a Dame*, this classic has remained popular ever since. The marvelous 2008 Broadway revival ran for three years and won seven Tony awards. Monomoy favorite Michaeljohn McGann will direct and Steve French, who last appeared here as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* returns to play Emil Debecque



TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Catherine Steindler

Shakespeare's lush romantic comedy is a tale of shipwrecks, identical twins, mistaken identity, and the universal themes of loss, loyalty, longing and of course, love and what fools it can make of us. Full of unforgettable characters, this enchanting Shakespearean comedy follows the story of the shipwrecked Viola who, believing her brother dead, disguises herself as a boy and agrees to serve Duke Orsino, with whom she falls in love while wooing (on his behalf) the Lady Olivia, who falls in love with the boy Viola appears to be. *Twelfth Night* combines some of Shakespeare's most beautiful poetry with side-splitting comedy when Olivia's mischievous maid and over-imbibing cousin, Sir Toby set out to take the stuffing out of the pompous manservant Malvolio.



Proving it's timeless appeal, this wildly improbable, hugely entertaining fantasy was one of this year's hottest tickets on Broadway. Directed by Catherine Steindler, *Twelfth Night* features guest artists Bill Kux as Malvolio and Bernard Cornwell as Sir Toby Belch





BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

by Neil Simon

Directed by Ryan Holihan

First produced on Broadway in 1983, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical coming of age comedy. 15-year-old Eugene Morris Jerome is the narrator and central character. Dreaming of girls and a big league baseball career, Eugene engages the audience as his confidantes in coping with life in depression-era Brooklyn. With two families crowded under one roof, including Eugene's hard working father, his sharp-tongued mother, his older and far more worldly brother, as well as a widowed aunt and her two daughters, the older of whom, Eugene longs to glimpse naked, just once, life has its challenges. But in classic Simon style he combines wit, humor and humanity in this bittersweet memoir. One of Simon's richest comedies, *The Monomoy Theatre Company* will bring this deeply appealing play to life under the direction of Ryan Holihan.

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

By George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

The Monomoy season will close with George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's hilarious 1940's comedy classic *The Man Who Came to Dinner* inspired by the authors' mutual friend, critic and radio personality Alexander Woollcott. While on a lecture tour in Ohio, the famous literary figure Sheridan Whiteside (originally played by Monty Wooley) is invited to dine at the home of a well to do local family. When he slips on the ice outside their home, he takes up residence until his broken leg heals. In addition to outrageous phone bills, the Stanley's must endure Whiteside's capricious demands and imperious, if clever vitriol. As he meddles unapologetically, from his wheelchair throne, the house is taken over by an eccentric string of visitors as well as odd and sometimes enormous get well gifts not to mention a variety of fauna including octopi and penguins. When faced with losing his long-suffering secretary (played on film by a young Bette Davis) his machinations move into high gear. The comedy circus includes a doctor who's happy to abandon his patients for a chance to pitch his memoirs, an axe murderess, and charac-

ters based on Noel Coward, Gertrude Lawrence, and Harpo Marx.

Nora Chester plays the put upon Mrs. Stanley, Sara Killough plays the scheming actress Lorraine Sheldon and Monomoy Artistic Director Alan Rust is the ring-master, Sheridan Whiteside. Terry Layman will direct this delightful comedic confection that may have the greatest opening line in the American Theatre.



100 YEARS YOUNG!

FOMT would like to congratulate long-time supporter and Friend of the Monomoy Theatre, Bill Beinecke!



JULIE HARRIS EXHIBIT AT W.H.A.T.

On December 3, 2013 a memorial for Julie Harris was held at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theater in New York City. Rosemary Harris, Hal Holbrook, Joan Van Ark, Christopher Plummer and Francesca James and many others took the stage to bid farewell, including Monomoy company members Steve French, Sara Killough and Kyle Brand.

This summer Wellfleet Harbor Actor's theatre will host an exhibit dedicated to the career of our dear friend Julie Harris. The exhibit highlights her connection to theatres on Cape Cod. Monomoy's contribution to the exhibit includes posters, photos, and a tribute from Bernard Cornwell. The exhibit is in the upper lobby and is free and open to the public (noon to 6 pm daily) from May 24 through September 30, 2014.



FIRST NIGHT CHATHAM - 2013

Thanks to the Friends for once again sponsoring the Monomoy Players First Night performance at the Orpheum Theater.

Photos by Robert McAlpin





The Garden Party!

Be a friend, bring a friend.



Photos by Sarah Sierszyn



LONDON 2015

The next Friends of Monomoy London trip is set for January 8-15, 2015

In addition to the usual festivities and events and speakers, Sidney Harvey has arranged a private tour of Highclere Castle, better known to PBS viewers as “Downton Abbey.” The castle, normally closed in January will be opened especially for FOMT’s tour and includes an afternoon private reception. Alan Rust will host this wonderful theatrical adventure.



ELDREDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY LEARNING SERIES

Shannon Griscom will once again lead Thursday discussions at ELP on four plays from the Monomoy Season. As always, reading the selections in advance is recommended.

5/22/14 - *Blood Knot* by Athol Fugard

5/29/14 – *Enemy of the People* - Ibsen

6/5/14 – *Brighton Beach Memoir* – Neil Simon

6/12/14 – Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*

www.Eldredgelibrary.org

RAINY DAY FUND - HELP US RAISE THE ROOF!

There’s good news, bad news and more good news.

Everyone know the rehearsal tent is the nerve center of the theatre. The good news is that last summer the Friends raised enough money to buy badly needed weatherproof flaps to cover the screen walls of the tent.

The bad news is that it turned out the tent roof had to be replaced as well. Luckily we had a “Rainy Day” fund and a leaky roof certainly seemed like appropriate use of it. The other good news is we were able to negotiate a deal on a gently used roof at a gentler price than a new one. If you’re able to add an extra \$5-\$10 to your contribution this year to replenish that Rainy Day fund or better yet enlist a new Friend, the sun will shine a little brighter at the Monomoy.



Here We Go Again!

REMINDER TO SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Renew your subscription by May 24th, and your previous seats are *guaranteed!* **Season Tickets will be mailed to you after June 5th.** Another reminder, if you are ever unable to use your theatre tickets, during the season, please call the box office and donate them for resale. This is a simple and generous way to make a contribution to the theatre.

MATCHING FUNDS

If your employer or former employer offers matching funds, this is a tremendously helpful way to contribute to the theatre. Special thanks to last year's matching-funds donors!

FOMT Board for 2013- 2014

President – Mary O’Brady

Vice President – Scott Hamilton

Secretary – Cecile Maranhas

Treasurer – Terry Layman

Board Directors:

Jean Axline, Sarah Kay Bryce,
Bernard Cornwell, Gay Murdoch,
Carol Penfield, Mauny Plum,
Marsha Predovic, Jan Rust
and Catherine Steindler