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# PATCHOQUE THEATER

*for the*

# PERFORMING ARTS

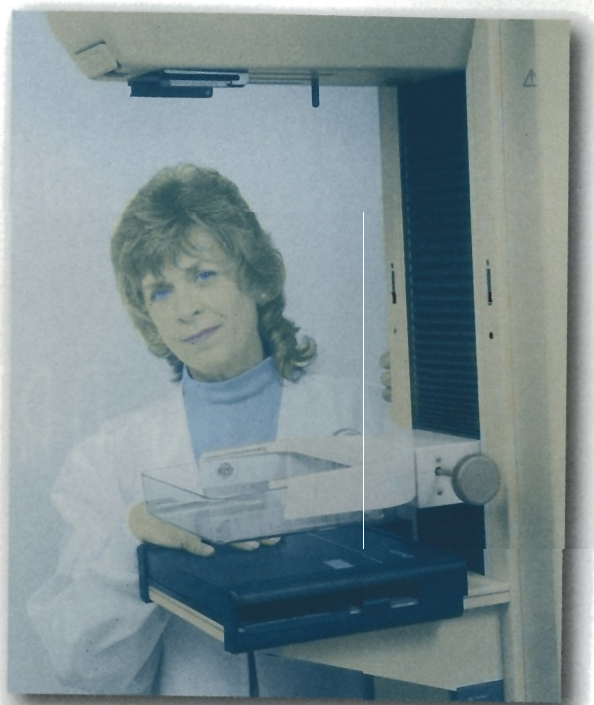


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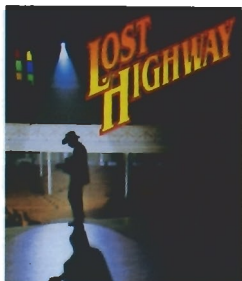
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# OUR 1999 FALL - WINTER SEASON



**November 3**

## **LOST HIGHWAY** "The Music and Legend of Hank Williams"

Straight from its National Tour, JASON PETTY gives a hauntingly authentic performance as Hank Williams, in this musical biography/revue of the country music legend. Though idolized by his fans, he was incredibly lonely. On the scene for only six years, Williams made an indelible mark on country music with such hits as "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry", "Hey Good Lookin'" and "Honky Tonk Blues".

**November 9**

## Neil Simon's **LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS**

Starring GARY BURGHOFF, "Radar" from TV's M\*A\*S\*H

A special one night engagement! Neil Simon, America's funniest playwright brings us the hilarious story of a mild-mannered, middle-aged man who yearns for one big fling. Emmy award winner Gary Burghoff stars as Barney Cashman, a decent fellow who just can't succeed in sinning. One of Neil Simon's best!



**November 17 - 28**

## **THE WIZARD OF OZ**

Join us for this family classic, live on stage. Relive the adventures of Dorothy and her dog Toto as they travel the Yellow Brick Road with the Tinman, Scarecrow and Cowardly Lion. Along the way they meet other characters of Oz like the Wicked Witch of the West and, of course, the Wizard. A musical treat for the entire family.

**THE WIZARD OF OZ**



**December 8-19**

## **HERE'S LOVE** The "Miracle On 34th Street" Musical

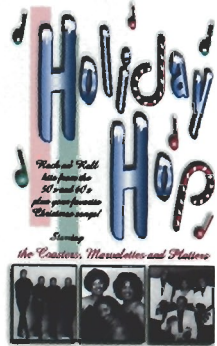
When we think of the Holiday Season how can we not conjure up one of our most memorable childhood movie images, Santa Claus on trial! *Miracle on 34th Street*, the classic film, is now brought to the stage. A great story of faith and hope, accompanied by a tuneful score by Meredith Wilson, composer of "The Music Man." It had The Associated Press raving, "A happy, happy show for everybody. A shiny package of music and mirth."



**December 20 & 21**

## **HOLIDAY HOP!**

Hop back in time and listen to the music that helped define rock and roll and doo-wop of the 50's and early 60's. Join us for this unforgettable Christmas concert and hear "Please Mr. Postman", "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" and "Poison Ivy" as The Platters, The Coasters and The Marvelettes sing their biggest hits and your favorite holiday songs. For two nights only!



**December 28 - January 1**  
**TWIST AND SHOUT!**

Spend your New Year's Eve with us and relive the music and excitement of the Beatles. A special multi-media presentation with live music of the Fab-Four brings in the new millennium with a bang! Call for details of our special New Year's Eve celebration!



All performances at The Patchogue Theater for the Performing Arts  
For tickets call **516-286-1133**

## From The Producers

Welcome to the new Patchogue Theater! We are very excited to be here in the Village of Patchogue and to be involved in the renovation of this beautiful and historic building. We will, however, still be operating Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, which will celebrate its 50th birthday next season. By utilizing both theatres, we feel we will be able to bring you the best in diverse, theatrical entertainment.

Producing here at Patchogue Theater allows us to offer you a wide range of entertainment year round. We can accommodate touring shows that are too large for our Theater in Bellport, as well as shows featuring big name performers which the Patchogue Theater's 1250 seat capacity allows us to afford. In Bellport we will continue to produce the high quality shows you've become accustomed to in the spring and summer months.

We are very excited by our line-up through the end of the year. For Halloween, we are pleased to present John Astin, of The Addams Family television series, in *Once Upon A Midnight*, a one-man show about the life of writer Edgar Allan Poe. On November 3, we bring you *Lost Highway: The Music And Legend Of Hank Williams* straight from its national tour. On November 9, Gary Burghoff, "Radar" from TV's M\*A\*S\*H will star in Neil Simon's hilarious play, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

Kids of all ages will love *The Wizard Of Oz*, a Gateway Playhouse production at Patchogue Theater from November 17-28 featuring real flying witches and flying monkeys. Most schools are closed for Thanksgiving Recess so we have scheduled extra matinees for your family.

Over the Christmas holidays *Here's Love, The "Miracle on 34th Street" Musical*, based on the classic movie starring Natalie Wood, will be performed December 8-19. We are also excited to bring to you *Holiday Hop!*, a concert featuring three of your favorite groups from early Rock and Roll and Doo-Wop. For two nights only on December 20 & 21, The Coasters, The Platters and The Marvelettes will be singing all their hits and their favorite Christmas songs.

Finally, ring in the Millennium with us as we present *Twist And Shout* from December 28 - January 1. This is a special multi-media presentation recreating the music and excitement of the Beatles - and a special New Year's Eve package is planned!

Thanks again for joining us in the excitement of opening this wonderful new theater. We look forward to bringing you more exciting and unique theatrical and concert experiences throughout the year 2000. Keep a lookout for the announcement of our Spring season here in Patchogue and for our 50th Anniversary Season at Gateway Playhouse in Bellport. Enjoy the show!

Paul Allan and John Hodge

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**BANJO PRODUCTIONS**

*presentation of*

**JOHN ASTIN**

*in*

*Edgar Allan Poe*  
*— Once upon a midnight*

*A Play by Paul Day Clemens and Ron Magid*

*Directed by Alan Bergmann*

*Scenery, Props & Projections by John Boesche*

*Lighting by Jason R. Beghtol*

*Sound Design by Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen*

*Original Music by Ian Freebairn-Smith*

*Production Stage Manager - Brian L'Ecuyer*



**THE TIME**

**Now and Then**

**ACT ONE**

**The Thunder and the Storm**

*There will be one fifteen minute intermission*

**ACT TWO**

**The Haunted Palace**

## JOHN ASTIN

Mr. Astin has performed *Edgar Allan Poe—Once upon a midnight* to critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences in sit-down runs in several U.S. cities. This is his first tour of the play, which he hopes will help to enhance and deepen interest in and respect for Poe's brilliance and versatility. Astin said recently, "I feel that Poe, through his own tortured existence, gained deep insight into the nature of the universe, along with an intense love and appreciation for life itself. Through this play I want to share that impression with others."

Mr. Astin is, of course, best known as Gomez Addams, television's lovable, slightly crazed patriarch of the original *Addams Family* series, the myriad repeats of which have led to the frequent reference to Mr. Astin as a "pop-culture icon." Gomez remains one of his favorite TV characterizations, along with Buddy Ryan in *Night Court* and the title role in *Evil Roy Slade*.

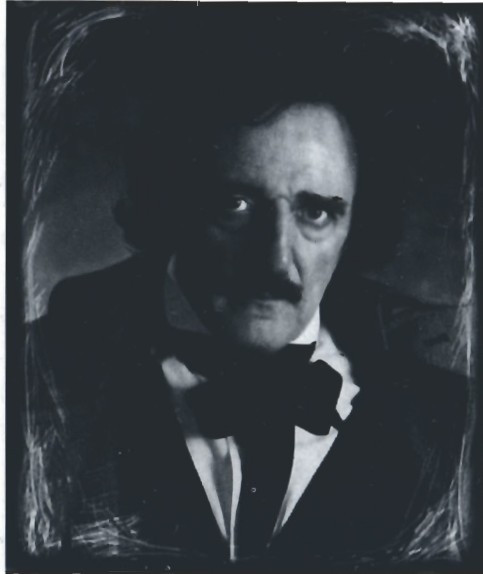
Mr. Astin's early training was in Shakespeare and other classical dramatists. He appeared in the original New York companies of *The Threepenny Opera*, James Joyce's *Ulysses in Nighttown*, and Charles Laughton's memorable production of Shaw's *Major Barbara*. Other stage favorites include Fagin in *Oliver!*, Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*, Sir Joseph in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (his most recent NY appearance), Henry Saunders in Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me a Tenor* and a highly praised characterization of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*.

Among Mr. Astin's films are *West Side Story*, *That Touch of Mink* with Doris Day and Cary Grant, *The Wheeler Dealers*, *Move Over Darling*, *Candy*, *Viva Max*, *Pepper*, *Get to Know Your Rabbit*, *The Brothers O'Toole*, and *Freaky Friday*, *European Vacation*, *Nightlife*, *Gremlins II*,

*Stepmonster*, *Huck & the King of Hearts*, Peter Jackson's *The Frighteners*, and *Betaville*, (to be released in 1999) an adventure in the 21st century in which he portrays the President of the United States.

Mr. Astin received an Academy Award nomination for *Prelude*, a short film which he wrote, produced, and directed. He was nominated for an Ace Award for his work on *Tales From the Crypt*, and received an Emmy nomination for the cartoon voice of Gomez on ABC-TV's *The Addams Family*. His voice is popular on radio and in animation series. Mr. Astin served for four years on the Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America West and is active in community affairs in Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

Mr. Astin was born in Baltimore and grew up in Washington, D. C. He received a degree in Drama from Johns Hopkins University and did his graduate work in English literature at the University of Minnesota. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife Valerie and is the father of five sons and one two-year-old granddaughter of whom he is intensely proud.



## Edgar Allan Poe —Once upon a midnight

ALAN BERGMANN (*Director*) An Obie-Award winning actor, he played the title roles in *Luther* (National Co.), *Macbeth* (Stratford), and *Danton's Death* (Lincoln Center) among many Broadway shows. He began his directing career on television shows such as *Barney Miller*, *Family Ties*, *Archie Bunker*, and *Night Court*. He also directed a pilot for Warner Bros. entitled *Dad*, starring Martin Short. On stage, he directed Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, which won the LA Critics Award and *How Do You Live with Love*, the biggest hit in Theatre West's history. He recently directed *Dream Girl* at Room for Theatre, winning "Revival of the Year" from LA Weekly. Mr. Bergmann also directed and produced a short dramatic film based on Eudora Welty's story, *The Hitch-Hikers*, which won prizes at the New York, Chicago, and Dallas Film Festivals. Returning to acting, he played a major role in the feature film *Turbulence* and is currently on stage in Los Angeles, starring in *Elephant Sighs*.

PAUL DAY CLEMENS (*Playwright*) is co-author of *The Actor's Book of Improvisation* and has written several screenplays with longtime friend and collaborator Ron Magid. As an actor, he starred in the highly acclaimed television movie *A Death in Canaan*, and guest-starred in numerous television series. His film work includes co-starring

"Poe's genius has conquered a special recognition for itself, and I too have come to fully admit it, and appreciate it and him."

-Walt Whitman

roles in *Promises in the Dark* with Marsha Mason and *The Passage* with Anthony Quinn and James Mason; and the leading role in the cult favorite *The Beast Within*. His most recent film work includes the leading role in *Daybreak*, an upcoming independent feature film. Mr. Clemens, a Poe scholar, appeared in a recent A & E Biography episode, *The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe*, which also featured his own artwork. More than 20 years of passionate research into the life and works of Poe has culminated in the creation of *Once Upon A Midnight*.

"Where was the detective story until Poe breathed the breath of life into it?"

-Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

RON MAGID (*Playwright*) This evening is the result of a lifelong love for the stories and poems of E. A. Poe. But history has often provided the richest vein for Ron's theatrical talents. His first play, *Dracula Tyrannus - the Tragical History of Vlad the Impaler*, won the Mrs. Anne Radcliffe Award for its original production at the Globe Playhouse. Ron is currently working on *Poison Play*, an examination of love, corruption and witchcraft in the court of Louis XIV. With Paul Day Clemens, he wrote *Dominion*, an action-adventure screenplay; *The Manager*, a psycho-comedy; and the supernatural thriller, *Angels of Mercy*. He also wrote "The Butcher" episode of *Friday the 13th - The Series*. Ron serves as Special Effects Editor for *American Cinematographer*, and *Cinescape* magazines, and is currently writing *Movie Magic* episodes for The Discovery Channel.

"Poe, the Marvelous lord of rhythmic expression."

-Oscar Wilde

JOHN BOESCHE (*Scenery and Projections*) is a former instructor of holography, laser sculpture and laser imaging at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His designs for theater include scenery and projections for *Tannhauser* at Austin Lyric Opera, live video projections for the world premiere of John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer*, projected scenery for the Lyric Opera of Chicago productions of *Tannhauser* and *The Voyage of Edgar Allan Poe*, and projections for the world premiere of Dominic Argento's *Valentino* at Washington Opera. He designed projections for Emily Mann's *Greensboro* at the McCarter Theater, *Henry IV*, directed by Joanne Akalitis, at the New York Shakespeare Festival, *On the Open Road*, directed by Robert Falk at the Goodman Theater, *Slaughterhouse Five*, adapted and directed by Eric Simonsen at Steppenwolf Theatre, and *Libra*, adapted and directed by John Malkovich, at Steppenwolf Theatre, and the 50th anniversary production of *The Glass Menagerie* at Broadway's Roundabout Theatre.

JASON R. BEGHTOL (*Lighting Designer*) Mr. Beghtol was a Technical Theatre major at Fullerton College, and has worked as a Technical Director, audio and lighting designer, electrician, follow spot operator, rigging supervisor, and as a Stage and Set Construction consultant. He was Tech Director for the *Dancing Waters* show at the Disneyland Hotel, for The Pearson Park Amphitheater and for *Medieval Times*, Buena Park, California. He did the audio system and lighting design and installation for *Life and Times-Old West Dinner Shows* in Kanab, Utah.

ROB MILBURN and MICHAEL BODEEN (*Sound Designers*) have been creating music and sound for twenty years. From 1977 through 1984, Rob and Michael composed and performed with their band, Fugue, including the score for Chicago's Remains Theatre production of *Tooth of Crime* (Jeff Award-Original Music). Music collaborations include: *My Thing of Love* on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theatre; *From The Mississippi Delta* off-Broadway at circle in the Square-Downtown; *All The Rage* and *Black Snow* (Jeff Award-Original Music) at the Goodman Theatre; *Slays!*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *Time To Burn* and sound design for *A Clockwork Orange* (Jeff Award-Sound Design) at Steppenwolf Theatre. Michael and Rob also create music and sound for CD-ROM titles and film.

"Poe is the prince of American literature."

-Victor Hugo

IAN FREEBAIRN-SMITH (*Original Music*) has arranged and conducted for Lou Rawls, Liza Minelli, Frankie Avalon, Connie Stevens, Stephen Bishop, The Four Freshmen, and others. He received a Grammy Award for best arrangement accompanying a vocalist on Barbara Streisand's "Evergreen." Film composing and orchestrating credits include *The Muppet Movie*, *A Star Is Born*, and *M\*A\*S\*H*. TV composing credits include *Magnum, P.I.*, *Fame*, *Cagney and Lacey*, and *Airwolf*. Freebairn-Smith's cello quartet, "Toward the Light," was recently performed in Los Angeles, and he conducted his suite for string orchestra, "The River Dialogs," at the Music Center last year. He can also be heard as a classical music announcer on KKGO in Los Angeles and KKHI in San Francisco.

BRIAN J. L'ECUYER (*Production Stage Manager*) has stage managed numerous productions throughout California, including: *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Seagull*, *Charley's Aunt*, *What the Butler Saw* (w/ Michael Learned), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Talented Tenth* (w/Robert Guillaume), *Hamlet*, *Assassins*, and *FOLLIES*. He has also served as Production Manager for Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills on: *Mornings at Seven*; *2*; *The Diviners*; *The Sisters Rosensweig*; *Fences*; *Lady and the Clarinet*; *Arms and the Man*; *Trumpets* and *Table Tipping*. Brian has also functioned on several film crews including the upcoming films: *Love and Basketball*, *Man on the Moon*, and *Steppin' on the Cracks*. He is happy to be working with Mr. Astin on *Edgar Allan Poe-Once upon a midnight*.

For Banjo Productions (Banjo Films, Ltd.): Valerie Astin, Company Manager

Web site for Edgar Allan Poe-Once upon a midnight: <http://www.astin-poe.com>

For booking information on *Edgar Allan Poe-Once upon a midnight* contact:

Mainstage Management  
540-592-9573

"America has been found out; and Poe has not; that is the situation. How did he live there, this finest of fine artists, this born aristocrat of letters? Alas! he did not live there: he died there, and was duly explained away as a drunkard and a failure...He was the greatest journalistic critic of his time...His poetry is exquisitely refined...In his stories of mystery and imagination Poe created a world record for the English language: perhaps for all languages...unparalleled and unapproached... Poe constantly and inevitably produced magic where his greatest contemporaries produced only beauty... There is really nothing to be said about it; we others simply take off our hats and let Mr. Poe go first."

-George Bernard Shaw

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# The History of

# PATCHOGUE THEATER

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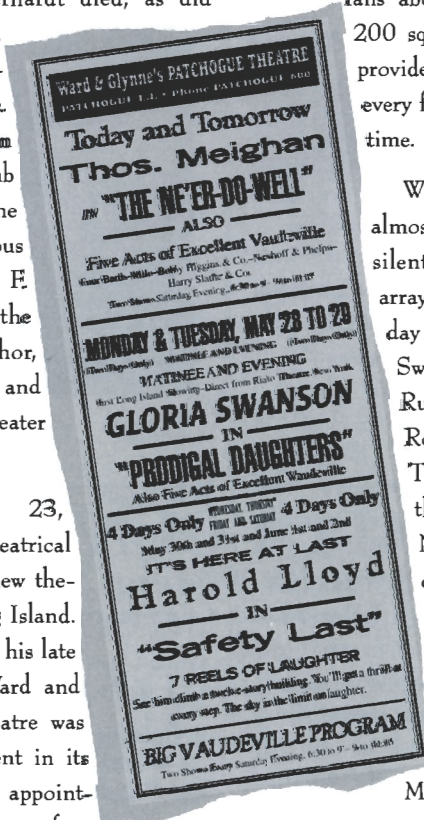
# PERFORMING ARTS

The Great War had ended less than five years before, and postwar depression had given way to an atmosphere of prosperity. Singer Hank Williams was born, actress Sarah Bernhardt died, as did President Warren G. Harding who was succeeded by Calvin Coolidge. Howard Carter was in Egypt, excavating the tomb of Tutankhamen, which he had discovered the previous November. It was 1923. F. Scott Fitzgerald was the most popular author, Flappers were in fashion, and in Patchogue, a new theater was born.

On Wednesday, May 23, 1923 Mike Glynne, a theatrical entrepreneur, opened a new theater to rival any on Long Island. Named after himself and his late partner Joseph Ward, Ward and Glynne's Patchogue Theatre was "palatial" and "magnificent in its interior decorations and appointments." It boasted a state-of-

the-art geothermal air cooling system "whereby cool, fresh air will be rushed into the theater from the floor line by fan drivers and sucked out at the ceiling line by four, seven foot typhoon fans above the ceiling." With over 200 square feet of ventilators this provided a complete change of air every five minutes. A marvel for its time.

With a seating capacity of almost 1500, the theater showed silent movies with a glittering array of the biggest stars of the day including Pola Negri, Gloria Swanson, Betty Compson, Rudolf Valentino, Buddy Rogers and all the Barrymores. Thomas Meighan, the star of the opening night movie "The Ne'er Do Well" attended the opening of the theater along with Charles Scwab, a friend and supporter of Mr. Glynne's. The theater also attracted the best acts of vaudeville. Hand picked by Mr. Glynne were such acts as John Phillip Sousa, Paul



Opening Weekend Bill in 1923

Whiteman, and Eddie Foy and the Seven Little Foys. But by the 1930's vaudeville was dead. People now wanted to see the "talkies" which were being churned out of Hollywood at an incredible rate. The Ward and Glynne became strictly a movie palace.

In 1929 the theatre was sold to Prudential Theatre Circuit and it remained a movie theater for the next forty plus years, but time was not kind. In 1958 a fire destroyed the lobby and it was rebuilt along smaller lines and several store fronts were added to the front of the building. In 1980 United Artists bought the building. Multiplexes were the rage, and the Patchogue Theater was split into a triplex, destroying its interior. Plaster columns were smashed, sheetrock and wallpaper were installed, and ceilings were dropped. Unfortunately, the theater failed a few years later and stood empty, forlorn and derelict until last year.

In 1997 the Patchogue Village Board, headed by Mayor Steve Keegan, bought the theater and applied for grants to renovate and restore the building to its former glory. A new lobby was designed by New York Design Studios featuring a mahogany bar and Art Deco style bathrooms. Meanwhile, Mayor Keegan approached Gateway Playhouse producers Paul Allan and John Hodge about the project and they came on board as theatrical consultants.

Since the Village envisioned a Performing Arts Center, construction was begun to address modern theatrical requirements. The building was repointed and brick walkways to the parking lot were built. 2500 feet of conduit were installed beneath the floor to bring 2000 amps into the building. 60,000 pounds of steel were installed on the stage to be able to support up to 17 tons of lighting and scenery in the air. The building had to be reinforced to accommodate this and supporting columns were installed. 1000 period seats were obtained from Manhattan's Imperial Theater.

In the winter of 1998, following the completion of the new grid and fly system, Gateway produced a holiday show, *Nutcracker On Ice*. The show was a resounding success. Meanwhile, Gateway Playhouse producers Paul

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Loges.....50c

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Loges.....99c


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Loges.....99c

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Loges.....33c  
EVENING- Adults.....33c  
Children.....20c  
Loges.....65c

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Admission prices in 1923



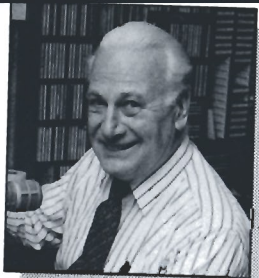


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THEATER HISTORY Continued...

Allan and John Hodge were looking for a second venue in addition to their Bellport playhouse in order to expand their business to a year round operation. Recognizing the potential of the new theater, Allan and Hodge submitted a bid to become the operators of the venue. This summer their bid was accepted and Gateway was selected to run the theater for the Village on a five-year lease.

In August of this year the next phase of construction began. Chet Mitrani a fourth generation plasterer from Center Moriches, restored and repaired the plaster work on the auditorium walls, tapestry wall fabric was installed and an antique chandelier obtained from California. The seats were repaired, repainted and recovered. A 5,000 square foot addition was built to accommodate extended wing space for larger, modern sets and new dressing rooms.

The renovation is ongoing; plaster still needs to be painted and gilded, and the dressing rooms need to be completed, but the former Ward And Glynne Theater is once again the jewel of downtown Patchogue.

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## LITERARY SOURCES

Below is a partial listing of Edgar Allan Poe's writings quoted in the play:

### POEMS:

- A Dream Within a Dream
- Alone
- Annabel Lee
- El Dorado
- For Annie
- Introduction
- The Conqueror Worm
- The Haunted Palace
- The Raven
- The Sleeper
- To Helen
- To One in Paradise
- Ulalume

- Eleanora
- Ligeia
- Morella

- MS. Found in a Bottle
- The Assigination
- The Black Cat
- The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar
- The Fall of the House of Usher
- The Gold Bug
- The Imp of the Perverse
- The Man of the Crowd
- The Masque of the Red Death
- The Murders in the Rue Morgue
- The Pit and the Pendulum
- The Power of Words
- The Premature Burial
- The Purloined Letter
- The Tell-Tale Heart
- William Wilson

### STORIES:

- A Cask of Amontillado
- A Descent into the Maelstrom
- Berenice

### OTHER WORKS:

Eureka: A Prose Poem, Diddling Considered as One of the Exact Sciences, The Balloon-Hoax, The Philosophy of Composition, The Poetic Principle, The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket, and Poe's Marginalia, Critical Essays and Letters (major sources.)

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Production Manager .....	Kristin Hassett
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Technical Director .....	Brodie Alan Steele
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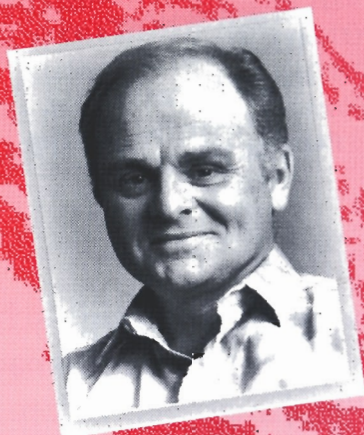
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