

Swamp Meadow Community Theatre

Proudly Presents



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# Our Town

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written by Thornton Wilder

directed by Tim Hillman



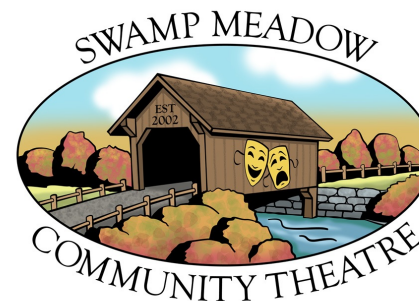
Congratulations to Tim  
and the cast of *Our Town* for crafting  
an excellent and compelling show!



From your local townsfolk Liz and Eric at



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**CAST**

Citizens and Students Together  
Coalition for Community Health





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Swamp Meadow Community Theatre is proud to be in partnership with C.A.S.T. in their goal to reduce violence and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our communities. We emphasize building community by encouraging individuals and establishing meaningful relationships.

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For State Representative

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For Town Sergeant

Mike Coggeshall

For Tax Board of Review

Maggie Fennessey

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## A Note from Swamp Meadow's Executive Director

Our current season, for the most part, represents a return to "tradition."

We opened our season with our Summer Children's Theatre presentation of *Annie, Jr* (in August). We now follow this traditional show with traditional Americana, as we present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*.

For the holidays, we recreate a traditional show that showcases one family's slightly offbeat traditions in *A Christmas Story*.

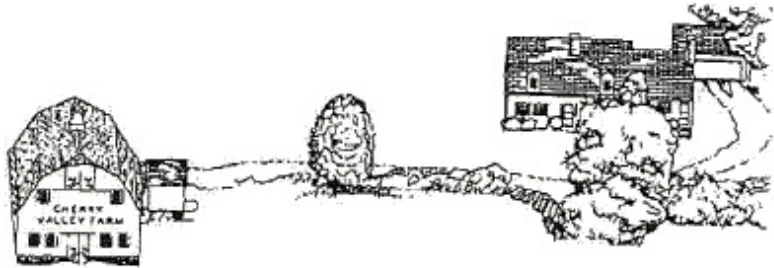
We planned to round out our our season with *La Cage aux Folles*, which, we acknowledge, probably did not represent "tradition" for most of us, but we were informed recently that we would not be granted the rights to perform the show this spring. As a result, we are in the process of selecting a replacement show: one that should fit with "tradition."

In addition to these shows, we will continue our tradition of hosting a dinner theater: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, (Abridged)*, to be held at the Coventry Senior Center, in March, (though in keeping with the concept of "Abridged," this will be a dessert theater, instead of a full dinner theater.) In addition, we begin a new tradition as our newly-formed Teen Troupe works on a special show for which they are in the process of writing the stage adaptation.

We hope that you will join us for all of these shows and events this year, and make us a part of your own tradition.

*Dennis Chretien*, Executive Director

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**Swamp Meadow Community Theatre's  
Upcoming Season**

*A Christmas Story*  
*December 5-7 & 12-14, 2014*

*The Complete Works of William  
Shakespeare (Abridged)*  
*Dessert Theatre, March 2015*  
*Coventry Senior Center*

??? (To be announced)  
*Spring 2015*

**Visit [www.swampmeadow.org](http://www.swampmeadow.org) for reservations,  
show information, and details on how to become  
a part of the Swamp Meadow community!**

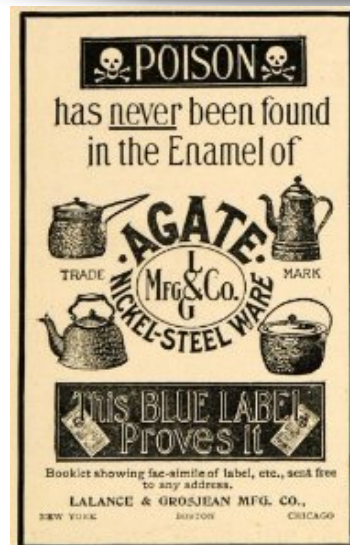
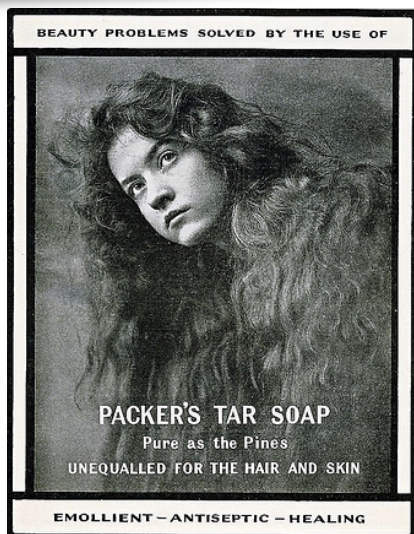
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performance



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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

So

There you have it.

If you are reading this before the show- shame on you. We all learned to follow directions in the first grade.

As to the rest of you- well I hope that you enjoyed the work. It's tough to say to an audience "look how hard we worked" and then perform. Tougher still to write director's notes a month before opening.

Director's notes have always been a part of the process for me- a way to catalyze what the play has finally become.

In these notes though, I don't have that luxury.

So what do I tell you?

What I believe will be true when you read this.

Performances were great weren't they? You never had any idea that John (or whoever) could act quite like that.

You've never heard that much music in a play that wasn't a musical.

A few times at least, you got lost in the play- lost in your memories.

You wondered exactly how some of those lighting changes were happening.

You wondered (either in fear or envy) how those people got seats on the stage.

You wished that you could have seen someone's face until you realized that she was acting with her back just as much.

A tear may have welled up in your eye.

Actually, a whole bundle may have.

Or, your final reaction may have been to truly see the heart of Wilder's work.

That may be discomfoting. Mr. Wilder has an agenda here, and he's not afraid to let it be seen.

How do you find that? In the character's eyes.

And if you didn't find it- come back for another performance.

And another.

Until we get it right.

*Tim Hillman*

May the cast, production crew  
and directors enjoy great success  
with



# Our Town

*"I regard the theatre as the greatest of  
all art forms, the most immediate way in which a  
human being can share with another the  
sense of what it is to be a human being."*

- Oscar Wilde

**Best Wishes from  
Representative**

# Chippendale

*"Common Sense - Uncommon Dedication"*

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mike Chippendale

## A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER

Our Town is a wonderful show. It has a lot to do with humanity, which is fitting for me as an archaeologist. But one set of lines always floors me whenever I hear them.

In the middle of Act I, the Stage Manager says one of the most famous lines of the play: “So – people a thousand years from now – this is the way we were in the provinces north of New York at the beginning of the twentieth century. This is the way we were: in our growing up and in our marrying and in our living and in our dying.”

Let’s try again with the context. The stage manager is both narrator and stage manager. He brings townsfolk onstage and acts as townsfolk himself. He is inside and outside the play. In Act I, the town puts a time capsule together, and he says:

“Y’know – Babylon once had two million people in it, and all we know about ‘em is the names of the kings and some copies of wheat contracts... and contracts for the sale of slaves. Yet every night, all those families sat down to supper, and the father came home from his work, and the smoke went up the chimney – same as here. And even in Greece and Rome, all we know about the REAL life of the people is what we can piece together out of the joking poems and the comedies they wrote for the theatre back then. So I’m going to have a copy of this play put in the cornerstone and the people a thousand years from now’ll know a few simple facts about us – more than the Treaty of Versailles and the Lindbergh flight.

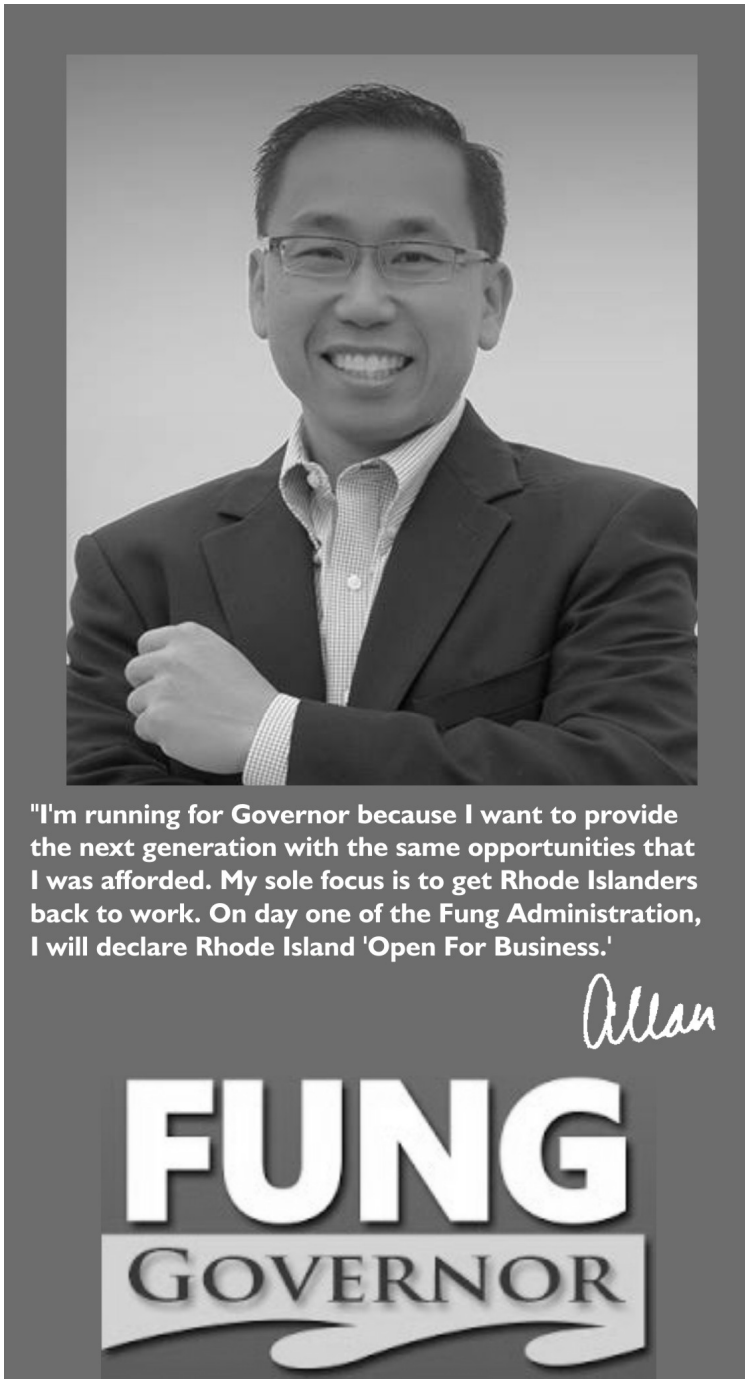
See what I mean?

So – people a thousand years from now – this is the way we were in the provinces north of New York at the beginning of the twentieth century. This is the way we were: in our growing up and in our marrying and in our living and in our dying.”

Thornton Wilder wrote in 1938 about life that is now over one hundred years ago. Yet, throughout the play, the people are so alive, so real. They are a century old, but they are just as human as anyone here. The play could be anywhere in the US right now. The stage manager knows it, Wilder knows it, and they are preserving that lifestyle as best they can for the future. And what does the stage manager/ Wilder do? He addresses the people he hopes will read this play one thousand years from 1904. He talks directly to them, creating a connection with them, whoever they are.

I’m moved by witnessing Wilder’s communication to those 900 years in my future, trying to connect with them as much as they will hopefully try to connect with him. And I am honored that I can be a person only 100 years in Wilder’s future, making that connection with him and keeping it alive for the future.

*Heather Christie*



"I'm running for Governor because I want to provide the next generation with the same opportunities that I was afforded. My sole focus is to get Rhode Islanders back to work. On day one of the Fung Administration, I will declare Rhode Island 'Open For Business.'

*Allan*

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GOVERNOR

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Mike Chippendale*

The director's notes are within  
these sealed pages.  
Please do not break the seals  
until the end of the  
performance

Special thanks to Olivia Hussey and Stacy and Marjorie Swift for selling so many ads for this playbill. Among the three of them, they have filled most of our playbill with information from our valuable supporters. Please support these businesses, and let them know that you saw their ad right here in our playbill.

Thanks to everyone who helped this production in any way to make it into the amazing show that it has become!



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Swamp Meadow Community Theatre Presents

# Our Town

## Characters

(in order of their appearance)

Vote for  
George Gibbs  
for Class  
President



**Danny's Fall Calendar**

Food Auction	Sat- October 4 <sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm
New Merchandise	Mon- October 6 <sup>th</sup> - 1:00pm
Fall Round Up -	Sun-October 19 <sup>th</sup> -11am
Equipment -	Sun - October 26 <sup>th</sup> -11am

Food Auction -	Sat - Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> - 6:00pm
New Merchandise-	Mon - Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 1:00pm

**\*CHRISTMAS AUCTIONS START\***  
**\*Friday- NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 6:00PM\***

Find Us At  
**Danny's Auction**  
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## The Sentinel



All the news from Grover's Corners and the surrounding environs. Published twice weekly. 3¢ per issue, 5¢ per week for home delivery. Mail subscriptions 7¢ per week.

Charles Webb, Editor.

Please elect  
Emily Webb  
as your  
Class Secretary and  
Treasurer

Stage Manager .....	Robert Douglas Silva
Dr. Gibbs .....	Andy Affleck
Joe Crowell .....	James Boss
Halley Newsome .....	Nikki Boss
Mrs. Gibbs .....	Donna Nichols
Mrs. Webb .....	Judy Kerkoff
George Gibbs .....	Jacob Eldred
Rebecca Gibbs .....	Sarah Stevens
Wally Webb .....	Jon Howe
Emily Webb .....	Hannah Gibb
Professor Willard .....	Rachel Stevens
Mr. Webb .....	Dennis Chretien
Woman in the Audience .....	Marjorie G. Swift
Simon Stimson .....	Preston Arnold
Mrs. Soames .....	Michelle Chretien
Constable Warren .....	Rucy Scholl
Si Crowell .....	James Boss
George Gibbs .....	Connor Holden
Emily Gibbs .....	Olivia Hussey
Dead Person .....	Chloe Anderson
Sam Craig .....	Robert Douglas Silva
Joe Stoddard .....	Stacey Swift
Emily Gibbs .....	Emily Carter

# Crew

Director .....	Tim Hillman
Composer, Musical Director, and Accompanist .....	Artist in Residence, Jordan F. Hillman
Producer .....	Heather Christie
Production Manager .....	Rachel Stevens
Technical Director .....	Tim Hillman
Lighting Director .....	Kaila Rubin
Lighting .....	Jordan F. Hillman
.....	Tina Mendeloff
Artwork and Graphic Design .....	Evelyn Dubois
Concessions Coordinator .....	Leslie Carter
Box Office .....	David Gresh
Playbill .....	Dennis Chretien



**Sarah Stevens, 13** — Rebecca Gibbs — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Three Musketeers* (Soldier, Pantomimer). Other Experience: This is her second play. She helped backstage for the *Crucible* and was in the *3 Musketeers*. Hobbies: Playing guitar, singing, lego robotics, and being a dare devil. Personal Statement: I have greatly enjoyed being in my second play with SMCT. One other thing that makes this special is I get to do it with my family: Donna Nichols, my mom; Rudy Scholl, my future step-father; and Rachel Stevens, my big sister



**Marjorie G. Swift** — In Audience Role — This is Marjorie's first time with SMCT. Other Experience: My acting experience is mostly from high school days where I appeared in “Our Town” as the woman in the auditorium and in the wedding & funeral scenes. I also sing in the church choir and study karate, both involve acting skills. Hobbies: Interior design, gardening Personal Statement: If you are going to do something, do it right.

**Stacey Swift** — Joe Stoddard — Previous SMCT Experience: Stacey has been involved in 15 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Ruckly); *The Three Musketeers* (Executioner); *The Canterbury Tales* (The Boring Scholar). Other Experience: The Doctor in *Macbeth* at The Bradley Playhouse; *Arsenic and Old Lace*; *The Importance of Being Ernest*; Voice of H.P. Lovecraft in *The History of Gloucester, Part II* DVD in production. Hobbies: Volunteer weather observer for The National Weather Service since 1969; Church singing; Substitute Teaching; Vegetable Gardening; Traveling. Personal Statement: If you are going to do a job, don't do it half-fast!

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## Meet Our Cast and Crew



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**Love, Abby & Andy (Swift)**



**Andy Affleck** — Doctor Gibbs — Previous SMCT Experience: Andy has been involved in 17 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *Dracula* (Count Dracula); *The Fantastiks* (Henry Albertson); *Romeo and Juliet* (Friar Lawrence); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Randle Patrick MacMurphy); *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* (Self, Director, Producer). Other Experience: Andy has been performing since he was in the 4th grade. Highlights include South Pacific, Carousel, Oklahoma, The Fantasticks, and The Pajama Game. He has also been performing in choruses as a Tenor II/Baritone in Dartmouth College's Glee Club, Chamber Singers, and Handel Society 1986 through 1996 (including a performance at New York's Carnegie Hall). He is the Assistant Creative Director for Education for Swamp Meadow. Hobbies: Social Media and Youth (articles, public speaking), Photography, Cooking, Singing, Geeking, Gaming, Biking, Astronomy, Lifelong Learning, writing (published book & articles), reading, and podcasting. Personal Statement: "I drank what?" -- Socrates




**Chloe Anderson** — Dead Person — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Ruth Putnam); *Annie Jr.* (Howe - Street Sweeper). Other Experience: Chloe has also performed in A Miracle on 34th Street with RISE and numerous school and church plays. Hobbies: Listening to music, hanging out with friends, and cheerleading. Personal Statement: Even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise.



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Theater, Israeli Dance Group, Aunt Eller in 'Oklahoma' & Irish maid in 'Ah, Wilderness' Hobbies: Dulcimer playing, singing, web-surfing and snuggling fuzzy animals.  
Personal Statement: Tech: because nude mime in the dark doesn't sell.



**Rudy Scholl** — Constable Warren — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Tech Crew (Backstage), Tech Crew (Sets)); *The Three Musketeers* (Olivier, Rochefort companion, Pantomimer). Hobbies: Fixing cars, building Harleys, and spending time with my family. Personal Statement: Still kind of new to community theatre - But enjoy the new friends and doing another play with my girlfriend Donna and her two daughters, Rachel and Sarah.



**Robert Douglas Silva** — The Stage Manager, Sam Craig — Previous SMCT Experience: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Dale Harding). Hobbies: Traveling, food and friends



**Rachel Stevens**, 16 — Stage Manager, Professor Willard — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Abigail Williams); *The Three Musketeers* (Constance Bonacieux, Clive Burton, Musketeer, Pantomimer). Other Experience: Rachel was in several productions with Apple Tree Arts, a children's performing arts organization out of Grafton, MA. She played Anna in a production of "The King and I", Mrs. Potts in "The Beauty and the Beast", and a school girl in "A Little Princess". Hobbies: Singing, playing the piano, and (obviously) acting. Personal Statement: I have loved working with this new group of actors. They have all worked so hard on a play that is not easy by a long shot. It has been an eye opener to be in this new position and I have learned a great deal. I hope to continue to grow in my knowledge of theater.

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A person is not given integrity.  
It results from the relentless  
pursuit of honesty at all times.

~Anonymous



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**James Anderson-Boss** — Joe Crowell, Si Crowell — Previous SMCT Experience: *Annie Jr.* (Apple Seller Assistant). Hobbies: Riding his bike, reading, video games, and animals. Personal Statement: James is the best little boy ever and so grateful to be working with everyone! Thank you to Tim, Rachel, and Heather and the cast and crew for all their hard work.



**Nikki Anderson** — Hallie Newsome — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Tituba). Hobbies: Writing, reading, art, music, and theater. Personal Statement: Huge amounts of gratitude to the directors, producer, cast, and crew -- SMCT is amazing. I am so thankful to be a part of this.



**Preston Arnold** — Simon Stimson — Previous SMCT Experience: Preston has been involved in 12 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *A Christmas Carol* (Ebenezer Scrooge); *The Fantastiks* (Director); *The Three Musketeers* (Athos). Other Experience: He has performed with over a dozen different community and semi-professional theatres in several dozen productions. Favorite lead roles in the past have included Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, John Adams in *1776*, Finch in *How to Succeed in Business...*, the Major-General in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. Hobbies: Theatre obligations allowing - guitar, sailing, horses. Personal Statement: "It's been an amazing opportunity to work with Tim and his team, bringing to life his unique vision of this American classic!"




**Emily Carter** — Emily Webb (Act 3) — Previous SMCT Experience: Emily has been involved in 12 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Alice); *Charlotte's Web* (Fern);



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playing, and impromptu singing sessions while in the car.  
Hobbies: Creative processes, and cats. Personal  
Statement: "In the days to follow, and in the nights when  
there was no moon and in the nights when there was a  
very bright moon shining on the earth, the old man would  
go on with this talking and this talking, drop by drop,  
stone by stone, flake by flake. His mind would well over at  
last and he would not be Montag any more, this the old  
man told him, assured him, promised him. He would be  
Montag-plus-Faber, fire plus water....Out of two separate  
and opposite things, a third." -Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit  
451



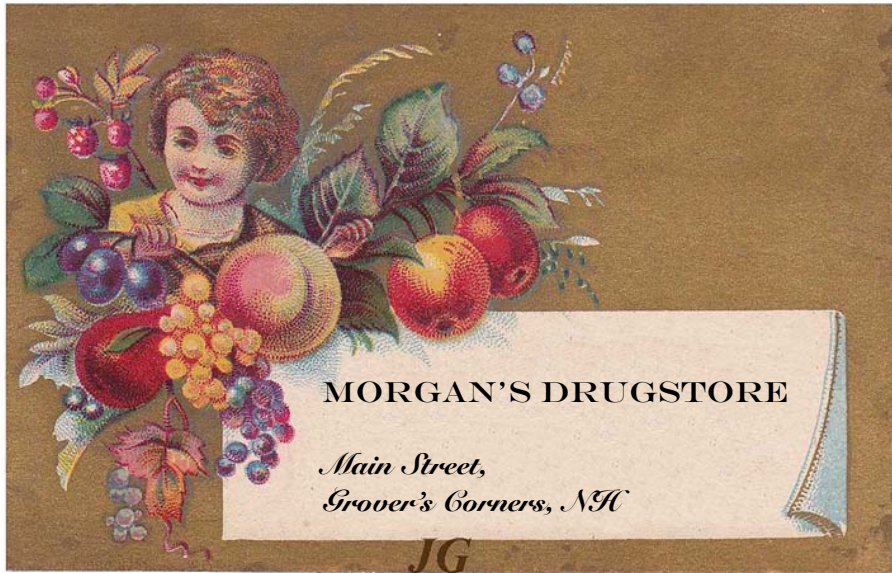
**Judy Kerkhoff** — Mrs. Webb — Previous  
SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Rebecca  
Nurse); *Little Women* (Aunt March); *Get  
Merry* — *A Medieval Winter Solstice Revel*  
(Queen).



**Donna Nichols** — Mrs. Gibbs — Previous  
SMCT Experience: *The Three Musketeers*  
(Bois- Tracy, Rochefort companion, Abbess,  
Pantomimer, Rene). Other Experience: She  
has been in plays and musicals since  
kindergarten. She has directed children's  
musicals and choirs at her church for years. Hobbies:  
Cooking, puzzles, and going places with my family.  
Personal Statement: Give 100% to any role you're given.  
Do your very best; that's all anyone can ask.



**Kaila Rubin** — Lighting Director — Previous  
SMCT Experience: Kaila has been involved  
in 26 other Swamp Meadow productions,  
including *Monty Python's Quest for the Holy  
Grail* (Dennis' Mother, Monk of the Board);  
*Dracula* (Charlotte Westenra); *It's a  
Wonderful Life* (Aunt Tilly); *Finnegan's Farewell* (Maggie  
Finnegan). Other Experience: Children's Participatory



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*Olivia* (Eliza Doolittle); *Annie Jr.* (Musical Director). Other Experience: RIMEA All-State Chorus. Trinity Rep. Theatre Ambassadors. Academy Players: A Christmas Carol, the Musical. Trinity Rep.: A Christmas Carol. Fantasy Works: Aladdin. Trinity Rep. Young Actors Studio. Independent film: The Second Job. Red Entry Arts Stage Project. Bishop Hendricken Summer Stage Show Choir Camp. Kaleidoscope Theatre's B.U.L.L.Y. program. Vocal and Dance training. Church Plays, School Plays. Hobbies: Reading, Writing, Playing flute and guitar, Talking, Sleeping, Eating, Singing and Acting!



**Dennis Chretien, 57** — Mr. Webb — Previous SMCT Experience: Dennis has been involved in 20 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *It's a Wonderful Life* (Clarence Obody, AS2); *The Canterbury Tales* (Harry Bailey); *A Christmas Carol* (Charles Dickens); *The Three Musketeers* (Director). Other Experience: "A Thurber Carnival" Hobbies: Ice hockey, golf, technology, woodworking, robotics. Personal Statement: Welcome to Foster. Our town is very much like "Our Town."

**Michelle Chretien, 17** — Mrs. Soames — Previous SMCT Experience: Michelle has been involved in 31 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *It's a Wonderful Life* (Miss Andrews, Young Mary Hatch, Soloist); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Band member — Trumpet). Other Experience: Paine Panther Players, Rehobeth Beach Summer Children's theatre, Victorian Carolers, SMCT Improv Troupe, SMCT Youth Group, Academy Players, Ponaganset Band and Chorus Hobbies: music, reading, golfing, and cooking Personal Statement: "Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive. Then go and do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." ~Howard Thurman

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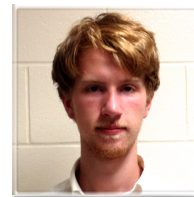
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that his life has circled back to Foster and performance a stone's throw from his old church.



**Connor Holden** — George Gibbs (Acts 2 and 3) — Previous SMCT Experience: *Charlotte's Web* (Woolrich, the sheep); *Schehrezade and the Arabian Nights* (Aquil). Other Experience: High School musical, Kederello, 6 years doing school talent shows performing in various skits, Christmas pageant,

Immigration play in 4-5th grade Hobbies: Guitar, Making Movies, drawing, acting, Dancing, Singing, Personal Statement: Acting Rocks!



**Jon Howe**, 16 — Wally Webb — Previous SMCT Experience: Jon has been involved in 5 other Swamp Meadow productions. Other Experience: 11 Variations on Friar John's Failure-Witch, Sampson; All the Great Books Abridged-Coach, Testing Testing-Mr.

Downsides, Josh, Preacher, Third Grade Teacher, Mawkish, and Student; Junior All State 2012-French Horn; Senior All State 2013-French Horn, Scituate High School Concert Band, and Scituate High School Symphonic Band. Hobbies: I am a life scout and currently working on finishing up my Eagle rank. I play many instruments including guitar, french horn, ocarina, and more recently vocals. I enjoy writing poems and reading many books. I have written many lyrics, and some have become songs. Personal Statement: It doesn't matter what you do with your life unless you make the most of it.



**Olivia Hussey**, — Emily Webb (Act 2) — Previous SMCT Experience: Olivia has been involved in 4 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *Schehrezade and the Arabian Nights* (Sabah); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Crew — Backstage); *The Crucible* (Mary Warren). Other Experience: Years of

performing with a karate demonstration team, piano

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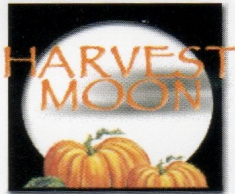
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“Olivia is the best.”

-Olivia

“You’re our favorite.”

-Parents

“Stop getting married.”

-Mom

“Olivia’s pretty cool.”

-Karen Gillan, probably



**Heather Christie** — Producer — Previous SMCT Experience: Heather has been involved in 15 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Co- Director); *Schehrezade and the Arabian Nights* (Director); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Candy Starr); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Stage Manager); *The Three Musketeers* (Author); *No Exit* (Estelle Delaunay).



**Jacob Eldred**, 19 — George Gibbs (Act 1) — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Wilkins). Hobbies: Playing music, video games, and making bad puns. Personal Statement: Would I rather be loved or feared? Hmm. Both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me.



**Hannah Gibb**, — Emily Webb (Act 1) — Previous SMCT Experience: Hannah has been involved in 9 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *Macbeth* (Witch #1); *Olivia* (Criminal); *Willy Wonka* (The Candy Man). Other Experience: Foster Follies

Hobbies: Acting, singing, playing ukulele and guitar, reading, watching british television, drawing, riding horses, walking around in the forest, dying dramatically, Personal Statement: I’m not running away, I’m running to things, before they flare and fade forever.



**Jordan Hillman**, Artist in Residence — Composer, Musical Director, Accompanist — This is Jordan’s first time with SMCT. Other Experience: Jordan Hillman leads a wide-ranging musical life as a composer, conductor, and multi-instrumentalist. He

has written music for short films, plays, advertisements, and a dance production. His recent piano performances include solo recitals, weddings, and events of all kinds. Jordan is the Music Director at the Rehoboth

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Congregational Church, where he plays piano and organ and conducts the choir. He also works as an accompanist and teaches music at Cuttyhunk Elementary School.

Jordan received a BA in music from Connecticut College, where he was the winner of the Concerto Competition and the Mahan Music Prize. He studied piano with Kumi Ogano and composition with Art Krieger, and graduated *summa cum laude* with honors study and distinction in the major field.

Jordan also plays in pop and rock bands around New England, and spent two years touring the U.S. with his Rhode Island band, Sparks Will Fly. His work with Connecticut pop band Brookline Drive was showcased on KC 101.3 and WFSB-TV, and on 2RDJ-FM in Australia. He works with local artists as a producer and songwriter, and performs frequently with his current group, The Hillmans.



**Tim Hillman** — Director — Previous SMCT Experience: *The Crucible* (Giles Corey); *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Beverly Carlton). Other Experience: Tim Hillman returns to Foster where his father served as Vicar of the former Episcopal Church of the Messiah.

Hillman left Rhode Island in 1972 to attend boarding school and later Bates College where he majored in Theater and Rhetoric. From there, Tim worked steadily in educational theater, teaching acting and improvisation and directing at schools and colleges, both professional and academic, in the Boston area, Hollywood, Tennessee and Rhode Island. You've seen Tim's work through those students- many have gone on to extraordinary media careers in nearly every theatrical performing art. His students have taken home nearly one hundred nominations and dozens of statues. Matthew Perry's performance in *The Ron Clark Story* was based on Tim- he is Matt's first and last acting teacher. He's pleased