

Milford Second Street Players

proudly present

THORTON WILDER'S
AMERICAN CLASSIC

Our Town



DIRECTED BY JEFF HASLOW

FEB. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20, 2011

RIVERFRONT THEATRE

2 S. WALNUT STREET, MILFORD, DE 19963

302-422-0220

WWW.SECONDSTREETPLAYERS.COM



Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Our Town

CAST

In order of first speaking appearance

Stage Manager	Doug Friend
Joe/Si Crowell	Devon Lynch
Doc Gibbs.....	Don Megee
Howie Newsome	Ben Lonski
Mrs. Gibbs.....	E.J. Panico
Mrs. Webb	Carol Torrey
Wally Webb.....	Ben Wilcox
Emily Webb	Carly Jo Hosbach
George Gibbs	Joshua Wakeley
Rebecca Gibbs.....	Devin Petka
Professor Willard.....	Marsha Shull
Editor Webb.....	Steve Twilley
Concerned Woman in the Audience.....	Sharon Buchanan
Angry Woman in the Audience	Monica Boyles
Lady in the Audience	Titia Halfen
Simon Stimson	Charlie Meyer
Mrs. Soames	Susan Newark
Constable Warren.....	Malcolm Keen
Sam Craig.....	Mike Geisweidt
Joe Stoddard.....	George Liosi
Bassoon.....	Susan Newark
Flute	Carol Torrey
Violin.....	Ben Wilcox

As in our own daily lives, where we take on many roles, some of the actors also take on other roles as people of the town.

Our Town

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Jeff Haslow
Assistant Director	Allie Buchanan
Producer.....	Susan Newark
Lighting Design.....	John Moller
Properties.....	Susan Newark
Costumes.....	Sharon Buchanan
Set	Jack Newark, Susan Newark, Jeff Haslow, Allie Buchanan, Sharon Buchanan, Titia Halfen, Carly Jo Hosbach, Don Megee, Charlie Meyers, and EJ Panico
Publicity	Susan Newark, Joan Lofland, Dan Marabello
Playbill	Steve Twilley
Tickets.....	Tracy Dissinger & Valerie Andrews
Hospitality	Ben Lonski

The entire play takes place in Grover's Corners, Sutton County, New Hampshire, United States of America; Continent of North America; Western Hemisphere; the Earth; the Solar System; the Universe; the Mind of God.

Act One Daily Life (1901), Love and Marriage (1904)

~ INTERMISSION ~

Act Two Another Day - nine years later (1913)

Running Time: 2 hours and 15 minutes,
including a 15 minute intermission

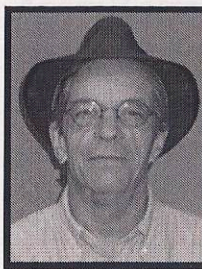
Meet the Cast and Crew of



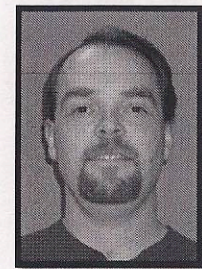
Monica Boyles (Angry Woman in the Audience) makes her first stage appearance in *Our Town* since the age of five! She enjoys the play's down to earth and old fashioned values. "I was born in Charleston, South Carolina," Monica says, "which has a very Victorian style. So this play really hit home for me." She adds that, like her southern roots, "Grover's Corners is a very laid back American town filled with a lot of hospitality." Monica lives in Harrington with her husband of 11 years, Robin. She enjoys music, singing, and watching others act in movies. Monica thanks everyone in the cast and crew for their warm welcome on her return to the stage.



Sharon Buchanan (Concerned Woman in the Audience, COSTUMES) has previously done costuming for the Take II Drama Club and shows with Second Street Players' Children's Theatre and Possum Juniors. She has also been onstage in various Second Street Children's Theatre shows. "Fairy Tales and musicals are my favorite," she says. Sharon lives in Georgetown with her daughter, Allie, and combines work schedules at Harrison Senior Living and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital where she is a supervisor, staff nurse, and forensic nurse examiner. "I've enjoyed working with such an extremely talented cast in *Our Town*," Sharon says.



Doug Friend (Stage Manager) has often been onstage with Possum Point Players, The Milton Theatre, and Swingtime Productions. He was also in Second Street's *Cinderella* and *Rumpelstiltskin*. Doug has designed and built many sets at the Milton Theatre and Sussex Central High School. "Thornton Wilder's economy of language and simplicity of staging has enhanced the timeless subject matter of everyday life," Doug says. "Every audience member can relate to pivotal life events that are presented in a gentle and honest manner." Doug lives in Lewes with his wife, Vicki, and works as a physical therapist assistant at Beebe Medical Center.



Mike Geisweidt (Sam Craig) has been seen on the Riverfront stage in *The Miracle Worker*, *Arcadia* and *Taking Steps*. Offstage credits include serving as stage manager for *The Rainmaker* and assistant director for *The Sunshine Boys*. "Thornton Wilder's unique style of interchanging the past with the present portrays the struggles of life and death for the residents of Grover's Corners," Mike says. "Wilder nudges the audience to embrace the moment, truly appreciate the 'here and now,' and accept the notion of change." Mike lives in Felton where he spoils his yellow lab, Daisey. He works as an encoder/system monitor for Walmart Logistics.



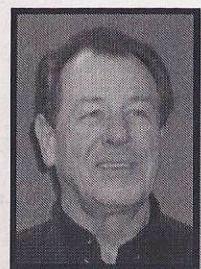
Our Town



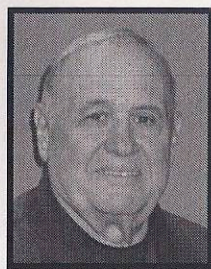
Titia Halfen (Lady in the Audience) has co-directed *A Love Affair* and assistant directed many shows including *A Christmas Story* and SSP's *Moonlight and Magnolias*. She also appeared in *Nun-crackers*. "I have loved this play since I played Mrs. Gibbs at Caesar Rodney High School. *Our Town* shares with its audience a sense of life we all know but might not understand or even know that we know it." Titia lives in Prime Hook (with her mom and dad, and doggie, Dixie) where she says "our small but very close knit community has seen the very same things shown to us from Wilder's *Our Town*." Titia is an RN at Hope House Group Home.



Carly Jo Hosbach (Emily) returns to the Riverfront stage after appearing in 2010's *Meshuggah-Nuns!*. She also was in the booth as production assistant for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. A resident of Milford via Pittsburgh, Carly Jo has appeared onstage in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Footloose*. Carly Jo graduated from Ohio University and earned a Masters Degree from Misericordia University. She is a speech-language pathologist in inpatient rehabilitation. "Anyone can find their own meaningful relationship to *Our Town*," Carly Jo says, "whether it's love, family, or taking the time to realize the little things in life."



Malcolm Keen (Constable) has appeared in Second Street's *The Miracle Worker* and *Babes In Toyland*, the Clear Space production of *Our Town*, and many other shows. He says, "In *Our Town*, you are reminded of the emotional roller coaster that is life and the need to 'stop and smell the roses' every now and then." Malcolm recalls that his hometown, just like Grover's Corners, "had a night watchman before we had a police department, a soda fountain, a town drunk, high school romances, gardens, and church choirs." Malcolm lives in Lewes and is the membership coordinator with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society.



George Liosi (Joe Stoddard) has been involved in community theatre most of his adult life, appearing in such productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver*, and *1776*. George taught in the Hackensack public schools and says that "introducing young people to the theatre was one of the most satisfying aspects of my 35 year career." He recalls that growing up in New York City's Hell's Kitchen was not like Grover's Corners, but that "everyone on the block looked out for each other." 45 years ago, George and his bride, Peggy, lived in the converted carriage house at Milford's Sunnybrae Estate before moving to NJ. In 2008, they retired to Bridgeville.



Ben Lonski (Howie Newsome) has appeared in SSP's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dinner With Friends*, *Oscar & Felix*, *The Homecoming*, and *Meshuggah-Nuns!*. A member of SSP's Board, Ben most recently directed *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and will direct this fall's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. "The old theatre adage is to never share a scene with children or animals," Ben says. "I know that's true because I could never get Bessie to mind me onstage!" Ben is a physical therapy assistant at the Milford Center. He lives in Magnolia with his wife, Debbie, and enjoys time with their children, Troy, Rebecca, Sarah, and Patrick.



Devon Lynch (Joe & Sy Crowell) is back at Riverfront after portraying the Cat in the Hat in last year's *Seussical—The Musical*. He has also appeared in Possum Point Players' productions of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. "Now, I've had a great time working with a great cast and bringing Grover's Corners to life," he says. Devon is a sixth grader at the Southern Delaware School of the Arts. He lives in Georgetown with his parents, Brad and Deanna, and siblings, Peyton and Logan. When he's away from the theatre, Devon enjoys singing, playing Wii, and going to the movies.



Don Megee (Doc Gibbs) returns to the Riverfront stage after last appearing in 2008's *Spitfire Grill*. He is a frequent performer with Possum Point Players having been seen in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Rainmaker*, *Urinetown*, and many others. He also appeared in *Bell, Book and Candle* at the Milton Theatre. Don teaches at Sussex Central Senior High School and lives in Georgetown with his wife, Tara. Don recalls, "When I was younger, Georgetown was much like Grover's Corner because it seemed that everyone knew each other and were concerned for each other."



Charlie Meyer (Simon Stimson) has been active in community theatre since making his stage debut at the age of three. He froze and was carried offstage in tears but a career on the boards was born! He has appeared in and directed numerous productions in Baltimore, North Carolina, and Delaware. Locally, Charlie directed *The Drunkard* and has appeared in *Nuncrackers*, *Bell, Book and Candle* and *You Can't Take It With You*. He is also active with Possum Point's Ad Hoc Touring Company. Charlie and his wife, Sue, reside in Lewes where they provide vacation housing for their six children and seven grandchildren.



Susan Newark (Mrs. Soames, PRODUCER, PROPS) has appeared in several Second Street shows including *Seussical—The Musical*, *Cinderella*, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Miracle Worker*. She also appeared in SSP's 1986 production of *Our Town*. Susan is a member of the SSP Board, serving as secretary and properties chair. In her spare time, she is an RN at Bayhealth Medical Center and owner of Triple M Farms. Susan lives in Staytonville with husband, Jack, and children, Mason and Melanie. Susan says she enjoys living in such a quaint town as Grover's Corners — which is a far cry from her childhood in Detroit!



EJ Panico (Mrs. Gibbs) is thrilled to make her debut on the Riverfront stage and "to be working with such an amazing cast and crew under the wonderful direction of Jeff Haslow." She has been seen in Possum Point's *The Rainmaker*, *A Love Affair*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. EJ and husband, Jay, share their Seaford home "with three lovable canines and we also have two beautiful, brilliant, and talented daughters, Eleanor and Carmeline." EJ says, "*Our Town* speaks to each one of us about the meaningfulness of our lives." She enjoys that "Mrs. Gibbs tries to live each day to the fullest extent possible - truly a wonderful but difficult goal."



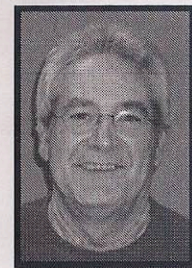
Devin Petka (Rebecca) is a young stage veteran having been seen in SSP's *Seussical — The Musical*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Babes in Toyland*, *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, *The Homecoming*, and *The Sound of Music*. She has participated in Clear Space's Broadway Bound classes for several years, and appeared in their production of *Scrooge!*. When not onstage, Devin enjoys, soccer, art, and hanging out with friends. Until she was five, Devin lived in Odessa where, similar to Grover's Corners, "our neighbors all had a relative living on the same road and everyone knew everyone." She now lives in Lewes with her parents, Vince and Debbie, and sister, Bella.



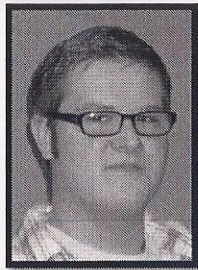
Marsha Shull (Professor Willard) makes her first appearance with Second Street Players but she is very active with Possum Point Players including roles in last year's *Urinetown* and *A Love Affair*, and the Milton Theatre's *You Can't Take It With You*. Marsha has also costumed numerous shows for PPP and, for many years, did costumes for the Ballet Theatre of Dover including *The Nutcracker* and *Speedway Le Corsaire*. She also sings with the Southern Delaware Choral Society and is a member of their Ensemble. Marsha lives near Frankford "with too many cats." She is a women's health nurse practitioner at Pyle Public Health.



Carol Torrey (Mrs. Webb) has been onstage in *Steel Magnolias* (in Oak Ridge, Tennessee) and, more locally, *California Suite*, *The Homecoming*, and *A Love Affair*. "*Our Town* shows us that things haven't really changed in the most basic of ways — love, life, marriage, family death." Carol also recalls that, like her character, Mrs. Webb, she used to string beans and put up vegetables and applesauce for the winter. "But now," she says, "I can't imagine not having a television or computer!" Carol lives in Felton with her brother, Alan (who lives in the basement apartment) and her roommate, Lisa.



Steve Twilley (Editor Webb) returns to the Riverfront stage after recently appearing in Second Street's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Past-president of SSP's Board, Steve is a frequent actor and director with Second Street Players. "Through *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder tells us about ourselves," he says, "by showing us the ordinary things in life that, examined more closely, become extraordinary." Steve has thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with such a talented cast and crew, especially all of those who are new to the Riverfront stage. Steve and his wife, Robin, now share an empty nest in Milford...still with Jake the Blunder Dog.



Joshua Wakeley (George) is a recent graduate of Lake Forest High School where he performed in *Tom Sawyer*, *Lil' Abner*, *Les Miserables*, and *Greater Tuna*. He was the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Wonderland* and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. "Our Town still has great emotional value today," Josh says. "Every person that has ever lived has fallen in love and has suffered." He is a huge theater and film fanatic, and enjoys spending time with friends. "We never know exactly what we're going to do at the moment – but that's half the fun!" Josh lives in Frederica with his parents, Lauri and Scott.



Ben Wilcox (Wally) has appeared in Second Street Players' Children's Theatre productions of *Rumpelstiltskin*, as the Narrator, *Red Vs. the Wolf*, as the axe man, and *Hansel and Gretel*, as Fredrick. "Our Town is a great story about the things we go through in everyday life and I think we can relate to that," Ben says. "But my life is a lot different than the life back then. There were no cars back then and it was more peaceful." Ben lives in Harrington with his parents, Melissa and Ken, and his younger brother, Seth. He is a home schooled eighth grader. When not onstage or playing violin, Ben enjoys bowling and doing things with family and friends.



Jeff Haslow (DIRECTOR) directed last year's *The Miracle Worker* at Riverfront Theatre and has appeared with every theatre company in Sussex County including Second Street Players (in *Seussical—The Musical* and *Arcadia*), the Milton Theatre, Possum Point Players, and Clear Space Productions. "Our Town is written with elegant, simple language and captures universal moments in life that survive the passing of years," Jeff says. "It reminds us to appreciate these moments." He lives in Rehoboth Beach with his partner, Pete, and their yellow lab, Fenway. Jeff is the chief financial officer for the Knowland Group in Lewes.

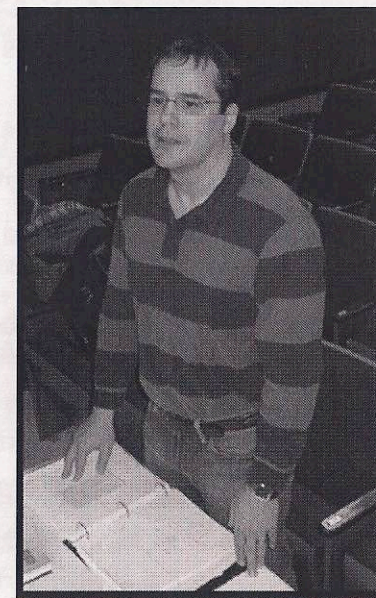


Alaina (Allie) Buchanan (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) also assistant directed Second Street's *Princess and the Pea* and most recently appeared at Riverfront in *Seussical – The Musical*. She has also been seen in *Into the Woods* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "When I say my life revolves around theatre, I mean it," Allie says. "This is what I want to do for the rest of my life." She says, "Everyone goes through life's difficulties and wonders. But you rarely see a play like *Our Town* that puts it all in one." Allie lives in Georgetown with her mother (who is in the show) and her cat, Bear, and dog, Polly. She works at Harrison Senior Living and attends Del Tech.

From the director...

In 1982, I played George in a community theatre production of *Our Town*. Since that time, one of Emily's lines has stayed with me... "Do human beings ever realize life while they live it – every, every minute?"

Our Town reminds us to look at the aspects of our life. It is not about nostalgia, the goodness of life at the turn of the 20th century or what we have gained and lost in society since then. It's about you and me sitting here in the seats of this theatre today, right now. The inhabitants of Grover's Corners are struggling with the same challenges that we are struggling with: daily life, love, marriage and death. It's about what we spend most of our daily lives worrying over and how that's keeping us from recognizing the wonder, the joy, the magnificence, the eternal.

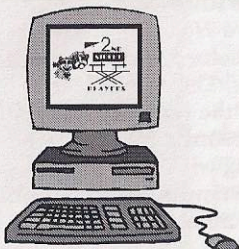


At the end of the day, do we truly appreciate all that we have? Many of us say we couldn't live without Facebook or our iPhone, or a lot of money, or how our career makes us someone or bragging rights for the notable things we do in our free time. So much in our culture begs us to forget, to rise up and be successful, to move fast and keep up. When we go through our lives this way, how much are we going to pass by without noticing? How much richer would our lives be if we took the time to find delight in where we are, in who we are with and in what we have?

Realize life...every, every minute. I hope that this sentiment stays with you when you leave the theatre as it has stayed with me all of these years.

Jeff Haslow

Check us out on the web at
secondstreetplayers.com
 for information about shows, auditions and upcoming special events!



Special Thanks

Abbotts Grill Avenue Methodist Church
 Pete Burson The Knowland Group
 Second Street Players Board of Directors