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What is Our Mission?

Our mission is to produce, at the highest possible level, non-musical plays for adults and children utilizing and developing local talent. As a semi-professional company we will give the performers and artistic contributors an opportunity to share in the income generated by the shows. We shall provide shows every weekend throughout the summer, and into the foliage season.

Why?

For the actor our theater provides an opportunity for actors to experience, a greater acting challenge than community theater offers, gain experience and develop their talents. Community theaters emphasize musicals and concentrate on involving the largest possible number of people. Professional theaters are very exclusive and demanding, often requiring equity membership and rehearsal times not compatible with a day job.

For the audience, many shows that would never be seen in our area will be presented at a high level of performance. By maintaining a low cost of operation, we will be able to present these lesser known shows along with more popular shows.

For the community, by producing a broader range of theater experiences, the Central Vermont area will draw more people who have already fallen in love with live theater, and expose it to those less familiar, especially children.

Who are The Waterbury Festival Players?

This is the primary operating group that will produce plays for adult audiences. This includes comedies, dramas, mysteries, farces, etc. The performers and production crew members will be residents of Vermont.

Most of the shows will have relatively small casts of four to ten members, and be challenging productions. This will provide an opportunity for local thespians to develop their skills beyond the challenges of community theater.

“Don’t you see?!
We’re actors —
we’re the opposite
of people.”
The Player

Where is it?

The land for the theater is being made available by George & Ginger Pierce. It is located along Route 100 just north of the Cabot Annex, between the Agway and Ziemke Glassblowing.

What will all this Cost?

Based on various quotes and utilizing information from our advertising professionals and those experienced with the costs of theater, we have concluded the cost of all the facilities and one year’s operating expenses is **\$160,000**

This breaks down as:

\$75,000 Building
\$20,000 Lighting and Sound
\$30,000 Seating, Stage and Hanging Goods
\$17,000 Advertising
\$18,000 Other Operating

Who are The Gingersnap Players?

Producing plays for children, this subset of the Waterbury Festival Players will bring the same caliber of theater to the young people of our area, ending each show with the gift of a gingersnap cookie.

We hope that by introducing children to high quality theater early on, live theater will become a life long pleasure for them. Some of the shows we are considering are: “The Red Shoes” by Hans Christian Anderson, “The Canterville Ghost” by Oscar Wilde, “Revenge of the Space Pandas” by David Mamet.

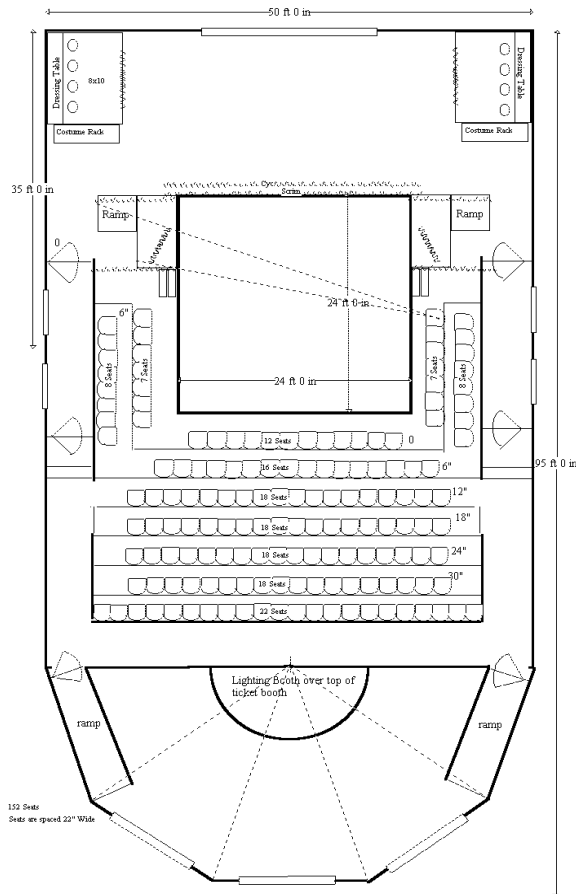
“I wouldn’t want
to do anything
foolish”
Pooh

The Gingersnap players, working with local organizations, will also provide free shows to groups of children that may not otherwise be able to afford the admission price.



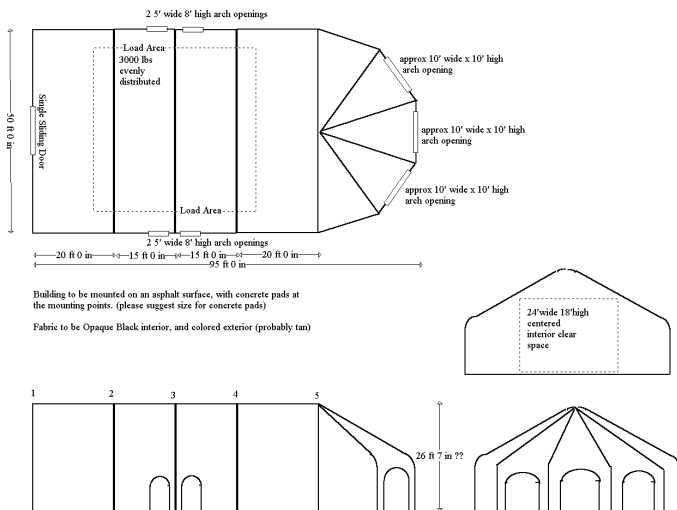
When does it start?

Our target is to open with four adult shows and one children's show in the summer of 2006.



What's the theater going to look like?

A fully equipped 150-seat theatre will be housed in a fabric building. The building will be assembled each June and taken down in October. The $\frac{3}{4}$ stage design will give the audience an intimate relationship with the show. This closeness, although not as profitable as a large house like the Flynn, gives the audience the best possible theater experience.



What is semiprofessional theater?

Simply put, to a thespian, semiprofessional means you *might* get paid. After covering all the operating costs of the theater for the next season, any money left over is divided among the artistic participants. Given our financing structure this assures enough money to operate the next season. Operating costs include: advertising, electric, royalties, props, sets, costumes, people to run the house, lights, and stage, setting up the building, toilet paper, etc.

Artistic participants include Directors, Designers (lighting, costume, sets, properties), and of course the actors. Distribution of monies will be based on a points system. Those with more demanding or more involved responsibilities receive more points. Our current estimates indicate that we will need to fill only 41 seats for each performance to cover our cost.

Who's getting this started?

George Pierce: *Artistic/Managing Director.* A successful local businessman, George has directed at various theaters throughout the area, and studied theater at Cornell University.

Don Rowe: *Director,* Don has acted in or directed over 100 shows spanning thirty years, and was Director of Theater at Champlain College for the last twelve years.

Walt Levering: *Fund raising coordinator.* Walt is the owner of the Windjammer, a Board Member of Vermont Stage, and an actor.

Jeffrey Kilgore: *Project Attorney,* Jeff is the President of the Stowe Theatre Guild, and active in technical theater.

Carol Loysen: *Communications Manager,* A member of the Stowe Theater Guild Board of Directors, and regular show producer, Carol is a former owner of Evergreen Gardens.

Patty Spence: *Advertising,* Patty is the Marketing Director for Caldera Inc.

Jim Espey: *Advertising,* Jim is the Art Director for Harwood Moses Chambers, Inc.

Lynn Espey: *Advertising,* Lynn is the Marketing Director for The Stowe Area Association

and many, many more

What can I do to help?

We would like to do fund raising only once and then have the theatre be self sufficient. In order to be considered a Founder and join the people who will be bringing this wonderful experience to our area, we are asking for a donation of \$5,000.

The Waterbury Festival Players is a Non-Profit Charitable Organization, and your donation will be tax deductible.

What are the Benefits of being a Founder?

- Two season tickets for five years
- Recognition on the founder's plaque
- Tickets to show previews
- Invitations to all special events
- Preferred seating

Lastly, you will receive the appreciation of the many actors and audience that, thanks to you, will share the amazing experience of live theater.