



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

THE MAGPIE

SPRING EDITION

May, 2012



SAVE THESE DATES

JUNE 14

OPENING WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

In the rehearsal tent, 4:30 – 6:30
 Come kick off the season with the cast and crew
 and enjoy a musical preview of *1776*.

AUGUST 5

FOMT ANNUAL MEETING & GARDEN PARTY WITH THE COMPANY

In the theatre and patio, 4:00 – 6:30
 Great food, raffle and fun with the entire company!

2012 SEASON NOTES

by Bernard Cornwell and Terry Layman

1776

June 19 - 30

Book by Peter Stone,
 Music & lyrics by Sherman Edwards
 Michael John McGann directs

The season begins with America's beginnings and the wrangles in Philadelphia as the Founding Fathers struggle to unite thirteen disparate colonies against Britain. The Second Continental Congress was an unlikely subject for a musical, but the show won the Tony and the New York Drama Critics award for best show. 'A brilliant and remarkably moving work of art,' enthused the *New York Post*, and Monomoy is proud to bring you this re-creation of our nation's birth with Alan Rust playing Benjamin Franklin and Terry Caza depicting John Dickinson.

The Crucible

July 3 - 7

By Arthur Miller
 Shelley Delaney directs

The Crucible is Arthur Miller's scathing play, ostensibly about the Salem Witch Trials which happened in Massachusetts in 1692, but which really reflected the 20th Century madness of McCarthyism. The play won the Tony Award for Best Play in 1953 and is now recognized as a classic of the American theatre. It is a picture of our forebears with all their superstitions, bravery, fears and beliefs; a powerful piece of theater about a terrible time in our history.

Last of the Red Hot Lovers

July 10 - 14

By Neil Simon
 Mary O'Brady directs

Neil Simon had four shows playing in Broadway theaters at the same time in 1966: *Sweet Charity*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, and *The Star Spangled Girl*. He was America's most prolific – and



Season Notes (Continued)

profitable - comedic playwright when *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* opened in 1969 and played on Broadway for 706 performances.

Seeing the comic potential of the sexual revolution spinning around him Simon brilliantly placed one Barney Cashman at the center of his story, a kind, gentle, happily married man, with no history of adultery. What happens when Barney is enticed to dip his toes in those troubled waters is engaging, side-splitting comedy.

Mary O'Brady, who has a rich history working in the plays of "Doc" Simon, returns to direct what is sure to be a well-crafted laugh fest.

Harvey

By Mary Chase

Rich Cole directs

July 17 - 21

Harvey brings Nora Chester back to Monomoy's stage as Veta Louise Simmons whose brother Elwood, played by Alan Rust, is convinced that he possesses a giant white rabbit as his constant companion. This is American comedy at its finest, a comedy of errors moving at breakneck speed as Veta, desperate about her social standing, attempts to have her brother committed to an insane asylum. *Harvey* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1945 and still has the capacity to reduce an audience to tears of laughter.

Cabaret

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Book by Joe Masteroff

Michael Montel directs

July 26 - August 4

The original 1966 production of *Cabaret* was a huge hit, running for 1,165 performances, garnering eight Tony awards and was revived several times, earning more awards. The film starring Liza Minelli and Joel Grey won eight Oscars.

The darkly glittering story is set in the wild city of Berlin just as Hitler is gaining power. Based on Christopher Isherwood's *Berlin Stories* and John Van Druten's subsequent play, *I Am a Camera*, a young writer and a cabaret performer each try to find love and survival in a

world whirling toward chaos. *Cabaret* is brilliantly theatrical with haunting and often hilarious music and, of course, great dancing.

Monomoy favorite Kyle Brand will play the seductive and comedic Master of Ceremonies, and Michael Montel returns to direct. Make sure you plan to see this provocative entertainment.

Henry IV

By William Shakespeare

Robert Davis directs

August 7 - 11

This production combines both of Shakespeare's plays about Henry IV, the monarch who ruled a rebellious England between 1399 and 1413. Henry's problems are compounded by his heir, Prince Hal, who is stained by 'riot and dishonour' and who keeps company with the reprobate knight, Sir John Falstaff. Terry Layman reprises the comic role of Falstaff which he memorably played at Monomoy in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. *Henry IV* is recognized as the most dramatically powerful of Shakespeare's history plays, a drama of rebellion and of redemption.

Wait Until Dark

By Frederick Knott

Francesca James directs

August 14 - 18

Mysteries and thrillers have always been great summer theater fare, and Monomoy audiences have enjoyed many, such as last year's *Sherlock Holmes*. This summer Monomoy presents the exquisitely wrought mystery-thriller *Wait Until Dark*, which premiered on Broadway in 1966 and became a hit film in 1967. A blind housewife fends off con-men in her apartment and it culminates in one of the scariest moments ever seen on stage or film. (It ranks #10 in Bravo's 100 scariest moments.)

Francesca James, who directed the very popular *I Remember Mama* last summer, will bring her detailed, situation-oriented sensibility to this audience-tantalizing play.



George Washington Slept Here Aug. 21 - 25
 By Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman
 Terry Layman directs

Before *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948) and before Tom Hanks built his *Money Pit* (1986), Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman introduced us to a family moving from a city apartment to an old house in the country. What could possibly go wrong?

Kaufman and Hart are arguably the greatest comedy writing team in American theatre history. Their classic comedies *You Can't Take It With You*, *Once In A Lifetime* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner* are repeatedly revived, continuing to delight new generations of theatregoers with the joys of the very well-made play.

George Washington Slept Here was produced on Broadway in 1940 and turned out to be their final collaboration. While not produced with the remarkable frequency of Kaufman and Hart's top three collaborations, it has all of the characteristics of their work: intense affection for the human spirit, absurdly funny but very believable situations, and superlative craftsmanship. Terry Layman directs this gangbuster finale of the 2012 Monomoy season.

NOTES TO THE FRIENDS

University of Hartford

FOMT joins Ohio University in welcoming the University of Hartford, home of the Hartt School, to the Monomoy Theatre family.

Eldredge Public Library Learning Series

Starting on May 24 and for the following three Thursdays, Shannon Griscom will be presenting a discussion on four plays from the Monomoy Theatre season. The plays to be featured are *1776* by Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards, Penguin; *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller; *I Am A Camera*, the basis for the musical *Cabaret* and based on Christopher Isherwood's *Berlin Stories*; *Henry IV* by William Shakespeare.

Travel London 2013

The fabulous FOMT London Theatre Trip is scheduled for **January 10-17, 2013**. Sidney Harvey is planning



another exciting trip and will be attending the opening tent party to present the itinerary. Join host Alan Rust for this very special theatre adventure with some wonderful surprises!

Donate to FOMT:

By joining and supporting the Friends you are helping to bring the fabulous programs of Monomoy Theatre to the Cape. FOMT subsidizes the theatre by funding both of the musicals, providing stipends for over half of the resident company, giving scholarships for company members, and supporting theater projects such as the Eleanor Baker Steindler rehearsal tent, stage lighting and the theatre website. Join the fun, come to the parties and interact with the cast and crew!

Reminder to season ticket holders

When you are unable to use your theatre tickets, please call the box office and donate them for resale. This is a simple and generous way to make a contribution.

Recruit a friend

When you're done reading, share this *Magpie* with a friend or neighbor. Bring a guest to a Friends party and encourage him/her to join FOMT.

New Website

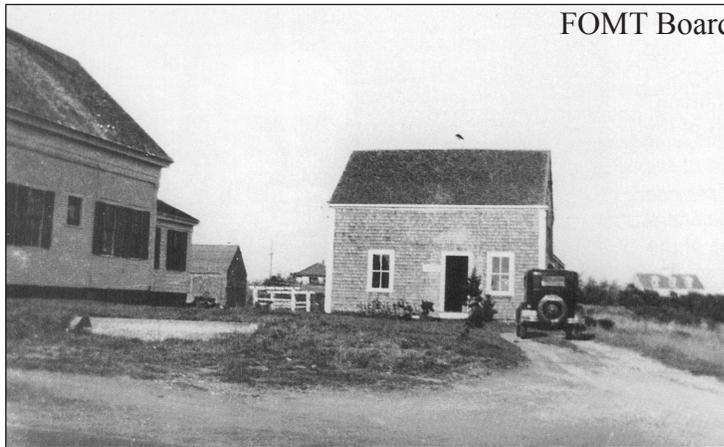
Check out the wonderful new Monomoy Theatre website developed and donated by FOMT!

www.monomoytheatre.com

We are happily anticipating the start of the 55th season of Monomoy Theatre while also celebrating 300 years of the history of Chatham. Alan Rust has assembled an exciting roster of plays, the settings of which span many eras. Alan, along with his wonderful wife, Jan, will once again bring you a special season of theatre and celebration in this unique and extraordinary setting.

See you at the theatre!

FOMT Board



2012 FOMT OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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