



Photo by Kirk Bittner '15

Old Timer Newsletter

President – Robert Stewart

Looking back on what we have accomplished this semester it is definitely one to be proud of. We had a wonderful NRB event filled with an excited and hard working group of freshmen, who have returned in the following months. We also put on two fantastic shows this semester; But Why Bump Off Barnaby, our side show, put on a hilarious performance, and filled Academy Hall both nights. Our fall main stage production, Much Ado About Nothing, marked the directorial debut of one of our own, Dr Marc Destefano, and, in no small part due to his driving creative vision, was a resounding success. Still, this semester has not been without its challenges, as a large number of pieces of equipment have decided to retire. Mr. growly the table saw, one of the chop saws, the lighting board, and others all need replaced, and your support would go a long way to help. In other news we have a new SARP, Mary D'Amico. Mary has proved committed to her new role as our SARP, and is a wonderful asset both in terms of her theatrical understanding and her tenacity as an advocate for us in the Union. Finally, I'd like to report on my fellow E-Comm members, as I'm sure they will down play their own outstanding performances. I can't speak to the effectiveness of previous E-Comms, though we all know that they have had their ups and downs, but what I can say is that the other members of the current E-Comm are both supremely dedicated and thoroughly skilled at fulfilling their respective positions. It has been my supreme pleasure to work with them, and I'm looking forward to continuing to do so next semester.

Business Manager – Linda Quartner

I am a junior civil engineering major with a minor in being business manager for Players. This semester I have been using my experience from last season in an attempt to improve our spending habits. In particular, I have been working closely with the TD to better organize the T-comm's spending. They have been most cooperative in creating calendars to plan and track their budgets throughout the season, in an attempt to avoid the end-of-year rush to spend all their money. As they have yet to coup, I assume that this plan is going swimmingly. I'd like to thank Eric for putting up with me, and apologize for emailing his T-comm more often than he does.

Technical Director – Eric Yanulis

Hello, old-timers! First and foremost, I can report with some certainty that the Playhouse has not caught fire since last I appeared in one of these newsletters. That said, we've had some fun technical goings-on over the past semester. The table saw experienced a rather untimely death from old age (it was nearly 20!) and we have just taken delivery of a shiny new one. Likely purchases for the remainder of the year include another set of fireproof curtains, a new lighting console, and a pile of auditorium chairs to replace all our broken ones. Tech in the Playhouse is in great shape - we've had huge freshman interest in every department, and Much Ado was one of the smoothest yet most technically elaborate shows I've been part of in the Playhouse. Props to the E-Comm, T-Comm, and membership for a great first semester - I'm looking forward to another great one after break!

Secretary Historian – Emily Fernandes

My name is Emily and I am currently serving a second term as the RPI Player's Secretary Historian. I am currently a senior Civil Engineering major with a minor in Electrical Engineering. Well you are currently reading my newest project! I am attempting to create two Old Timer Newsletters a year (one from each semester) so you can read our lovely words more often. We got through the Show Selection Meetings in record time and (pending rights) our membership has chosen The Importance of Being Earnest and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Aside from that I have the constant struggles of keeping the office free of debris.

Membership Chair - Rebecca Calvanico-Weinstein

This semester has been a blast! The membership has come up with some fun new ideas at our biweekly Membership Committee meetings. We went apple picking and played Manhunt when the weather was nicer, movie nights have been a monthly occurrence, and we even ordered pizza once. After our fall production of Much Ado about Nothing, we had a super awesome party. We initiated five new Players, 30 Apprentices had some fantastic meat and cheese platters, and fun was had by all. It was a nice surprise to see some of your faces, we love having you visit! Finally, we're wrapping up the semester by going to play laser tag. All in all, I say this semester's been pretty sweet and I'm looking forward to doing it all again next semester.

But Why Bump Off Barnaby? - Andrew Fasano

Hello everyone! My name is Andrew Fasano and I produced this season's fall sideshow, *But Why Bump Off Barnaby*. We formed our production team and cast the show in September, putting fifteen new Players into major roles. Then after a month of rehearsals and just three work parties, we opened our free show on Family Weekend to a packed house. We had a beautiful set, complete with a rotating wall and massive portrait of myself (it was essential to the plot, I swear), designed so we could easily carry an entire living room and flight of stair between the Playhouse and the stage in Academy Hall. Both our performances were standing room only, but even the people without chairs seemed glad that they came. While the show was free, we did accept donations and managed to raise a few hundred dollars in donations which almost covered all our production expenses! I had a great time producing this show and I'm so grateful for all the work the wonderful production team and actors put into it.

Much Ado - Jonathan Janssen

Greetings fellow old-timers! It is with great pride that I write to you about the Players fall mainstage production, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Directed by our own Marc Destefano, this show was a truly solid representation of some of the heights of talent Players can reach. The incoming class of talented Players is rather large this year, and I'm happy to say this production took great advantage of that. I myself had the pleasure of managing a production team of 43 people, 11 of which were first-year students. Each leading position had at least two assistants, which meant the growth of a bigger talent pool for future productions. Being set in period, our task was to bring the setting of the show to life in an immersive, realistic manner. The creation and refinement of ideas between all department heads and our director swelled up quickly as the semester began. By the time AYW vacated the Playhouse, much of our designs were ready for build and the following few weeks were full of work to do. In the end, we did not have just a set; we had a country villa, complete with running water and garden vegetation, set in a landscape complete with weather and the subtle sounds of nature. We had period Renaissance soldiers and maids, carrying items that looked as if they were plucked from the time itself. And we had a hilarious and poignant story - told artfully by exceptional actors and moved along with expert timing by energetic stage crew. For me personally, it is top among the shows I have produced in the past, both within Players and outside. I feel blessed to have worked with this particular group, whose passion, professionalism, and creativity surpassed all my expectations. Keep an eye on this season and the next few - you will be blown away!

Contributions

Hey everyone, it's your friendly neighbourhood president again, this time I'm here to talk to you about something near and dear to my heart, contributions. As I and others alluded to previously, many important denizens of our wonderful building decided to kick the bucket this semester. Even while we mourn their passing we must look to the future, and as the future seems to include budget cuts from the currently struggling student union, replacing everything in a timely manner has proved challenging. Now, more than ever, your contributions to this wonderful organization will help keep the building, and the RPI Players, in working order, and ensure many great seasons of theatrical performances to come.

If you would like to support the RPI Players through a financial contribution, please mail a check to the RPI Union Admin Office. Checks should be made out to the RPI Players, and please include "Gift Fund" in the memo line. The Union's address is:
RPI Admin Office RU 3716
110 8th Street
Troy, NY 12180
We greatly appreciate any contributions.