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SKITbits

Fall 2019

Hello and welcome to a new SKIT season! I hope all of you have had an enjoyable summer. Not only does SKIT have an exciting lineup for the Fall and Spring shows, we welcome the new Board of Directors and officers. I am most excited and honored to be filling the office of president. Please read more inside and you'll meet the rest of the Board.

In our meetings over the summer, the Board has been germinating seeds of new ideas and projects for SKIT in which we'd like you all to take part. Maybe you have ideas for updating the SKIT mission statement. Or you'd like to join us in reviving local shows from a bygone era. A children's show, anyone? How about Improv? Keep reading to find out how you can join a committee to get each of these projects, and others, off the ground.

We value your membership and the support you have shown us throughout the years. Without your help this year, we could not, in turn, have given support to five deserving college-bound students from our area. I hope you find this newsletter informative and inspiring to be a part of our future projects and success.

Hoping to see you soon!

Judy Thackaberry

Read about SKIT's recent production of *Much Ado About Nothing* inside, p. 4.

Pictured are Heather Jaques, left, as *Conrade* and Judy Thackaberry, right, as *Borachio*.

Another picture from *Much Ado* can be found on p. 6.



MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

At SKIT'S annual meeting in March, members elected the following new officers and directors. Returning Board members are **Judy Thackaberry**, of Sunapee, who you remember from *The Red Velvet Cake War* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, now sits as President; **Dave Munn**, of Sunapee, who you remember from *Towards Zero* and who performs sets construction and lighting for all shows, now sits as Vice President. Also returning as directors are **Suzanna Brown** of Sutton who directed *The Red Velvet Cake War* and was fabulous as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and **Caleb Parsons** of Warner who directed *Towards Zero* (a scene from that show, pictured left) and manages our website.



We warmly welcome three new members to the Board. They include **Tiffany Barnes** of Newport, who also was in *Much Ado* and now sits as secretary, and joining the Board as a director is **Michael T. Brown**, of New London who you remember from *The Red Velvet Cake War* and his wonderful performance in *Over the President's Shoulder*. Our most recent addition, who sits as treasurer, is **Billijean Martiello** of Warner who was in *Towards Zero* and, along with her husband Christopher, directed *Much Ado About Nothing*.

It's going to be a great season!

SKIT Storage Cleanout Day!!

Our mighty Materials Manager (also known as Dave Munn) was getting frustrated. He had been noticing that after every show, the cast would do their due diligence in striking the set, but never gave much time or thought as to what to save and what to toss. Hence we saved just about everything! It was getting quite crowded in our small storage space at Jewell Storage in Wilmot.

So Dave declared Saturday, August 24 as SKIT Storage Cleanout Day. It turned out to be a beautiful day to sort "junque." Dave Munn, Judy Thackaberry, Nina Rogers and Bob Bussey all gathered to see what treasures they could unearth. They found a storage bin of hats and wigs, box of paper good for refreshments, a ghost lamp that Nina Rogers (pictured right, sweeping) insisted we save, and PLENTY of painting supplies.

Items no longer useful to us or anyone else were donated, as Dave says, to the "Freiberg Fire Foundation" located in Charley Freiberg's backyard.



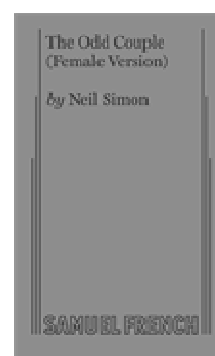
Looking Ahead

SKIT'S Fall Show: *The Odd Couple*

You've seen the men, now come see the women! Unger and Madison are at it again, only this time it's Florence Unger and Olive Madison, in Neil Simon's female version of *The Odd Couple*. Olive has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. The Pidgeon sisters have been replaced by the two Constanzuela brothers, but the show is hilarious. You will laugh all the way home, so mark your calendars, **November 8 and 9** for evening shows, and Sunday, **November 10** for a matinee at New London's Whipple Town Hall. Tickets will be available at Tatewell Gallery, Morgan Hill Bookstore and at the door. SKIT is partnering with the Center for the Arts in New London. — *Judy Lowe*

Cast

Olive Madison – Colleen Deitrich
Florence Unger – Heather Jaques
Renee – Linda Lambert
Vera – Susan Rives
Sylvie – Pat Rogers
Mickey – Judy Lowe
Manolo – Alex Ager
Jesus – Gary Evans



SKIT!

S.K.I.T. (Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre) is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit group dedicated to raising funds for area charities and other non-profit organizations through the presentation of theatrical events. We produce several shows per year, showcasing our community talents in both musical and non-musical productions. The proceeds are shared between SKIT and its partnering group. We also award scholarships to local high-school-aged students (including private school and home-schooled) each spring through our Steven Mendelson Scholarship Fund. Since its inception in 1993, SKIT has participated in, and has been recognized for excellence at the NH Community Theatre Association (NHCTA) competitions.

Looking Back — *Much Ado About Nothing* (MAAN), which ran for three performances this past April, was a labor of love and a true community effort. The cast of MAAN persevered, with true theatre spirit, through numerous setbacks, including emergency recasting, juggling rehearsal spaces, and a New Hampshire winter, to create a beautiful and funny show. MAAN was a testament to the timeless nature of the Bard's words, and his sense of humor. Suzanna Brown and Greg Phillips brought wit and charm to the stage as the leads, Beatrice and Benedick.

SKIT's unique approach to MAAN included casting women to play certain male roles, such as the villains Borachio (Judy Thackaberry) and Conrade (Heather Jacques), and changing the gender of certain characters altogether, with the addition of Antonia (Ella Thomas) as a replacement for the classic Antonio, changing Verges (Susan Rives) into a female character, and most notably, replacing the romantic Claudio with the sensational Claudia (Jules DeLore). MAAN was a true showcase of community talent.

Audiences laughed at the comedic relief provided by Dogberry (Charlie Freiberg), gasped at the "death" of Hero (Tiffany Barnes), loved to hate the melodramatic villain Don John (Patrick McGranaghan), felt the emotional distress of Leonato (Christopher Martiello), and eagerly watched as Don Pedro (Larry Fuller) played matchmaker for the two romantic leads. MAAN was fortunate enough to feature two youth actors, Remi Jacques and Mael Jacques, who added a wonderful dimension to the production. — *Billijean Martiello*

Member News

Russell Jewell's (generous donor of storage space) mother Margaret passed away in March, 2019. Condolences to his family.

Sending condolences to **Brandy Bitzer** (2000 Scholarship recipient and SKIT member) and her family on the passing of her father Bill in May 2019.

Melynda Seaholm, (2015 Scholarship recipient), has joined the Wilmot Fire Department after having served in Newbury while attending Colby-Sawyer College. Congrats on graduation.

Dorothy Parsons, (2013 scholarship recipient), played Hero in Nashua Theatre Guild's Summer 2019 production of "Much Ado about Nothing".

Congratulations to **Suzanna Brown** (SKIT Board, *Much Ado about Nothing*) and **Max Morneault** on their engagement!

Past SKIT Board member **Heidi Leighton's** family welcomed a new grandbaby this summer! Congrats to all!

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SEEKING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS!

This year the Board of Directors has identified projects that require additional input from members. If, after reading through these descriptions, you'd like to take part in the development of any of these projects, please contact Judy Thackaberry, President, at judy1857@yahoo.com. Here's a short description of each.

New Mission Statement - We weren't even sure we had a mission statement until Wally Borgen found it for us. Looking at it (*see below*), it appeared that it was the original one from about 25 years ago! Help SKIT bring us and our mission up to date.

Lowe Vaudeville Revival - We have in our midst a local historical treasure of recordings and video of the summer Vaudeville shows performed in Sutton in the 60s and 70s. Lowe sisters, Susie and Kathy, have approached SKIT asking if we could produce a show reviving these treasures. There are many scripts, but the music is in audio format only. We will especially need help transcribing them onto paper. If you remember, or were even a part of, these shows, please help this production become a reality.

Improv Group - Improv was a SKIT spinoff several years ago. There is talk of recreating a group for practice, fun and laughs. Let us know if you'd be interested.

Thank you! — *Judy Thackaberry*

“Dedicated to raising funds for worthwhile local charities and service organizations through the presentation of theatrical performances/events.”

Member News, cont.

Caleb Parsons (SKIT Board, Director of *Towards Zero*) directed *Enter Dora, Exit Dad*, a 1923 play about a small town's reaction to women receiving the right to vote. It was performed at the Warner Historical Society's annual meeting. The play starred SKIT members **Bob Bussey** (*Red Velvet Cake War, Live Suspense Theater*), **Bonnie Lewis** (*Spoon River Anthology, Speaking in Tongues*), **Gary Evans** (*Towards Zero, Songs and Tales of WWI*), and **Judy Thackaberry** (SKIT President, *Hapenny Magick*).

Wally Borgen (*The Melody Lingers On, Ancestral Voices*) organized a Murder Mystery Night fundraiser for The Fells Historic Estate. SKIT members involved in the improvisational evening were **Cricket Cooper**, **Charley Freiberg** (*The Art of Dining, The Odd Couple*), **Jay Lambert** (*Grand Night for Singing, Our Town*), **Linda Lambert** (*Pride and Prejudice, Beguiled Again*), **Dave Munn** (SKIT Vice President, *The Best of Burt (Bacharach, that is)*), **Judy Thackaberry** and **Tom Tuthill** (*Gershwin! A Musical Revue, Vintage Hitchcock*).

Send us your news! Anything exciting going on in your life? Engagements? Weddings? Births? Awards? Performances? Athletic feats? If any SKIT member has any news to share, theatrical or otherwise, please let us know. We'd love to include your news in the Member News column. — Linda Lambert

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