

BARN PLAYHOUSE HAS RECORD BREAKING 2009 SEASON

Report from the Board of Directors to the Community



The New London Barn Playhouse is a local treasure. The oldest, continuously operating summer stock theater in New Hampshire, it is listed on the State's Register of Historic Places and known throughout the nation as a unique institution offering "vibrant theater created by emerging artists in collaboration with accomplished professionals." Owned and operated by theatrical legend Norman Leger for over half a century, the Barn is now a non-profit corporation formed by Norman before his death. The Board of Directors of this corporation are committed to continuing his legacy of excellence and are happy to submit this **Report to the Community** on the results of the Barn's 2009 Season.

Record Revenue: Gross Revenues for the 2009 Fiscal Year ending September 30th will approximate \$700,000. This is a record for annual revenues and exceeds last year's total by six percent. This result is all the more remarkable given the current economic conditions, which have negatively impacted revenues at local and regional theaters across the country. While ticket sales have remained strong, helped by our new on-line system, much of the increased revenue is attributable to donations, grants and sponsorships received from nearly 500 businesses and individuals. The Playhouse also received its first ever foundation grants, including a \$25,000 gift from a major institution. This generous support has allowed us to invest in much needed capitol improvements to our facilities and upgrade our lighting systems.

2009 On Stage: We were blessed this year to have sixteen wonderfully talented young artists drawn from the country's finest theater training programs. Chosen by Artistic Director Carol Dunne from over 1,500 applicants, our acting interns shared the stage with seasoned actors such as Emmy Award winner Gordon Clapp and Broadway veterans Tom Ford and Fred Rose. The ensemble "can only be described as alchemy," said Dunne and creates incomparable theater. Dunne presented a 2009 Season mixing classic and cutting edge plays including the beloved *South Pacific*, the irreverent *The Producers*, Cole Porter's magical *Anything Goes*, the hysterically funny *Leading Ladies*, musical gem *She Loves Me*, the Tony Award winning *ART* and the rocking musical *SUDS*. The haunting beauty of "Try to remember that time in September" from our last production, *The Fantasticks*, will stay with us this winter.

The 2010 Season: Preparations are well under way for the 2010 Season, our 78th. Once again we are planning a vibrant mix of the old and the new with titles under consideration including classics such as *Harvey*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Hello, Dolly!* and shows new to the Barn such as *Hairspray*, Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Almost, Maine*. If you have not yet renewed your subscription please reserve your seats for next year by calling **526-6570**. If you are not yet a subscriber, contemplate the advantage of seeing 8 shows for the price of 7, assuring a seat in the same preferred location for every performance and the many other benefits of subscribing.

Thank You: Thanks to all of who attended a performance, mentored an Intern, volunteered with the Friends of The Barn Playhouse, gave to the Annual Fund or otherwise helped out at the Barn Playhouse this summer. Together we will continue the tradition of providing theater of excellence to our community since 1933.

Tom DeMille
Barbara Rosenfield
Judy Wallace

Steve Ensign
William Sloan
Linda Walsh

Carl Fitz
Daniel Snyder
David Webster

Don McGuinness
Sheryl Stotland
Michael Wood