

# Ripples

## Dear River Company Members and Friends:



*Over The River and Through the Woods*

The Board met at the River Grill in January to celebrate the success of the 2014 season and plan for the 2015 season, our 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Board Business:

We reluctantly accepted the resignation of Margo O'Leary. Margo will continue to work with us as a director and actress when possible, but her business is taking her out of town more than ever, hence her decision to give up her position on the Board. Two new Board Members were welcomed: Mallory Adams, who will be remembered as the adorable young lady in *Over The River and Through The Woods* with River Company last fall. Mallory was also seen in *Almost Maine* with Lincoln Community Theater last season. Tyson Bailey, the star of our fall production *Over The River and Through the Woods*, is another youthful addition to our Board. Tyson was also seen last season in *Arsenic & Old Lace* with Heartwood Regional Theatre and most recently in *Grey Gardens* at LCCT.

In appreciation of her many years of service as President, Andrea Handel was presented with the painting of her as the model in *Eye of the Beholder*. Company members Ann Foskett, Andrea and Tom Handel were presented with RICO Awards for having participated in twenty River Company productions. Congratulations everyone!

Andrea Handel - President; Ann Foskett - Secretary; Judy Dumont - Treasurer; Suzanne Rankin; Erin Blomquist; Tom Handel; Nick Buck and Bill Glendinning round out our Board. Ellen Whalley and Charles Waterman are supportive ex-officio members.

### 2014 Season Recap:

Our seventeenth season turned out to be another successful one:

In March company members Ann Foskett and Suzanne Rankin brought **Take Up The Song** to both the Lincoln Home and Savory Maine Restaurant. This program, presenting the life and poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay, celebrated Women in History month by spotlighting Maine's homegrown Pulitzer Prize winning poet.

In July we presented two delightful one-acts: **Duck Variations** by David Mamet was the directorial debut of Ellen Whalley, who also starred in the show alongside Tom Handel. These two seasoned River Company actors were a wonderfully funny and whacky old couple! **The Eye of the Beholder** by Kent Broadhurst, directed by Ann Foskett, rounded out the evening. This hilarious paint fight between two artists featured Ruth Monsell and Tasha Salvo who had a wonderful time throwing paint and pithy remarks back and forth while their model, Andrea Handel, tried to keep order. Audiences at the library, and also at the performance of this play at River Arts, found this to be most enjoyable. This collaboration with River Arts was a first for River Company.

In October we indulged ourselves and our audiences with a full length comedy. **Over The River and Through The Woods** proved to be one of the most popular and well attended shows we have ever done. It featured some River Company old-timers - Ann Foskett, Suzanne Rankin and Charles Waterman; and some new faces to our company - Mallory Adams, Tyson Bailey and Nick Azzaretti. To help promote the play, the cast treated dinner guests at Savory Maine to one of the hilarious scenes from the play. The one featuring the Italian family around the dining room table. Grace came up with a feast of Italian dishes to complement the theatrics.

In December, as our holiday gift to the community, we presented a staged reading of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, directed by Margo O'Leary. Margo invited well-known members of the Business Community to join a couple of our regular actors to bring this piece to life. Audiences enjoyed the show along with festive refreshments, and the two performances made it possible for us to donate \$1,400 to the Community Food Pantry.



### 2015 Season:

So what next you may ask? For our Summer show we will be sticking with comedy again with a production of *The Housekeeper*, by James Prideaux, starring Andrea and Tom Handel and directed by Charles Waterman. Now that we have persuaded Charlie to come out of retirement, we intend to keep him busy. *The Housekeeper* involves a writer, Manley Carstairs, who has been living with his domineering mother in her large Victorian house. At her passing, Manley advertises for a housekeeper to care for the house (and himself). When Annie Dankworth shows up at the door, she is not necessarily what Manley had in mind! The play unfolds in a series of fast-paced scenes filled with wit and humor that take the 2 characters (and the audience) on a wild ride. All is revealed and resolved in the surprising and delightful ending.

| July 2015 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun       | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|           |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5         | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12        | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19        | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26        | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

July 10, 11; 17, 18 at 7:30 p.m.; July 12 & 19 at 3 p.m.

| Oct 2015 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun      | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|          |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4        | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18       | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25       | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

Our Fall offering is a little more on the serious side, but still delivered with a lot of humor. *The Outgoing Tide* by Bruce Graham, directed by Andrea Handel. Ann Foskett and Charles Waterman will once more play opposite one another as Gunner and Peg, with Mitchell Wellman playing their son Jack. This beautiful play is a very honest look at the questions we all face in deciding how our final years will be spent. With humor and with touching reality the playwright dares to address some of the possibilities.

Oct. 16, 17; 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 18 & 25 at 3 p.m.

### Community Outreach:

On December 6 we once again plan to do two performances of a staged reading of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. And once again it will be directed by Margo O'Leary. This year Margo is planning to invite a different group of our well known business people to participate in this reading, so who knows who you may see under the lights for this year's community fundraiser. The beneficiary of ticket sales this year will be Elder Care Network of Lincoln County and "The Greens" residences.



*Eye of the Beholder*



*Duck Variations*

### Membership:

We look forward to your support again this season. A membership card and return envelope are enclosed with this Newsletter. Becoming a member gets you on our mailing list for reminders of upcoming productions, and your ticket will cost you \$2 less. Tickets this year will be \$15 for members and \$17 for everyone else. We'll still be in the Porter Hall at Skidompha Library, Elm Street entrance. Specific dates for the shows are above, so mark your calendars now, and we will *see you at the theater!*

### How to contact Us:

Reservations and information: 563-8116

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