

Backstage Pass



May 2009

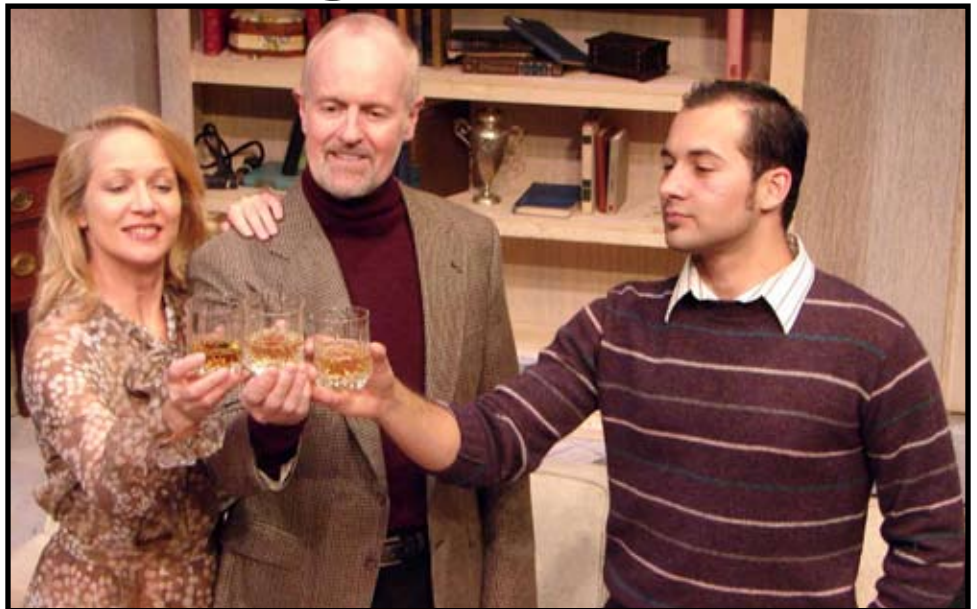
Welcome to Highland 2009

One of the truly wonderful parts of Highland Summer Theatre is that we get to welcome back department alumni in a variety of positions. And this summer, our 43rd annual, is no exception.

Some will be making their first post-graduation appearances while others return AGAIN after graduating more than a dozen years ago. That's right, one of our all-time favorites, E. J. Subkoviak, is back this year. A 1993 graduate, E. J. was last seen in HST 2006's *The Seven Year Itch* and returns for his 14th summer season.

One of our most exciting returnees is someone you probably won't see, but her work will be apparent all summer. That is 2005 Theatre Arts graduate Tricia Hofeld who, as a student, stage managed all of Highland 2005 following a career that included *Will Rogers Follies*, *The Crucible*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *You Can't Take it With You* and *Butterflies Are Free*. Her experience will greatly benefit our actors and patrons, as well as our up-and-coming stage managers.

On stage you'll again enjoy the talents of BFA Musical Theatre graduate Jared Oxborough in three shows, including in the role of "Mr. Applegate," aka Satan, in *Damn Yankees*. Also, Mollie Fischer will be seen with Jared in the four-person ensemble of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and returns as "Gloria" in *Damn Yankees*. Taking lead roles in *Deathtrap* and *Plaza Suite* is MFA Acting graduate Susan V. Hansen, who teams with the



Myra and Sidney (Susan V. Hansen and Michael James) toast with their unsuspecting collaborator, Clifford (Jared Oxborough), the completion of their play, *Deathtrap*.

aforementioned E. J. in the Neil Simon comedy.

As one student graduates, another gains prominence, and that's the case with Megan Volkman-Wilson, who you saw last season as "Vera Charles" in *Mame*. She'll return this summer as "Lola" in *Damn Yankees*, and you know "whatever Lola wants, Lola gets." Other familiar faces are Mathias Becker (*I Love You* and *Yankees*), graduate students Michael James and Lolly Foy (*Deathtrap*), and Craig Daniel Stastny (*Yankees*). Oh, and don't forget frequent Highland participant Christina Dyrland Smith (*I Love You* and *Yankees*).

Finally, a big thank you to the all-important returning corporate spon-

sors. We couldn't do it without them!

• **Hale Associates** for *Deathtrap* (previous shows were *Picnic*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and *Dial 'M' for Murder*)

• **The Minnesota State Mankato TRIO Programs** for *Plaza Suite* (*Annie Get Your Gun*, *Life with Father*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Nerd*, *The Woman in Black*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Dining Room*, *The Complete History of America (abridged)*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *The Runner Stumbles*, *The Boys Next Door*)

• **Eide Bailly, the Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic, PA, and the Pamela & Wynn Kearney Foundation** for *Damn Yankees* (*A Christmas Carol*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Crucible*, *Grease*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Music Man*)

Improvements, changes coming for 2009-10

The last several years have seen changes in the viewing habits of our patrons, and we've tried to make changes in our schedule to accommodate them.

Next year's slate of shows, revealed to you in the last issue of **Backstage Pass**, includes the mix of drama, comedy and music that we always strive for. It also includes shows we've never presented before (*Twelve Angry Men* and *On the Razzle*) with many we have done that have been well-received or requested by you (*Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol* and *42nd Street*).

You'll notice paper surveys in a random sampling of the programs for *Damn Yankees* this summer and *Into the Woods* this fall. Every two years we do this to better understand who our audience is and to help us make show choices, so your assistance is greatly appreciated. We'll also be doing online surveys, so watch your In Box.

Perhaps the biggest change for next season, however, will be the addition of Saturday 2 p.m. matinees and the elimination of Sunday evening performances. The Sunday evenings have been more sparsely attended in the past few years as people's schedules continue to fill up; plus, the inclusion of a few family-friendly shows this year encouraged us to make this change to a similarly more family-friendly performance time.

Most Mainstage musicals and plays staged in the Andreas Theatre will include TWO Saturday matinees.

Matinee performances for our Dance Concerts, which were added last year, also will be at 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

The only exception to the 2 p.m. start time: Two "midnight matinee" performances for our fall Studio production of *Rocky Horror Show*. This is in keeping with the tradition begun by the popular *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Next year's performances

MAINSTAGE SEASON

- Musical *Into the Woods* for two weekends in the Ted Paul Theatre, Oct. 1-4 & 8-11.
- In the Andreas Theatre Oct. 15-18 & 21-25, is the classic *Twelve Angry Men*. Note: We're opening on Thursday the first weekend and a Wednesday the second.
- The return of Paul J. Hustoles's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Nov. 12-15, 19-22 and 28-29.
- William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the Andreas Theatre. Performances are Jan. 28-31 & Feb. 3-7.
- *On the Razzle*, Feb. 18-21 & 25-28 in the Ted Paul Theatre, is the story upon which Oscar Wilde's *The Matchmaker* was based, and *The Matchmaker* became the musical *Hello, Dolly!*
- The hit musical *42nd Street*. It will take the Ted Paul Theatre stage April 8-11 & 15-18.

STUDIO SEASON

- One Flea Spare* Sept. 17-20, *Rocky Horror Show* Dec. 3-5 (with midnight matinees), *Beauty Queen of Lenane* on March 25-28 and the world premiere *Virgin Territory* April 22-25, all in the Andreas Theatre.
- In addition to the two **Dance Concerts**, Dec. 4-5, 2009, and April 30, May 1 & 2, 2010.

JUST THE FACTS

Season subscriptions for Highland Summer Theatre 2009 are \$60 and on sale through the closing performance of *Deathtrap*, May 31. Individual tickets for ALL shows went on sale Monday, May 18.

You may purchase single tickets by completing and returning our season brochure (contact us at 507-389-2118 if you need one) or by visiting us online at MSUTheatre.com and completing the order form there. Cost is the same and it guarantees you the best available seats at the time; in fact, YOU can pick 'em if you order online.

Individual ticket prices are the same as during the academic year: \$20 for musicals and \$14.50 for plays, regular admission; \$18 for musicals and \$13 for plays, senior citizens, youth under 16 and groups of 15 or more; and \$16 for musicals and \$10 for plays, current Minnesota State Mankato students.

They may be purchased online or by calling the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 from 4-6 p.m., Monday-Friday.