



The Community Players
of Concord
presents

Harvey

by
Mary
Chase

AUDI

May 6th & 7th @ 8pm

May 8th @ 2pm

Since 1904
CONCORD
City Auditorium

Concord City Auditorium

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McLane

HARVEY is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Searching For Our Pooka

Harvey can be a formidable show to direct. You have no idea how many people have told me that they worked on the show when they were younger, or have seen it innumerable times on stage, television, and film. When one is dealing with something that everybody (it seems) knows, one inevitably worries about meeting expectations. Oh, I suppose that it would be easy enough to take the safe and conventional approach of copying the movie as much as possible, and just consider it to be a cute fantasy. That, however, would be a disservice to Mary Chase, the playwright, and to you, the audience. This is a much more complex, and compelling, show than it seems on the surface. It didn't win the Pulitzer Prize in 1945 for nothing!

In 1942, Chase began working on *Harvey*, a play about a friendly inebriate named Elwood P. Dowd and his invisible companion, a six-foot plus white rabbit. Its inspiration came from two experiences in her life. The first was a dream she had about a psychiatrist being chased by a giant white rabbit; a dream which reminded her of stories her Irish uncles had told about pookas, mischievous creatures who appear only to those who believe in them. Her second moment of illumination came one day when she took notice of a widowed neighbor who had lost her only son in the war just months earlier. In reflection Chase asked herself: "Would I ever possibly write anything that might make this woman laugh again?" Mrs. Chase, an adroit woman of letters, found herself unable to communicate with her neighbor, and to cut through the gulf of grief and sorrow. In our difficult times today, some of the hardest this country has known since then, I found my own motivation for this production.

Harvey was written at the end of a period when some of the best comedy ever seen was being produced. These were called "screwball" comedies, in which the nuttiest people were proven to be the sanest, and the so-called normal people all needed a good swift kick in the rear end to remind them of what's really important in life. These films and plays cleverly combined a respect for smart dialogue loaded with sly wit, and frequently silly situations. This production of *Harvey* is built around a healthy respect for those earlier endeavors, and for a time when humor could heal.

Gary Locke, Director

SCENE SYNOPSIS

The action takes place in a city in the Far West in the library of the old Dowd Mansion, and the reception room of Chumley's Rest.

TIME: MID 1940s

ACT I

SCENE 1: THE LIBRARY, LATE AFTERNOON

SCENE 2: CHUMLEY'S REST, ONE HOUR LATER

SCENE 3: THE LIBRARY, AN HOUR LATER

ACT II

SCENE 1: CHUMLEY'S REST, FOUR HOURS LATER

SCENE 2: CHUMLEY'S REST, A FEW MINUTES LATER

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Myrtle Mae Simmons.....Nicolina Akraboff ✓
Veta Louise Simmons.....Valerie Jeanne Kehr ✓
Elwood P. Dowd.....Chris Demers ✓
Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet.....Joan Lawson ✓
Ruth Kelly, R.N.Jessi Cole ✓
Duane Wilson.....Mark Landry ✓
Lyman Sanderson, M.D.David Afflick ✓
William R. Chumley, M.D.Erik Hodges ✓
Betty Chumley.....Mary V. Case ✓
Judge Omar Gaffney.....Roger Albright ✓
E. J. Lofgren.....Jon Doherty ✓

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Gary Locke ✓
Assistant to Director.....David Carmona ✓
Producers.....Jeannemarie Colgan, Barbara Woodman ✓
Director's Liaison.....John Conlon ✓
Stage Manager.....Kathryn Hodges ✓
Asst. Stage Manager/Tech Director.....Charles Mitchell ✓
Set Design.....Gina Bowker ✓
Master Builder.....Rick Silverberg ✓
.....Assisted by Stu Russell, Jessi Cole, Roger Albright, Virginia Aparo,
.....Jim Murphy, Kimbell Fenske, Kendra West-Senor, Bonnie Scott Miner,
.....David Afflick, Sandy Weld, Patrick Hobson, Jon Doherty, Erik Hodges,
.....Jason Hopkins, Charles Mitchell, Barbara Woodman ✓
Master Painter.....Jim Webber ✓
.....Assisted by Lacy Long, MaryEllen House, Becky Biss,
.....Nikki Akraboff, and the Base Coat Team ✓
Set Dressing.....Joey Murphy ✓
Lighting Design.....David B. Nelson ✓
Lighting Board Operator.....Doug Schwarz ✓
Costume Design.....Gay Bean ✓
Sound Design/Technician.....Clint Klose ✓
Props Master.....Kendra West-Senor ✓
Hair Design.....Philip of Town House Coiffures ✓
Backstage Crew.....Tyler Mitchell, Jesse Mitchell, Erik Halter, Kevin Belval ✓
Publicity.....Bob Sanders ✓
Photography.....Pat Delzell ✓
Banner.....Anne Orio ✓
Poster Design.....David Murdo ✓
Program Design/Layout.....Aaron Compagna ✓
Hospitality.....Allwynne Fine and the Friends Bakers Team ✓
House Managers.....Candi Brehm, Colleen Schwarz & Bob Pearson ✓

Uchere

RSVP: Family and Friends of HARVEY

ABOUT THE CAST

DAVID AFFLICK (*Lyman Sanderson*) David is a Concord native and grew up being entertained by the Community Players. Being part of such an talented cast and crew is a dream come true for him. He very grateful for all the love and support he receives on a daily basis, and wishes to thank everyone who has supported his journey in life, and to the stage!

NICOLINA AKRABOFF (*Myrtle Mae Simmons*) Nikki is very excited to be performing in her fourth consecutive show with the Community Players of Concord. She would like to thank everyone at the Players for being so welcoming and making her time here so much fun! She would like to thank her mother for coming all the way from California to see the show!

ROGER ALBRIGHT (*Judge Gaffney*) Roger is new to the Players and looks forward to working with the talented cast and crew of HARVEY. Roger has played in a number of shows for local theater groups. He thanks Judith for her joyous encouragement.

MARY V. CASE (*Mrs. Chumley*) This will be Mary's fifth appearance with the Players, and she is so happy to have this opportunity once again to perform with this exceptional theatre company. Special thanks to Gary for his direction, and she wishes to thank this talented cast she has the honor to share the stage with. Mary sends her love to her husband Bill, who supports her in helping her live her dreams.

JESSI COLE (*Nurse Kelly*) Jessica Cole is first and foremost a 4th grade teacher at Strong Foundations Charter School. She was "bitten" by the acting bug after one stage appearance in college, but thought she was too old to pursue it until this year when her students introduced her to Community Theater. She thanks her husband for his constant love and support.

CHRIS DEMERS (*Elwood P. Dowd*) Chris is the tallest and least talented of the Demers family of thespians. He is grateful to Gary for allowing him a chance to stretch a bit. He hopes a little bit of Elwood rubs off on him. Paula and Katharine - "diviner grace has never brightened this enchanting face"

JON DOHERTY (*E.J. Lofgren*) Jon is making his return to the Concord stage after six years of living and performing in Boston, MA. Other shows Jon has performed with the Community Players of Concord include *Murder for Rent*, *The Players' 75th Anniversary Show*, and *Peter Pan*. He can still be seen doing stand up comedy as well as performing with Urban Interactive in Boston.

VALERIE JEANNE KEHR (*Veta Louise Simmons*) Having played Myrtle Mae in her high school's production of *Harvey*, Valerie is thrilled to be playing Veta Louise after a long absence from the stage. Favorite past roles include Shelby in *Steel Magnolias* and Essie Carmichael in *You Can't Take it With You* for the Bow Lake Players. This is her first play with Concord Community Players, and she looks forward to being involved with many more. Valerie lives in Northfield, NH with her husband Tom, their four children, three cats and two hermit crabs (it's an old house, but we love it).

MARK LANDRY (*Duane Wilson*) Mark is excited to be a member of the HARVEY team. He has been a member of the Community Players of Concord since 2005. He dedicates this performance to his mother Carol, who played Nurse Kelly in high school, and wishes her a Happy Mother's Day!

JOAN LAWSON (*Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet*) Joan is very happy to be back on stage after an eight year hiatus. Past productions include *Moon Over Buffalo* and *Critics Choice* with the Players. Joan has worked with the New Thalian Players, Actors-ingers and several others in both Bedford and Merrimack. She would like to thank Gary for this opportunity and wishes the cast and crew all the best!

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

GARY LOCKE (*Director*) Gary has been working in theater since dirt was new. He is a multi-hyphenate, serving as actor-writer-producer-director-designer for many productions throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Favorite productions as director include *Lysistrata* and *The Wind in the Willows* at Portsmouth's Player's Ring, *No Sex, Please, We're British* for Milford Area Players, and *Phantom* for Actorsingers of Nashua. He staged his own tribute to baseball, *Play Ball!* in 2009, in which he played Branch Rickey. Other favorite roles include Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Dr. Miranda in *Death and the Maiden*, and Frank in *Equus*. Gary is married to his long suffering wife Jan, and they live in Merrimack with three cats who basically ignore him. This is, he hopes, the first of many productions with The Community Players of Concord.

DAVID CARMONA SORIA (*Asst to the Director*) After being a high school teacher for several years, this is David's first time working in a production with an adult cast. He has been fully impressed by the actors remembering their lines, the absence of temper tantrums or fights, and refreshingly clean language. On top of that, it was just as fun!

JIM WEBBER (*Master Painter*) Jim has been with the Community Players of Concord for close to 30 years. He has done extensive theatre work in New Hampshire and California, including authoring the award-winning *Judy's Scary Little Christmas* and directing *City of Angels*. Best known to Concord audiences for his set design and set painting, Jim brings with him tremendous knowledge and talent to the entire set team. Here's thanks to Lacy Long and Mary Ellen House for their tremendous work and long hours spent painting the set.

CLINT CLOSE (*Sound Design*) Clint is a music and theater teacher at Beaver Meadow School in Concord. In addition to his classroom teaching responsibilities, he is also the RB Stage Co. director which produces summer theater camps for kids. Clint is an accomplished musician, musical director, director and sound designer. He also directs the PEG theater program at Rundlett Middle School and he recently received the 2010 Children and Youth Theater award presented by the New Hampshire Theater Awards.

CHARLES MITCHELL (*ASM/Tech Director*) Charles has been a member of the Community Players of Concord since 2006 and is lucky enough to have filled many roles from acting to producing. He is currently also serving on the Players' Board of Directors. He was recently seen onstage in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and entertained audiences at the Green Martini with his band. He lives in Concord, is married to the beautiful Alyson and has two terrific sons.

KATHRYN G.M. HODGES (*Stage Manager*) Kathryn joined the Community Players of Concord in 1978. She is in her 5th and final year of being treasurer for the Players. She lives in Penacook with her wonderful, talented husband Erik and her incredible children, Harper and Tess.

GINA BOWKER (*Scenic Designer*) Gina is excited to be working with the Players for the first time. She has worked around the Seacoast of NH for many years as stage manager, scenic designer and lighting designer. Currently, she is Executive Director and Stage Manager for the State College Community Theatre in State College, PA. She'd like to thank Gary for this opportunity.

RICK SILVERBERG (*Master Set Builder*) This is Rick's fifth set in a row that he has built for the Community Players of Concord. He loves to build and teach others to build. He has been a member of the Players for over eight years, serving as builder and teacher. This show has special meaning for Rick and his kids when they would hike through the woods when they were young. As legend has it, Harvey helped the girls keep hiking when their little feet were getting tired. Everyone still hikes to this day!

GAY BEAN (*Costumes*) Gay has done extensive work with Community Players of Concord in both costume and set design. She also frequently collaborates with the Franklin Footlight Players as Stage Manager and Costume Designer. Outside of theatre, she works at a dentist's office.

JOEY MURPHY (*Set Dresser*) Joey is relatively new to the Community Players of Concord, having joined them on *Big, The Musical* as Props wrangler. Most recently, she worked on *Christmas Carol*, assisting master make-up artist Greg Stuart on make up and mask creation. She loves finding outlets for her creativity, and theatre offers her plenty of that. She lives in Concord and sends love to her son.

KENDRA WEST-SENIOR (*Props Master*) Kendy has been a CPC member since 1981 working both on and off the stage. She is the postmaster in Elkins and sings with up to 3 choruses in the Kearsarge area--shout out to R, D & D, & Stoli & Stikle.

DAVID NELSON (*Lighting Design*) Dave has done many shows with the Community Players of Concord when he isn't doing shows on the Seacoast. He is a master of light design.

PLAYERS 2011 CAPITAL FUND DRIVE DONORS

The Community Players sincerely thank and hereby acknowledge the generous support of the following patrons from our Annual Capital Fund Drive

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<i>in memory of our wedding, we met in a play in 1964</i>	Pat Delzell
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<i>in memory of Concord's Talented Thespians</i>	Frank & Beverly Jillson
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SPECIAL THANKS

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Kevin Belval
Gary Evans
The Barley House
The Common Man
The Green Martini
Tandy's Top Shelf
Craig Walker
Candi Brehm
Greg Stuart
Jason Hopkins
Wayland Bunnell

...And last but not least, sincere heartfelt thanks to every member of the Harvey behind-the-scenes staff who worked long hours on this production, building sets and teaching the helpers carpentry skills along the way, those who agreed to work on the production after they promised themselves to take a much needed break, to those who had to search relentlessly for set pieces, to those who kept on painting after they thought the painting was done, to those on staff who stepped in to work in another area outside their own when help was needed, this production would not come to this stage without all the production team staff. The Harvey producers sincerely thank you all for your time and talent offered to this special production.

In Memory of Carol Kyne

November 10, 1947 - June 1, 2010

The Community Players of Concord's 83rd season is dedicated to Carol Kyne



Carol called the Players her second family, and both the Players' organization and the friends she met have been blessed by the relationship.

She joined the Players in 1972, and jumped right in. Carol was soon working on every show. Over the years, she stage-managed (her favorite job), directed, produced, worked on props, set and lights, house managed, did the program, and appeared on-stage twice, in *Haunting of Hill House* and *The Runner Stumbles*. In addition to mainstage shows, Carol worked on road shows, summer theatre productions, one act plays, and competition shows.

Carol served on the Players' board of directors on several occasions and held the positions of Vice President and Treasurer (her least favorite job). She was awarded the Osy Strong Award in 1995 and was made a life member in 2009.

While all this is impressive, there was so much more to Carol. She cared for and was loyal to the Players and her friends, and she looked out for everyone.

When Carol was informed that she had cancer and that it was terminal, she asked to go back on the board of directors and served her beloved Players in that capacity for the past year.

Carol is deeply missed. We know that she would say that the show must go on, and, we believe that if she is watching tonight, it will probably be from her favorite spot off-stage right.