

May 2011

# STAGE WRITE

**The  
Williamsburg  
Players**

Community theatre  
at its best

## I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

Music by Jimmy Roberts, Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro

According to Philip K. Dick, the single thing that separates human beings from the most advanced machines in his fiction is the ability to care for things other than themselves. Indeed, think of how fallacious the idea of love is were we to view it entirely from practical terms: that I should make myself vulnerable to another person's attacks, that I should expend my resources on another and reduce the viability of my own success, that I should allow another person's situation to affect my decisions when I gain no measurable benefit from it. How are these behaviors those that a sane person would engage in?

How fiercely logical that all sounds. But at the same time, how horrid a world it would be where everyone adhered to these tenets. As Robert Frost said, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall, / that wants it down." And so, from Petrarch – who invented a new literary form to express the love he felt for his Laura – to the third grader who nervously scribbles, "Do you like me? [ ]Yes / [ ]No / [ ]Maybe," something there is in us that

wants to find a connection with another human being.

And on some level, this connection is the idea being explored in each of the 20-plus scenes of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (*Change*). In the course of the night, you'll see six performers portray 60 different characters for a variety of scenes and songs. Though comic, the brand of comedy shifts from scene to scene – sometimes a farce, sometimes a parody, sometimes even dark humor. But behind every joke is a truth that has made itself very real to each and every one of us: the need to connect to another human being.

*Change* does not have a single narrative that runs its length. Rather, each scene stands on its own, with its own cast of characters, as a self-contained short. However, these pieces are arranged thematically, with each scene showing a deeper step in the concept of relationships. We begin with blind dates, second dates, third dates, eventually progressing into break-ups, proposals and (by the end of the first act) marriage. From there, we see the birth of

children, the struggle to keep the spark alive, the pain of divorce, and the joy of a relationship that has lasted the ages.

The key ingredient needed to make this show work is a chemistry among the actors – one that I have taken great delight in watching form over the last few weeks. As they grow more and more comfortable working with each other, they'll find newer and newer ways of exploring the relationships in the scene. I look forward to the show opening so I can get out of the way of their creative process. I'm eager to see how they'll continue to fine-tune the jokes and timing throughout the run. Among our cast are such Williamsburg Players veterans as Sharon Hollands, Ron Campana, Neil Hollands, and JT Hosack. But I'm also delighted to see such capable new faces, in the persons of Katie Petellier and Brandi Lindner.

This is my first time directing for The Williamsburg Players, and I must say that I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an enjoyable process.

— Jeff Villines, Director

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

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

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### HELP US BE ACCURATE

The Williamsburg Players' mailing lists are works in progress, subject to a multitude of changes and updates. We work hard to maintain accuracy, but our crystal ball is not always functioning at 100 percent and we make mistakes.

We thank those who call or email us with changes.

However, we have made mistakes. When the death of a loved one occurs, or you purchase a theater seat in memory of an individual, we

attempt to scrub our mailing lists to delete that person's name. We do not always succeed, which causes discomfort for the recipient of mail addressed to someone who has passed.

Would you help us avoid this? Let us know when it occurs, or when a person on our mailing list has moved from the area or is deceased. We want to be accurate, but mistakes do happen. With your help we can improve. In advance, our thanks.

# ONLINE TICKETING – WHATS DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

When the Williamsburg Players move to online ticketing this July, you will be able to do a multitude of ticketing transactions; see the seating chart, pick your seats, pay for your seats, exchange your seats if necessary and print your tickets at home - all this puts you in control of your seating without having to call the box office! The box office will still be available for those patrons who do not have Internet access, but for those who do, it will be as simple as 1-2-3. Once the season subscription drive is over, sometime around September, buying tickets to a show will be effortless.

By going to the Players' website, [www.williamsburgplayers.org](http://www.williamsburgplayers.org), and by clicking on the Season tab, you will be taken to a screen that shows you what shows are available. By clicking on the BUY TICKETS link you will be taken to a screen where you will choose what performance you would like to attend. Next you will see the seating chart, showing what seats have been sold and which seats are still available. Using your mouse, you will click on the seats you want. You will then be asked to log in so we know who you are, and if this is your first visit to our online ticketing page, it will ask you to create an account using your email address and selecting a password. Lastly, the final screen asks for your credit card number, expiration date and 3-digit identifier from the back of your card. Our website will be using 128-bit encryption, the same powerful transaction security used by banks and airlines. A link will appear allowing you to print your tickets at home, and an email will be sent to you automatically with instructions on how to exchange your tickets for a different date if you are not able to attend as scheduled.

available to help do your exchange. Remember to get your subscription forms in early to be assigned the best seating possible!

If you have ever purchased anything online from such sites as Amazon.com, or purchased movie tickets or pizza, this will all seem very familiar. Look for more information in the coming issues of *StageWrite*, or by visiting our website and reading about online ticketing.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual general membership meeting of The Williamsburg Players will be held on Sunday, Aug. 14, at the Clarion Inn on Route 60, near the historic area.

There will be a catered social hour, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., with the membership meeting to follow.

Nominations for membership on the Board of Directors will be accepted. Also on tap: an update on the building construction, the annual financial report, and other Players' business.

Specific directions to the Clarion Inn will be posted on our website.

All members of the Players are encouraged to attend.

	<b>WILLIAMSBURG PLAYERS</b> <i>proudly presents</i>												
	<b>42nd STREET</b> James-York Playhouse 200 Hubbard Lane Williamsburg, VA												
	<b>Thursday April 7th at 8:00 pm</b>												
<b>ALL SALES ARE FINAL NO REFUNDS</b>	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>SECTION</th><th>ROW</th><th>SEAT</th><th></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>C</td><td>A</td><td>20</td><td>Late Seating is at the discretion of House Mgr</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Ticket Price \$18.00</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	SECTION	ROW	SEAT		C	A	20	Late Seating is at the discretion of House Mgr	Ticket Price \$18.00			
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	Thursday April 7th at 8:00 Admission Code: carol/400 C-A20 \$ 18.00												

Upon arriving at the theater, you simply take your home-printed ticket to an usher and enter the theater – no standing on line at Will Call waiting to pay or pick up your tickets. And if you are not able to print your tickets, you can select WILL CALL and your tickets will be waiting for you when you arrive for the show.

In June, look for your season subscription flyer to arrive in the mail. It will outline the shows for next season and will have a new method of buying season tickets. This year, all subscribers will be required to select the performance they wish to attend. You can no longer wait and select dates individually throughout the season. When you fill out the season subscription form, you will be required to select the night you would like to attend the show – example: 1st Friday, 2nd Saturday Matinee, etc. You will receive the same seats for all five shows of the season. The tickets will then be mailed to you before the first show opens. Along with the tickets will come a letter explaining how to exchange your tickets online for a different night in the event you are not able to attend the show as scheduled. If you don't have Internet access, the Box Office will still be

# PLAYERS' NOTES

Some brief items to share with our patrons and supporters.

Log on to our website at [www.williamsburgplayers.org](http://www.williamsburgplayers.org) to keep up-to-date on the construction progress of our new theater. Go to the home page and click on "Expansion" to view the latest photos of the work of **Richie-Curbow Construction Company**.

We have to recognize **Jenny Taylor** for her exceptional work on stage in three consecutive productions: Violet Anderson in *It's A Wonderful Life*, the chorus of *42nd Street*, and Alais in *The Lion In Winter*. Her talents, dedication, and smiles contributed immensely to the success of each show and made the Players a better place.

It has come to our attention that some of our supporters and patrons may be receiving reviews of our shows by mail. We wish to inform you that the Williamsburg Players does not endorse, encourage, or support any reviews other than those provided by the local media. We do not share our mailing lists with anyone. Recipients of such mailings may request that their names be removed from such mailing lists if they so desire.

As part of our community outreach program, **Peter Natale**, the Treasurer, appeared at the Waller Mill Arts Magnet School in Williamsburg April 1 speaking to the students on theatre careers and local opportunities in theatre. On April 21, Bob Shea, the president, spoke to the Dogwood Garden Club on the Players as a community resource.

We want to welcome **Kristine Kreutzer**, a Christopher Newport University senior, to the Players' family as an intern. We hope to provide Kristine insights into the world of community theatre as well as utilize her considerable talents.

## The Williamsburg Players' Board of Directors

- Bob Shea-----President
- Amy Payne -----VP Production/Premiere Night
- Bob Noonan-----Development
- Hugh Siggins-----VP Business & Finance
- Peter Natale -----Treasurer/Advertising
- Suzanne Douglas -----Secretary
- Miguel Girona -----Facilities
- Jessica Krop -----Season Development/Readers' Theatre
- Philip Newbery -----Volunteers
- Connie Granger -----At-large

## EXIT STAGE WRITE

After serving as the editor of *Stage Write* since the 1999-2000 season, Megan Rhyne is stepping down as its editor. That's almost 55 issues of the Players' newsletter, in addition to appearing on our stage, working as a backstage crew member, and helping in the box office.

We all owe Megan a huge "well done" as she juggled being a mom to Dell, a wife, and a career without dropping a single ball. Thank you Megan, for your attention to detail, sense of humor and smile.

We are now recruiting to find Megan's replacement.

**The job description:** Receiving graphics and printed inputs via e-mail from members of the Board and directors. Creating the layout based on input and available space. After proofing, sending the input to the printing contractor and coordinating the bulk mailing by the printer. Five issues a year. **The compensation:** A volunteer position (as is every other one in the organization). **The benefits:** The self-satisfaction of filling a key staff position in the best community theatre in Eastern Virginia. In the vernacular, the warm and fuzzy feeling from being a part of the Players.

If this sounds like your kind of volunteer position, contact Peter Natale at 757-817-7407 or at [peco@cox.net](mailto:peco@cox.net).

Megan will be available to assist the new editor make a seamless transition in time to be in charge of the first edition of *Stage Write* for the 2011-2012 season.

Thanks to all of the following folks for showing up to strike the set for *The Lion in Winter*, making way for the cast and crew to set the stage for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.



Dale Doggett Jr. • Miguel Girona • Theresa Girona • Robert Noonan

# PLAYERS' PEOPLE

Overseeing the Players' Scholarship Program is **Betsy Jo Spence**. Many remember her on the Players' stage as the brow-beaten nurse, Miss Preen, in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, and the ultimate organizer, Sheree, in *The Dixie Swim Club*. Betsy Jo is a native of Richmond where she was active in local theatre and school productions. Then she went north to graduate from Connecticut College and the

Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management, Amos Tuck School of Business, at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. After a long and exciting career in national corporate banking in NYC, she and her husband, Jim, moved to Williamsburg in 2005. As a volunteer in NYC she taught English as a second language at the United Nations and city programs. A lifetime sports enthusiast, she loves horseback riding and tennis and has developed into an avid golfer. Other interests include reading and playing the harp. The high school seniors of the area are benefiting from her focus on the publicity and management of the McCulley/Scammon

Scholarship Program which awards a scholarship each spring to a talented high school senior who will major in a theater-related program in college. We welcome Betsy Jo and her many talents to the Players' staff.

\* \* \*

Probably the most familiar face on the Players' staff belongs to **Debbie Noonan**

who chairs both the Box Office and Season Subscription Committees. A tireless worker who claims that the WP is "my home away from home," Debbie served on the Board of Directors from 1987 to 2005 as Treasurer. Debbie moved to Williamsburg in 1976 and began performing with the Sweet Adelines in 1977. After joining the faculty of the Computer Science Department at W&M in 1983, she decided to try her hand at acting. Her first role was as the second female lead in *Breath of Spring* in 1985. After that she decided to take theatre and voice classes at W&M. Since 1985, she has appeared in or directed more than 40 productions at the Players, PIPs, W&M and other area stage companies. Debbie has directed six shows, with the latest being *Dial "M" For Murder* in November 2009. Her son, Paul, is 22 and has never known a time when his mom was not an actress, director or key theater person. Like Paul, we know that Debbie has been a key member of the Players, making significant contributions in every facet of the Players' history for well over a quarter of a century. Our thanks for the past, and we look forward to many more years of Debbie's skills both on and off the stage.

May 19	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i> opens (Sponsored by Zaremba Center for Estate Planning and Elder Law).
June 18	<i>I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change</i> closes.
August 14	Williamsburg Players annual meeting, 2 p.m. (preceded by one-hour social time).



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