



# The Prompter

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF HOVEY PLAYERS

## Annual Meeting Held. Officers Elected.

On August 11, 2002 the Hovey Players' annual meeting and party was held at the Abbott Memorial Theater. The festivities were resplendent with food, entertainment, good cheer as well as some important orders of business. Four long-time active members of Hovey Players, Edward Biggins, John Conway, Lissi Engvall and Ralph Tomeo were honored for their extensive achievements. Each was glorified for his or her particular efforts as a member of the Hovey family and was presented with a plaque and crystal bowl to commemorate this illustrious occasion.

To celebrate these four individuals even further, a short script by Jerry Bisantz was presented. Starring Tom Berry as Ed Biggins, Jerry Bisantz as Ralph Tomeo, John Carozza as John Conway and Norma McGrath as Lissi Engvall, the skit showcased a "Board Meeting" rendering each personality with humor and fondness.

The officers of our Board of Directors for the 2002/2003 season were also presented as follows: President – John MacKenzie; Vice President – Jerry Bisantz; Treasurer – Michael Tonner; Secretary – Michelle Aguillon; Membership Co-Director – Ronnie Marshak; Membership Co-Director – Helene Andersson; Trustee – Leigh Berry; Trustee – Bob Allen. Two officers of the Board of Directors, Kim Anton and Norma McGrath, retired from the Board this season. We extend our deepest gratitude for their dedication and professionalism.

Finally, current President, John MacKenzie, outlined his 5 year plan for Hovey Players, which included the development of a new 80 to 100 seat facility, expanding the subscription base and increasing the membership base.

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## Playwrights' Platform at Hovey by Jerry Bisantz

The Hovey Players are happy to host Boston's Playwrights' Platform for their Sunday Night staged reading series starting this October. Playwrights' Platform is the area's oldest established organization for the development of new plays and playwrights here in New England. For the past four years, many Hovey members have been involved in Playwrights' Platform as contributing playwrights or as technical staff for their early summer festival.

"We are no longer able to meet at the Mass. College of Art, and Jerry and John felt that Hovey would be a great place for us to hold our readings," said George Sauer, who serves on the Playwrights' Platform Board and has contributed some terrific plays for Hovey's Summer Shorts Festival. When asked if Playwrights' Platform's presence will have an adverse effect on Hovey's ultra successful Summer Shorts series, John McKenzie states, "absolutely not...it will only help Summer Shorts and improve Hovey's visibility in the theater community. This will help to secure our commitment to new works. It's a win-win situation. The more the merrier... the meetings will take place upstairs for the most part and will bring new people to Hovey, fueling new works for our festival as well as theirs."

There is no admission fee for any of the readings and the public is welcome to attend and take part in the process. The following dates are (tentatively) set for Playwrights' Platform readings: Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 24, Dec. 8, Jan. 5 & 19, Feb. 9 & 23, Mar. 2 & 16, and Apr. 6 & 27. Readings will begin at 7PM. If you are a playwright interested in membership, please contact Jerry Bisantz at [jbisantz@attbi.com](mailto:jbisantz@attbi.com) or call George Sauer at 781-461-1207. Please keep plays at a maximum length of 30 minutes in length, full length plays will be read in excerpts with a synopsis.

**Where To Find Us**  
**Abbott Memorial Theater**  
**9 Spring Street at Joel's Way**  
**Waltham, MA**

Reservations 781-893-9171  
Green Room 781-647-1211  
Website [www.hoveyplayers.com](http://www.hoveyplayers.com)  
E-Mail [boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com](mailto:boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com)

**Mailing Address**  
Hovey Players, Inc.  
PO Box 540101  
Waltham, MA 02254-0101

## Audition Information

Escape from Happiness by George F. Walker. Winner of the Chalmers Canadian Play Award (1992) and DORA Outstanding Play Award (1991-92), Escape From Happiness is the darkly comic tale of a fractured family, a crusade against crime and the chance to begin again. Directed at Hovey Players by Katrin McDonough. If you'd like to contact the director, please call 617-327-4954 or e-mail [KatrinMcD@aol.com](mailto:KatrinMcD@aol.com). Auditions will be held Sunday, September 22 from 2pm-6pm and Monday, September 23 from 7pm-11pm. Callbacks will be held, if necessary. Performances will be held in November. Cast breakdown: 5 females, 5 males. Descriptions are as follows:

**Nora**, early fifties, is the spirited, quirky and loving matriarch of the family. Many think she's crazy, but is she?

**Elizabeth**, mid to late thirties, Nora's oldest daughter, is a feisty, strong, take-charge woman who will do anything to protect her family.

**Mary Ann**, early to mid thirties, Nora's middle daughter is a neurotic but sweet woman who strives to nurture those around her and to stand on her own two feet. She is very much Nora's daughter.

**Gail**, early twenties, Nora's youngest daughter is an even-keeled, warm, and open-minded young woman who is the only member of the family to forgive and care for Tom in his weakened state.

**Junior**, early twenties, Gail's husband desperately wants to do right by his family but has a way of getting into trouble. He is in cahoots with Tom.

**Tom**, mid to late fifties, the father of Nora's daughters, was an abusive husband and father who abandoned this family many years ago. On the surface, he's returned to the family a frail and senile man, but he is actually seeking redemption by ridding their neighborhood of criminal elements.

**Dian Black**, late twenties, a police detective, considers herself to be part of a new generation of cops who are socially liberal, "flexible and extremely intelligent". She has an unwavering allegiance to and love of the police force.

**Mike Dixon**, forties, a police detective, is a traditional, by-the-books officer who while not politically correct, feels a duty to do the right thing.

**Rolly Moore**, forties, is a slightly bumbling small-time criminal who gets in over his head.

**Stevie Moore**, twenties, is Rolly's son and an even more bumbling criminal who manages to complicate matters for him & his father even more.

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## Summer Shorts a Smash by Jerry Bisantz

The recently completed *Summer Shorts 2002 Festival of New Works* exceeded all expectations and smashed box office records for attendance. For two weekends in July, six sold out audiences were treated to compelling new plays from eighteen local playwrights, involving the participation of nearly fifty actors and a production staff that kept everything at a crisp pace.

As Larry Stark of Theatermirror wrote: "The Hovey Players' *Summer Shorts Festival*...demonstrated the good in more new plays than you'd believe possible." He called it "a festival which everyone enjoyed working on, or, like me, just enjoyed watching the best damn theater in this area doing what they do best." Thanks, Larry, we sure had a lot of fun!

The festival is drawing people from all over the Boston theater area, including managing directors from some of the area's prominent professional theater companies. What they

all saw was a spirited group of diverse writers, directors, actors and technical staff cheering each other on in a pure display of community theater at its best. It's impossible to pick out the best of the bunch... everyone had their own favorites. A sincere thanks to Ed and Anne Biggins, Beth Gustin, Shannon Allen, John MacKenzie, Helene Andersson, Jason Yaitanes, Margaret Umbsen and any and all actors who moved sets and props for all those plays. A special thanks to the tireless efforts of Kim Anton, my co-producer, who made it all look so easy (but, we know better, don't we?). A final note of thanks to the technical staff who made this all possible.

As Rob Mattson reminded me, this was actually our sixth annual *Summer Shorts Festival*, and I look forward to number seven. May it continue to improve and may the new works continue to pour in! See you next year and save a lemonade for me!

## Hovey Members at Other Venues

- Jason Myatt in Hamlet at the Publick Theater, August 15 through September 15.
- Elizabeth Marshall currently in Joey and Maria's Wedding at the Jukebox in Boston.
- Michelle Aguillon, Rob Mattson, and Dave Sheppard in The Nerd, directed by Mark Baumhardt. Tom Berry is sound designer and John Murtagh is co-producer at Acme Theater Productions in Maynard, September 20 through October 12.
- Bill Doscher in Doctor Faustus with the Bridge Theater Company at the BCA, August 23 through Sept 6.
- Sheila Stasack, Holly Vanasse and Tom Lawlor in The Laramie Project at Gloucester Stage, September 11-22.

## The Prompter Has a New Editor

After a full season of churning out our first-rate newsletters, Kim Anton is retiring as Editor of The Prompter. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Kim for a job well-done.

Leigh Berry, the new Editor, is soliciting content from all members and friends of Hovey. If you'd like to contribute an article or tidbit to a future publication of The Prompter, you may e-mail Leigh at [BerryLP225@aol.com](mailto:BerryLP225@aol.com) or mail to: The Prompter, c/o P.O. Box 540101, Waltham, MA 02454-0101.

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR SENSATIONAL 2002-2003 SEASON AND SAVE!

### Our 2002-2003 Season

September 2002  
**Fuddy Meers**  
 by David Lindsay-Abaire  
 (Farce)

November 2002  
**Escape from Happiness**  
 by George F. Walker  
 (Black Comedy)

January 2003  
**Observatory\***  
 by Kate Snodgrass  
 (Drama)

March 2003  
**Twelfth Night**  
 by William Shakespeare  
 (Comedy/Classic)

May 2003  
**Dangerous Corner**  
 by J.B. Priestley  
 (Mystery)

July 2003  
**Summer Shorts**  
**Festival of New Works by Local Authors**  
 (Festival admission is not included  
 in subscription price)

**\*Observatory** will be accompanied by a short one-act play to be announced.

**Save up to 15%**  
 Regular Price: \$65  
 Subscription Price: only **\$55**

**Please complete the form to the right or leave a message for our Box Office Manager, Lissi Engvall, at 781-894-9171.**

### HOVEY PLAYERS 2002-2003 SEASON Subscription Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer correspondence via e-mail.

# of Subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ X \$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Senior Subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing an additional tax deductible donation\* of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Subscriptions plus Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Hovey's success depends on the generosity of our patrons and friends. Additional contributions are always appreciated and are tax-deductible.*

*A subscription entitles you to one admission to each of our five productions, currently a \$65.00 value. Future ticket prices are subject to change. Subscribing protects you from cost increases later in the season. Our **Summer Shorts Festival** is not included in the subscription price. Purchase of a subscription doesn't guarantee you a particular seat or performance date. If you are unable to attend a performance, you may offer your ticket to a friend. Subscriptions are non-refundable.*

.....  
 I am not able to subscribe this season but I would like to make a donation to Hovey Players. I've enclosed a check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 .....

Please make your check payable to Hovey Players, Inc.  
 Mail to: Subscriptions, Hovey Players, Inc., P.O. Box 540101  
 Waltham, MA 02254-0101

# THE PROMPTER

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF HOVEY PLAYERS

Hovey Players, Inc.  
PO Box 540101  
Waltham, MA 02254-0101

## ***NOW APPEARING AT THE ABBOTT MEMORIAL THEATER...*** **FUDDY MEERS by David Lindsay-Abaire. Directed by Michael Tonner.**

Performance dates are September 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, October 3, 4, 5. All performances are held at 8:00pm, with the exception of a 2:00pm matinee on Sunday, September 29.

THE STORY: Claire has a form of amnesia that causes her to lose her memory each night as she sleeps; so, every morning her husband Richard greets her with a cup of coffee and a book that explains her condition. But... this day is to be like no other day. When a limping, lisping, half-blind, half-deaf man in a ski mask jumps out from under her bed, Claire begins a hilarious often harrowing journey through a surreal landscape of bizarre characters--each of whom reveal as much about themselves as they do about her. At the end of this dark, yet ultimately sweet comedy, Claire has learned that while sleep may bring forgetfulness, it offers no escape.

Fuddy Meers features Eric Houghton, Ann Carpenter, Lynn Armstrong, Bob Williams, Jonathan Kiviat, Christine Connor and Josh Isaacs. The production is produced by Michelle Aguillon. Set and lighting design by 2002 IRNE Winner, John MacKenzie, sound design by Michael Tonner and David Feldman, costumes coordinated by Kate Tonner. The Stage Manager is Shannon Allen, with crew including Michele Boll, Ronni Marshak, Beth Gustin and Nathan Prouty.

**For ticket reservations...**please call **781-893-9171**, or forward a check to: Hovey Players, P.O. Box 540101, Waltham MA 02254-0101. Tickets are \$13.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors and children under 12.