



# Bay City Players Newsletter

January-February-March 2012

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## BCP Board Meetings

Second Monday

January 9, 2011  
February 13, 2011  
March 14, 2011

7 PM



Michigan's Oldest Continuously  
Operating Community Theatre



On a cold, clear, moonless Friday night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, residents of Almost find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised; hearts are broken. Love is lost, found, and confounded. But the bruises heal and the hearts

mend—almost—in what has been described as “a comic romantic roundelay” by the *Wall Street Journal*, “a woolly midwinter night’s dream” by *The Dallas Observer*, “love in the time of frostbite: by *The New York Sun*,” a sweet-natured valentine to fools and idioms” by the *Los Angeles Times*, “a gem” by *Florida Weekly*, “an unapologetically romantic fable” by the *Arizona Republic*, and “an effervescent yet deeply felt tragicomedy” by *The Melbourne (Australia) Age*. ALMOST, MAINE inventively explores the mysteries of the human heart, touching audiences with laughter, heartbreak and hope.

### Needful Knowings!

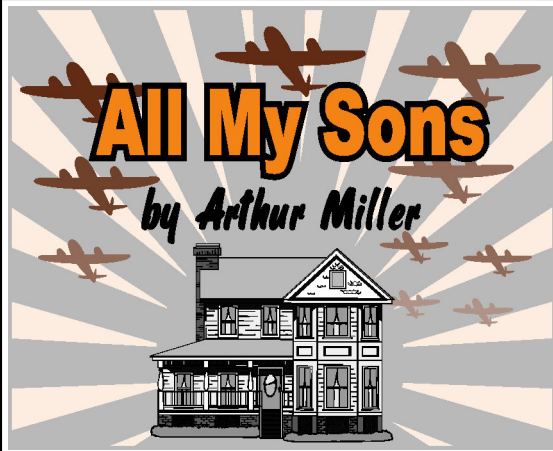
- ★ If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and would prefer to save us a few cents by getting it online, please contact the office (893-5555) We want everyone to get BCP Newsletter but if online is fine, “thank you,” for your co-operation!
- ★ There is still time to audition for *All My Sons* & the musical: *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Auditions for the musical; will be Saturday, January 14th at 1 PM and Sunday, January 15 at 6 PM at Bay City Players. Auditions for *All My Sons* will be held Monday & Tuesday, January 16 & 17 at 7 PM at Bay City Players.

## Almost Maine

January 13-15 & 19-22, 2012

Directed by Susan Meade

Box Office Opens Monday, January 9, 2012



BAY CITY PLAYERS PRESENTS ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller. Questions or further information call (989) 893-5555 M-F, 9am-1pm

or visit our website at [www.baycityplayers.com](http://www.baycityplayers.com)

Arthur Miller's great American drama set after WWII still touches the very soul of Americans at

war. When is it OK for people to profit from their country at war? How long do you wait for those who are missing in action? How does an American family faced with these questions find the right answers? So, good it has been made into two movies and had a big Broadway revival, 2008. *All My Sons* shows full force why Miller is one of America's finest playwrights. You'll be fascinated. *Tony Award Winner for Best Play, 1947.*



Celebrating

**Season 94!**

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**"Almost Maine"**

January 13-15 & 19-22, 2012

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**"All My Sons"**

March 2-4 & 8-11, 2012

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**"The Drowsy Chaperone"**

May 3-6 & May 10-13, 2012

*A note from Mike*

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and here's to a prosperous New Year! Bay City Players has been very busy with preparations for the last three productions of our 94th season: *ALMOST, MAINE, ALL MY SONS AND THE DROWSY CHAPERONE* We have also worked very hard to bring you an exciting 95th season. You'll find a sneak-peek of the season in this newsletter which consists of three new productions to the Bay City Players' stage and two previously performed productions.

I would like to personally thank our volunteers for all their hard work this past year.

*Michael J Wisniewski, President,  
Board of Directors*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Just about everyone has heard the expression "Don't judge a book by its cover." Perhaps we should adjust that to say "Don't judge a play by its title." If you were one of those attending *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, you know what a pleasure it was. The show was one laugh after another, all linked with bright music and wonderful characters. But, we heard from a number of people who didn't attend that they thought it would be a real spelling bee. And they didn't want to buy a ticket to a spelling bee. Come on, folks! Don't you know us well enough by now to know what kind of business we're in? Our mission statement says we work to entertain, enrich, and educate. But we promise, we won't be checking your spelling.

## SNEAK PEEK AT A GREAT SEASON 95



Here's a special way to start the New Year: a quick look at the shows for Season 95, 2012-2013. Of course more details will follow, but we thought you'd like to be one of the first to know.

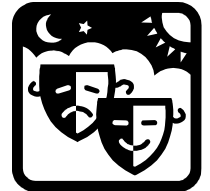
First on the roster is a delight by comedy master, Ken Ludwig. He wrote *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Moon over Buffalo*, just to name two of his successful comedies you enjoyed on our stage. This time you will meet his *Leading Ladies*. Well, sort of ladies anyway. When two English actors find themselves out of work in Pennsylvania, they learn an elderly lady is dying and plans to leave her fortune to her two, long-lost English nephews. So, as actors they figure—why not give it a shot. And when they show up and find the lost kin is not nephews but nieces instead, are they discouraged? Do they turn and run? You've got to be kidding: this is a Ken Ludwig comedy!

Your Christmas season will be a double treat. First the story is *It's a Wonderful Life*, the Jimmy Stewart movie everyone loves. But this time with a spin. You'll be enjoying *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show*. That's right. The story you love presented as a radio show right out of the 1940s. You are in the radio studio where sound effects are created live before your eyes—errr, ears. Commercials sung in harmony fill the station breaks. And actors change from one character to another in a fleeting second. If you grew up in the radio age, you know what a treat is in store. If radio passed you by, come enjoy what you missed. It's a whole new world of entertainment and double the fun with a Christmas treasure.

*And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little* is a treat we're bringing back from our rich past. When we did the show almost twenty years ago, our audiences were fascinated. Three sisters have taken three separate paths in life, but now they find themselves facing each other with resentment to spare. Their outrageous behavior toward each other kept our audiences laughing and wondering from beginning to end. The snooty couple from upstairs only added to the brouhaha going on. And the only question the audience shared was why Miss Reardon doesn't drink a lot.

What happens when Alfred Hitchcock meets the zany comedy of Monty Python? You'll find out when *The Thirty-Nine Steps* takes our stage. This riotous blend of comedy mixed with the mysterious story line from one of Alfred Hitchcock's early thrillers has been Broadway's longest running comedy with well over 500 performances. You won't believe your eyes at the clever tricks and Hitchcock twists the show takes. As usual with Hitchcock, an innocent man must prove he is not guilty. And while he takes every problem coming his way with total seriousness, the audiences never stops laughing.

*Gypsy* is one of America's great musicals. The life story of Ziegfeld star and Minsky stripper Gypsy Rose Lee has been an audience favorite from the very beginning. *Gypsy*'s mother, Mama Rose, wanted her daughters to be stars—even if it killed them. And *Gypsy* turned out to be one of Broadway's biggest. Not that *Gypsy* was talented or overly good looking, but she had a gimmick that worked for a life time: she stripped like a lady and left everyone wanting more. Well, audiences never want more from this show. Songs include "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Together," "You Gotta Have a Gimmick." Loaded with songs, dances, and a powerful script, *Gypsy* has earned its place as a musical comedy milestone.



You'll want to get your season tickets early this spring. You'll save money and guarantee that you'll take in five fabulous shows in Season 95. ☺ ☺ ☺

### THANK YOU, NINA

Have you noticed a beautiful new addition to our lobby? That lovely baby grand piano in the north-east corner near the coat check room is a gift from Nina Spiess. This heirloom piece was enjoyed by her family for many years; and when Nina no longer had room to accommodate it, she thought of Players. Donating it to Players was a truly generous act, but then Nina and her late-husband Bob were very active members of the Players family for decades. Bob played in many a pit orchestra over the years and Nina made her dynamic presence known in such outstanding roles as Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*, Golda in our first production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and, of course, Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. Thank you, Nina.

Bay City Players  
1214 Columbus Ave  
Bay City, Michigan 48708

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Interesting bits....

☀ **YOUTHEATRE**—*The 39th season of Youtheatre will begin with registration in Early March. More information will be available soon on Bay City Players' website: [www.baycityplayers.com](http://www.baycityplayers.com).*

**TO READ—OR NOT TO READ**

You have noticed by now that we are offering the opportunity for you to recycle your program by leaving it in the inner lobby on your way out after a show. We are glad to do that. And for those who take them home to peruse them at leisure, we are happy you do that. Do business with our advertisers and tell them you saw the ad in our program.

But a few folks have questioned the sensibility of leaving a program if they haven't had the chance to read it yet. Here's a word to the wise: always get into a theatre early enough to do at least some program reading. The program will tell you where and when the play takes place; how many acts/scenes are in the play; when and if there is an intermission; and director's notes will address some special aspects of this play or this particular production. You may want to check out bios and ads at home, but the savvy playgoer checks out a few things before the play ever begins.

**Dates to Remember:**

- ★ **Auditions— ALL MY SONS, Monday & Tuesday January 16-17, 2012 @ 7 PM**
- ★ **Auditions—THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, Saturday, Jan 14th @ 1 PM and Saturday, January 13 @ 6 PM**
- ★ **ALMOST MAINE, January 13-15 & 17-20, Box Office opens January 3rd @ Noon**
- ★ **ALL MY SONS, March 2-4 & 8-11, Box Office opens Feb. 27th**