



October 2009

In the Wings

The Newsletter of The Concord Players

Editor: Robert Runck

COME TO THE FALL HUDDLE!

Announcing The Concord Players' annual Fall Huddle on Oct. 18th!

Meet the directors... Watch a sneak preview... Enjoy a charming one-act play...



Come help us kick off our fabulous 2009–10 season of plays! Join the Concord Players on Sunday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at 51 Walden, as we introduce the directors of the three plays of the season: Mario Salinas, director of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Paul Murphy, director of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*; and Corey Jackson, director of the smash musical *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Mario, Paul and Corey will each discuss their artistic visions for their respective productions.

Theatrical entertainment for the evening will include an exclusive preview of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In addition, the charmingly funny one-act play "The Ugly Duckling," by A. A. Milne, will be presented. The play, directed by distinguished newcomer Kate Stout, features the talents of The Players' own Fritz Kussin, Dick Levinson, Gail Sahney, Mike Govang, and Julio Gomez, joined by talented newcomers Kathryn Denney and Debbie Crane.

Light refreshments will be available. This very special evening is free of charge, and open to everyone interested in The Concord Players. Friends old and new and plenty of fellow theatre-lovers await you! Don't miss it!



Maggie the Cat (Michelle Mount) cozies up to her indifferent husband Brick (Liam McNeill) during early rehearsals of The Players' fall show, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, directed by Mario Salinas. (Photo by Rik Pierce.)

CAT CASTING COMPLETE

Come see these sterling players in the Pulitzer Prize-winning classic by Tennessee Williams.

Hypocrisy, greed, and secret passions threaten to tear apart a wealthy Mississippi family on the evening of Big Daddy's birthday.

Maggie, 'the Cat', is desperate to provide her in-laws an heir to the sprawling plantation, and will stop at nothing to break through her husband Brick's inner ghosts, and the 'mendacity' that haunts him.

Maggie: Michelle Mount
Brick: Liam McNeill
Big Daddy: Tom Large
Big Mama: Dorothy Ahle
Reverend Tooker: Charlie Streff
Doctor Baugh: Tom Veirs
Gooper: John Alzapiedi
Mae: Nectaria Kordan
Children: Amanda Melin, Alden Haring, Reilly Haring



**CONCORD PLAYERS (AND OTHERS)
AT THE 2009 EMACT DASH AWARDS**

Top row left: Shana Dirik. Top row middle: Sudbury Savoyard members Marcia Goldensher (nominee for Best Actress in Theater III's Cemetery Club) and her husband Vince O'Donnell with Concord Players Jill Henderson and Jim Miller. Top row right: James Fitzpatrick, nominee for Best Actor in a Musical, Cabaret Co-Producer Marlene Mandel, and Cabaret Director Nancy Curran Willis. Second row left: Bill Hereford. Second row middle: Former EMACT president Doug Cooper with Charlotte Kelley, nominee for Best Stage

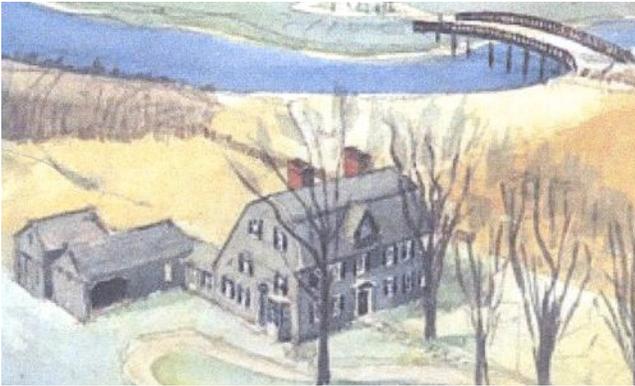
Dressing in a Musical, Cabaret. Second row right: Concord Player Chuck Holleman with Titanic actor Joel Hirsch. Third row left: Ellis and Sarah Telford, Chuck Holleman. Third row second from left: Marlene Mandel. Third row third from left: Kate Mahoney, Gordon Ellis, Alissa Palange. Third row right: President Cheri Fletcher and the CP gang. Bottom row left: Nancy Curran Willis. Bottom row middle: Tracy Nygard, one of the night's performers. Bottom row right: DASH Award Emcees (and newlyweds) Corey and Sarah Consentino Jackson. (Collage by Marilyn Cugini.)

DASH AWARD WINNER!

Congratulations to Concord Players' Brian Harris, co-winner of the 2009 DASH Award for Best Set Design in a Musical, *Cabaret!* Congratulations also to Allen Bantly and his crew for their work on bringing this winning design to the stage.

FALL FESTIVAL AT THE OLD MANSE

Come, if you can, to the Old Manse Fall Festival for the Arts and Humanities! Columbus Day Weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Oct. 10, 11, 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.



The Concord Players are sharing a booth with FOPAC, the Band, the Orchestra, and Orchard House. We'll be in costume, talking up *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the 2009–10 season and The Players.

TRYOUTS FOR OUR WINTER SHOW

Auditions for *The Man Who Came To Dinner* will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 7:30, and on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00. Callbacks will be Saturday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. Those auditioning will be asked to read scenes from the play; no prepared monologues are necessary.

In this classic *contretemps*, an unsuspecting, socially upward Ohio family is terrorized by a famous New York radio personality, who foolishly slips on a patch of ice in their front yard. He commandeers their home, their telephone, their staff, their liquor, their food and their friends during a protracted and outrageous convalescence.

Directed by Paul Murphy, this 1930s comic gem, written by George Kaufman and Moss Hart, goes up February 12–27, 2010.

CASTING NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Chuck Holleman will be doing the narration for a piece called “Facade” by Sir William Walton as part of the Concord Band’s Fall concert on October 24 at 51

Walden, called “Music from across the Pond” (British composers). Chuck describes “Facade” as “perhaps a 1920s version of rap.” For The Belmont Dramatic Society, Chuck will also play the judge in Mary Chase’s *Harvey* on November 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15.

James Fitzpatrick is in a production of *A Little Night Music* for the Full Circle Theater in Milford, and also has a “diva concert” in Cambridge on Oct 20. This is the link for the concert:

http://www.metrostagecompany.com/In_Concert.html

Lis Adams will be appearing as the Stage Manager in *Our Town*, at Arlington Friends of the Drama. Show dates are Friday to Sunday, October 9–11 and 16–18. For more information and to order tickets, go to www.afdtheatre.org

Cabaret cast member **Anne Olmsted** is appearing in a production of *Hair* at the Turtle Lane Playhouse in Newton on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. from September 25 through October 18. For more info, see <http://turtlelane.org> The show involves adult situations and at one point, nudity. If you want to come but have questions or concerns, please call or email Anne at annieolmsted@hotmail.com She hopes to see you there!

In her first paid theatre gig, **Shana Dirik** will be playing Mrs. Lovett in Metro Stage Company’s production of *Sweeney Todd* October 16–24. On the website www.metrostagecompany.com click on the Sweeney Todd logo to get ticket, show and cast information.

NEW VOLUNTEERS FROM NCL



Concord Players is enjoying the help of some terrific new volunteers from National Charity League, Middlesex Chapter! Taylor Perkins and Rebecca Bishop (shown in photo) and their mothers Donna Perkins and Liz Bishop of Carlisle assisted Kathy Booth and Pat Kane to clean out and re-organize our costume

closets this summer. The NCL have proven to be a valuable resource, helping out at Opening Night galas, distributing our Season Cards at community events, cleaning closets and painting sets for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. We thank NCL for their wonderful contributions and help! (NCL Middlesex is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian mother-daughter volunteer group consisting of Concord and Carlisle residents providing volunteer services to worthy local not-for-profit organizations.)



NCL volunteers Carrie and Margaret O'Brien help Peg Elliott and Set Designer Jennifer Shea to paint the *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* set.

**ON MARIO SALINAS, DIRECTOR,
*CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF***

Mario Salinas likes strong women. Not the bar-bell pumping, weight-lifting kind of strong. No, Mario is partial to those emotionally towering, psychologically durable, force-to-be-reckoned-with kind of women. It's no surprise, then, that we find him back at work at 51 Walden, directing the Concord Players' production of Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The play's driving character is Maggie the Cat, a woman whose power is like a cyclone

sweeping across a Kansas plain. Mario likes her, and he likes Tennessee Williams, too.

"Every word has meaning with Williams," says Salinas. He should know, he studied the playwright while earning his degree in dramatic arts at UMass Boston, and recently directed Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* for the Lexington Players. "The dialogue is specific, with a rhythm of its own. Phrases are linked together. It's like a poem."

It's Williams' style that makes his plays both an artistic challenge and enormous pleasure to direct, according to Salinas. His words are so artfully crafted that directorial adaptations are difficult, maybe even presumptuous. But the flip side, according to Salinas, is the emotional force of his characters' will, and the lyrical quality of their dialogue. The blocking (position and movement of actors on stage) for Williams' plays "takes care of itself," according to Salinas.

Salinas isn't new to The Concord Players. He directed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 2005, and waltzed across the boards as a member of the royal court in *Cinderella* and co-produced *All My Sons* in 2006.

These days, we find him at "51" on stage with his actors, choreographing every disinterested profile, pointed glance or weary shrug. During a rehearsal break, Salinas remarks about what a joy it is to work with The Concord Players. "Everyone is a thousand per cent committed to the show," he says. "Being here is a director's dream."

As for Maggie the Cat, well, she's giving him a run for his money. So far he's not complaining.

Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens November 6 and runs for 3 weekends. Tickets are on sale now: visit www.concordplayers.org

—Linda McConchie

Visit the website at www.concordplayers.org
for more detailed information.

The newsletter deadline is the third Friday of each month.

Send us your news to news@concordplayers.org

Archived Newsletters are available at
<http://www.concordplayers.org/Newsletter/archives.html>