

March 2011

STAGE WRITE

**The
Williamsburg
Players**

Community theatre
at its best

THE LION IN WINTER

The year is 1183 and Henry, king of England, controls the greatest empire since Charlemagne. The only trouble is that he has three sons, all of whom want to be king, a wife he keeps locked in a keep and a lover who is promised to marry his son.

Eleanore of Aquitaine has arrived in Chinon, released from her dungeon in England and is eager to once again engage her husband in a bitter war of words and maneuvers. But, to what end?

Richard, fresh from the battlefield is in the castle to claim what is his by right of birth. As his older brother is dead he is next in line and

the ablest of all the sons. However, he is not the favorite. He will need more than his broadsword to get to the crown.

Forgotten by history and even his parents Geoffrey, Duke of Brittany, has little chance of seeing the throne. That is unless he can make all other contenders fall from grace. Calculating, devious and determined, he has only one weakness. It is what he has not had all his life that he craves, perhaps even more than his father's kingdom.

Coddled, babied, sheltered and spoiled. John is Henry's chosen son. Ready to be king or not, his is to be Henry's successor as king to all of England and most of

France. He also gets Alais, sister of King Philip of France, raised by Eleanore herself, for his wife, despite the fact that she is in love with Henry and he with her.

Poor, gentle Alais, taken by Henry as dowry for a marriage to Richard at age 7, she becomes the only pawn in a game full of kings and queens. Henry's lover, betrothed to

THEATER, n., the building in which productions are presented.

THEATRE, n., the art of presenting a play.

Richard and promised to John, she has nothing to lose except Henry.

France is at its weakest; England is at its strongest. Their respective kings meet once again. Christmas court at Chinon is Philip's first meeting with his father's old adversary. Phillip became King of France at 17 and is eager to regain what has been lost by his father before him. But, there will be no soft smiles or cordial agreements made this day.

All this taken together equals a family reunion and a Christmas dinner to be remembered.

The Lion in Winter is a wonderful tale of a time when power ruled and love was a luxury. This world is brought to life by a cast and crew that has made my first directing endeavor an adventure and a love in its own right. Though spring be upon us I beg you to hold fast to winters chill for just a bit longer and see who gets the crown, the girl and the whole, black bloody business.

—Miguel Girona, Director



The Players family extends its deepest sympathy to the Moff family on the loss of husband and father, Richard Moff, who passed away suddenly on February 19th. His wife, Carol, is the Players' staff person in charge of concessions and ushers. We collectively have lost a good friend and willing volunteer who did so much to make the Players a better place. God bless, Richard.

NEW ONLINE TICKETING SYSTEM FOR NEXT SEASON

For next season, the Williamsburg Players will be introducing a new Online Ticketing System for our patrons.

Online Ticketing is just what it sounds like – you go online via the Internet and access the Williamsburg Players' website. The Online Ticketing System will allow you to see the seating chart for a specific show, including what seats have been sold and what seats are still available. You will be able to select the exact performance night and seats you want.

With the opening of our new auditorium in the fall, our production runs will drop from four weekends (five for a musical) to three weekends. However, we will actually be offering over 1,000 more seats per production run. Shorter runs will allow our stage to be used for other events, such as special shows and other community presentations such as concerts and dance recitals.

The Online Ticketing System will also bring so much more to you. As subscribers, you will select performances when they purchase your season tickets. You will also receive all your tickets in the mail. However, even before seats go on sale to non-subscribers, you will be able to go

online and exchange your tickets for a different night if you need to. No more calling the box office and leaving a message and waiting for someone to return your call. You will be able to change your tickets yourself up to three hours before show time.

Non-season tickets for each production will go on sale after the prior show closes (or after the close of the initial Season Subscription drive for the first show). Groups of 20 or more will receive a discounted ticket price automatically. Online Ticketing puts you in control of the nights you attend and the seats you want.

Look for your Season Subscription brochure in the mail later this spring. As a subscriber, your letter will explain how to use Online Ticketing.

As always, our Box Office Staff will still be available to assist you, from answering your questions to making a sale or exchange for you. Online Ticketing puts you in total control of your seating arrangements!

Look in our next issue of *Stage Write* for more information on our 2011-12 season line up of shows and more information about Online Ticketing.

**Help Expand
Our Theater**

**BUY A
SEAT**



**BUY A
LIGHT**

Now is the time to make a lasting impression on your community theater.

The Williamsburg Players is the longest running live community theater in the Greater Williamsburg area.

Your gift of only \$300 can purchase a light or chair for the new theater space.

A memorial plaque will recognize your gift. If you prefer, you can remain anonymous.

Fill out the form on the reverse side.

All gifts are tax deductible.

I would like to make a lasting impression on my new theater home.

I would like to buy as a gift:

_____ *Chairs at \$300.00 each*

_____ *Lights at \$300.00 each*

Add the total of items above and place that number on the line below

_____ *x \$300.00 = \$_____*

Please accept my CASH donation.

Please accept my CHECK
Make check payable to The Williamsburg Players

Please charge my CREDIT CARD

CIRCLE ONE Visa MasterCard

CC # _____

Expiration ____ / ____ CVC ____

The CVC number are the 3 digits at the end of the signature line on the rear of the card

Please engrave my recognition plaque with the following memorial:

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

I wish to remain anonymous.

Thank You!

The Williamsburg Players' 2010-11 productions are being generously sponsored by:

Zaremba Center for
Estate Planning and
Elder Law

and

Chambrel of
Williamsburg

PLAYERS' NOTES

Some brief items we wanted to share with our patrons and supporters.

Attending the Premiere Night of *42nd Street* was the newly appointed James City County Administrator, **Robert Middaugh**, and his wife, **Melissa**. He joined the JCC team in August 2010. We welcome the Middaughs, and hope they will be part of the Players' family.

* * *

Community support is vital to everything we do. We wish to thank **Joe Scordo** and Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, for his support of our Premiere Night. Joe has been a long time supporter of the Players. Our thanks, Joe!

* * *

The **Williamsburg Community Foundation** awarded the Players a \$1,000 grant from its Community Endowment. The check was presented at a luncheon on February 16th with the grant earmarked to fund the extremely successful Readers' Theatre Program. The entire Players family thanks the Foundation for their generosity.

* * *

Our thanks to the skilled craftsmen and craftswomen of **Ritchie-Curbow Construction Company, Inc.**, who....after long administrative delays....are hard at work on our new home. Check the area behind the existing theater to see their progress.

The Williamsburg Players' Board of Directors

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OUR MISSION

The Williamsburg Players is a non-profit community theatre committed to enriching and broadening the cultural life and experience of the Greater Tidewater community. Our mission is to present professional-quality theatre productions that challenge, stimulate, educate and entertain our audiences, patrons and volunteers. Hands-on teaching and scholarship programs provide opportunities for education, experience, growth and challenge.

James-York Playhouse
200 Hubbard Lane
Williamsburg VA 23185
P.O. Box 91
Williamsburg VA 23187

Reservations:
757-229-0431

House line:
757-229-1679

Website:
www.williamsburgplayers.org

Thanks to all these folks for showing up to strike the set for *42nd street*, making way for the cast and crew of *The Lion in Winter* to whip up a 12th Century castle for us.

757-229-0431
www.williamsburgplayers.org

Dave Cunningham • Tony Gabriele • Miguel Girona • Shannon Martin • Peter Natale • Philip Newbery • Bob Noonan • Amy Payne • Bob Shea • Tony Stella • Elma White

PLAYERS' PEOPLE

The responsibility of recruiting, training, and scheduling the volunteers who look after concessions and ushering belongs to Carol Moff. She maintains the inventory and makes purchases when necessary, as well as acting as the smiling bartender on Premiere Night.

Like many of us, Carol is a transplanted Yankee, having moved to Williamsburg 17 years ago. A native of Massachusetts, Carol,

as a young girl in grade school, recalls being taken by her parents to see a "summer stock play." She recalls the benches lined up in a barn and being thrilled by the live performance, real people on a real stage. From that moment, she was hooked on live theatre. She has been a Players volunteer for over seven years. She is a Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan, and still maintains her Boston accent. She calls the Players' president "Bawb." Carol stated that she is always looking for new people to join her corps of volunteers.

Thanks, Carol!

* * *

A native of Aix-en-Provence in the south of France, Christine Fonsale Rogerson compiles the program/playbill for each show as well as being the talented graphic artist whose work is on the cover. After moving to the

Paris suburbs as a young teenager, she recalls "hanging out" with her friends after school and on weekends in the enchanting gardens of Versailles. She graduated from an international boarding school in England, then lived in a country cottage without electricity or running water, walked a couple of miles to work in a local pharmacy, and saved her money for a one-way ticket to Miami, where she had a friend from school. She worked in a number of jobs in the Miami area, including 12 years as a graphic designer at a professional theater in Boca Raton. Fast forward...husband, Bob...a move to Washington, D.C., studies in acting, a daughter, and a move to Williamsburg about 18 months ago. Christine is now an actor for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and as a narrator for the Library of Congress.

When you hold the show program/playbill in your hands at the next show, think of the series of events that brought Christine and her talents to the Players.

Thanks, Christine!

March 24	<i>The Lion in Winter opens</i>
March 27-28	<i>Auditions for I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i>
April 10	<i>Readers' Theatre presents The Burning Pile</i>
April 16	<i>The Lion in Winter closes</i>



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"Community Theatre at its Best"
P.O. Box 91
Williamsburg VA 23187

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