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Bi-Monthly

THE CAPE COD CAPER
A Full Feature & Entertainment Magazine

New Feature: BINGO LISTINGS FOR THE ENTIRE CAPE!
"Something is going on with semi-professional theater," said Ray Vick, originator of the First Theatre Nostalgia Night that Falmouth has ever seen. Why a nostalgia night? How many times have you caught yourself clowning around in front of the bathroom mirror thinking ... I could be a Humphrey Bogart or another Judy Garland. Nostalgia Night was a way of getting those would-be performers onto the stage, by showing them that many people before them had discovered through local semi-professional theater that they really could carry a tune, or trip the light fantastic across an empty stage.

The something going on? Why, the discovery that 300 to 400 people were interested enough to jam the Nimrod Inn on January 22 to attend the function hosted by the Falmouth Theatre Guild in conjunction with the Woods Hole Theater Co., The Acting Group of Cape Cod and the Fireside Comedy Club. The crowds proved that amateur theater on the Cape still holds a fascination.

"We were starting to become concerned," said Vick, over cups of coffee in his home the next day. "Our patron list has dwindled considerably over the last few years, and some of the plays presented by the Theatre Guild, like 'Deadwood Dick' drew considerably smaller audiences than we anticipated. We wanted to get people back who had performed once or twice in a local play, and show them clips and pictures from their production. Also, we wanted to attract new people and be able to present them with a brief view of semi-professional theater."

"The night was so successful," continued Vick, "that we have begun to talk about a permanent theater for our resident groups. To date we have used the facilities of most of the local hotels, schools, and restaurants for our plays and cabarets; but dressing areas are sparse. There are numerous lighting problems, and many times seating capacity is limited. Highfield Theatre in Falmouth would be ideal, but in order to be a proper theater, it needs complete renovation. The only other idea is to use the high school auditorium in the summer; but we really need year round facilities for storage, meetings, and general workshops."

"There has been talk of the old brick theater on Route 28, located near the corner of Scranton Avenue in Falmouth. I understand that there is seating for 150 people, but someone mentioned that the building is going to be razed. It's a shame with all of us scratching around looking for a theater to hold our productions in," said Vick. Falmouth now boasts five active companies; this includes the newly formed Space Theatre Players, organized by Alan Moniz. The Falmouth Theatre Guild is the oldest. Its first play "Goodbye My Fancy" was held in February 1958, at the Lawrence High School auditorium. Semi-professional theater has always been non-profit and the first Guild play was founded by pocket money from the cast. Any profits that the plays incurred were given to charitable organizations.

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The Music Man, directed by Wally Durant, was one of the most successful musicals that the Falmouth Theatre Guild ever presented. Every performance was sold out. The cast, in order of appearance on the program: Travelling Salesmen, Larry Kelley, Larry Preston, Billy Joe Mackey, Gil Rapoza, Frank Duffy, Bruce Martin; Charlie Cowell, Ray Vick; Conductor, Charlie O'Hare; Harold Hill, Michael Palmer; Mayor Shinn, Burke McHugh; Ewart Dunlop, Walter Swain; Oliver Hix, Thomas Sweeney; Jocely Squires, Murray Appel; Olin Britt, Billy Joe Mackey; Marcellus Washburn, Bob Chambers; Tommy Djilas, Gep Parry; Marian Paroo, Laura Garner; Mrs. Paroo, Dee Powell; Amaryllis, Kim Kelley; Winthrop Paroo, Erik Stephens; Edaline MacKecknie Shinn, Kitty Baker; Zaneeta Shinn, Neil Wright; Gracie Shinn, June Stephens; Alma Hix, Phyllis Cotton; Maude Dunlop, Elfrieda Norden; Ethel Toffelmier, Joni Stephens; Mrs. Squires, Barbara Johnsen; Matilda Dunlop, Davian Hinz; Constable Locke, Robert Hinz; Towspeople, Deanna Daley, Robert Leozott, Betty Mitchell, Marie Lee, Mary Chagnon, Jim Chagnon, Sue Hanley, Paul Selig, Bruce Martin, Skipper Vick, Frank Duffy, Rose Soque, Chris Stephens; Dancers, Gloria Barnicoat, Pat Lang, Janet Powers, Nancy Groh, Gil Rapoza, Larry Kelley, June Stephens, Janet Shockley, Stephanie Lee, Mary Hodge, and Larry Preston.

Karl Schleicher and Kitty Baker in Plaza Suite.

Jay Doolittle in Teahouse Of The August Moon, at home in both semi-professional and professional theater. He is a familiar face around the Falmouth Playhouse and the Falmouth Theatre Guild.

John New, Catherine Smith, Linda Christie, and Robert Bock, star in The Acting Group of Cape Cod production of "Play It Again Sam."