



COUNTY
PLAYERS
INC.

the Spotlight



"a non-profit organization dedicated to the presentation of good theater"

Number 3 – 48th Season

January 2006

County Players Presents *Proof*

County Players continues its forty-eighth season with the award-winning play, *Proof* by David Auburn. Opening night will be Friday, February 3, 2006 at 8:00 PM at the Falls Theatre in Wappinger's Falls, NY. Subsequent performances will be February 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, and 18. Friday and Saturday performances begin promptly at 8:00 PM. The Sunday matinee performance (February 12) will be at 2:00 PM. Veteran director *Bill Peckham* couldn't be more pleased. "This is the best play to come out of New York in decades", says Peckham, "and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to direct it."

Following a successful run on Broadway, *Proof* walked away with a Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. This tightly structured, yet poetic drama centers around Catherine (*Janet Nurre*), a depressed and eccentric young woman in her 20's; Robert (*Paul Coleman*), her world famous mathematician father, with a history of mental illness; Hal (*Rick Meyer*), a graduate Math student who falls for Catherine; and Claire (*Maria Hickey*), her older sister from New York City.

The play opens on the night before Robert's funeral as his daughter, Catherine struggles with her loneliness and depression. She befriends Hal, a math geek and self-appointed guardian of Robert's notebooks. When her sister comes in from New York for the funeral, Catherine's future is in doubt. A groundbreaking proof surfaces, which sets off a mystery as to who the author may be. A battle for the truth explodes, threatening the family and Catherine and Hal's pending love affair.

"This play is a drama, a mystery, a comedy, and a romance all neatly wrapped into a compelling evening of theater", states Peckham, "and I am really fortunate to have four exceptional actors in these roles. It's been one of the most challenging pieces we've ever worked on. We have a dedicated production crew as well." Peckham also designed and built the set for County Players after much research on the internet. "I wanted the right atmosphere", he says, "so I found as much as I could about John Lee Beatty's Broadway set design and tried to recreate the spirit it added to the New York production."

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and children under 12 years of age. Call the box office at 845-298-1491 for reservations. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

NOTE: *Proof* contains adult language.



In rehearsal for *Proof*

Janet Nurre, Rick Meyer and Maria Hickey

Gypsy – a musical fable

Volunteers Needed: Want to get involved at County Players? Now is a great time to start! Our May 2006 production of the smash Broadway musical *Gypsy* is looking for volunteers to help with production aspects of the show. If you are interested in working on *Gypsy*, please contact Production Manager *Doug Woolley* at 845-485-3002 or judug@hvc.rr.com.

Also needed: *A MONKEY, A LAMB, A CAT, and A PARAKEET* for our production of *Gypsy*. If you can help, please contact *Doug Woolley* at 845-485-3002 or judug@hvc.rr.com.

County Players History

Ten Years Ago: In February 1996, County players produced the Neil Simon play *Brighton Beach Memoirs* directed by Lou Miressi. That show featured *Sean Donovan* as the lead (Eugene) and our president, *Anna Marie Martino* as Blanche.

Twenty Years Ago: In February 1986, County Players did not produce a show. At that time our seasons were less structured and the Board chose to put their efforts into the spring musical that year and skip the mid-winter production

Thirty Years Ago: In November 1976, County Players produced *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild* by Paul Zindel and directed by *Peter Edman*. This obscure play, which had a total of twenty-three performances on Broadway, dealt with a woman's retreat into fantasy after facing her husband's infidelity and the imminent loss of her home to urban renewal. Our leading lady, *Peggy Berenotto*, had also played Electra in *Gypsy*. We will be producing *Gypsy* again this spring!



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Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
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President's Message

In November of 2005, our 48th season continued with Arthur Miller's *View from the Bridge*. Sincere congratulations and many thanks to director *Kathy Ceng and her fine cast and crew*. Bravo and applause! Our February 2006 show will be directed by veteran *Bill Peckham*, who has assembled four dynamic cast members to present David Auburn's award-winning drama, *Proof*.

- *Dyson Foundation Grant* – We are very pleased to announce that we received \$6,500 from the Dyson Foundation for hearing impaired equipment. Installation of the equipment will take place over the next couple of months.
- *IBM Equipment Grant Program* – Through the efforts of several of our volunteers who are employed by IBM, we received several pieces of computer equipment. *Kevin Barnes* spearheaded this project and will be installing our new equipment in various key places in our theatre.
- *IBM Matching Grants* – Several of our patrons who are either employees or retirees of IBM gave “a little bit more” when they purchased their 2005/2006 season subscription. Over \$1,000 was donated by these individuals and IBM matches those funds for County Players! Many thanks to those individuals!

Our *Playreading Committee* is busy researching potential plays and directors for 2006-2007. This is a very interesting and important process of our company because we determine what shows will be presented during our next theatre season. A great deal of time and effort is put forth by our *Playreading Committee* and I want to thank each member of this team for the many hours spent reading and reviewing shows, interviewing potential directors, and sharing their thoughts amongst each other so that they can bring their recommendations to the Board this February.

2005 - 2006 Calendar of Events

Proof

by David Auburn
Directed by *Bill Peckham*
February 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 2006

Gypsy

Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Arthur Laurents
Directed by *Rian Keating*
May 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 2006

In December, County Players participated in two holiday events. Kudos and thanks to Director *Tom Lawrence* and to our many *volunteer singers* who presented holiday songs at the Poughkeepsie Galleria. The Village of Wappingers presented its second “Dickens Day” and CP once again opened its doors to the public for a tour of this great historic facility. Adding more spirit to this event, some of our volunteer members dressed in period costumes to offer a little “Christmas Carol” flavor to the Village streets. *Many thanks to all who volunteered their time to organize and work at this event.*

It's never too late to become involved with County Players. Our doors are always open to the public. And don't forget – feel free to attend our Board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the theatre.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Happy New Year, and best wishes for 2006!

Best regards,