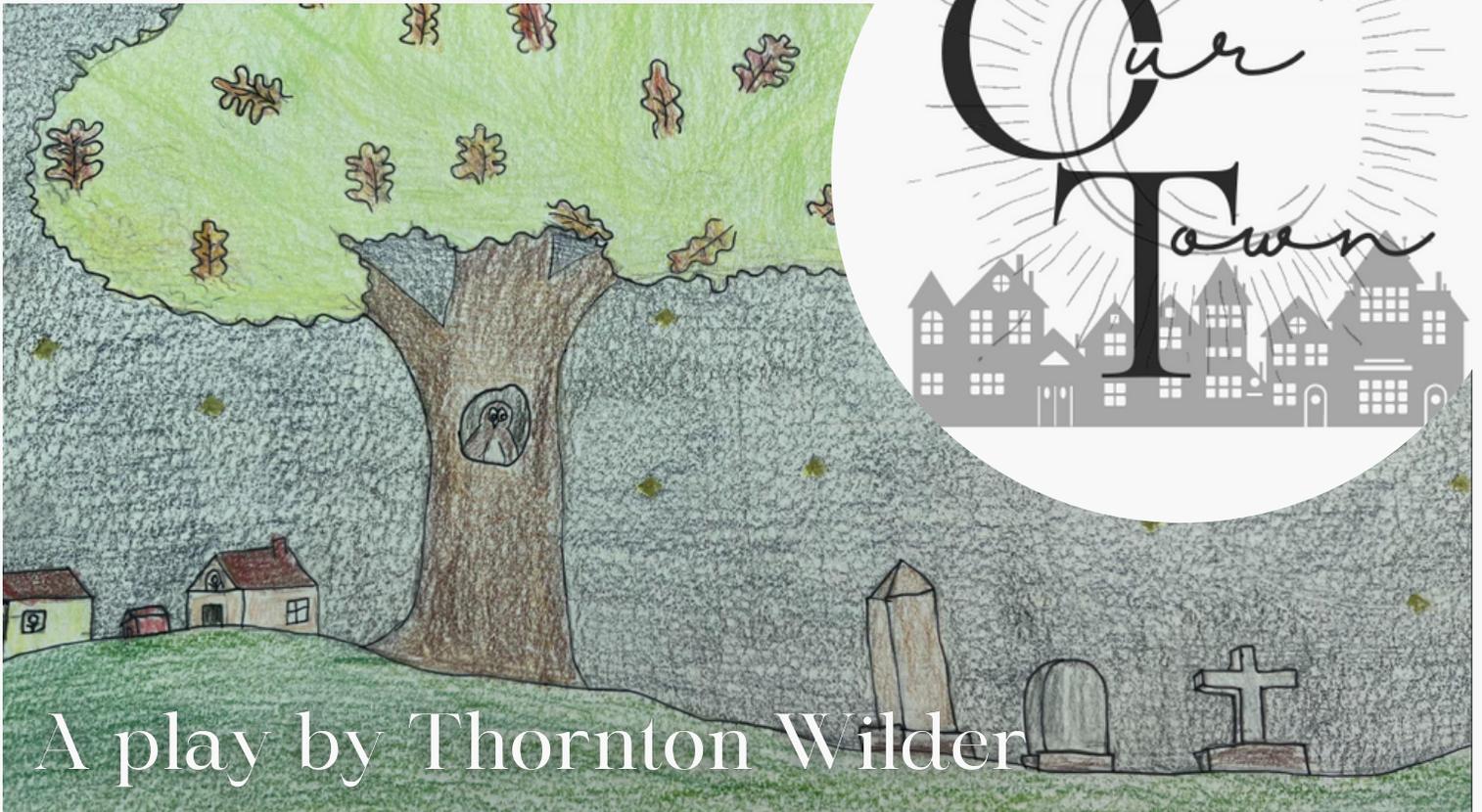




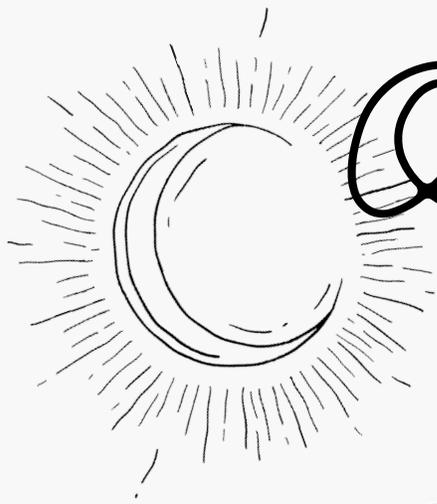
Proudly
presents



A play by Thornton Wilder

July 14 - 30, 2022

Stowe Town Hall Theatre
Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday matinees, 2:00 p.m.



Our Town

Original play by

Thornton Wilder

*Original Broadway
production by*

Jed Harris

*Presented in
partnership with*

Concord Theatricals

Produced for Stowe Theatre Guild by

Cheryl Casey

Directed by

Michael Halloran



Winner! 1938 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Samuel French, in cooperation with the Thornton Wilder Family, is pleased to release the playwright's definitive version. Our Town is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Concord Theatricals. concordtheatricals.com

Cast

In order of speaking

Stage manager.....	Michael Smith
Dr. Gibbs.....	Matt Bellew
Joe Crowell/Rebecca Gibbs/Farmer McCarty.....	Adi See
Howie Newsome/Sam Craig.....	Susan Loynd
Mrs. Gibbs*.....	Cynthia Seckler
Mrs. Webb.....	Rachel Natvig
George Gibbs.....	Ashley Hall
Wally Webb/Si Crowell.....	Asher Smith
Emily Webb.....	Rebecca Driscoll
Professor Willard/Constable Warren.....	Teddy Waszazak
Mr. Webb.....	Clem Turmel
Simon Stimson.....	Wes Olds
Mrs. Soames.....	Marci Robinson
Townsperson/Mrs. Gibbs standby*.....	Marie A. Schmukal
Understudies**.....	Andrew Roy, Federica Velutini-Hoffmann

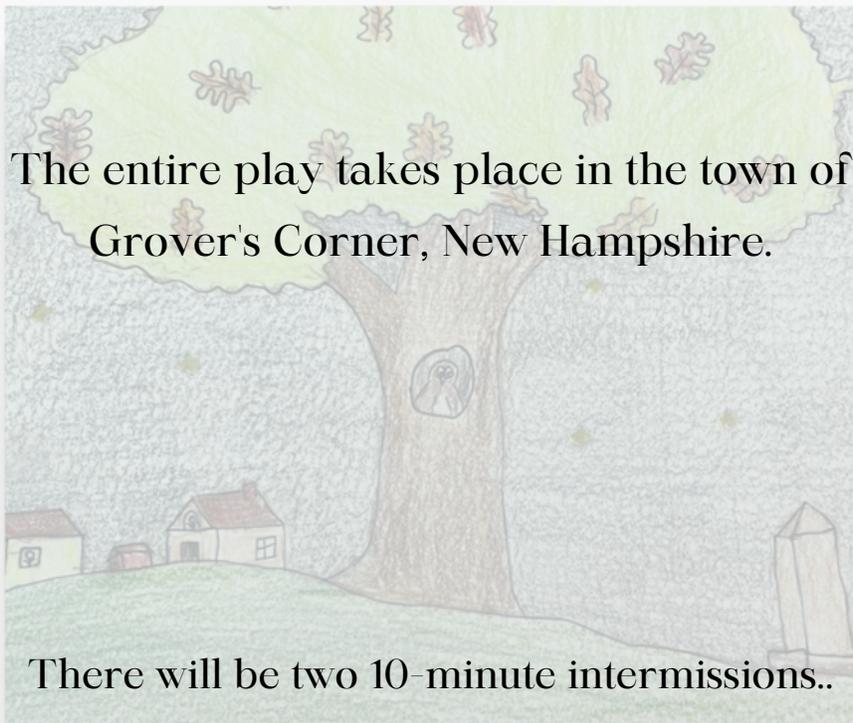
*At Saturday matinees, the role of Mrs. Gibbs is played by Marie A. Schmukal.

** Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Crew

Director.....Michael Halloran
Producer.....Cheryl Casey
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....Catie Smith
Technical Director/Lighting Design.....Don Mersereau
Sound Design.....Michael Halloran
Costume Coordinator.....Alison Norcross
Sound Board Operator.....A.J. Brooks
Carpenter.....Benjamin Brownell
Poster Artwork.....Asher & Wren Smith

Setting



Who's Who

Matt Bellew (Dr. Gibbs)

After a 32 year hiatus Matt decided to revisit his love of the theater. In 2010 he did ensemble work for Stowe Theater Guild's production of Oklahoma! and was hooked again! He has since had roles in Titanic The Musical and Jesus Christ Superstar. Matt loves community theater and singing Barbershop and Karaoke in his spare time. His retirement goals include being independently wealthy and doing 3 shows a year! Here's hoping!

AJ Brooks (Sound Board Operator)

AJ has been involved with the theater for pretty much their whole life. Their mom and sister love being on stage, while AJ prefers to be behind the scenes on the sound and light boards. They started doing tech while in 3rd grade for their school musical and have done it every year throughout the rest of elementary and middle school. AJ ran lights for The Valley Players' production of Oliver! in 2019 and most recently for Harwood Union High School's production of Freaky Friday.

Rebecca Driscoll (Emily Webb)

Rebecca is a Theater Arts and Art History graduate of Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. She recently returned to her home state of Vermont after a six year stint in Los Angeles, where she worked for the Oscars and codified her craft with several noteworthy theater companies, including Theatricum Botanicum and Independent Shakespeare Company. Rebecca enjoys embodying larger-than-life characters. Some of her more outrageous performances were Queen Aggravain in Once Upon A Mattress, Lucy in You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, and Eulalie Shinn in The Music Man. She is thrilled to be performing her childhood dream role of Emily in STG's production of Our Town, and is looking forward to the myriad artistic prospects that Vermont has to offer!

Ashley Hall (George Gibbs)

This marks Ashley's STG debut; previous roles include Quincey in *A Late Snow* (Vermont Pride Theater), Noah Claypole & Rose Seller in *Oliver!* (Valley Players) and Linus in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (FCTC). When not working as a paraeducator, summer camp co-director, and academic tutor in Warren, Ashley can be found playing disc golf, foraging mushrooms, or virtually performing the collected works of Shakespeare with friends around the globe. "It's lovely bringing Grover's Corners to life alongside so many real life neighbors and friends (the new just as good as the old)."

Michael Halloran (Director)

Michael is excited to return to STG having last been seen onstage as Uncle Fester in *Addams Family*. Previous appearances at STG include *Songs for a New World* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. In addition to working as an professional pianist, singer, and vocal coach (MichaelHalloranMusic.com), Michael holds an MA in theatre direction and is grateful for the chance to bring this classic of the American stage to life. Thanks to the incredible cast and crew, the audience for supporting live local theatre, and most of all, to Andrew.

Susan Loynd (Howie Newsome/Sam Craig)

Susan is excited to join STG for her third production after performing in *The Odd Couple* and *Shrek*. Recently seen on stage in Shakesqueer's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, and the Valley Players production of *Noises Off*, she is happy for the opportunity to visit Grover's Corners and join many of her friends and neighbors on stage. Thank you to the cast for welcoming me into your town, and a special thanks to Michael Halloran for believing in me. Enjoy the show!

Rachel Natvig (Mrs. Webb)

Rachel has long aspired to work with Stowe Theater Guild and is especially honored to join in this timeless and moving production of *Our Town*. The creativity that flows and the cooperation that binds these committed theater artists together inspires her. After a long hiatus from the stage to focus on education and family, Rachel has put her Theater Arts major into action with various Vermont theater companies: Valley Players, Lost Nation Theater, Girls Night Out Productions, Skinner Barn, Quarry Works, and Vermont Theater Group. She has shared the stage with her children on several productions and has been supported by her adoring husband all the way. Gratitude fills her heart.

Alison Norcross (Costume Coordinator)

This is Alison's first time organizing costumes for a show. However, she has had a say in costumes during her directing years. Alison directed at Spaulding High School for three years, Lotus Lake for two summers, and Stowe Theatre Guild for 2019's Godspell. She has acted in the past, but directing was where the real fun began, especially when she got to work with Michael Halloran! Alison lives in Barre with her husband, 11-month-old son, and Labsky named Gatsby (as in The Great).

Wes Olds (Simon Stimson)

Wes is thrilled to be working with Michael Halloran again, and honored to be included in such an amazing cast! Some shows you may have seen Wes in include Clue (Waitsfield Valley Players), The Rented Christmas (Essex Community Players), Cherry Orchard (Unadilla), Every Xmas Story Ever Told - And Then Some (Lamoille County Players), and Harvey (Waitsfield Valley Players).

Marci Robinson (Mrs. Soames)

Marci is very excited to perform on the Stowe Theater Guild stage for her first time in this wonderful production of Our Town. She discovered the joy of acting in 2019 after auditioning and being cast in Harvey for Valley Players' 40th Season. It was the beginning of a new adventure, and she truly believes it is never too late to try something for the first time! She has also been in Oliver!, Out of Sight Out of Murder, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and TenFest at Valley Players in Waitsfield. She was also in the class showcases for both Improv and Stand Up at Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington. She is eternally grateful for the constant love and support of her family, especially Joe and Katie.

Marie A. Schmukal (Mrs. Gibbs stand-by; Townsperson)

Over the last 2+ years Marie let herself forget how much fun doing theater is and would like to thank Michael for the reminder and the opportunity to find her way back home. Prior to the pandemic Marie was an active member of the Valley Players theater in Waitsfield where she most recently performed the role of Nancy in the Fall 2019 production of Oliver! By day you'll find her giving book recommendations, running a 3D printer, and doing all sorts of other fun stuff as the director of the Warren Public Library. She would like to thank her husband and children for saying, "why wouldn't you do this show?" when asked.

Cynthia Seckler (Julia Hersey Gibbs)

Cynthia is thrilled to join STG for her third production after performing as Eva Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Florence in *The Odd Couple*. Recently seen on stage in the Valley Players Production of *Clue* as Mrs. White, she is so grateful for the opportunity to learn and explore Grover's Corners under Michael's talented direction. Like Julia, she treasures every moment to come out and smell the heliotrope in the moonlight. Thank you so much to the entire cast for your amazing support and thanks to Brian and a shout out to Danielle and Ginger.

Adi See (Rebecca, Joe Crowell Jr, Farmer McCarty)

Adi's previous theater experience includes elementary theater productions at her school and FCTC theater camp where she portrayed the Queen of Hearts in last summer's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Adi is in 8th grade and *Our Town* is her first community theater show. Adi would like to thank her amazing mother and beautiful girlfriend for pushing her to do what she loves.

Asher Smith (Wally Webb, Si Crowell)

Our Town is Asher's first experience on stage as an actor. However, he has helped with set construction and painting with FCTC in recent years. Asher is very excited to be in his first production. Outside of theatre he plays piano and is soon going to be in the 4th grade.

Catie Smith (Assistant Director/Stage Manager)

This is Catie's first season with Stowe Theatre Guild. Other directorial credits include *Into The Woods* (artistic director) with Lamoille County Players and *Beehive* (assistant director) with Fairfax Community Theatre. On stage, Catie has portrayed Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Tracy-Ann in *Sealed for Freshness*, Patty in *Beehive*, and ensemble roles in *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Outside of theatre, Catie works in education, is a private voice instructor, and is a mom to 2 beautiful children.

Michael Smith (Stage Manager)

Michael is pleased to be bringing the role of Stage Manager to the stage in his first performance with Stowe Theatre Guild. Michael has most recently been on stage as Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Fitzpatrick in *The Skin of Our Teeth* with Lamoille County Players, and Luke Sanderson in *The Haunting of Hill House* with Fairfax Community Theatre Company. Michael lives in Cambridge with his family.

Clem Turmel (Charles Webb)

Clem is excited to be performing *Our Town* again and with the Stowe Theater Guild. *Our Town* is an important play that must be told regularly, each word is so very important to the overall meaning. The first time he performed this piece was in the role dually shared for the Stage Manager with Milton's Outreach Theater in 2004. We wish to express thanks to Michael Halloran for his confidence in giving him this role and always to his wife, Cyndy, for letting him play this summer.

Teddy Waszazak (Prof. Willard, Constable Warren)

Teddy is returning to the stage for the first time in 6 years with *Our Town*, and he couldn't be happier about it! As it so happens, the last play he was in 6 years ago was also *Our Town*, where he played George Gibbs. Teddy was a theatre major at Salem State University in Salem, MA, with a focus on Stage Management. His credits as a Stage Manager include *The Producers*, *12 Angry Men*, *Into the Woods*, *The Addams Family*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Since moving to Vermont in 2017, he has been active in advocacy and electoral campaigns, and currently serves on the Barre City Council. Teddy lives in Barre with his fiancée Shirley and dog Hammy.

Director's Note

I have a confession to make: it took me far longer to write this statement than I'm comfortable admitting. How to even begin to address Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*? Do I mention the play's ability to capture a very specific community and era while at the same time serving as an allegory for the human experience? Should I draw attention to the play's daring use of meta-theatrical elements that we take for granted today? Or do I cite the play's enduring popularity among high schools, colleges, community theatres, and professional groups after 84 years?

Perhaps it's best to simply share the quote I originally shared with the cast and crew at the beginning of the rehearsal process. Fellow Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee spoke in 2011 on the play's significance: "I think *Our Town* is a masterpiece. I think *Our Town* is probably the finest American play written so far. It's one of the toughest, saddest, most brutal plays I've come across. It is so beautiful, and when it is funny, it is gloriously funny. There are scenes in *Our Town* that it's hard for me to think about without wanting to cry. It's that beautiful a play. When it is done properly it makes us understand that if we don't live our lives fully and completely, we've wasted everything we have."

Ultimately, anything I attempt to say can only feebly express the admiration, awe, and love I have for this play. Having lived on intimate terms with it for the past six months, the theme that resonates most strongly with me now is that each one of us matters. We matter not because of where we live, or what we do; not because of our possessions or our status; not because of what we believe, or who we love, or what we look like. We matter because we are human. Right here, right now, in this moment: you matter.

Welcome to Grover's Corners. We're glad you're here.

Michael Halloran, Director

Acknowledgements

The cast and crew would like to thank ~

The Valley Players, Waitsfield

Andrew Roy

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Montpelier

Doug Bergstein and Tony Italiano

The Stowe Reporter

Thom Smith

Stowe Theatre Guild would like to thank ~

All the volunteers who serve as ushers and box office attendants.

We could not put on a show without your help!

Town of Stowe

OUR AUDIENCE!

About Stowe Theatre Guild

Our Mission

Stowe Theatre Guild is a non-profit, volunteer-run community theatre organization-- and a vibrant part of the town of Stowe and many surrounding communities in Central Vermont.

We strive to produce the highest quality theatre in central Vermont. Performing in the historic Town Hall Theatre in the heart of Stowe, Vermont, we produce four shows, both musicals and straight plays, — per season (June-October).

We welcome all to audition, to volunteer, and to take in a fabulous show!

Board of Directors

President: Matt Bacewicz

Vice-President: Don Mersereau

Treasurer: Judith Mathison

Secretary: Cheryl Casey

Leslie Anderson

Lynn Baumrind

Carol Loysen

Herschell Murry

Sophie Rayfield

Kate Shaw

Operations Staff

Bookeeper: Carrie Youngblood

Box Office: Barbara Percy

House Manager: Cheryl Casey

Tech & Facilities Director: Don Mersereau

Ticket Manager: Gail Deuso

Ushers: Lynn Baumrind

Season Producer

Cheryl Casey



2022 Season Productions



July 14-30



August 18 -
September 3

*A Little
Night
Music*

September 29 -
October 15



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Evening performances Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
and Saturday afternoon matinees, 2:00 p.m.

Go to stowetheatre.com for details.