Twelfth Night **(l-r): Sir Toby Belch (Steven Biggs), Maria (Christine Drayer), Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Michael Littman), and Feste the Fool (Dan Jacoby)**

Shakespeare A Hit In Andover

By Morris Edwards
NorthEast Shakespeare Ensemble

Broadway came to Andover this summer with the production of *Twelfth Night,* one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, at Proctor Academy's Norris Family Theatre. *Twelfth Night* was the inaugural production of the NorthEast Shakespeare Ensemble (NESE), a non-profit professional theater company formed to bring quality classic theater to our community each summer.

With the great success of its first season, NESE feels it has planted the seed to make summer Shakespeare a respected and valued addition to the already rich cultural life of our community.

NESE hopes that summer classic theater will foster a "win-win" relationship whereby NESE would enjoy the strong support of local residents, who, in turn, would take pride in hosting such a prestigious event.

Our community also benefits from a boost to the local economy and our ability to experience quality theater without having to travel to Boston, New York, or Montreal.

Our community has already benefited from the publicity surrounding NESE's production of *Twelfth Night,* which brought a great deal of visibility to Andover and Proctor Academy's state-of-the-art theater. The theater received favorable mention in articles on the production in the *Concord Monitor* and all the local daily and weekly newspapers.

Local Talents

Two of Proctor Academy's faculty – Terry Stoecker, Director of Drama, and Michael Littman, Chair of the Fine Arts Department – had significant roles in the comedy.

Terry played the shipwrecked Viola. Before coming to Proctor, Terry was Co-artistic Director the North Country Center for the Arts Children's Theatre Touring Company, where she played such roles as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Before moving to New Hampshire, she appeared with Boston's award-winning theatre company, The Cambridge Ensemble, and the New Erhlich Theatre Conservatory and Studio.

As the foppish Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Michael Littman drew some of the biggest laughs. Michael has a wealth of Shakespearean experience, having appeared at the Champlain and Illinois Shakespeare Festivals. However, his experience directing and teaching for the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Clown College also came in handy for portraying the comedic antics of his character.

Twelfth Night also showcased the talents of two local designers of international renown: costume designer Robina D'Arcy-Fox, who owns Fancy Felix Theatrical in White River Junction, and set designer James Schuyer Wassell, who is the Creative Director of the Rock Maple Studio in Sunapee.

Community Outreach

As part of its community outreach this past summer, NESE distributed numerous complimentary tickets to *Twelfth Night* to interested students through libraries in area towns including Newport, Plymouth, Concord, Henniker, and Hanover.

Shakespeare is being read and performed by young students at Andover Elementary/Middle School. Twice in recent years, fourth-grade teacher Molly Kidane has turned to Shakespeare to challenge a gifted class, having one class read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a second one read *Twelfth Night*. Molly says the students picked up the language very quickly and really enjoyed the plays.

For next season, NESE plans to expand its educational outreach to the libraries and local schools so that more youngsters can enjoy Shakespeare's timeless wit, wisdom, and humor. NESE also plans courses, seminars, and reading programs in schools and local book clubs.

Kearsarge Community Band Wraps Up A Successful Season

By Nola Aldrich
Kearsarge Community Band

The Kearsarge Community Band traces its roots back to the New London Union Band formed in 1839 and to the New London Cornet Band reorganized in 1911 and disbanded in 1941.

In the spring of 1991 Colonel (Retired) John Baum became the present day Band's founder. He, along with 10 musicians, established the Kearsarge Community Band to promote music education and to provide "good community musical entertainment."

Over the years, our music library has increased from one high school march book to over 100 compositions such as show tunes, pop songs, light classical selections, and marches in "Making Music For The Fun Of It."

Rehearsals

The Band rehearses from early March until mid-November on Tuesday evenings from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. in the Kearsarge Middle School music room in New London. Our concert season begins in mid-June with performances in Andover's July 4th Parade, Wilmot's Old Home Day, New London's Summer Concert Series at the Haddad Bandstand, and the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen.

Dr. Earl Lord, Director of the Kearsarge Community Band and the Hopkinton Town Band, is an award-winning conductor and music educator. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Administration. Earl has conducted All-State and All-Region bands in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Canada. He has received the National John Phillip Sousa Award for Outstanding Music Educator. His past endeavors have included operating a music store, composing, arranging, and directing the Temple Shrine Band in Bangor, Maine.

Membership information may be obtained from either Lori Cox, Band Manager/President, at 735-4044 or from Nola Aldrich, Secretary/Publicity Chairperson, at 526-2942. Performance bookings for 2005 may be arranged by contacting Dave Cook, Scheduler at 526-9057. We invite high school/college students, summer and year-round residents, and retirees to participate in a noteworthy community concert band.

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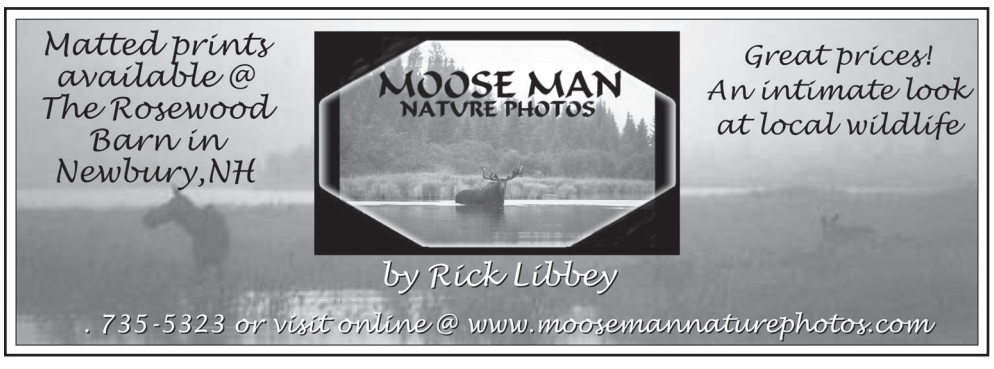
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