



# The Prompter

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF HOVEY PLAYERS

## Producer's Notes: **VIRTUAL REALITY/OBSERVATORY CONDITIONS** by *Michelle Aguilon*

This winter, Hovey showcased two very different shows, with two very different directors and two different talented casts, but gave one exciting night of theatre. Ultimately, the collaborative efforts of all involved paid off with our Hovey audience.

I would like to thank co-producer, Helene Andersson; directors, Kim Anton and Jerry Bisantz; actors, Stephen Collins, Jacquelyn Mayer, Jason Myatt, Sheila Rehrig and Jason Yaitanes; playwright, Kate Snodgrass of BU Playwrights Theatre; tech-director, Russ Fletcher; stage managers, Margaret Umbsen and Faye Byron; light operator, Beth Gustin; sound operator, Laura Dorsen; stage crewperson, Rocco Sperazzo; box office manager, Kate Tonner; publicist, Jerry Bisantz; photography by the Varracchi Sisters; Act II Managers, Ed and Anne Biggins; and concession volunteers, Margaret McCarty, Mark Baumhardt, Luke and Sally Dennis, Karen Dervin, Julia Van Daam, Ronni Marshak and Gordon Ellis. I would also like to give special thanks to Bob Allen, Michael Tonner and John Mackenzie, whose particular contribution guaranteed the success of this production.

Mostly, I would like to thank our Hovey audience for their continued support and attendance during our 66th Season - we would not be able to do it without you!

### Inside this issue:

	Cover
News Via E-mail and Internet	Cover
Play Submissions for Next Season	Cover
Audition Information: <i>Dangerous Corner</i>	2
A "Virtual" Success	2
Hovey Members at Other Venues	3
Congratulations	3
Help Save Waltham Restaurant and Hovey Supporter	3
Now Appearing: <i>Twelfth Night</i>	Back Cover

## News Via E-mail and Internet by *Helene Andersson*

Beginning with our next issue, The Prompter will be available in e-mail format and on our website. We are currently reorganizing our mailing list so we can get information to you more easily. We expect the e-mail version to reach our customers several days in advance of the paper version. It will have all the content, production and audition information you expect from The Prompter.

If you would like to receive The Prompter by e-mail please send your request to [hoveyplayers@excite.com](mailto:hoveyplayers@excite.com). Please include your name so that we can cross-reference you to our database. If you prefer to use an on-line form, please go to <http://www.hoveyplayers.com> and look for the link on the left edge of the screen.

Hovey Players does not share or sell its e-mail list. We will continue to provide a paper version of The Prompter for those of you that do not have e-mail.

## Play Suggestions for Next Season

Hovey Players is soliciting play suggestions for our 2003/2004 season. Please forward two copies of the script with a cover letter to: Hovey Players, PO Box 540101, Waltham, MA 02254-0101. If you are a director who is new to the company, please also include a resume with a proposal letter. Submissions are due by April 1, 2003.

<b>Where To Find Us</b>	
<b>Abbott Memorial Theater</b>	
9 Spring Street at Joel's Way	
Waltham, MA	
Reservations	(781) 893-9171
Green Room	(781) 647-1211
Website	<a href="http://www.hoveyplayers.com">www.hoveyplayers.com</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com">boxoffice@hoveyplayers.com</a>
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
Hovey Players, Inc.	
PO Box 540101	
Waltham, MA 02254-0101	

## Audition Information

Auditions for *Dangerous Corner* will be held Sunday, March 16 at 2:00pm and Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00pm. Performance dates are May 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24.

J.B. Priestly's *Dangerous Corner* is a suspense drama that investigates the ways we maintain our relationships through lies and truths. Guests at a seemingly innocent dinner party are forced one by one into revealing the secrets behind a theft and murder. This is a true ensemble piece with plot twists galore.

Characters are as follows:

**Maud Mockridge:** 40's-70's. An old-fashioned lady novelist, gossipy, a bit unintentionally foolish. The only supporting role, but a fun one.

**Olwen Peel:** 20's-30's, sensible, appealingly sweet. Secretary for a publishing company.

**Robert Chatfield:** 30's-60's, president of the publishing company. Successful businessman with a friendly nature.

**Freda Chatfield:** 30's-60's, Robert's wife, polite and smart, hiding a bad marriage.

**Charles Stanton:** 30's-50's, pragmatic, a businessman with a cool facade.

**Gordon Whitehouse:** 30's-50's, intelligent, reserved, a closeted homosexual.

**Betty Whitehouse:** 30's-50's, Gordon's wife, content to be an old-fashioned housewife, but sometimes openly fraught and emotional.

Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Contact director, Justin Budinoff, at [justinbudinoff@hotmail.com](mailto:justinbudinoff@hotmail.com) if you have additional questions.

---

## A "Virtual" Success by Jerry Bisantz

A lot of new people showed up at Hovey to view our latest offering, and, as no less than Sally Cragin of the Boston Globe put it, *Observatory Conditions* and *Virtual Reality* received an "earnest production" by Hovey Players, and our audiences were treated to fine performances by some of Boston's best actors. Anyone who missed Jason Yaitanes and Jason Myatt in the hilarious Alan Arkin comedy *Virtual Reality* really lost out on an opportunity to see two actors at the top of their game. Kudos to Kim Anton and her terrific direction and Michael Tonner's deceptively clever sound effects. I'll never look at a bungee cord the same again, **ever!**

Kate Snodgrass' challenging play *Observatory Conditions* gave our actors a unique opportunity to work hand in hand with the playwright. It's a once in a lifetime experience to get a chance to work with one of

Boston's finest playwrights, reacting to script changes and being a part of the process. Watching the actors tackle these roles was a phenomenal experience and seeing the results on the stage was electrifying. Sheila Rehrig, Jacquelyn Maher and Stephen Collins threw themselves headlong into a wonderful play that prompted people to think and to question. It was an honor to work with Kate on this project and Hovey once again showed that we are willing to try something different in offering a creative pairing of plays that, as Larry Stark said, were "as alike and as different as the masks of comedy and tragedy"...perfectly paired!

I want to thank our entire staff for a job well done, particularly Michelle Aguilon, Margaret Umbesen, Faye Byron...oh, and Beth and Laura and Ed and Ann and...you get the picture! Thanks so much for a wonderful production!

## Hovey Members at Other Venues

- Jerry Bisantz is directing *Once Upon A Mattress* at Turtle Lane Playhouse which opens April 25.
- Elizabeth Marshall is currently in *Joey and Maria's Wedding* at the Jukebox in Boston.
- Kate Bisantz will be portraying Winifred in *Once Upon A Mattress* at Lowell High School.
- Michelle Aguillon and Kim Anton performed in the 7X7 Festival at the Industrial Theater in Cambridge. Lisa Burdick directed a play in the same festival.
- Tom Berry is appearing in *True West* at Acme Theater which opens in April.
- David Berti stars in *Present Laughter* at Vokes Theater.
- Shannon Allen stage-managed the Acme New Works Festival in January.

## Congratulations...

...to Hovey's IRNE-nominated actors, Kim Anton and Jerry Robbins for their outstanding work in *The Seagull* and *Lion and Winter*, respectively.

...to Sharon Bisantz, who just got her certification to teach.

...to playwright, Rob Mattson, who will be published by Baker's Plays. Two of his other works, *Much Ado About Murder* and *The Four Biggest Guys In Rock*, were first performed at the Hovey Players' Summer Shorts Festival.

...to Leigh and Tom Berry, who gave birth to their son, Devyn Fitzpatrick Berry, on November 20. He was born at Beverly Hospital, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz.

...to Gabbie Aguillon-Hatcher for her recent induction into the National Honor Society. She attends McGlynn Junior High School.

---

## Help Save Waltham Restaurant & Hovey Supporter by Michelle Aguillon

Chalee, owner of Baan Thai Restaurant and Hovey Players corporate sponsor, recently sold his two restaurants in Boston to move his business to Waltham. Because of the economy and probably partly due to unusually frigid weather, Chalee's business has slowed a bit. Even though Chalee is reducing prices on some menu items to help customers, he still ensures the quality of the menu by traveling all the way to either Chinatown or Chelsea to purchase food supplies. He also makes 500 desserts each week for another Thai restaurant in Brookline.

Not only because of the good food at Baan Thai, but also because of continued support for the arts in Waltham through the Hovey Players, Chalee needs our/your help. Plan dinner with family and friends before a Hovey show or perhaps afterwards for appetizers and cocktails. Baan Thai is just a 5-minute walk from Hovey. You can expect warm greetings at the door, a very clean restaurant with Neo-Asian decorative surroundings and very neatly prepared dishes. Besides offering delectable Thai cuisine, the freshest of sushi is also on the menu. Whether you try favorites such as Pad Thai, Spring Rolls, or Maki or California Rolls, or lesser-known dishes, such as Roasted Duck Tamarind or Shrimp Macadamia (shrimp sautéed with macadamia nuts, onion, baby corn, snow peas, mushrooms and scallions) you can expect ultimate culinary satisfaction. They also offer a variety of yummy curry and rice dishes - Masamun, Penang, Green, Yellow and Red.

Prices are more than reasonable at \$5.95-\$7.95 for lunch and \$2.75-\$14.95 for dinner. They also offer several of your more-than-obligatory options for vegetarians. The website is currently under construction, but when ready, you may peruse the entire menu at [www.BaanThaiFood.com](http://www.BaanThaiFood.com).

Never tried Thai food or sushi before? The menu gives you details of each item, plus Chalee is more than happy to give you the culinary tour himself!

Baan Thai Restaurant is located at 659 Main Street/Route 20, located in front of Waltham Square and is just 2 blocks from Hovey. Baan Thai will have a coupon in the program of the next Hovey production of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, directed by John MacKenzie. Also, a platter of Baan Thai's appetizers and menus will be available at the opening night party on March 14. Call our box office at (781) 891-9171 to reserve your tickets for *Twelfth Night* now.

Baan Thai's dining hours are Monday through Thursday, 11:30am-3:00pm and 5:00-10:00pm; Fridays, 11:30am-3:00pm and 5:00-11:00pm; Saturdays 5:00-11:00pm and Sundays 5:00-10:00pm; telephone number is (781) 893-7700, fax is (781) 893-7701. Delivery hours are Monday-Sunday 5:00-10:00pm. Metered parking is available behind the restaurant between Lexington and Common Street, on Main Street or in Waltham Square, which is free after 6:00pm.

Be sure to mention that your friends at Hovey sent you and many thanks for your patronage to this friendly and talented local merchant and supporter of the arts at Hovey!

# 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...** ***Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare. Directed by John MacKenzie.**

PERFORMANCE DATES: March 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 29. All performances are held at 8:00pm, with the exception of a 2:00pm matinee on March 23.

THE STORY: *Twelfth Night* is about illusion, deception, disguises, madness and the extraordinary things that love will cause us to do—and to see. Most critics consider it one of William Shakespeare's greatest comedies, along with plays such as *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

To describe the plot in the most basic of terms it would be something like the following: Orsino loves Olivia. Olivia loves Orsino's messenger, Cesario. Cesario is really Viola and SHE has the hots for Orsino. Malvolio is tricked into thinking Olivia loves him and so he falls madly in love with her, acts totally insane and ends up in prison. Maria loves Feste and Toby loves Maria, only he doesn't really know that yet. In the end, Toby marries Maria, Orsino marries Viola and Olivia marries Sebastian (Viola's twin brother) who Olivia mistakes for Cesario. Add to this: sword fights, hysterical comedy and music and you have *Twelfth Night*!

The production will feature the acting talents of Michelle Aguillon, Shannon Allen, Ann Carpenter, Michael Corbett, Christine Hamel, Eric Houghton, Laura Kozuh, Kate Mahoney, Jason Myatt, Geoffrey Pingree, Richard Rininsland, Gordon Ellis, Jason Katz and Russ Fletcher.

**For ticket reservations...**please call (781) 893-9171, or forward a check to: Hovey Players, PO Box 540101, Waltham MA 02254-0101. You may also order tickets online at [www.hoveyplayers.com](http://www.hoveyplayers.com). Tickets are \$13.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors and children under 12.