



# *The Summit Playhouse*

## *Green Room Notes*

*The Summit Playhouse is a community theatre formed to encourage and practice theatre arts. The proceeds of its performances not required for the support and extension of its activities will be devoted to educational or charitable purposes. Est. in 1918.*

**January 2011**

### *SPEED-THE-PLOW*

We are eagerly anticipating the opening of our new play "SPEED-THE-PLOW" which opens on Friday, February 18th. Now and then the Playhouse looks for a work that is really challenging. It may raise difficult moral questions, or it may use colorful language to express them. David Mamet's plays usually offer plenty of both.

Turnout for the auditions was high, and as a result we have been able to pull a great team together.

Director: Trey Compton

Producer: Lindsey Nazelli

Cast: Robert Barwick (Gould)  
James Ryan Sloan (Fox)  
Danielle Pennisi (Karen)

Production Crew: Mikey LoBalsamo (Asst Dir), Bill Roome (Tech & Sound Dir), Diane Lotti (Stage Mgr), Justine Bailey (Asst Stage Mgr), Jim Mayfield (Set Cons), Rhoda Roper (Set Design), Ingrid Heil (Set Décor), Ann Lowe (Costumes), Arnold Buchaine and P T Kizzia (Props), Joanne Wilson, Jaci McCoy and Roberto Luzuriaga (Asst. Props).

Natalie Davis, a reporter for the local online newspaper 'The Summit Patch', came to visit the Playhouse in the early stage of rehearsals and spoke to everyone involved in the production. She wrote an interesting article based on her interviews with cast and crew, and I encourage you all to read it for a backstage look at the show. You can find it on our Playhouse website at [summitplayhouse.org](http://summitplayhouse.org). Just go to the home page and click on the link to the left "Playhouse on Facebook" (you do not require a Facebook account to access this). Next click on the third article down entitled "**A Challenging Work in progress at Summit Playhouse**".

**Robert Barwick and James Ryan coming to grips with their characters.**



**Robert Barwick and Danielle Pennisi**

## NEWS FROM THE RIALTO

By the way, when is the last time you browsed through our website [summitplayhouse.org](http://summitplayhouse.org)? There is a great deal of information you may not have realized was only a click away. In addition to information on our current season, audition information, etc, did you know that you can browse the following:

- A comprehensive list of all our past shows from 1918 onwards
- Actual playbills dating back to our 2002/3 season
- Various photo galleries from past productions
- Past Kaleidoscope productions and photos
- All the previous Playhouse Newsletters dating back to October 2004

Bill Roome, who created our website in 1999 and has maintained it ever since, tells me that the site receives an average of 700 page views per day (up from only 19 views at its inception).

## CHAIR-E-O!

The Playhouse is finally having to say goodbye to some old friends: our theatre style flip up seats that have been in situ well over 60 years, as well as a few metal ones that are used at the back of the theatre. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the most pressing is the fact that they are not stackable. This means that we are unable to fully use the auditorium space for other functions like extra rehearsal space, Playhouse meetings, cast parties etc.

The chairs went through a transformation over twenty years ago when we had them re-upholstered in the current blue velvet material. In order to help fund that project, brass plaques were bought and dedicated by our members, and placed on seat backs. For those of you out there who were kind enough to sponsor a plaque, do not be concerned. Jim Mayfield, our resident angel and factotum, has carefully removed each one and is currently in the process of remounting them. They will be displayed in the Playhouse in a site as yet to be determined.

The Board has spent some hours in discussions about how to proceed and the decision was made, not without some regret, that it was time for the old chairs to go. We are doing this in two stages. So far only twenty eight new chairs have been purchased to replace the metal ones on the risers at the back of the theatre. They can be hooked together or stacked separately which is just what we need.

So come on everybody, come and try them out during our production of SPEED-THE-PLOW and give us your feedback. We would love to hear from you before ordering the remainder of the chairs. We obviously want our patrons to not only enjoy the shows, but to sit in absolute comfort as well.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Are you looking for something new to get involved in? Need an outlet for your creativity? Do you enjoy painting, or using a hammer and drill to create things? Maybe you would be interested in coming to try us out. We are looking for assistance in all aspects of backstage work: painting, set design and décor, props, set construction, lighting, costumes, ushering, stage management and also help with ticket sales. Even a small amount of your time would be welcome. Who knows – you may want to stick around.

Take Bill Roome as the ultimate example of this. He saw an audition notice in the local paper for our production of 'She Loves Me' in 1984. It mentioned we were looking for backstage help and so he came along. At first he assisted with lighting, which morphed into Technical Director some years later. Along the way he also assumed responsibility for production of all our flyers and programs, which really showcase his artistic leanings. At the Playhouse we call him our resident 'guru', and I asked him how he acquired that status. In his familiar self-deprecating way he replied: "How? I faked it. I just learned on the job"

For further information on how to become involved, contact [sally.ponzio@summitplayhouse.org](mailto:sally.ponzio@summitplayhouse.org).

## WELCOME TO GROUND UP PRODUCTIONS

The Playhouse is going to host a production of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST in the Spring, to be staged by this young, professional not-for-profit theatre group who are based in NYC. In return for getting the use of our stage for one show a year, Ground Up professionals will help us design and build sets, and we may also share their equipment, props and storage facilities. We feel sure you will make them feel welcome and come out and support them. More to follow in the next newsletter.

The Playhouse is fully accessible with reserved parking in the Playhouse driveway.

The loop-compatible assisted listening system makes our productions more accessible to people with mild hearing

### ***Accessibility Information***



loss. The system consists of a permanently installed microphone and transmitter plus several pocket-sized receivers that we issue to patrons who need the system. Anyone with a "loop compatible" hearing aid can listen to the receiver through their own aid. Other patrons can listen with ear phones, either ones we provide or their own. Signing is available for matinees. Audio description is available as needed **although a reservation must be made at least two weeks in advance.**