

Three-Time Award Winning Perform It! Young People's Stage Company

**Spring Play in Full Swing!**

Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

The Perform It! spring production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is scheduled to be performed May 3, 4, 5 and 6 at The Village Players Theater on Glendon Street in Wolfeboro, NH. Director Jan Helling Croteau is more excited than ever by this year's production. "This is going to be our best year ever. We are in full swing as our theater organization expands to add more area artists to our teaching roster."

Peter Ferber, prominent area artist is currently working with 12 students, teaching them set design and painting. "Most everyone in the area knows about Peter's exceptional artwork, but I think what is not known is that Peter is a wonderful teacher. Last year he lent his expertise to our set, and the students were so thrilled to work with him that they asked to have him return."

Greg Lindland, Dan Hyman, and student Nicole Lindland are composing the music for the play. This year will include classical Elizabethan music, and

the three composers have spent hours working on it. Student Kevin Wadlinger will be joining them as one of the guitar players for the show. "This year I have requested madrigals, jigs, and instrumentals that are all of the period," said Jan. "It has been challenging but very exciting to see our two students work with such talented musicians as Dan and Greg."

Stephany Cameron is at the helm of the outstanding costume committee this year. She meets with a team of seamstresses to create the costumes for which Perform It! is famous. They are busy with fun and exciting creations. Light technician Chris Gronski is working with student

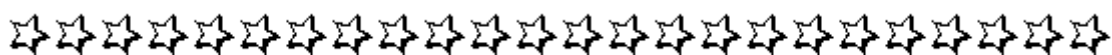
Travis Place this year to design the lighting for the show and to run the light board during performances. Graphic artist Jen Nelson is working on posters and t-shirt art.

Marybeth Wadlinger is once again producer. She is excellent at keeping everyone on track and helping the production to go smoothly. Donna Powell, assistant director for many years, is also in charge of the playbill. "I would not attempt such a huge endeavor without the aid of Marybeth and Donna. They are invaluable!" said Jan. "With the dedication of everyone involved, I envision this show being our greatest performance. The script is strong and very funny, the actors are well-trained, and the talented production team is of the highest caliber. We are indeed fortunate!"



*Peter Ferber brainstorms with students about the set.*

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# Don't Miss *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

## What is the play about?

### *"The tongue that tells the story"*

As the story goes, Queen Elizabeth I made a request to Will Shakespeare to write her a comedy using the beloved character of Sir John Falstaff from his earlier play *Henry IV, Part II*. She wanted to see Falstaff in love. Who wouldn't oblige the queen in 1597? What an honor! The result was *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. According to the legend, Shakespeare wrote it in a fortnight. Yikes!

The story begins when the penniless Falstaff arrives in Windsor looking for a way to pad his money purse. He devises a plan to flirt (seriously flirt) with the wives of the wealthy Master Ford and Master Page to get his hands on their money. He composes a love letter to both wives and sends them with his messenger.

It doesn't take the merry wives long to figure out what Falstaff is up to. The wives play one funny prank after another on the fat, greedy knight. Meanwhile, Anne Page, the beautiful daughter of Mistress and

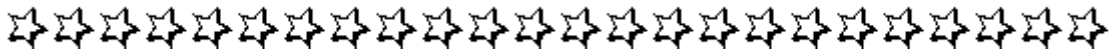
Master Page, is of marriageable age. She has many suitors who fight one another for her hand. Dr. Caius, a Frenchman who butchers the English language in most humorous ways, and Slender, a dim wit as they were called in Elizabethan times, vie for the maiden's attention.

But her heart is set on Fenton, a noble and kind young man. All ends well when the last prank of the play is pulled on Falstaff in the woods beneath an oak tree at midnight. Anne Page gets her man and Falstaff realizes his folly. As for the wives? They are the ones whose wit and wisdom carry the show. In the end they have a good laugh and invite everyone to a party.



**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**  
**at The Village Players Theater**

Tickets are available at *The Country Bookseller* or by calling 569-6401 or by email at [performit@verizon.net](mailto:performit@verizon.net).



## School Performance

Perform It! plans to add a Wednesday morning special performance for area public schools to attend on May 2 at 10:00 at The Village Players Theater. The session will include a full performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with music, dancing, and lively acting. A question and answer period is scheduled right after the performance to give students the chance to interact with our actors.

# Shakespeare in the Community

## After School Program a Big Success

*“This learning mayest thou taste”*

The Perform It! After School Theater Program partnered with Ossipee Central School this past fall. Students from grades four through six learned about acting, costume design, stage make-up, props, skit creation, and theater careers during the ten-week program. The activities ranged from doing stage make-up on each participant to creating costumes out of fabric, capes, vests, long skirts, and leggings. Each student created their own costume for a role of their choice while working on original skits. They painted their faces for specific parts and created props.

At the end of the classes the students took home theater books, which were created by the students and the director during the course. The theater books contain information about all aspects of theater arts, with photographs of the participants designing their own costumes, painting their faces for stage work, and working with props and masks for the various activities. The participants reported that the Perform It! After School Program was not only fun, but that it also taught them a lot about theater arts, Shakespeare, and history. They especially liked the games and hands-on activities. They signed each other's books during the last class, which gave them not only an educational tool to keep, but also a photo album of the work they accomplished.



*Ossipee students experiment with face-painting and costumes*

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## *Our Young Actors Speak*

Megan Hyman

This is my third year in Perform It! I have made new friends and learned a lot about acting and being on stage. It is really a lot of fun being different characters, and this year will be more challenging and fun since I will be playing a boy.

Perform It! has become a big part of my family's life. We are all involved. My younger sister is also in the play. My mom helps with the sewing and my dad is helping with the music. I like being part of Perform It! because everyone is made to feel special.



Megan Hyman as “Espionata”  
in *Much Ado About Nothing*



*“When vantage like a pair of twins appear.”*

## Justin Powell

I’m going to level with you: before I was engaged in Perform It! Young People’s Stage Company, I was a skinny little kid who was rather terrified of the idea of standing on any stage anywhere and saying anything. When my mother divulged that she had signed me and my brothers up for the program, I promptly turned white and tried desperately to reverse her decision. She would not budge; our doom was sealed.

That was several years ago. Since that time, I have participated in three fall workshops, played characters in *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and *The Tempest*, and I’m preparing for this year’s production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Working with the other kids on skits throughout the workshops has taught me how to lead a group towards a common goal by incorporating and utilizing everyone’s ideas. Acting out Shakespeare on stage has given me courage to speak in front of people. Studying the Shakespearean script to unravel my character’s motives can be challenging, but the process has enriched my vocabulary and strengthened my appreciation for the English language.

After my transforming stint as a young actor at Perform It!, I am still a skinny little kid (that is until I

don my costume for Falstaff) but over the past few years I have acquired confidence, communication skills, and a group of friends that will last for a long time to come. Say goodbye to the timid me of yesteryear—I introduce to you the new and improved “Perform It” me. I wrote that without even turning white.



Justin Powell as the Master of Ceremonies  
Talent Show 2006



## Jordan Powell

The Jordan Powell of four years ago was much different than the current one. I remember what I was like back then only too well; I was shy around people, scared of new situations, and terrified of speaking in front of groups. I will not say that I have completely overcome my uneasiness in each of these areas, but my involvement in Perform It! has helped me a great deal.

In 2005, I played the role of Sebastian in Perform It!’s production of *The Tempest*. Sebastian is King Ferdinand’s brother and is jealous of Ferdinand’s kingship. Desiring it for



Jordan Powell performs at  
Talent Show 2006

himself, Sebastian schemes with Antonio, who usurped the dukedom of the main character, Prospero, to kill the king and ascend to the throne. Of all the characters in *The Tempest*, Sebastian is probably one of the ones who is least like me. Let me tell you, it was a challenge to play that role. I was forced to think Sebastian’s thoughts and to understand what drives him. I had to “become” him, even though I didn’t like that he was evil. This is one of the ways that Perform It! has shaped me; it has taught me to consider other people’s points of view.

It’s hard for me to imagine what I would be like, who I would be, without my experiences in Perform It! Either directly, or indirectly, it has helped me to adapt to changes around me, and although I am still not completely unworried about speaking in front of groups (who ever REALLY is?), I am much more comfortable with it than before. Plus, through it I have gained a lot of great friends and a bunch of memories that I will no doubt remember fondly for my entire life. I am extremely grateful that I have been a part of this organization.

# *Where are they now?*

## Alumni Corner

### Abe Powell

*Abe Powell graduated from Perform It! in 2002. He played many roles during his six years with us – most memorably, Nick Bottom from A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Dromio from The Comedy of Errors, and Mercutio in Romeo & Juliet. Abe now teaches English in China.*

During Easter vacation my senior year at Grove City College, I was driving through Worcester, MA on my way home to New Hampshire. The sun was setting and its rays bathed the city in golden light. And I realized that the world was about to open to me like never before! I realized I could follow the sun and see all the places it shines upon. Well, I followed the sun to China! I’ve been teaching conversational English to university students for the last five months. I love working with people—part of the reason I love drama—and teaching is no different. It is tremendously rewarding to enrich the knowledge of others.

The correlation between teaching and drama is, of course, working with people. Teaching requires perception into how and what your students need to learn. Drama requires perception to make a character in a script come alive on stage. These two types of perception are similar. They require the teacher or actor to be able to read people and understand them on a deep level. The deeper the level of perception, the better teacher or actor one can become. The experiences and joys of drama certainly aid my teaching and give me a deeper respect for my students.

Not only has my Perform It! experience helped me with my teaching, but it also has helped me in more sublime ways. I have a comfortableness with myself which blossomed while working in such wonderful camaraderie with the Perform It! crew. Also, acting gives you a level of confidence that is sorely lacking in today’s society. I’m not talking about arrogance. I’m talking about a confidence that when you are given a task, even a difficult one, you have the ability to see it through.

Teaching isn’t the only thing I’ve been up to. I’m using my free time to learn the language and culture of China. Traveling occupies my teaching holidays. Last October I went to the deserts of northwest China and had a great time hiking up sand dunes! Over the winter break I traveled to Thailand.

Staring out at a sunset on the Yellow River the other day made me think back to my car ride through Massachusetts. Here again I stared at a city bathed in golden light. But I am on the other side of the world!



*Abe Powell at the Great Wall of China*

## **The Perform It! Web-site**

Log onto our new website at [www.PerformItStageCompany.org](http://www.PerformItStageCompany.org). Let us know what you think!

# *“With our mouth full of news”*

## **Christmas Fund Raiser our Most Successful to Date**

The Christmas Wreath fundraiser this past December was our most successful ever. We spent a fun afternoon decorating wreaths and sold over 200 of them. The students were excited by the possibility of topping last year’s record, and they did by over a thousand dollars. Thanks to all our loyal supporters!

## **Talent Show 2006**



To culminate the Yearlong classes and to celebrate the holidays before starting our spring production, we had our annual December Talent Show. This year was especially entertaining. The talent ranged from songs and dances to a unicycle routine. There were several humorous skits, musical works, a ballet, and even a karate demonstration. Students put together costumes, wrote comedy skits, memorized soliloquies, and composed and performed music. The participants had a great time sharing their many talents with a full audience of family and friends, and everyone had a great time cheering on their favorite performers!

After the show the students were individually commended for their unique contributions to the group during the fall classes for the Yearlong Program. Everyone left with high expectations for the coming spring production.

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Perform It! is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation helps Perform It! use the works of William Shakespeare to provide theater projects that build bridges between people of all ages in our community.

## **I WOULD LIKE TO HELP PERFORM IT!**

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Your **tax-deductible** donations can be made to:

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P. O. Box 2093  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5067