

Creativity at the Curtain: Texts of Milford Area Players Curtain Speeches

These documents are as printed for carrying onstage -- some versions used columns in landscape format for convenient folding into four readable parts, and bold phrases for reference at-a-glance without reading word-by-word. For more information contact Dave at daveandgailagans@comcast.net. Learn more about Milford Area Players at MilfordAreaPlayers.org.

Contents with Costume and Accent Notes

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- Last of the Red Hot Lovers** -- Woodstock announcer; tie-dyed shirt, jeans, sandals, headband, peace sign amulet
- I Hate Hamlet** -- Shakespearian; tunic and tights
- The Cemetery Club** -- funeral director; somber suit and tie
- Appointment with Death** -- 1938 Syrian tour guide; brown uniform and cap -- thick Middle-Eastern accent
- To Gillian on her 37th Birthday** -- lifeguard; tee-shirt with red cross, red swim trunks, megaphone, sunglasses, white baseball cap, and zinc oxide on the nose
- Don't Dress for Dinner** -- French waiter; black pants, white shirt, bow tie, menu -- snooty French accent
- Inspecting Carol** -- Marley's ghost (sort of); chains with photos of previous announcements
- Getting Away with Murder** -- group therapist; sweater and slacks, lots of brown
- All My Sons** -- 1947 community theatre announcer; white shirt, dark pants
- The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** -- community theatre announcer; Christmas sweater, greeting cards with text written inside
- No Sex Please, We're British** -- financial adviser; conservative suit -- this was during the 2008-2009 financial crisis
- Hot Buttons** -- community theatre announcer; shirt and slacks
- The Foreigner** -- fishing lodge host; checked flannel shirt, waders, fishing net -- Georgia accent
- A Christmas Story** -- Christmas carollers (much of the cast); winter coats, hats, boots
- Art** -- snooty art gallery curator; blazer and slacks -- we also labeled objects throughout the building as if they were art, with funny titles and artist names, and outrageous prices.
- The Pursuit of Happiness** -- Graduation speaker; mortarboard and PhD gown -- marched up to lectern to Pomp and Circumstances, then after speech, tipped the lectern back and rolled it off stage, again marching to P&C.
- Almost, Maine** -- "Gorton's Fish Guy" (Downeast Maine theatah cruise host); boots, yellow rain pants and slicker, and Sou'wester hat -- heavy downeast accent, but pointed out that Almost, Maine folk are "not from around here" and don't talk that way.

***Mr. Pim Passes By* announcements**

Good evening. I'm Alistair Cooke, and this is MAPsterpiece Theatre.

Tonight we bring you what is arguably the most famous of A. A. Milne's plays -- *Mr. Pim Passes By*.

Milne, of course, is more famous for his books - in particular, the various adventures of one Winnie-the-Pooh.

But Mr. Milne began as a playwright, intending to distract his audiences from their World-War-One-era concerns.

I suspect he would be quite pleased to see his play doing its job for modern-day audiences, distracting us from such concerns as:

If there were to be a fire, would we find our way to the main stairway in the rear, or to the two exits to the right of the stage?

Or, will the line for the restroom, or as we Brits might say, the queue for the loo, which is located to the left of the stage, be overly lengthy?

Alas, Mr. Milne could not hope to distract the custodial staff from their concerns that somebody might bring a morsel of food or drop of drink into the main hall -- we must remain vigilant to keep our comestibles in the entryway area, so as to avoid their considerable wrath.

Mr. Milne was not a wrathful person, though he might suggest a largely symbolic beating with a rolled-up program of any individuals who have rudely forgotten to turn off their cell phones and paging devices.

He would no doubt insist, however, that those very programs be carefully read for notices and advertissments, their sponsors supported, and the booklets themselves either saved away for later reference, or recycled as we leave, but never simply tossed into a rubbish bin.

Mr. Milne would no more throw away a program than would he pass up a chance at the 50-50 raffle, given his love for the theatre, which the raffle supports, and his knowledge of the odds resulting from a five quid bet and the enormous length of the ticket seller's arms.

This raffle drawing takes place at the end of intermission, which, as it did in Mr. Milne's day, follows Act Two, and which is, in the words of Winnie-the-Pooh, "time for a little something."

And now, Act One of *Mr. Pim Passes By*.

***The Ride Down Mt Morgan* announcements**

Hi, I'm Dave Agans, the President of the Milford Area Players. I'd like to welcome you to our production of Arthur Miller's *The Ride Down Mount Morgan*. This is the first theatrical production in the new Amato Center. We're here in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley, and all of the proceeds from our shows will benefit the club.

Tonight, however, the Amato Center becomes the Clearhaven Memorial Hospital. Now, I'm not a doctor, (you can tell by the cheap lab coat) but I have a few items of medical importance to mention.

Due to the electromagnetic sensitivity of life-critical hospital instruments, we request that you turn off all cell phones and pagers now.

In the event of a fire, please shut off all oxygen tanks and proceed to one of the emergency exits at the sides or rear of the theatre.

As a condition of our malpractice insurance policies, no photographs are allowed in the operating theatre at any time.

We do regret to inform you that we have a shortage of bedpans, so if the need arises you will have to use the restrooms, located in the lobby to the right. There are additional restrooms beyond them, through the doors and around to the right.

There will be visiting hours at the concession table of about 15 minutes, halfway through tonight's procedure. Our staff nutritionist has prepared a balanced array of food from all four junk food groups: sugar, salt, fat, and caffeine. Note that good sanitary practice means no food or drink is allowed back into the operating theatre.

During the break, feel free to purchase 50-50 raffle tickets, a bargain at a dollar each, or 5 dollars for an arm length; (whisper) this is a good deal, especially since we're pretty sure the ticket seller has had arm augmentation surgery. (full)

You may also be interested in long term mental-health care, through our HMO season ticket program. Please see the HMO representative at the table in the reception area, you can sign up now or take information and a form home with you. You can also sign up for our email list to get periodic announcements.

Auditions for surgeons to perform Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* procedure will be held on Tuesday & Thursday, December 13th and 15th, from 6:30 to 9 pm here at the hospital.

Finally, after the procedure is over, the staff will be glad to discuss it with you in the reception area after they have had time to change out of their scrubs, so please be patient.

So, take two acts and call me in the morning.

***Last of the Red Hot Lovers* announcements**

Mr. Richie Havens!

I don't know uh, like how many of you can dig how many people there are, man, like I was rappin' to the fuzz, aheh, right, can you dig it? Man, there's supposed to be a million and a half people here by tonite. Can you dig that? Route 13 is closed, man! Yeah, it's far out, man.

We got a few things to lay on you while we set up the next act.

Wheat Germ, Holly has your bag with your medicine, please meet at the information booth as soon as you can.

In case of fire, please get away from the towers and move to the nearest fire exits. Please, come down from the towers, the exits are at the back and either side of the stage, but you've got to back away from the towers, those lights are heavy, man.

The warning I've received, you can take with however many grains of salt you wish, is that the brown acid that's circulating around is not too good. It makes you forget to turn off your cell phone, that's a drag. So it's suggested that you stay away from that. But it's your own trip, so be my guest, as long as you shut off your phone first. Just be advised that there is a warning on that one, okay?

The forecast for today is intermittent entertainment -- three acts, with TWO intermissions in between, when you can score some snacks at the concession stand.

Now people been sayin' that some of the cookies are poison -- they're not poison, they're just sweet cookies. They're manufactured with a lot of sugar. So anybody that thinks they've taken some poison, forget it. And if you feel like experimenting, only take half a cookie, okay, thank you. And please don't freak out the janitors by bringing food or drink back in here.

This is one thing that I was gonna wait awhile before we talked about, but maybe we'll talk about it now so you can think about it. We have free restrooms from now on. That doesn't mean they're gonna be available, what that means is, you can use the restrooms for free. Now, the one major thing you hafta remember tonite when you go there, out the door and to the right, or if that line is too long, to the second restroom further around the corner, is that the person standing in front of you is your brother or sister and you damn well better treat each other that way, because if you don't, then we blow the whole thing, but we've got it right there.

There a guy out there, some hamburger guy, that had his stand burn down last night. But he's still got a little time left, so he volunteered to sell raffle tickets for us, and you can win a ton o' burger money or an outta-sight Red Hot Lovers tee shirt. So for you people that still believe that, you know, capitalism isn't that weird, you might help us out and buy some raffle tickets.

Marilyn Cohen, wherever you are, Marilyn Cohen, Greg wants you to meet him at the information booth cause he wants to marry you.

Now, theres a cat and I even know his name, Mike Wood, and I remember that uh, that uh, he's directing I Hate Hamlet in July. It's his baby -- and that made me think, wow, it really is a city here, a city full of actors who could have a blast acting in the play. You can audition here on Sunday and Monday April 9th and 10th -- dig the program to see what's goin' down. And uh, whew, that show's gonna be far out.

There are 45 directors, or more, I know of at least 45, who are here, without pay, because they dig what this is into. So if some of you want to do a play here next year, let us know, we can dig that.

By the way, there's a sponsor by the name of Ocean Bank who've contributed a lot to help us out, and we want to say right on!

A thousand lines are gonna be said tonite, and it's all about you, and me, and everybody around the stage and everybody backstage, and the people you're gonna talk to about it tomorrow, and how really groovy it was, if you can dig where that's at. And if you sign up for our email list, you'll know when the next play is at, and you can be at it too, maybe even on stage or backstage if that's what turns you on.

Tonight, we wanted to have a happening, and what we had in mind was breakfast in bed for 400,000. But we can't afford steak and eggs and it isn't breakfast time -- but we can afford a toast, so we're asking all of you to join us in the lobby after the show for a toast to the first night of a totally cosmic production.

Now man, the Milford Area Players and Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers!*

I Hate Hamlet announcements

Good evening Lords, Ladies, Groundlings - I am Dave Agans, dubbed President of these Milford Area Players. **I beg thy patience** for, through what seems a twisted paradox, upon one of such lofty title a lowly duty falls: these outlandish garments to don, and trivial matters of housekeeping to announce.

But, hold, I ask you, would it be such a trifle if, in the face of a fire, not of passion but of real flame and destruction, I had not made you aware of the fire exits, to the sides of the stage and the rear of the theater? **And what of those of large mind but small bladder** -- would they not deem it vital to know that the restrooms are in the lobby to the right around the corner, and, for the truly desperate, that another restroom awaits around the next corner, such that “To pee or not to pee” is never the question? **And aside from these threats of fire and flood**, many among you would be sore troubled if the well-crafted mood of the stage were to be disturbed by ungodly sounds, had I not, as I do now, beseeched you, draw forth thy cell phones and pagers, and with a stroke, silence them. **These be weighty matters** indeed, methinks.

But all is not of such import -- the play's a comedy, as it were, and should be taken lightly, in two acts. **Between these acts** transpires the intermission, that splendid respite wherein hungry theatre-goers might find the concession stand, and eat - perchance to drink. **The rakes among you** may find your taste for wagering met by the 50/50 raffle – and your good fortune – or bad, as 'twere, resolved afore a line of Act 2 be spoke. **Assured be, in any case**, 'tis for a good cause, this very Boys and Girls Club.

For those to whom food be the music of love for thy stomachs, play on at one of our MAPpetizer restaurants – fine local establishments offering enormous discounts by the mere presentation of your ticket stub on any performance date – the particulars are published in the lobby for your gastronomic pleasure.

We owe deep gratitude to our generous patron, the Ocean National Bank, for their enduring sponsorship of our humble endeavors. **And a hearty acknowledgment** to those whose role in our production is so timely as to be unavailable for inclusion in our program: Liz O'Hare, who is running the sound board, and the Linen and Shade Bin and Winchendon Furniture, for use of decorations and furniture which grace our stage.

A multitude of entertainments beckon from the not-distant future, as writ in the program you now hold in your hand. **Auditions** for our fall comedy, *The Cemetery Club*, this Sunday and Monday night, **a free staged reading** of “Bug” on August 27th, **and in late September**, the New Hampshire Community Theater Association annual festival, await your indulgence. **Whilst economic prudence** would have you recycle your programs, it is permitted, nay encouraged, that one copy be conveyed to each household for future reference. **Those of Internet sensibilities** may eschew paper and join our email list -- ironically, by affixing your name to a paper document located on the lobby table.

But enough of these trivialities, the theatre-goer within no doubt rages impatient. **Thus without further ado**, the Milford Area Players present *I Hate Hamlet*.

The Cemetery Club announcements

Family, friends, and neighbors -- I'm so glad you could join us here at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts -- and Funeral Services, as we celebrate the life of Dearly Departed, or DD as many of you called him. I'm Dave Agans, President of the Milford Area Pallbearers - um Players. Before we proceed with the service, I'd like to make a few announcements.

First, please take a moment to realize that DD is now in a better place -- a peaceful place; a place undisturbed by the annoying ring of cell phones. And from there, he is unlikely to call you on your cell phone, so you might as well shut it off.

If you must cry during the service, please do so quietly; if you must laugh, please do so loudly; if you must pee, please do so in the restrooms, which are located in the lobby around the corner.

Our crematorium staff is dedicated, but a bit aggressive with the thermostat. If this should cause a fire, please proceed to the fire exits to each side and behind you. No need to stop for DD -- he's scheduled for cremation tomorrow anyway.

We will hold a reception halfway through tonight's service. You'll find food, drink, and of course, a jar in which donations are gratefully accepted. Food may not be brought into this viewing area, and smoking is not allowed anywhere in the building. If you must chew tobacco, please note that any urns you may find are NOT spittoons.

For those of you who wouldn't be here except for the cheap reception food, please consider that the MAPetizer restaurants listed in the program will give you discounts on their excellent fare, with the presentation of your ticket to this service.

If you are one of DD's many gambling buddies, you might find the odds of winning our 50-50 raffle considerably higher than his bet that he could act in two plays, and direct two musicals, at the same time, without overstressing his triple bypass. We will draw the winning ticket in his memory at the end of the reception.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, you participate in one of the theatrical activities listed in the program, such as attending the staged reading of "Isles in the Moon" on Monday night at 7pm, attending or even auditioning for our Spring play "Murder at the Vicarage" _____, or joining the Milford Area Players to help us produce fun, high-quality theatre.

You know that you can't take it with you, but while you have it here you might want to manage it with the Ocean National Bank, who so generously supports the Milford Area Players. And there are others whose good deeds would be interred with their bones if we did not thank them here:

We support the program donor program, in which your still-good programs can be transplanted to needy audiences, but please keep one for yourselves for future reference. You can find out about future MAP shows by signing up in the lobby for our perpetual care service -- we will email you a small number of notices, perpetually, or, as long as you want us to.

And now, let us proceed with the service.

***Appointment with Death* announcements**

Good evening / afternoon, and thank you for travelling with the Milford Area Players on the Palestine Express. My name is Amhed Amfûl, I am to be your tour guide. In a few minutes, the train will be arriving at your hotel in 1938 Jerusalem. But first, I will tell you some valuable information about our country.

It is hot and dry here. You probably will not need restrooms, but if you do, you can find them in the lobby to the right.

There is to be no smoking in any building, and food is only allowed in auditoriums if it has already been eaten.

In the case of a fire, you must proceed quickly through the fire exits on either side or behind you. There is no need to panic, it is just as hot outside.

We have many local natural wonders, such as the camel. Did you know that a camel can go for three weeks without water? Did you know that a camel can hear a bell ring across three miles of desert? Did you know that in 1938 cell phones do not exist yet? So if your phone rings, it will ruin the setting, not only for the people around you, but also for thousands of camels. Please turn it off now.

After you have settled into your hotel, there will be a reception in the lobby, offering local delights such as halvah, as well as exotic foreign foods such as fudge brownies. Donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a second, shorter reception during your visit to the rose-red city of Petra.

Local vendors expect you to haggle over price. I give you inside advice, you can talk the 50-50 raffle seller into an arm-length of tickets for just five dollars American. But

buy them soon, the winner is chosen after the first reception.

Did you know that your ticket stub is still very valuable, for the rest of the month? Our MAPetizer restaurants, listed in your tour book, will gladly exchange your ticket for discounts. Tell them Amhed sent you, they might give you extra olives.

Should you be remaining in the area for a time, we invite you to audition for our summer play, *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*. Auditions are here, April 16th & 18th. You can also come to our Off the MAP free staged reading of *Torch Song Trilogy* on Sunday June 3rd. The details are in your tour book.

We would like to thank the Ocean Bank for their continued support of MAP, Walter and Lee Gifford for loaning us the tea cart, Dubois Guitar for loaning us the deck chair, and Mary Salmon for helping with the painting so much.

Your tour books are made of the finest Cypress tree paper -- to help us preserve our few remaining trees, we ask that you take only one copy home with you for future reference, and leave the others with us for recycling.

It is a local custom for guests to leave a token email address for our mailing list on the table in the lobby. Did you know that email has not been invented yet either?

So please, enjoy your stay in our country, and tell your friends about it as soon as you get home. And now, I see that the train is arriving at our *Appointment with Death*. Please watch your step.

To Gillian on her 37th Birthday announcements

Megaphone: You out there, yeah you, come in closer you're out too far. Swimmers, stay inside the ropes. Boogie boarders stay to the left, fishermen to the right.

Welcome to Amato Beach. I'm Dave Agans of the Milford Area Patrol, and before we begin our show you need to know about our beach facilities, and some rules and regulations.

There are no dogs, alcohol, ball-playing, nudity, or smoking anywhere in the beach vicinity. Please don't pee in the ocean, we have perfectly good restrooms in the cabana area. In case of a fire or shark attack, you can exit to either side or behind you.

If you have brought your cell phone into the water with you, please shut it off now to prevent accidental electrocution.

There will be a 15 minute intermission in the cabana area after the first act. Donations are gratefully accepted. But please, remember, wait at least one minute after you finish all your food before returning to the water.

Today's performance is a benefit for the Boys and Girls Club Flood Relief Fund. If you want to donate directly, please see the notice in your program.

Net proceeds from this production will go to the fund, so buy lots of 50-50 raffle tickets, too. We don't play favorites here on the patrol, but let's just say if you happen to be drowning we might see you better if you're waving an arms-length of raffle tickets. The winner will be chosen at the end of the intermission.

We have a lot of nice restaurants near Amato Beach, but you should take note of the three MAPpetizer restaurants listed in the program -- they'll give you discounts all this month if you present the MAPpetizer stub on your ticket.

The Milford Area Patrol will be performing another show in late October, the hilarious farce *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Please keep it in mind next fall, and if you'd like to be in it please see the audition details in your program. Despite the title, no nudity is required.

Please bring a copy of the program home with you for future reference to shows, auditions, and tide charts. And if you really want to stay on top of Amato Beach happenings, sign up for our email list on the table.

Finally, we ask you to tell your friends and associates about the show; we run through Sunday afternoon of next week. You are our best advertising.

Now, sit back in your inner tube and enjoy the show.

***Don't Dress for Dinner* announcements**

Bonsoir, Madames et Messieurs. On behalf of ze Milford Area Players, welcome to La Maison d'Amato. I am Francois Grande-Fromage, your waiter for zis evening. Before I describe our special, there are 3 things you must know about our establishment.

Un: zis is a non-smoking restaurant.

Deux: you will find ze toilettes in ze lobby to ze right.

Trois: In ze unlikely event that ze Duck Flambe escalates into La Maison D'Amato Flambe, you will find ze fire exits to either side and behind you.

Tonight's special is *Don't Dress for Dinner*, a traditional French farce prepared in a style adapted for ze English tastes. I am sure you will find it amusing. This delicious comedy is served in two courses, with a short intermission to cleanse the palate. Our dessert cart in ze lobby offers assorted fresh (and some perhaps not-so-fresh) baked goods. There are no prices, but donations are accepted. You must finish your snacks while remaining in ze lobby.

Ze beginning of the intermission is a good time to buy your 50-50 raffle tickets, for ze winner will be drawn, here, just before ze second course.

To enhance ze enjoyment of your *Don't Dress for Dinner*, our wine steward recommends turning off

your cell phone, unless your ring tone is La Marseillaise.

Fine establishments keep fine company, and we are no different. Your menu lists our MAPpetizer partner restaurants, who will give you discounts for your ticket stub.

Your menu also lists coming events. Please take note of our December presentation of *Inspecting Carol*, ze hilarious farce which was MAP's first production. This 5th anniversary celebration will include many of ze fine ingredients of ze original, including the spicy Mr. Dick Kirtley, who is being flown in from Florida for ze occasion.

Since our menu does not change daily, you are encouraged to take one home with you for future reference.

You may also sign up for our email list on ze table in ze lobby -- be assured that our emails are served very rare -- and our restaurant will never, ever, serve spam.

As a small establishment, we are usually mentioned in neither ze Michelin Guide nor ze Zagat Survey, so we ask that you tell your friends and business associates about us. We run through Sunday afternoon of next week.

And now *Don't Dress for Dinner* is served.

***Inspecting Carol* announcements**

Ebenezer! Ebenezer! Ask me who I was, and I will tell you. In life, I was Dave Agans, the President of the Milford Area Players.

It is required of every community theatre President that the spirit within him wander upon the stage before the show, and inform you that there is no smoking, and that the fire exits are to either side and behind you.

But my spirit could not take this seriously, and thus, I wear the chain I forged in my foolish life -- I made it, costume by costume, prop by prop, joke by joke. And now I am doomed to perform themed announcements before every show for all eternity! (*shake chains*)

My only remaining hope is to save you from the agony of normal announcements. Turn off your cell phone and hear me!

You will be haunted by three spirits:

The Ghost of beverages past, who will lead you to the restrooms in the lobby to the right;

The Ghost of hunger present, who will show you the concession stand at intermission, where you will find sustenance (which you must consume in the lobby). And if you hunger not for rich edibles, but rather for incredible riches, the

Ghost will sell you fifty-fifty raffle tickets and lead you to the drawing here at the end of intermission.

Finally, the Ghost of productions future, who will rise from your program to proclaim exciting upcoming events such as our free Off the Map reading of *First Night* in January, and our March mystery *Getting Away with Murder*. Do not misuse the opportunity to take a program and its ghost home with you as an eternal reminder.

You may also be visited henceforth by the Ghost of productions future by signing up for our email list in the lobby.

There is still time for you to share your good fortune with your friends, if you but tell them about the show, which will continue to appear to them tomorrow at the stroke of 2 pm and at 8 pm and again on Sunday at 2.

Now look to see me no more, but instead, to enjoy the Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley and Milford Area Players production of *Inspecting Carol*.

***Getting Away with Murder* announcements**

Good evening/afternoon, I'm Doctor Dave. Welcome to tonights/todays Milford Area Players therapy session. I have a few announcements which may relate to your individual psychological condition.

If one of our **pyromaniacs** sets fire to the building, those of you with **multiple personalities** may leave through all three fire exits, to the left, right, and behind you.

Those who are not **anal-retentive** may wish to use the restrooms, in the lobby to the right -- please work through your **gender identity** issues before choosing a restroom.

[whisper] **Paranoids** -- if you turn off your cell phones, they won't be able to call you here.

For the benefit of the **hysterics**, I will tell you that strobe lights and loud gunshots will occur during the show. Unfortunately for the **anxious**, I won't tell you when.

Those with **oral fixations**, please note there is no smoking in the building. You may go to the concession stand at the intermission between Act 1 and Act 2, and suck on anything you find. Donations, which may help you soothe your deep-seated **feelings of guilt**, are accepted. You must be **weaned** of all food and drink before returning to the auditorium.

If you suffer from **bipolar disorder**, you owe it to yourselves to take part in our 50-50 raffle. I recommend you buy an arm's length to avoid **ticket stub envy**. The winner will be drawn here at the end of intermission.

Bulimics on a budget should visit the MAPetizer restaurants listed in the program, which have excellent deals in exchange for your show ticket stubs.

Exhibitionists should join us on Monday and Wednesday April 7th and 9th to audition for our summer production of the hysterical comedy, *Wonder of the World*.

Since we all have a touch of **amnesia**, for future reference please take a program home with you. **Kleptomaniacs** may take two.

Don't let **fear of commitment** stop you from signing up for our email list. But if you're **obsessive-compulsive**, please sign up no more than 11 times.

Finally, we'd appreciated it if you tell your **friends and enablers** about our sessions, which run through next weekend.

And now it's time for all of us to **participate** in *Getting Away with Murder*.

***All My Sons* announcements**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Milford Area Players' **first show of the 1946-47 season. It's good to see that so many of you** could get out of the house -- seems like there's a **shortage of babysitters** to handle this... "**baby boom**" we're having these days.

Today we present a new play by a **new playwright -- Arthur Miller**. Now, you've never heard of him, but trust us, this young man has a lot of talent and we think he's gonna go places.

But before we start, for those of you who haven't been to our theatre **since Pearl Harbor**, I have a **few housekeeping announcements**.

If you hear a siren, don't worry, it's not an **air raid**, it's just a fire alarm -- the fire exits are on either side and behind you.

There is **no smoking** in the building, so do like they say: **Smoke 'em if you got 'em AND** you're standing out **in the parking lot**.

If you need a restroom -- **for you infantry boys, that's a latrine but with plumbing** -- you'll find them in the lobby to the right.

If any of **you sparks in the audience are carrying a walkie-talkie**, please shut it off now.

There will be a **15 minute intermission** after Act One. **Refreshments are available** at our concession stand in the lobby. **Now that rationing is over**, you can take whatever you like -- **donations are gratefully accepted**. Please **finish all food and**

drink before returning to the theatre -- **we just had the upholstery Martinized™**.

And **back here**, at the **end of intermission**, we'll pick the winning **50-50 raffle ticket, so don't dawdle in those fancy latrines**.

We suggest you **take a program home** with you. It has information about our **wonderful upcoming shows**, and gives you details on how you can use your ticket stub to get great **discounts** at our **MAPpetizer** partner **restaurants**, through the **end of October**.

One event that didn't make into the program is the auditions for the **joint MAP and Riverbend Youth Company** production of ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***. We need at least 17 kids ages 8 and up, 2 men and 9 women, and there's room for more. It's hilarious, so bring the whole family to try out on **Saturday November 1st from 1 to 4 pm, and Sunday the 2nd from 6 to 9 pm, here at the Amato Center**. For more info, contact **Robin LaCroix** here at the club -- the number is **Orchard-2, 1002**.

You can also **sign up on our telegram list** in the lobby and whenever anything important comes up, **we'll drop you a wire**.

With that said, the Milford Area Players present **Arthur Miller's *All My Sons***.

***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* announcements**

Good evening and welcome to the joint **Milford Area Players and Riverbend Youth Company** production of ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***.

Before we get underway, I thought I'd celebrate the season by reading some the Christmas cards we've received here at the Amato Center.

It's great to know that so many people care to reach out in this wonderful time of the year.

1. Here's one from our friends at the Milford Fire Department: May your Christmas be white, sparkling with snow, and tenderly touched with this season's warm glow. And should the glow get so warm you're afraid you'll be fried, there are exits behind you and on either side.

2. We've donated to Habitat for Humanity, I guess that's why we got this one from Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter: With our warmest wishes for Peace, Health, and Happiness during this Holiday Season and in the New Year. They added a personal note: Remember, you can achieve Peace by turning off your cell phones, Health by not smoking in the building, and Happiness by signing up for the email list in the lobby which will keep you informed of all MAP events in the New Year.

3. Then this one is from our publicist Deb Shaw: May this joyous holiday season bring you to audition for MAP's March production of the hilarious farce *No Sex Please, We're British*, Sunday and Monday January 4th and 5th from 6 to 9 pm at the Amato Center. And she adds a note: Don't miss the free reading of *Love Letters* on Friday January 30th at 8pm; this show is typically done as a reading, so it's like a full performance for free!

4. Finally, my favorite, from our custodian: May you celebrate this beautiful season with love in your home, joy in your world, peace in your heart, and restrooms in the lobby to the right.

And now, please enjoy the ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***.

***No Sex Please Were British* announcements**

Good evening, I'm Dave Agans, CPA, and president of the Milford Accounting Partners. I'd like to welcome you to this emergency financial seminar entitled *No Sex Please, We're British*, in which you will learn how to make extra income selling Scandinavian glassware. Before we begin, I have a few quick tips.

The fire exits are on either side and behind you, but don't worry, no one would set fire to this place, it's insured by AIG.

There is no smoking on the set, and besides, if you can afford cigarettes, you don't need this seminar.

The restrooms are located in the lobby to the right -- please, don't flush stock certificates down the toilets, there are so many of them they clog the plumbing.

Please turn off your cell phones -- the markets are closed now, so your broker won't be calling you. And even if he does, you don't want to hear it.

There will be a 15 minute intermission after Part 1 of the seminar, and we will serve refreshments at the concession stand in the lobby. And since, as we've learned, there is no such thing as a free lunch, donations are gratefully accepted, however, like a house buyer, you can set your own price. Please finish all items before returning to the seminar, we can't afford to clean the auditorium.

For those of you whose entire 401K plan is invested in 50-50 raffle tickets (a shrewd move, by the way), we will draw the winning ticket in the auditorium at the end of the break.

Please keep a copy of your brochure for future reference to important information such as upcoming seminars. In particular, we have our own stimulus package, the MAPpetizer program, in which you get discounts at local restaurants all this month, simply by presenting your ticket stub. Please note that you have to present a ticket stub for this show, so be sure to store it safely in your mattress when you get home.

Future-minded investors may be interested in auditioning for *Hot Buttons*, our original musical comedy seminar on robots, business, and product quality, premiering this summer. Please see your brochure about how to obtain a prospectus.

Finally, please add your name to our email list in the lobby. We only send emails about upcoming events, which means we've never sent very many to anyone. (Asterisk - Past results are not a guarantee of future performance.)

And now, please get you pencils and notebooks ready as MAP presents *No Sex Please, We're British*.

Hot Buttons announcements

Good evening ladies, gentlemen, **and robots of all makes and models.** The Milford Area Players welcome you to the **world premiere** of Hot Buttons. Before we begin, I have a few **announcements.**

In case of fire, please exit through the fire exits on either side and behind you. **Extinguitrons,** please **deploy CO2** as needed.

There is **no smoking** in the building. If you must smoke, please go to the parking lot, and **have someone fix that leaky head gasket.**

To avoid distractions, please **turn off your cell phones, pagers, backup beepers, and low battery warnings.**

There will be a **15 minute intermission.** Humans will find **refreshments at the concession stand** in the lobby -- **donations** are gratefully accepted. **Robots in need of recharging** will find 120V outlets along the lobby wall. Please **finish all food and drink, and unplug all power cords,** before returning to the theatre.

The **restrooms** are located out the door to the right. Please **do not use the urinals along the lobby wall,** those are actually robots, recharging.

You can **still buy 50-50 raffle tickets** during the first half of intermission. We will **draw the winning ticket** here before Act 2. Note that the five dollar arm's length deal does NOT apply to **light-bulb-changer-bots** with **extenso-grip arms.**

We encourage you to **keep one copy of the program** for future reference, but please **recycle** any unwanted copies on your way out. **Office-bots:** we intend to reuse them, so **please don't shred them first.**

There are several **items in the program** to note: **Auditions** for our fall show, *The Foreigner*, will be held **August 4th and 6th** here at the Amato Center; we're sorry, but **unlike tonight's show,** *The Foreigner* has **no mechanical parts.** And be sure to take advantage of the **MAPpetizer** program: all through July, bring your **show ticket or ticket stub** to any participating restaurant and get **discounts on food and electricity.**

To stay informed of upcoming events please sign up for our **email list** in the lobby. We also have **comment cards** in the lobby for feedback about the show. Robots may wish to contact the **Robot Anti-Defamation League directly.**

Please note that we have a **human orchestra tonight** -- they can't be seen because we've already **wired them in backstage.**

Finally, a **new show** needs all the **word-of-mouth** and **word-of-speaker** advertising it can get, so please **plug Hot Buttons to your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and spare parts.** There are ___ more shows, through next Sunday.

And now, it's time to **switch to entertainment mode** and **enjoy Hot Buttons.**

***The Foreigner* announcements**

Welcome to the **Riverbend Lodge**, folks! Hope **all y'all** had a **fine day on the river**. Tonight, the **Milford Area Players** are **fixin'** ta put on a **little show** for ya, called **The Furriner**. We'll be **getting' ta that directly**, but first, there's a **couple things** ya oughta know.

This here's the **lodge, not the smokehouse** -- so if ya **smell smoke** and it **don't smell like trout**, **get on outta here** through the fire exits, on either side and behind ya.

Also, there ain't **no smokin'** allowed -- **'ceptin' a'course** for the **trout, in the smokehouse**.

Now, **these here actors** are **more skittish than a white bass in clear water** -- so you **best turn off** yer cell phones **'fore ya scare 'em all off**.

There will be a **15 minute intermission**, and you can get some **vittles** at the **concession stand** in the lobby. There **ain't no charge**, but we sure would **'preciate any donations** you'd care to offer. **Coupla things**: ya gotta **finish everything** out there before ya come back in here. And if **ya see sushi**, don't eat it -- sometimes the **crew puts everything out on the counter**, and, well, **we keep the refreshments in the bait fridge**.

You can still **buy yer 50-50 raffle tickets while yer out there** -- we'll be **reelin' in the winnin' ticket** right here before Act 2. Last show, I **had a fella on the line for two arms lengths** -- **but he got away**.

You'll be pleased ta know that the **outhouse is indoors** -- we got a couple'a nice **plumbed and heated three-holers** just **'round the corner** in the lobby for ya.

Now my **advice to you** is to **take one copy of yer program** home with ya, so ya know **what's comin' up**. You kin **drop yer extra copies** in the box on the way out -- we'll **put that paper to good use** in the **three-holers**.

You also **oughta check out** the **Riverbend and MAP** production of **A Christmas Story** in **December** -- **I figger** any **Christmas show 'bout a BB gun** can't be **all bad**. If ya got a **hankerin' fer the stage, auditions** fer that are **right here**, on **Sunday and Monday night** -- git the details at **MilfordAreaPlayers.org**, under **auditions**.

You might also **take a gander** at the **MAPpetizer deals**, where ya get **discounts** at local **chow houses** on things like **grits** or **sweet tea**, just by **showin' 'em tonight's ticket stub**.

An' if ya **sign up fer our email list** in the lobby, we'll be **sure to give ya a holler** when there's a **show comin' up**, or if **the fish are bitin'**.

Now **we'd be much obliged** if **ya tell yer buddies, yer kin, and the fellas down at the shop** 'bout our show. And **tell 'em ta hurry, Furriner season ends next Sunday**.

Now, **kick back** and **enjoy the show**.

***A Christmas Story* announcements**

Cell phones ring, if you let them
While we sing, please reset them
You're such a nice crowd
No smoking allowed
Welcome to our winter weekend show.

Exit doors, we'll remind you
Are beside, and behind you
Out there to the right
You'll find a fine sight
Restrooms for our winter weekend show.

BRIDGE

Intermission we'll provide concessions
You can eat and drink our tasty fare
There's no charge but we'll accept donations
Please finish everything while you're out there.

Buy a cheap raffle ticket
There's a chance we might pick it
The drawing is here
As Act Two draws near
Halfway through our winter weekend show.

BRIDGE

In your program is our season schedule
Take one home so you'll be in the know
Sign our email list and we will pledge you'll
Receive a note whenever there's a show.

If you're pleased with our labors
Tell your friends and your neighbors
Now from the MAP crew
And Riverbend, too
Please enjoy our winter weekend show.

Welcome to our winter weekend show!

Art announcements

Good evening, and welcome to the **Amato Gallery**. This week we're featuring a multimedia exhibition. I'd like to point out some of the highlights.

But first of all, **much of the artwork and all of the lungs** in this exhibition are sensitive to smoke, so please, **no smoking** in the Gallery. Also, please turn off your cell phone now to **avoid confusing** your fellow patrons -- they may think they're at next month's **performance piece**, entitled "**Asshole** on a Cell Phone."

There will be a **15 minute intermission early** in tonight's performance piece. Take the opportunity to enjoy the **artwork in the lobby**, including the **culinary masterpieces** available at the concession stand. These works are **priceless, but donations** are gratefully accepted. By the way, it's considered **terribly tacky** to bring culinary art back into the performance space.

Now the highlights. Note the **fire exit sculptures** mounted above the doors on either side and behind you. The **warm red tones** are intended to **evoke a mood of safety and escape** in the event of a fire.

In the lobby to the right is our **restroom exhibition**. The sculptures in this collection are designed to be **participatory performance art**,

so feel free to **perform whatever art the fixtures inspire**.

You may have noticed the **limited edition numbered prints** being sold by our 50-50 raffle dealer. These prints are a **fine investment**; I guarantee that **one of them will be very valuable** in the near future. You can find out which one right here at the **end of intermission**.

You may also wish to **invest in a chance** to win a **family membership at the Currier Museum**, at the **ticket table in the lobby**.

You have all been given a **free booklet of toner-on-paper drawings, essays, modern biographic poetry, and listings of future events**. Please take one home with you and **frame it for your cultural enrichment**. You may leave your **extra copies** on the way out, for the cultural enrichment of **tomorrow's patrons**.

Oh, and **please participate** in our **work in progress in the lobby**, titled "**Email List**," by adding **your own distinctive name and email address**.

And finally, **we are open through Sunday**, so please **mention our exhibition** at your next **cocktail party or hot-tub orgy**.

And now for the **elite performance piece** of our exhibition, the **Milford Area Players present Art**.

***The Pursuit of Happiness* announcements**

Good evening families, friends, Dean Wormer and faculty, and most especially, the Amato University class of 2010. It is **truly an honor** to take part in your commencement ceremony.

In a few moments, **you will accept** your well-earned BA degrees and step into the real world, ready for anything. But there are **things you need to know** that aren't covered by that Bachelor of Audience diploma. I'm going to **try to help you** with that.

You will be **joining many audiences**, and you have to be able to get along. You'll find they'll appreciate it if you **don't smoke** in the building, and turn off your **cell phone** even before the announcer asks you to.

In **case of a fire**, help them find their way out through the fire exits on either side and behind you. And don't **eat, or drink, or crackle candy wrappers** in the theatre.

You also have to be **true to your own needs**. When life gives you an intermission, **take time to smell the cookies**. Enjoy concession stand **drinks and snacks** which are offered at **no charge** -- but, if you can **afford** a donation, **be generous**.

Don't be afraid to **take a chance**, or an **armload** of chances, if you come across a 50-50 raffle seller. And come back to the theatre at the **end of intermission** with the **fervent conviction** that they will pick your ticket.

Study your show programs -- find and **take advantage of offers** to see really funny shows again for free by signing your ticket stub on the way out.

Now, I realize **audience life has its burdens**. But you **don't have to bear** them forever -- rather, **stand up** for yourself, **stride proudly** into the lobby of life, and **unload** those burdens in the restrooms you'll find to the right.

But, **unlike the restrooms**, your audience career won't all be **instant gratification**. You have to **plan ahead** -- refer to your programs and clear your calendar for worthwhile theatre events. **Who knows** where you'll all be in the **future**? Tending an **Animal Farm** at the New Hampshire Community Theatre **Festival** in September? Or just hanging around **Our Town** in October? Maybe some of you will go **beyond** your undergraduate degree -- **auditioning** for *Our Town* in a few weeks and earning your **MBA** -- and then appearing onstage as a **Moderately Brilliant Actor**.

Also, **be kind to your theatre companies** -- take **one program** home with you but leave the rest for **recycling**. Sign up for their **email lists** so they can keep in touch, and **print** really **clearly**. And tell your **lesser-educated** friends, neighbors and co-workers about the shows you love, which are still running **through next weekend**.

But finally, remember to **laugh out loud** as you engage in ***The Pursuit of Happiness***.

***Almost, Maine* announcements**

Good evenin', ladies and gentlemen. The Milford Harbor Players welcome you aboard the Amato's Dream, for tonight's theater cruise. We'll be presentin' *Almost, Maine*, a cunnin' little play about a place that's so far north, they don't so much as speak a word of Downeast. But if you listen some careful, you should be able to make out what they're sayin'.

Now, before we get underway, there's a few important matters to discuss. Should the fire warnin' sound, you can abandon ship through the fire doors to the port and starboard sides, and another one back at the stern. There's no smokin' on board the Amato's Dream -- but don't you worry none, once we open up the throttle, the old-girl's one-lunger will be churnin' out enough smoke for anybody.

Now, out through them doors and several yards toward the bow, you'll find the heads. For you summer folk from Massachusetts, that's what you call the bathrooms -- where you can go if you need to run your bilge pump.

You need to turn off your cell phones -- even if you are from Massachusetts.

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission. There's a concession stand out to the lobby, and while it ain't no bean supper, there's some wicked good snacks out there. We don't charge nuthin' 't all, but if you'd care to make a donation, we'll be

sure to put it to good use. Food and drink are not permitted in the theatre, so don't be haulin' none of it back in with you.

Now, you might come across a shady-lookin' fella sellin' fifty-fifty raffle tickets. He's all right, and I recommend you purchase the arm's length for five dollars, 'cause that man's arm is as just about as long as a gaff. We'll be drawin' the winnin' ticket somewhere hereabouts, just before Act Two.

That program your holdin' is some important. It tells you how to see this show again for nothin', by signin' your ticket stub and gettin' it stamped. There's also upcomin' events, such as auditions for next summer's *August: Osage County*. Please take a program home with you, and leave any remainin' copies in the recyclin' box by the door. What we can't reuse, we'll grind up for chum.

You should sign up for our emailin' list out to the table in the lobby. We'll tell you when we're commencin' to do anythin' interestin'.

We ask that you tell your friends about our cruises. We'll be sailin' on schedule through next Sunday afternoon.

Now, sit back, forget all about Milford Harbor, and enjoy your midwinter vacation upt' *Almost, Maine*.