



ANNISQUAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

2015 SEASON NEWSLETTER

Dear AVP Family:

This summer Annisquam will be transformed in both time and place, back to England and the middle ages, to a time of knights in shining armor and ladies in waiting/damsels in distress, dungeons and dragons, to the glorious time of the mythical King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, to one of the most popular musicals of all times, CAMELOT. Lerner and Loewe's Camelot opened on Broadway in 1960 with a star cast of Richard Burton as Arthur, Julie Andrews as Guenevere, and Robert Goulet as Lancelot. This was the Kennedy era in Washington, D.C., and the musical was John Kennedy's favorite. And no wonder — John Kennedy was classmates at Harvard with T.H. White, author of *The Once and Future King*, which tells the legend of King Arthur, and Alan Jay Lerner, author of the book and lyrics for Camelot. Since Kennedy's assassination in 1963, the show has been wed to the Kennedy era. It has twice been revived on Broadway, and is particularly relevant now, as we just commemorated the 50th anniversary of the assassination of JFK. The lasting appeal of the Arthur legend is apparent in the plethora of current TV shows and movies that mirror this era — e.g. *Lord of the Rings* and *Game of Thrones*. The show boasts some of the greatest songs of all musical theater — “Camelot,” “The Lusty Month of May,” “How to Handle a Woman,” and “If Ever I Would Leave You” (arguably the most beautiful love song in musical theater).

This show brings fabulous roles for all ages. For men and teens, of course, there is the mythical King Arthur and the handsome but egotistical Lancelot (who would be classified as “hot” by today's youth), the magician Merlyn,

Arthur's illegitimate and evil son Mordred, the comical knight Pellinore, and many macho Knights of the Round

Camelot

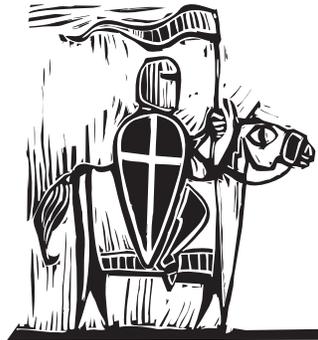


Table (who sing the show-stopping “Fie on Goodness”). For women and teens, there is Queen Guenevere, the beautiful sea nymph Nimue (with a soaring, soprano voice), the fairy queen Morgan Le Fey and her

diabolical teen entourage, Lady Anne, Lady Catherine and Lady Sybil (leaders of Guenevere's ladies in waiting) and many damsels in distress. In this age of chivalry, fantasy and magic, there are many teen parts for both genders, as well as major dancing roles. For children, we are converting one of the show-stopping songs (“What Do the Simple Folks Do”) to a children's scene, and of course there

is young Tom, who gets knighted at the end of the show. We are looking for two people proficient in fencing for a famous dueling scene, and ideas for the infamous jousting scene between Lancelot and the knights.

The auditions are on Sunday, May 24, at 6 PM at the Annisquam Village Hall, with callbacks on Monday, May 25, at 7 PM. Children should prepare “The Lusty Month of May.” Adults should prepare any song from the show. There will be a dance audition as well for both men and women. We are also looking for creative people to help with challenging medieval costumes and sets (not only the castle but also an enchanted forest). This is a show for all ages, and we want your ideas. Rehearsals will start the middle of June, and the show runs Tuesday, August 4, through Sunday, August 9. The AVP will produce a musical float in the Gloucester Horribles Parade on July 3. For additional information, please visit our website at “annisquamvillage-players.org,” and follow us on Facebook.

Calling All Kids

Never heard of Camelot? Think it's some boring play for grown ups? Think again! Even if you have never heard the story of Camelot, you are probably familiar with its legendary characters, such as King Arthur, Lancelot, Queen Guenevere, and the magician Merlyn. These are just some of the exciting parts in this summer's play. Better yet, with the exception of King Arthur and Lancelot, teens can audition for any role. And there will be a special scene for younger children that involves singing and dancing, as well as whistling.

Teen boys can audition to be Knights of the Round Table, who wear suits of armor, battle with swords, and even joust. There are also pages, heralds, and squires (assistants to the knights), many with lines. While Guenevere is a challenging role that requires an experienced actor with a trained singing voice, it is open to older teens. And her Ladies in Waiting are speaking roles available to teen girls, as well. Several of the Ladies will lead one of the show-stopping songs, "The Lusty Month of May." There is also



the sea nymph, Nimue, who sings an enchanting song, and Morgan Le Fey, who lives in an invisible castle in the forest, with a court of strange and startling creatures, who dance the forest to life when she appears. Finally, the chorus that wraps up the story at the end of the show involves solo singing parts. Younger children will play town folk in a lively scene, singing the song "What Do the Simple Folk Do?" There is also a feature role at the end of the play, Tom of Warwick, for a boy age 8–14. So come to auditions on May 24, and join in the magic of Camelot.

Putting on a show like Camelot will require a serious commitment from everyone involved, including children in the cast and their families. Parents, please note that if your child is in the show, you will be expected to volunteer in some capacity. In past years, parent volunteers have taken on a wide range of roles, from props and sets to costumes and chaperoning. No matter what your talent or area of expertise, your help will be needed to make the show a success. Listen for an announcement at auditions regarding expectations and volunteer opportunities for parents.

Camelot Q and A

Q: I've never seen Camelot, but I've heard it's about a bunch of knights. It doesn't sound like something I want to be in.

A: That's not really a question.

Q: Ok then... why should I try out for Camelot?

A: Have you ever seen *Game of Thrones*? How about *Lord of the Rings*? Camelot is exactly the same thing, only with more singing and dancing. It's about how King Arthur tries to hold onto his power, his love, and his honor, despite all of his enemies, and even some of his friends, trying to take these things away from him. He's like Ned Stark in *Game of Thrones*.

Q: Yeah, but (spoiler alert) didn't Ned Stark get his head chopped off at the end of season one?

A: My point exactly. Of course, I can't tell you what happens to King Arthur's head, but there sure is a lot of action.... Sword fights, jousting, you name it. Also, there's his wife Guenevere, who goes off with one of King Arthur's most trusted knights, Lancelot. When their affair is discovered, King Arthur has to decide whether to punish them and be true to Camelot, or to let them go and be true to his heart. I get chills just writing that. Plus you've got all the supernatural elements...like Merlyn, who lives in the past, present, and future all at once. He's a little like Gandolf from LOTR, and the fairy queen Morgan Le Fey with her diabolical entourage.

Q: That sounds good, but will there be any roles for me? I'm 15.

A: Hey, this is AVP. You know we always have teenagers playing adult roles, and that we often take songs from one character (like Guenevere) and give them to other characters (who could possibly be played by 15-year-old girls). There will be plenty of great roles to go around for performers of all ages. So how does that sound?

Q: I can't wait! I'll see you at auditions Memorial Day weekend!

AVP Porch Tour 2015

Friday, July 31, 2015

5:00–7:00 pm

**Refreshments and sunset serenade
by the AVP cast of Camelot**

Tickets at the Annisquam Exchange

134 Leonard Street

978-281-0358

www.AnnisquamVillagePlayers.org

“One Brief, Shining Moment that was Camelot” The Early 1960s in Annisquam

By Fred Lovejoy

In those hallowed of times, it was September 20, 1962. The warm glow of the past summer was fading. Memories of Commodore Jack Cunningham’s leadership of the AYC, scintillating victories on the tennis courts of George Stevens in men’s singles, Julie Hedblom in women’s singles, Jack and Joe Mechem in men’s doubles and Sally Stevens and Mig Bennet in women’s doubles were all now a matter of history. And yes again the lightning skippers reported another summer of studying the Teaser’s stern, never it’s bow. It was Camelot times for us in Annisquam, with the Junior Senator of Massachusetts and his deep friendship with the president, leading to important dignitaries visiting our village.

My invitation from Ben Smith was a bit unexpected, the opportunity to spend the day on the Joseph P. Kennedy destroyer (named for President Kennedy’s late brother) in Newport, Rhode Island watching the America’s Cup, along with President Kennedy and other notables. After all Ben had once quipped, I was the only Republican he knew who it made it in and out of the South Boston Yacht Club, alive!

The memories were magical, driving to Newport, steaming out to the Sound, watching the race in the company of the president, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Auchincloss (Jackie Kennedy’s mother), Senator Benjamin Smith, Adlai Stevenson (United States Ambassador to the United Nations), Angier Biddle Duke (chief of protocol), Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr (Representative from New York), Claiborne Pell (Senator from Rhode Island) and Jim Reed (Under Secretary of the Treasury).

Etched In the memory of the day, sitting on the deck in the heat of the contest, the president asked Ben if the US had made the right tack, was going in the right direction to get the best wind, had jibed and tacked as skillfully and efficiently as was needed to win. And to each question Ben would respond with clarity and authority. Also etched in my memory was the youth, the vigor and the remarkable presence of the president. He would only live another brief 14 months.



From top left — President Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy speaking with Angier Biddle Duke, Senator Benjamin Smith seated at the table and on his right Mrs. Tarzwell Shepherd (wife of the president’s Naval Aid) and on his left Franklin D Roosevelt Jr and Claiborne Pell (both standing and partially hidden), Adlai Stevenson (lower right of photo) and Mrs. Auchincloss (partially hidden), Jim Reed talking to Mrs. Roosevelt. Fred Lovejoy and Ben Hedblom (Ben Smith’s nephew) are at the top of the picture behind the president.

And then when heading back towards Newport Harbor, reflecting on the bow in an effort to recover my equilibrium, I became aware of Adlai Stevenson standing next to me. He asked me if I’d been in the Yale crowd in New Haven, Connecticut when he was campaigning against Ike (President Eisenhower). Ever the wise and thoughtful gentleman, he then discussed with me over the next half hour my views on medical school education, the early signs of unrest among the youth of that time, and the darkening clouds over Vietnam.

And so it was in those times, in the magical years of the early 60s, for the small village of Annisquam, for the citizens of our country and far beyond, and for this young man beginning his adult life, that indeed it was, “One Brief, Shining Moment that was Camelot”.

AVP Board 2015

David Cluett, Mary Curtis, Victoria Fortune, Linette French, Val Gilman, Chicki Hollett, Paul Hurst, Pete Kovner, Keith McCarthy, Tom Moriarty, Stevie Neal, Laura Osmond, Daphne Papp, Terry Sands, Evy Stewart, Anne Williams.

Important Dates:

- **AUDITIONS** are on Sunday, May 24, at 6 pm at the Annisquam Village Hall
- **CALLBACKS** on Monday, May 25, at 7 pm
- **REHEARSALS** will start the middle of June
- **THE SHOW** runs Tuesday, August 4 — Sunday, August 9



Facebook page: [annisquamvillageplayers](https://www.facebook.com/annisquamvillageplayers)
www.annisquamvillageplayers.org
 Annisquam, MA 01930
 50 Leonard Street
 Annisquam Village Players



Annisquam Village Players Membership Support

As we look forward to the summer, we hope we may count on you to support the Players by joining the Annisquam Village Players. As a member, you will not only be supporting community theater here in Annisquam (and one of the oldest in the US), but you will receive our Newsletters, invitations to AVP special events AND new this year — you will have the opportunity to buy reserved seats before they go on sale to the public.

We hope too that you will consider making a donation to the AVP — it is with your special support both as a member and a donor that the AVP is able to continue producing such highly professional Broadway musicals each summer. This year's production of Camelot, opening on Tuesday, August 4th and running through Sunday, August 9th promises to showcase the Annisquam Village Players at its magical best! We look forward to hearing from you and thank you.

To become a member, simply fill out the form below and remit to:

Stevie Neal, 50 Leonard St., Annisquam, MA 01930

Dues: Family \$70
 Single \$40

Please make checks payable to *Annisquam Village Players*. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- I am enclosing a donation to the AVP
- YES, I would like to volunteer to help with this year's show



Annisquam Village Players (AVP) Needs Your Support in Play Bill Advertisement Campaign for Camelot!

As you can imagine, each year as the Annisquam Village Players plan for our annual summer production, we are confronted with a number of challenges—not the least of which is how to finance the production. Did you know that our annual operating costs run between \$26,000 to \$30,000? Even when we sell out all shows, our ticket sales only cover about 75 percent of our costs. There are so many pieces and parts: royalties, scripts, costumes, scenery, insurance, PR/marketing, salaries—to list but a few! We've learned that it takes a village, bigger than Annisquam, to pull off a show! We aim to keep our ticket prices affordable, so we need your help in participating in this year's Play Bill/Ad campaign. Here's what you can do to help.

We are asking all friends of the AVP to help solicit ads for our Play Bill! Our professionally produced Play Bill is passed out to over 1000 local patrons of our show. These advertisements, printed in black and white, can be businesses, or personal break-a-leg messages to cast members from family. The rates are as follows:

- Back Cover ad, 7.75" length by 4.75" width for \$250.00*
- Back Inside Cover ad, 7.75" length by 4.75" width for 200.00*
- Full page ad, 7.75" length by 4.75" width for \$100.00*
- Half page ad 3.74" length by 4.75" width for \$50.00 *
- Business Card ad, 2.0" length by 3.5" width for \$25.00 (include business card)
- Message to the Cast/Crew for \$10.00 (30 words or fewer—write message on form or submit via email and we'll do the rest).

**include font, logo/graphics*

All advertisements (except for messages) should be camera ready, and be in high resolution JPG, with embedded font, logos/graphics/photos.

If you are a business interested in advertising or want to send a message to the cast/crew, simply submit your camera ready ad or message to Val Gilman, vhgilman@comcast.net. Checks can then be mailed to "Annisquam Village Players" attention: Stevie Neal, Treasurer, at 50 Leonard Street Gloucester, MA 01930. Or you can give your check, ad form, and camera ready ad to a member of our cast. Ad forms are available on the website and should be submitted on or before July 7, 2015.

Have questions? Please email 2015 Camelot Ad Coordinator, Val Gilman, at vhgilman@comcast.net or text her at 978-621-4682.