

THE CUE SHEET

by the Fenton Village Players

ONE MORE WEEKEND

The first weekend of "Bull in a China Shop" was an amazing success. Missed it? Don't worry. Still one more weekend of this rip-roaring comedy... [Continued on Page 2](#)



WFVP started off the 2014 Season Feb. 9. A talented cast brought back select shows from the Golden Age of Radio. [Checkout Pg. 3 for a recap](#)



Fenton Village Players continues its partnership with Beale Street Smokehouse offering a 2014 Dinner & Show Package. [Continued on Pg. 4](#)



Jim Waite is the official photographer of the 2014 Season. But his involvement with FVP dates back to 1972. [Read more on Pg. 5](#)

ONE MORE WEEKEND!



Photo: Jim Waite / Show-Shots.com

When a houseful of sweet little old ladies discover that a handsome bachelor lives across the street, they are delighted. When they learn that he is none other than Detective Dennis O'Finn, of Homicide, they are faced with the problem of how to attract his attention. The answer is simplicity itself – a nice, genteel homicide with a cup of tea.

Tickets can be bought at the door, from our website FentonVillagePlayers.org, or from the following Box Offices...

The UPS Store
17195 Silver Parkway
Fenton, MI 48430
810-750-2920

Fenton Winery & Brewery
1545 N. Leroy Suite B
Fenton, MI 48430
810-373-4194

Image Projections
1470 Torrey Road
Fenton, MI
810-629-0700

A delighted crowd greeted the cast of “Bull in a China Shop” this past Thursday (Feb 20.)

The audience was full of laughter as The Fenton Village Players first full-show graced the stage of the Phyllis B. Hadden Auditorium at The Fenton Village Playhouse on Torrey Road in Fenton.

Theatre critic Kathleen Kirby, of Flint Area Theatres, called the production “a hoot and will surely be just your ‘cup of tea.’” (*read more of her review at <http://FlintStages.WordPress.com>*)

Did you miss opening weekend? Have no fear! There is still time to catch the last three shows; this Friday and Saturday at 7pm, and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for Seniors & Grade-school Students, and \$6 for children under.

“Bull in a China Shop” is directed by Stevie Visser and produced by Joy Carr.

Cast members include: Ryan Particka, Carla Reynolds Feamster, Ron Barrett, Brian Catton, Kimberly Barrett, Amy Herman, Carla Feamster, Laura Legant, Sandy Mascow, Victoria Stratton, Garret Dick and Karen Andersen.

NEW EDITOR, NEW CUE SHEET



You probably noticed by now that “The Cue Sheet” is a *little* different from what you’ve grown accustomed. Last month, the Board appointed Matthew Semrau as the new editor of “The Cue Sheet.” The monthly newsletter of The Fenton Village Players.

Semrau is replacing Gretchen Coles who is retiring because of a little one on the way. The Board would like to thank Gretchen for her time and heart she volunteered during her run as editor of our newsletter.

A little about Semrau:

“My first production with FVP was in April of 2013. Sam DiVita cast me as ‘Ellard Simms’ in ‘The Foreigner.’ I enjoyed my experience with Sam and the rest of the cast so much I had to get more involved. I played ‘Spice’ in ‘The Pony Express’ in September and stage managed ‘The Kitchen Witches’ in October.”

Semrau is a senior at Oakland University majoring in Communication and minoring in Theatre & Journalism. He also was voted to the Board of Directors at the Membership Meeting last month.

WFVP TAKES TO THE ‘AIR’

WFVP has become a mainstay of the Fenton Village Players. Every few months talented actors bring to life the set of (continued next page) old-time radio shows. Scripts in hand, they reenact the shows like the voice actors of the beginning half of the 20th century complete with dropping their pages to the ground (a tactic used to prevent the rustling of pages, back in the day.)

Over two-thirds of the main auditorium was filled Sunday afternoon. Admission is always free, but donations welcomed. This show brought in over \$150 dollars, according to FVP Treasurer, Rick Spangler.

Shows included were “Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar: The Thelma Ibsen Matter”, “The Bickersons: The Honymoon is Over”, “St. George and the Dragonet”, and “Bob & Ray: The Komodo Dragon.”



The show was directed by Gary Smith and produced by Rick Spangler. The cast included: Dan Squires, Rick Spangler, Matthew Semrau, Erika Pezold, Jacob Hoffman, Garret Dick, Greg Semrau, Cherie Smith, Cristie Rice and Sandy Mascoe.

Stay tuned for the next WFVP show. Auditions and showtimes will be announced on our website: FentonVillagePlayers.org

THE GHOST LIGHT

by Matthew Semrau

Community theatre is like a family. The annual membership meetings are the family reunions. Members of Fenton Village Players convened Saturday night, January 18th, for this annual ritual.

Like family reunions, new members were celebrated and those who have left us, collectively mourned. We gathered in the activity room for a meal, a business meeting, and then moved over to the theatre for a special event: the commemoration of our Ghost Light.

In practical terms, a ghost light is a lamp on top of a pole set atop a rolling base. This serves the purpose of illuminating a dark stage in-between use. It's a safety tool to prevent people falling off a dark stage and providing much needed guidance until the main lights are switched on.

In metaphorical terms, the ghost light has a significantly deeper meaning (as metaphors generally tend to have). In spite of a superstitious history, our Ghost Light is dedicated to the memory of fellow actors who have passed on. It also serves as a reminder to the characters individually created through the years that have now disappeared as the productions came to an end.

The Ghost Light was celebrated by a showcase of scenes from the 2013 season. Interwoven between these scenes were thoughts of wisdom and poems written by our venerable members...

To read more about the membership meeting check out the original article on our website: <http://fentonvillageplayers.org/ghost-light-new-board-members/>



DINNER & A SHOW CONTINUES IN 2014

Last year, The Fenton Village Players introduced a dinner and a show package for our 2013 season. We are proud to announce that this package will continue with the 2014 season.

In partnership with The Beale Street Smokehouse, patrons can purchase a package containing a gift certificate for Beale Street and two tickets for the current FVP production.

For only \$40, you receive: a \$35 gift certificate for Beale Street Smokehouse, and TWO tickets to our current show ("Bull in a China Shop" at time of publication.) That's a 41 percent savings!

Here's the fine print:

- Beale Street will reserve your table for 5 or 5:30 (your choice) the day of the show, so that you will arrive at the theatre on time.
- Tickets must be purchased at least 24 hours in advance of your show date (so we can reserve your dinner seat)
- **Dinner and a Show tickets are only available at our box offices.**

If you have any questions, please contact our office by email at office@fentonvillageplayers.org or by phone (810)750-7700.



Jim Waite (middle, white shirt) in a 1972 photo back stage at Fenton High School during the production of Jack and the Giant

CAPTURING THEATRE

February 11th, the Board voted to approve Jim Waite as the official photographer of the 2014 Season. Included in that agreement, Waite will attend two rehearsals as well as a dress rehearsal to take pictures for both archival purposes and for official advertisement and promotion.

“This fills a need that we’ve had for consistency of show pictures and clear means of making it available to FVP,” said Rick Spangler, Treasurer.

You may be familiar with Waite’s photography from previous work he’s done for FVP including “The Secret Garden”, “The Kitchen Witches”, and “Bull in a China Shop.”

But this is not the first time Waite has been involved with FVP. Forty-two years ago, Waite was instrumental in the restart Fenton Village Players (prior to this, FVP was the Fenton Mime Club.)

“During the summer of 1972, after my Freshman year, a couple of friends and I put together a production of Jack and the Giant, a kids show,” Waite recalled, “The Fenton Village Players was re-born.”

In 1980, Waite became owner of an electrical contracting company, now known as Craftsmen Electrical Services. After getting married in 1990, having kids, and living life, Waite took a sabbatical from theatre.

Waite’s sabbatical with theatre has come to end as he embarks upon what he calls a “special niche if photography.”

“So often, I have seen productions that have come and gone with almost no record,” Waite explains, “I am hoping to help keep the memories alive with some pictures that capture the life and energy of the shows.”

If you’re interested in grabbing a copy of one of Waite’s photos you’re in luck. Professional prints can be purchased from Waite’s website at <http://show-shots.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Feb 28 & March 1 @ 7pm:** Bull in a China Shop.
- **March 2 @ 2pm:** Bull in a China Shop
- **March 3 @ 6:45pm:** Playwriting Group. Contact Matthew Semrau (Matthew@FentonVillagePlayers.org)
- **March 4 @ 6pm:** Fundraising Committee Meeting. Contact Laura Legant (Laura@FentonVillagePlayers.org)
- **March 11 @ 7pm:** Board of Directors Meeting
- **March 24 @ 1pm:** Building & Grounds Committee Meeting. Contact Vic Tatum (TheGrooveParty@AOL.com)

JUST FOR FUN

This month, members of our Facebook group were asked:

“If Shakespeare had a cellphone, what would he send as a text message?”

Here are some of the answers...

“Alas, thy winter season tis but weary and overbearing in it’s endless prevail of our domain and does seek entitlement of our northern path.” - Gary Smith

::throws cellphone to the ground; stomps on it until broken:: “Fie! What witchcraft upon this object hath been worked?” - Ryan Particka

“2b or not 2b that is the question ..or is your apartment 3b?” - Vic Tatum

“now is the winter of our discontent” - Lorri Sowle

Join our group on Facebook and be on the lookout for next month’s “JUST FOR FUN” question!

Facebook.com/groups/FentonVillagePlayers/

INFORMATION

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Editor: Matthew E. Semrau

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For questions, ideas, or comments please email
Matthew@FentonVillagePlayers.org

As part of a community theatre, The Cue Sheet depends on the contributions of our members. If you’re a member of The Fenton Village Players and have a story, lead, or just like to write, contact Matthew Semrau.