



# The Parish Players

## Newsletter

The Parish Players

P.O. Box 136, Thetford, VT 05074

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### Now in Production: *Paper Tigers*

The Players and director Bill Hammond are delighted to present the New England Premiere of *Paper Tigers*, a deftly intimate family drama. The play focuses on a reluctant family reunion in a summer house in the Catskills. During the course of the play, images of a haunted childhood revisit Laura, the protagonist of the play, and she sorts

through her past in order to press on with her life. Alternately funny and poignant, *Paper Tigers* ends with a focus on hope and reconciliation. The author is New York City's up and coming playwright Barbara Hammond. Performances are January 19, 20, 21 and 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 pm; February 2 & 3 at 7:30 pm; and February 4 matinee showing at 2:00 pm.

### Next Up: *Passion Play*

*Passion Play* opens March 2 for a three-week run. The Daily Telegraph described this 1981 work by British playwright Peter Nichols as "bitterly funny, savagely honest" and "a modern classic". It concerns a married couple and what happens when the husband falls for a much younger woman. Complicating matters (and providing much of the play's humor) is the presence of two

additional characters—alter-egos of the struggling couple—who express the unvarnished thoughts of the "real" couple, comment on their actions, and urge them into unexpected behaviors. Directed by Bill Coons, till recently director of the Dorset Theatre Festival, *Passion Play* features Dan Weintraub, David Shaw, Electra Delano, Kim Meredith, Linda Neubelt and Melody Blake.

### "Acting for Adults"

Eight lucky people of varying backgrounds and experience are enrolled in the "Acting for Adults" classes taught by Bill Coons, which started on January 4th and will run one night a week for eight weeks. As one participant said "I'm not

only learning useful skills myself, but I'm learning how actors learn. The class meetings are lively, non-competitive, challenging and fun." Let's hope Bill offers another class soon so that more people can benefit from studying with him!



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## Annual Appeal Progress Report

The Annual Appeal letter mailed in December continues to bring in much needed support for the Players. More than 60 contributions have been received with more in the mail. Because productions often just break even, funds from the Annual Appeal allow improvements to

the Grange. This year the Building Committee will install another new set of double doors on the porch and a new carpet is planned for the Green Room. Your support carries the Players into their Fortieth Anniversary Year!

## Parish Players Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will take place on March 26, starting 1:00 pm, at the Grange. This is late for us, I know, but the theater is so busy through the next couple of months that we decided not to try to shoe-horn the meeting into a crowded schedule, but to wait

until there is some open space on the calendar. So come one, come all! There will be food (potluck), some entertainment, and, of course, a business meeting, including a review of the last year and voting for new board members. Watch for further news.

### And Speaking of the New Board...

One of the items of business for the annual meeting is the election of new Parish Players board members. Members of the board are elected for staggered two-year terms, and we are looking for at least three nominees to fill the slots of the retiring board members. What we need on the board are people who are interested in the organization,

and who would like to be involved in planning, policy making, and participating in the activities of the Players. Anyone who is interested in running for the board, or who would like to find out more about what is involved, should contact Barbara Payson, chair of the nominating committee, at (802) 785-2727.

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