

Rock River Players
presents
On Golden Pond

By Ernest Thompson



Directed by Cristina Parker-Jennings

Produced by Annie Landenberger

presented with permission from Dramatists Play Service

Founding RR Players

Abby Wicker, Addie Mahdavi, Alex Beshay, Alice Gausch, Annie Landenberger, Arik Clark, Ayars Hemphill, Barbara Kono, Bill Lincoln, Bonnie Haug-Cramp, Bruce Landenberger, Caitlin Hamm, Carol Hatcher, Caryn King, Charlie Tower, Dale Stevens, Debbi Reed-Savory, George Reed-Savory, Jeff Connor, Joe Metzler, John Butler, Kayla Williams, Kenny Cashman, Kris McDermet, Laurie Miner, Lyra Maiello, Marvin Shedd, Mary Jo Metzler, Miles Keefe, Nastia Stevens, Patrick Hauer, Parker-Jennings family, Penny Tuerk, Richard Foye, Rick King, Rob Cramp, Sara Vitale, Susan O'Hara, Somara Zwick, Stewart McDermet, Tino Benson, Veronica Stevens, Walter Corcoran

Join the Rock River Players' email list and receive audition notices, calls for volunteers, special event info and/or production dates. Write Annie Landenberger, verbatim@svcable.net or call 802-348-7156, option 2.
Find us on the web @ <http://rockriverplayers.org/>.

On Golden Pond

Place: At the Maine summer home of English Professor Emeritus, Norman Thayer, Jr., and his wife, Ethel

Act 1, scene 1

The middle of May, early afternoon

Act 1 scene 2

The middle of June, mid-afternoon

Act 1, scene 3

The middle of July, early evening

15-minute Intermission

Act 2, scene 1

The middle of August, early morning.

Act 2, scene 2

The middle of September, early afternoon.

Cast

<i>Norman Thayer, Jr.</i>	Stewart McDermet
<i>Ethel Thayer</i>	Debbi Reed-Savory
<i>Chelsea Thayer</i>	Sara Vitale
<i>Billy Ray, Jr.</i>	Alex Bashay
<i>Bill Ray Sr.</i>	Jeff Connor
<i>Charlie</i>	Miles Keefe
<i>Operator</i>	Susan O'Hara

Production Staff

Director Cristina Parker-Jennings

Producer Annie Landenberger

Stage Manager George Reed-Savory

Set and Construction Rick King and Stewart McDermet

Props, Costumes, Sound Bonnie Haug-Cramp

Poster design Tino Benson

Lighting Crew Kenny Cashman (captain), Patrick Hauer, Luke Parker-Jennings

PR & Publicity Annie Landenderger, Susan O'Hara

Running Crew Kayla Williams (captain), Bill Lincoln, Alex & Jackie Parker-Jennings

Who's Who

Stewart McDermet (Norman) has always been drawn to performing. At a young age he was a tap dancing acrobat and was both curious and honored that some people enjoyed his work. This has continued today when he does this acting business with the sole desire to really communicate something to those who see him. A great bond has developed with this new RRP theatre company. Please join us and enjoy the show. (There will be no tap dancing.)

Debbi Reed- Savory (Ethel) comes from Freeport, IL, where she went to school and appeared in many Winneshiek Players productions, as well as college shows. Before walking for peace in Europe for two years she studied performing arts in Chicago. A few of her most challenging parts have been Blanche in *Streetcar Named Desire*, Hedda in *Hedda Gabler*, and the mother in *Equus*. Debbi enjoys being on stage and looks forward to backstage work, too. Her "out east" (as her family calls it) theatrical work so far has been with The Walpole Players in Walpole, N.H., The Actors Theatre in West Chesterfield, NH, and of course, RRP. She hopes you have a memorable visit to Golden Pond.

Sara Vitale (Chelsea) is enjoying her second show with the Rock River Players after having a ball acting in *You Can't Take It With You*. Sara got into acting as a young woman in high school and went on to major in acting and directing at the University of Northern Colorado before switching to a psychology major. Sara has three children ages 4, 10 and 12 and has been happily married for 14 years. Sara enjoys volunteering in her free time (especially for Meals on Wheels), camping, photography, and taking her kids swimming. "I have a very full life, now. I was searching for a long time for something that was missing and I found what I needed was right here on the community theater stage. I never really wanted to drop acting and directing in college, it just worked out that way. I love the companionship we have here at the Rock River Players. This company is tightly knit. It's really special." Sara is looking forward to directing the Player's fall show, *A Piece of My Heart*, which depicts the experiences of six women who served in Vietnam as nurses and opens the last weekend in October.

Jeff Connor (Bill Sr.) Jeff grew up in Detroit and studied theater at NYU while becoming an English teacher. He and his friends from the comedy group "The State" formed a theater company in the city and produced several original shows while Jeff was working in the South Bronx. There, he met his future wife, Erika, and soon after, moved up to New England. Jeff and his family have enjoyed their house in Marlboro for 15 years but have only lived here full-time since Irene. He's worked in a few Vermont schools (including Wardsboro with Cris) and has stayed active in theater, working with NEYT and most recently, as Ed in the Rock River Players' production of *You Can't Take It With You*. Jeff is excited and grateful to be on board for the current production of *On Golden Pond*

Miles Keefe (Charlie) had his first acting role was in *Our Town* in Milford, New Hampshire in 1972 at age 16. At age 59 in 2015 he joined the Rock River Players' performance of the same play. He also performed as Boris Kolenkhov in the Player's *You can't Take It With You*. In between he did other stuff. He lives on the other side of the ridge in Putney.

Alex Bashay (Billy Jr.) is 14 years old, and lives in Chester, Vt. He considers himself to be more of a musician than an actor, but still thoroughly enjoys the acting. Alex's greatest passions included singing, playing music along with rock climbing, and setting personal goals.

Susan O'Hara (Operator), a proud founding member of the Rock River Players, lives in the neighboring town of Marlboro, VT. Prior to *On Golden Pond*, Susan appeared in the RRP productions of *Our Town* and in *You Can't Take It With You* as Henderson, the IRS agent, and Olga, the immigrant Grand Duchess.

George Reed-Savory(Stage Manager) has been interested in the theatre all his life and about a year ago was encouraged by his lovely wife to become directly involved in putting on a production. In that time he has worked with three different theatre groups with a couple minor on stage roles. His real passion has been to work behind the scenes and has been stage manager in his two most recent shows. He is an RRP founding member and has thoroughly enjoyed working on *On Golden Pond* with its wonderful cast, director, and crew.

Cris Parker-Jennings (Director) Thanks to her mother and father, Cris caught the theater bug at a very young age, which drove her to a BFA in Theater Art from Ohio University. After a long stint away from the stage, a master's degree, marriage, four children, and a move to Vermont, Cris made her VT. debut as Karen in *August; Osage County* with the Apron Theater Company at Next Stage Arts. Last summer she performed as Griselda and Jeanine in *Top Girls* with Apron Theater Co., and then Mrs. Webb in Rock River Players first production *Our Town*. In May she performed in the RRP's *You Can't Take It With You* as Elsie. This June she performed in a newly written play in Guilford. Since moving to Vermont from Connecticut in 2003, Cris has been teaching first and second grade at

Wardsboro Elementary School, always encouraging the dramatics within her students. Cris is grateful for the loving support she has from her husband, Mickey, and four talented children; Taylor, Jackie, Luke, and Alex.

Annie Landenberger (Producer) has been smitten since age 6 when she played Girl with Lollipop in a little original that toured a patch of Long Island. With a BA in theatre and English a MA in drama, Annie has reveled in the opportunity to learn it all from costuming for Brown Summer Theatre and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival ensemble to marketing the arts at Trinity Rep in Providence and at Jacob's Pillow. Founding member of UVA's first improv group, Mother Wit, Annie's performed in some pretty interesting original works from Richard Foreman's *Dream Tantras for Western Massachusetts* to Michael Kirby's *Prisoners of the Invisible Kingdom*. Some of the most gratifying work of the last twenty years, though, has been directing over 60 shows with the Leland and Gray Players in Townshend--productions including collaborations with music colleague, Ron Kelley, and the collective creation of the first five original shows to be toured through China with Journey East, of which Annie was co-founder. When the nudge and the chance to launch the Rock River Players surfaced, Annie and founding Players jumped in with the quintessential story of life's most beautiful gifts, *Our Town*.

Open Auditions for *A PIECE OF MY HEART* by Shirley Lauro, directed by Sara Vitale

WHEN: September 8 at 4pm; September 9 at 6pm; September 10 at 11am; September 11 at 1pm

WHERE: Williamsville Hall, Dover Rd., Williamsville, VT

OVERVIEW: The true stories of six courageous women sent to Vietnam and their struggle to make sense of a war that irrevocably changed them and a nation that shunned them. This is a work with the music and soul of a tumultuous era in our history.

CHARACTERS: Six women, two men

MORE INFO: Director Sara Vitale at mamahospital@gmail.com or rockiverplayers.com

"A PIECE OF MY HEART...takes up a subject largely missing from the reams of material written about Vietnam, namely the women who served there...seamlessly interweaving the stories of the six principals...the play is exceedingly moving as the women gather at the memorial wall in Washington and experience a heart wrenching expiation---one that also affects those watching them from the audience...in not straining for a hit, the (theatre) may have produced one in A PIECE OF MY HEART." -The Wall Street Journal

PRODUCTION DATES: October 27-30

What's Next?

The Rock River Players plans to present four plays a year, one each season. Our Fall 2016 production will be *A Piece of My Heart*, an award-winning drama about six women who served in Vietnam. Directed by Sara Vitale, this play fits nicely into the Rock River Players' theme for 2016-2017: "Strong Women." Remaining productions for the season will be announced soon.

Directors wishing to have a play considered should contact Charles Tower at 978-434-7958 or thirdgate@yahoo.com for an appointment to discuss their proposed directing projects. Presentations will be scheduled in the Williamsville Hall on Friday, September 9, from 7PM, and on Saturday, September 10, from 11AM, at half hour intervals.

Also coming soon: A directors' workshop, a producers' workshop and a lighting workshop. Sign up for email updates to receive more information about these events.

Rock River Players' Raffle

Thanks to our generous donors, you can take a chance at winning:

- Archival Print "Loretta" By Caryn King
- Williamsville Covered Bridge signed print by Georgie
 - Gift Certificate to The Eatery

Tickets available in the lobby--

\$1 dollar per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets.

A Special Thanks To Our Supporters

Our roots in our community go back to the original Williamsville players' first production shortly after the completion of the Williamsville Hall in September 1910. We treasure our relationship with our town, its residents and its businesses past and present and we owe them our identity as the Rock River Players. Looking at the faces of the original cast and the names of the original players is almost like viewing a map of the town: The names and the faces are so familiar.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and sponsorship of our local businesses, organizations, and individual citizens. It is their enthusiastic support of the arts in our community that makes our revival possible.

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- Leland & Gray Players
- Rob Cramp
- Tim Mathiesen
- Bahman Mahdavi
- Steve Levine and Williamsville Hall Committee
- Joe Metzler



Welcome to the Rock River Players, a community theater inaugurated in the historic Williamsville Hall in August 2015 with a production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Since then we've produced *You Can't Take It With You*, offered an open reading of *Inherit the Wind*, and put lots of moxie into growing.

Just as villagers came together for the first time in 1910 to entertain neighbors and travelers alike in this acoustical gem, so the Rock River Players do today. Formed for the love of theatre, perhaps the most all-encompassing art form culture offers, the RRP has enjoyed participation of enthusiasts ages 10 to 87 from this village and surrounding villages and towns. A couple players even travel religiously from north central Massachusetts. We come together not just as theatre junkies, but also as revivalists. In the early 1900s this was the happening place for all kinds of live entertainment, but by the mid-20th century, players and audiences opted to stay home to watch "Bonanza," "I Love Lucy," and "My Little Margie." (See quotes on display in the lobby.) Since the tech craze has yielded an even more intimate relationship with the screen—often to the exclusion of others and our surroundings—we founders of the RRP affirm that the lively arts are essential to the preservation of culture and growth of new art. And the lively arts can keep a village alive. In fact, events in this hamlet are arguably the most effective means of traffic calming known to date.

The Rock River Players started with hopes and dreams and now, a year later, we have plans...plans to give actors, directors, designers, craftsmen—seasoned or green—the chance to join together for camaraderie and team work with the common goal of collective creation. And we're getting our act together, too, so to speak, with a core of leaders, the definition of growth steps to be taken and leaders for each step gradually emerging. All who wish to be involved in the RRP may be, in one way or another: We will never be "clubby." The work we do is far too gratifying, challenging, thought-provoking—and fun—to hoard!

The aim of the RRP is produce four shows a year—one per season—and to offer intermittent opportunities to learn more about and/or be involved in the joyful work of theater. The intent is to soon do all shows at our home, this Hall, but that can't yet be reality so we'll soon announce another nearby venue for the winter production. A matching grant was applied for but not awarded to complete the winterization project and so the Williamsville Hall Committee will apply again. In the meantime, know that anything you can give in terms of time or financial support would be greatly appreciated. Beyond winterization, to outfit the space for all sorts of performing arts events year-round, we need to install pipes for lights, to purchase lights and to ensure our circuitry works for them; we need to build collapsible platforms and to acquire more comfortable seating—with options for raked audiences.

If you value this work, we need you. We need you as audience, as volunteers, and as part of the performance--all gifts and talents are welcome. If you want to be involved and/or just informed, please complete the form below. And should you wish to make a donation—and it will be acknowledged as such—please make checks payable to Rock River Players and mail to RRP c/o Box 127, Williamsville, 05362.

Thank you!

Annie Landenberger and Bonnie Cramp, co-chairs
Kayla Williams, secretary
Bill Lincoln, treasurer



Please complete and leave at the ticket table or mail to: RRP c/o PO Box 127,
Williamsville, VT 05362. Need more info? Contact Annie Landenberger, verbatim@svcable.net, 802.348.7156.

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