

NOT SO COMMON TIMES



NOT SO

COMMON PLAYERS

Something's Cookin' at ...



The Spitfire Grill is an American musical with music by James Valcq, lyrics by Fred Alley, with book by Valcq and Alley based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff.

Sangiaco); Shelby, a shy and retiring girl who learns who she really is through her work at the grill (Laura Tortorici); Caleb

(Dennis Chmura), Shelby's husband who tries so hard to live up to the past; Sheriff Joe Sutter (Matt Streifert) who grows to love Percy; Effy (Debbie May) everybody's busybody; and Eli, (Bill Depew). Hannah's son.

The musical depicts the journey of a young woman just released from prison who decides to start her life anew in a rural Wisconsin town.



Motivated by a picture from an old travel book, this feisty parolee follows her dreams to

Gilead and finds a place for herself working at Hannah's *Spitfire Grill*. The eatery is for sale but there have been no takers for a very long time, so she suggests that Hannah raffle it off: The person who writes the best essay about the town and the grill wins the restaurant and the two-story house attached. Mail starts arriving by the wheelbarrow-full and then things really get cookin' at *the Spitfire Grill!*

Produced by Sally Burke, directed by Don Counterline with musical direction by Vince Bonafede, the story comes to life with Hannah, who owns the Grill, (Barb Mahlmann); Percy the feisty parolee (Alana

been accomplished by a set construction team headed by Frank Hegener. Karen Boynton performs her costume magic and Mike Silvia holds it all together as stage manager. Props by Joe and Mary Ann Conera, lighting design by John Burke, sound design by Jeff Patnode and make-up design by Marcia Lenehan round out the production team.

Save the date for this winner of the Richard Rodgers Production Award and several other awards from its more than 200 productions worldwide. The music is a haunting country sound that you will hum all the way home.



The Magic of Theatre...from concept to product

As **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS** planned its 9th season, we advertised for show selection and directors (stage, music and choreography). We set the dates and lined up the staff for production—designers (set, costume, light and sound). The next step is auditions for each show. Then begins the set construction phase which requires many hands and includes all the painting and design components. Props are gathered from many sources and rehearsals are in full swing. Production staff usually gathers about 30 volunteers; casts (also volunteers) vary in size, but average 10-30 for most of the **NSCP** productions. (*Wizard of Oz* totaled more than 100 cast and crew). Rehearsals usually last 2 months and construction etc is carried on throughout. Then comes Tech Week! We dismantle and move the entire set, costumes, props etc to the stage; reconstruct, add the lights and sound and start the final week of rehearsals. The final product comes to life on Opening Night and then we party and celebrate. After the final performance, we strike (dismantle) the set and move everything back to our storage location/rehearsal space and begin prep for the next show. It is lots of hard work, but worth every minute as you build wonderful relationships and create a product for all to enjoy. For **NSCP**—the Town of Clifton Park and Windsor Development make it all possible. Come...join our team one and all.

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2008

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Performances:

October 31st
November 1 & 2
November 7, 8, 9

Friday & Saturday
8:00PM

Sunday Matinee
2:00PM

Shenendehowa HS
East Little Theater
Clifton Park NY

FREE
Musical Theatre
Sponsored by
The Town of
Clifton Park



“Spotlight On” is a regular feature of our newsletter, profiling a person who has made a positive impact on NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS



Sally and John Burke



Performances
April 17, 18, 19,
24, 25, 26
Fri/Sat 8 PM
Sun 2PM

!!!Auditions!!!

January 12 & 14
7-9 PM
Location: NSCP Storefront
between Joann's & TOYS
'R US in Village Plaza;
Clifton Country Road.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE PREPARE 32 BARS
FROM A NUMBER PERFORMED
BY THE CHARACTER YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN

PREPARE TO READ FROM THE
SCRIPT AND/OR IMPROV

PREPARE (MEMORIZED) ONE
JOKE THAT IS AT LEAST ONE
MINUTE IN LENGTH -

GOOD LUCK!

SPOTLIGHT ON: SALLY AND JOHN BURKE

Teamwork is everything in theatre, and **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS** is no exception. Founding members (and married couple) Sally and John Burke, Sr., NSCP's Marketing & Public Relations Consultant and Lighting Consultant, respectively, live the teamwork philosophy every day – including their mutual, lifelong love of music and theatre.

Sally grew up in Pittsburgh with a love of musical theatre instilled by her parents, who never missed a movie musical and would sing to each other from operettas every night. At age 16, she was lucky enough to usher when Carol Channing came to town in *Hello Dolly* – an experience that made an indelible impression on her. Sally attended Seton Hill College, Duquesne University and The College of Saint Rose.

John grew up in Brooklyn, but spent summers on a farm in Bainbridge, NY with his grandparents. Although he didn't see much theatre growing up, occasionally he attended a show in NYC while attending college. But he has always loved music, and can name nearly every song and performer from the 1950s. John went to Manhattan College and the University of Pittsburgh, earning a PhD in nuclear physics.

The two met after church at a Newman Club coffeehouse in Heinz Chapel at the University of Pittsburgh, after Sally had been cantor at Mass. They quickly discovered their mutual love of theatre and movies, and in fact their first date was to see *The Fantastiks* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

After they married and moved to Schenectady, they became involved with Schenectady Light Opera Company, then Schenectady Civic Theater and other companies over the years. From performing, production, lighting design and stage management, to marketing, public relations and as board members, they've worked in many capacities for dozens of productions over the last 40 years throughout the Capital Region.

John (now retired) worked at Knolls Atomic Power Lab in Niskayuna for 38 years. His last 18 years at KAPL were spent doing nuclear physics research using the linear accelerator at RPI. Sally has held many jobs, including Marketing & Public Relations Director at Cohoes Music Hall, managing special events in the development office at The College of Saint Rose, and office manager for YMCA's Camp Chingachgook. Her favorite job, from which she's retired but still subs, is bus driver for Shenendehowa schools.

Some more interesting facts about Sally and John: after high school, Sally spent eight years in the convent as a teacher. One of John's hobbies is being a glider pilot. And they've seen *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris* a few dozen times.

Sally and John raised their three sons with a love of theatre, and now take every opportunity to expose their grandchildren to live theatre as well. John Jr. lives locally with wife Jennifer and their children Caitlyn (age 8) and Drew (age 7). David, a Navy pilot currently stationed at the Pentagon, is engaged to Stephanie Scott. Paul is a communication design specialist who lives with wife Megan in Austin, Texas.

Caitlyn and Drew enthusiastically share their grandparents' passion for theatre. Not only do they request show tunes when riding in the car, they've been known to debate the pros and cons of various live productions of *Beauty and the Beast!*

When asked to name their favorite shows from the many they've seen, Sally cites *Les Miserables*, while John chooses *West Side Story*. Each has been involved in dozens of shows over the years, but there are some they'd love to do and have never done: John wants to be in *Lil' Abner*, Sally wishes for *The Secret Garden*, and both would love to do *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Hopefully this hard-working, busy couple will find a way to bring their favorites to the NSCP stage for all to enjoy!

GODSPELL—directed by Mike Mensching

This production of *GODSPELL* will take place on a subway car and will initially involve all people (slice of life) that may be riding a subway car in New York City.

Please dress appropriately for the audition in an outfit that could portray one of these NYC people. Think outside the box and come up with an outfit that is distinctive, for example: gang member, prostitute, homeless person, wall street exec, student, street seller, nurse etc. We are looking for a variety of ages as well as ethnicities.

You must be charismatic, funny, energetic and a good singer. All body types are appropriate. Although there is dancing, it is really movement instead of specific steps. You must have sustainable energy for a two-hour action packed production in which you will not leave the stage except for intermission.

Since *GODSPELL* usually uses a younger cast in most productions, if you are older than 30 then this might be your one opportunity...

Please note the following:

1. No a cappella singing auditions, you must sing from the show.
2. Some people will be dismissed after the singing auditions and therefore will not read for parts. If your voice is not what we are looking for, then we do not want to waste your time unnecessarily (please note vocal qualities under character descriptions).

GODSPELL CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

JESUS – (Tenor High G#) Vocal Quality – Rich and warm; must be the most charismatic individual in the cast. High energy, charming, funny, gentle, but with strength. He is the sort of person others instinctively follow. Age 18-45

JOHN THE BAPTIST/JUDAS – (Baritone E) Vocal Quality – Legit/Rich Quality with vibrato He has attributes of both Biblical figures: he is both Jesus' lieutenant and most ardent disciple and the doubter who begins to question and rebel. Like Jesus, he is also charismatic, but in more of an over revolutionary way. He is the most "serious" and intellectual of the group, though as with all the actors, he must still possess a good sense of physical comedy. Age 18-45

JEFFREY – (Tenor High D (falsetto) Vocal quality- Pop Very high energy. Impish and playful. Age 16-50

LAMAR – Vocal Quality – Pop (Tenor High A) Not the brightest in the bunch, he is a little slow on the uptake. But there is a great sweetness and innocence about him. Because he sings "All Good Gifts," he must be a very good singer. Age 18-50

HERB – (Baritone E - Does not sing any real solo, but should be able to carry baritone harmonies) The comedian, the class clown. The guy who can do a hundred voices and imitations. This is also the role that sings the least, so casting will be based on comedic timing rather than vocal ability. Age 18-60

ROBIN – (Alto) Vocal quality – Folk A bit of a Tomboy, but basically open and sweet. She is the first of the group to commit to following Jesus in the song "Day by Day." Age 16-55

JOANNE – Vocal Quality – Pop (Soprano - High A in "Bless the Lord", High C in "We Beseech Thee") The confident one, the show – off. The first one to volunteer, sometimes she jumps in before she really understands what's going on. Age 18-40

PEGGY – (Alto) Vocal quality – Pure Tone/No heavy vibrato The shy one. Sometimes a little slow to get things, but when she does, she commits all the way. Has an "earth mother" kind of warmth to her. Age 16-55

SONIA – (Low Alto – D below middle C) Vocal quality – Blues/Lounge/Smoky Sassy and slightly cynical, the most urban of the group. Also the "sexy" one, but her sexiness contains a large element of put – on, in the manner of Mae West or Madonna (who in fact once played this role) Age 25-60

GILMER – (Mezzo) Vocal quality – Blues or Gospel The female equivalent of the class clown. Goofy and a cut – up. This is the female role that sings least, and therefore should be cast with a strong comedienne. Age 18-55

The new Town of Clifton Park **Community Arts and Culture Commission** hosted an Arts Roundtable at the historic Grooms Tavern in May. The event provided a forum for those who live, work or play in Clifton Park – and are interested in the future of arts and culture in the Town – to voice their “wish list for the arts” in Clifton Park.

Attendees said that appropriate facilities, programming and events that include many art forms, and partnering with other entities are major needs and wants for the Clifton Park community. Discussion centered on the need for a central arts venue in Clifton Park. Programming suggestions included comedy performances, photography, events featuring orchestras and bands and an arts festival.

The Commission is currently working to inform the community of arts and culture opportunities through centralized event listings and publicity. It is also exploring options for arts facilities, and studying the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library and Grooms Tavern examples for planning and growth.

A Joyous Journey to Oz!

Audiences came out in droves to “Follow the Yellow Brick Road” with Dorothy and friends in the **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS**’ summer 2008 smash hit, *The Wizard of Oz*. Even the challenging summer weather (i.e., rain) couldn’t hold back the energy and talent of the fabulous cast and crew in this extravaganza of fantasy, music and dance!

Produced by Richard Lenehan and directed by Laura W. Andruski, with vocal direction by Pat Douglass, conducted by Barret Germain, choreography by Sara Paupini and set design by Peter Kantor, *The Wizard of Oz* cast and crew were the largest group ever assembled by NSCP – more than 100 people, including 24 Munchkins!

Everyone enjoyed their favorite melodies and antics, so familiar from the beloved movie. Once Dorothy’s cyclone carried us “Over the Rainbow,” we were “Off to See the Wizard” in the “Merry Old Land Of Oz” with the colorful cast of characters: Laura Smith (Dorothy), Sean Carter (Hunk/Scarecrow), Emmett Ferris (Hickory/Tinman), Bill Depew (Zeke/Lion), Elizabeth Bartlett (Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch), Kate Burns (Aunt Em/Glinda), Eric Garside (Uncle Henry/Guard), Marty Egan (Professor Marvel/Wizard), Jasmine (Toto in Kansas) and Marissa Gallego (Toto in Oz).

NSCP is proud to announce that *The Wizard of Oz* was honored with three Roving Adjudicator Merit Awards from TANYS (the Theatre Association of New York State):

Excellence in Costume Design to **Debbie Lummis**

Excellence in Direction to **Laura Andruski**

Meritorious Achievement to the Three Crows:

Jacob Brode, Kevin Escudero, Ryan Glynn for ensemble work

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of *The Wizard of Oz* for a crowd-pleasing and successful production – an incredible team effort!

ROMANCE IN THE AIR AT NSCP?

NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS are known for musical theatre under the stars at Clifton Commons... original and classic musicals and revues at Shen High School East Little Theater, and... romance!

Not only do we boast a long-time married couple among our Board/cast/crew (John and Sally Burke – see the Spotlight feature in this issue), it seems we played a part in a wonderful matchmaking feat: the romance and marriage of Matt Lopez and Kristin Kvam.

Matt and Kristin first met when they both appeared in the NSCP production of *Annie Get Your Gun* in 2004. They began dating, and over the next few years both participated in a number of other NSCP productions.

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If you are an artist, dancer, musician, or performer in the Town of Clifton Park—we want to know about you!

If you are an arts organization in Clifton Park—we want to hear about you!

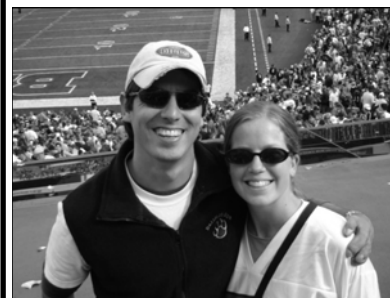
Contact us!

COMMUNITY
ARTS & CULTURE
COMMISSION
www.cliftonpark.org

*“I just wanted to drop you an e-mail thanking you for such a wonderful experience for my two children. Both of my girls have absolutely delighted in every minute of this production. ... I am sure your professionalism has had a lot to do with how enjoyable it has been for all of the children...I really appreciate all you and your crew have done. We will treasure these memories!”
Signed by a munchkin parent.*



Roving Adjudicator
Merit Awards
The 2008 TANYS Festival
November 21, 22 and 23
Stuart Steiner Theater
Genesee Center for the Arts
Batavia, New York.
For more information, visit the
TANYS Web site at
www.tanys.org.

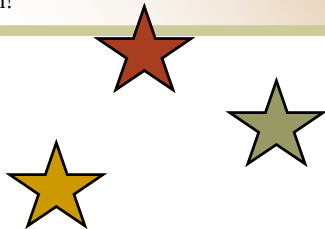


ROMANCE... cont'd

Matt performed in *27 Million* and *Two by Two* (and, in fact, holds the record as the person who's appeared in the most NSCP shows in our history!) Kristin appeared in *National Icon* and *They're Playing Our Song* – and together, they sang and danced in *Guys and Dolls* and *The Pajama Game*, and worked stage crew for *The Wizard of Oz*.

With each successive show, their romance grew, and they eventually became engaged. The love story culminated in their marriage on August 15, 2008 at Our Lady of Grace church in Ballston Lake (where they recently bought a house).

We look forward to this newly married couple continuing to share their talents with NSCP – where it all began!



ATTENTION: NSCP NEEDS YOU!

If you're reading this, we know you're already a theatre lover. Want to do more than just be part of the audience? Do you have a special skill just waiting to be used – whether it's carpentry, electrical know-how, design, painting, sewing, keeping things organized, hunting down great deals on antiques?

We're looking for folks who like to meet new people, have fun doing something rewarding, and enjoy the satisfaction of being part of a final product that audiences love. If this describes you, don't be shy – contact **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS**, and get involved!

NSCP is looking to grow our roster of technical and back-stage volunteers. We have lots of jobs available behind the scenes, both large and small. From set design and construction, to lighting and sound... from props and dressers, to stage managers, producers and assistants of all kinds... there's a perfect place for you!

No prior experience is necessary – just desire and dedication. No matter what your interest or skill, we can use it. Nothing compares to the excitement of being part of live theatre! And we know there are many out there among our audiences and supporters who'd like to satisfy their curiosity and be a part of the action.

Ask questions, find out more information, tell us →

2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS

Karen Boynton
Jennifer Bullington
John Burke
Sally Burke
Dian Dippold
Richard Lenehan
Linda Mizeur
Jeremy Noble
Cindy Nagle
Pat O'Donnell

GODSPELL cont'd

Add'l. Info., go to
[http://www.cliftonpark.org/
notsocommonplayers/](http://www.cliftonpark.org/notsocommonplayers/)
or contact Mike Mensching
Senor65@aol.com.

Watch the website for updates on
GODSPELL.

what you've always dreamed of doing
in theatre. **And join us!**

Call Pat O'Donnell at 371-6681 or
Sally Burke at 877-5648.
www.cliftonpark.org

NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS
TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK
ONE TOWN HALL PLAZA
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065

APRIL/17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26—
SHEN HS EAST
DIRECTED BY
MIKE MENSCHING

JULY 10, 11, 12 16, 17, 18, 19—
ON THE CLIFTON COMMON
DIRECTED BY
SEAN CARTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER—
SHEN HSE
DIRECTED BY
LAURA W. ANDRUSKI



Editor:
Sally Burke
Contributor:
Cindy Nagle

NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS
thanks the *Clifton Park Town Board*
for funding *Musical Theater*.
in Clifton Park and for its support of the
Arts as NSCP looks ahead to **2009**

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NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS (NSCP) is a musical theater company located in Clifton Park, New York. Current members of the Board of Directors are: Jennifer Bullington, Karen Boynton, Pat O'Donnell, Dian Dippold, Sally and John Burke, Linda Mizeur, Cindy Nagle, Jeremy Noble and Richard Lenahan. Founded in 2000 by Jennifer Bullington and Yvonne Masse, the mission of NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS is to produce quality community theatre and to encourage members of the Capital District Region to get involved and love musical theatre. We are very proud and fortunate to be sponsored by the Town of Clifton Park and to perform at the Clifton Common stage during the summer and the Shenendehowa Little Theater during the Spring and Fall.

2009 Sea-

APRIL/17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26—
SHEN HS EAST
DIRECTED BY
MIKE MENSCHING



JULY 10, 11, 12 16, 17, 18, 19—
ON THE CLIFTON COMMON
DIRECTED BY
SEAN CARTER



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER—
SHEN HSE
DIRECTED BY
LAURA W. ANDRUSKI



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