



CALLBOARD

The Newsletter of the Barnstable Comedy Club

Rachael & Kevin Kenneally, Editors

Rachael Kenneally, Web Master

www.barnstablecomedyclub.com

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An Inside Look at Life in the Navy during World War II, *Mister Roberts* Opens March 15

New Barnstable Comedy Club director Jeffrey Billard is excited to stage this comic, yet poignant drama. Jeff shares his thoughts on both the play and his experience directing here: "When most people hear about *Mister Roberts*, they automatically think of John Ford's 1955 film version starring Henry Fonda, James Cagney, Jack Lemmon, William Powell and Ward Bond. And why not—it's a wonderful film with a great script that is both funny as well as poignant, filled with incredible performances and marked by beautiful cinematography. What most people don't realize is that it was a Broadway play long before the movie came out—1948-1951 to be exact—and ran for 1,157 performances with Fonda never missing a show. It also won five Tony Awards including Best Play and Best Actor for Fonda. What even less people know is that it was a book prior to being made into a play. Thomas Heggen, a Naval officer during World War II, wrote it while serving aboard the *USS Virgo* as a cargo officer. Originally titled *The Iron-Bound Bucket*, the book was later changed to *Mister Roberts* prior to publication and would go on to be a bestseller. Heggen would later work with Joshua Logan to make it into a play. There are many things that draw us to *Mister Roberts* over sixty years later—certainly the comedy, as it's a hilarious script with memorable characters, yet it also carries poignant undertones about the human spirit as well as war in general. It has been my distinct pleasure to work with this incredible cast in bringing this play to life for the Barnstable Comedy Club audience, and as always it has been a labor of love. The more we get to know these characters who 'sail from Tedium to Apathy and back again—with an occasional side trip to Monotony,' the more we fall in love with them and feel their joy as well as their pain. *Mister Roberts* has been on my list to direct for many years and not just because it's hilarious and lots of fun, but also because it has something to say and in the end isn't that what theater is really all about?"

Included in the cast are Steve Ross as Mister Roberts, Keith Caldwell as Doc, Dan Powers as Ensign Pulver, Garry Mitchell as the Captain, Robert Bock as Dowdy, Kevin Kenneally as Dolan, Patrick O'Rourke as Insigna, Mike Dexter as Stefanowski, Jon Romano as Wiley and the Shore Patrolman, Alex Grandin as Lindstrom, Brian Williams as Gerhart and the Military Policeman, Laura Shea as Lieutenant Ann Girard, Ray Glaser as Chief Johnson, Nick Rowan as Shlemmer and the Shore Patrol Officer, and Chris Smythe as Payne. The Barnstable Comedy Club will present *Mister Roberts* March 15-17, 23-24, 30-31 at 8:00 p.m. and March 18, 25, and April 1 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18, \$16 for Students and Seniors and may be reserved by calling the Box Office at 508-362-6333. For more information on the production visit our website at www.barnstablecomedyclub.com

The Cemetery Club Auditions Up Next

Director Marti Baker will hold auditions for the comedy by Ivan Menchall, March 19, 20, 21, 7:00-9:00 at the theater. Roles available for four women, ages 50's-60's, and one man, age 50-60. *The Cemetery Club* tells the story of three Jewish widows who meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life, Lucille is a party animal, and Doris is a prude and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher comes by. He meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille attempt to squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida, which threatens to break up the club.

Performance dates for *The Cemetery Club* will be May 17-June 3. Perusal Scripts will be available at Hyannis and Sturgis Libraries near the end of the month.

Three Cheers for the cast of *Moon Over Buffalo*

A big bravo to Director Ann Ring, and her cast and crew of *Moon Over Buffalo* for making our audiences laugh out loud night after night! The play received five favorable reviews; Gwenn Friss of the Cape Cod Times praised the cast for 'bringing the playwright's over-the-top characters to life with warmth and charm.' Marilyn Rowland, of Notes on the Arts, called the play 'fun and engaging. It not only entertains, but affirms the value of theater, particularly community theater, in our lives.' Congratulations to Christy Morris, Kevin Morrow, Mike Devine, Angela Rossi, Paul Beatty, Kate Connelly, Todd Moos, and Karen McPherson for stand-out comedic performances. Also a special thank-you to the behind-the-scenes efforts of Katie Lynch-Koglin, Patti Hughes, Linda Stevens, Dennis Marchant, Mary Rice, Henry F. Morlock, Bill Ring, Kerry Sullivan, Annemarie Lang, Richard Zitola, Desmond Keough, and especially Christy Morris for wearing a second hat as costume designer.



Needed: Drapes

Costumer Christy Morris is looking for donations of any kind of drapes for set dressings. If you can help, please contact her at 508-778-7568.

Play Submissions for Next Season Being Accepted

Our play reading committee is currently looking at play submissions for the 2012-2013 Season. If you would like to submit a play for consideration, please contact Play Selection Chairman, Henry F. Morlock, at y2kittie@comcast.net

FULL BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

BARNSTABLE COMEDY CLUB CONTACT INFO:

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