

SHINING OUR SPOTLIGHT ON THE
HISTORIC WOODSTOWN HIGH
SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

THE CURTAIN CALL CLUB GUIDEBOOK | JAN. 2024



Our Town (1967)

*Woodstown Drama Senior Play
Directed by Jayne Hopkins*

THE CURTAIN  CALL CLUB

CIRCA 1934
WOODSTOWN, N.J.

A WOODSTOWN INSTITUTION



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Ever Since Eve (1942)

Woodstown Drama Junior Play

Directed by Miss Carlson

“AND HOW DO WE KEEP OUR BALANCE? THAT I CAN TELL YOU IN ONE WORD: **TRADITION!**”

-*Fiddler on the Roof*
performed at WHS in 2001.

The Woodstown High School Drama Club is steeped in long-standing, time-honored traditions. *The Curtain Call Club* is dedicated to honoring and preserving those traditions. Throughout this book, keep an eye out for highlights detailing the traditions at WHS Drama.

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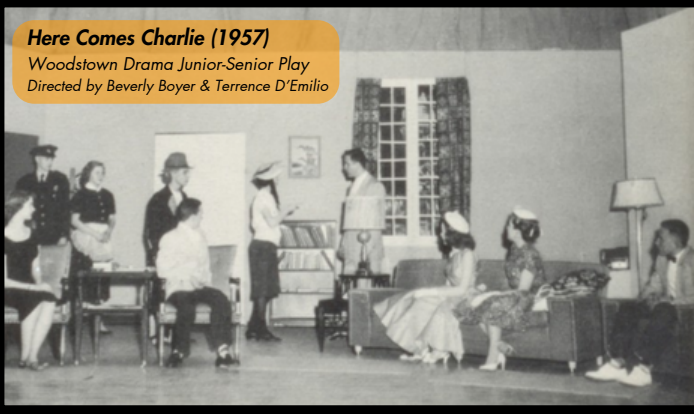
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HISTORY

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Here Comes Charlie (1957)

Woodstown Drama Junior-Senior Play
Directed by Beverly Boyer & Terrence D'Emilio



TRADITION #1: Every 15 years, the WHS Drama Club produces the musical *BRIGADOON*. In the story, the village of Brigadoon appears out of the mist only once every 100 years. So, at Woodstown, *BRIGADOON* the musical appears every 15 years. There have been three productions: 1994, 2009, and 2024.

We are proud to announce the grand revival of *The Curtain Call Club of Woodstown (CCCW)* in 2024!

THEIR MISSION: In 1934, the mission of the original *Curtain Call Club* was Woodstown alumni, parents, and community members supporting Woodstown students.



OUR MISSION: In 2024, our mission is unchanged: To shine a spotlight on the *Woodstown High School Drama Club* by fostering community engagement with local businesses and sponsors, organizing special events, spearheading fundraising initiatives to fund the Fall Play and Spring Musical by the 2025-2026 academic year, and preserving the rich legacy of the original *Curtain Call Club* and Woodstown theatre education.

The intent of the *Curtain Call Club of Woodstown* is to serve in the function of a booster club for the *WHS Drama Club*, with an ambitious goal of fully funding the Fall Play and Spring Musical by the 2025-2026 academic year and beyond.

The original *Curtain Call Club* was a beloved Woodstown institution founded in 1934 by WHS Alumni and members of the community to support students during the Great Depression. They evolved into a successful performance group, operating at the *Woodstown Opera House* until their closing show *Lute Song* on May 9, 1964.

The CCCW looks forward to creating a sustainable future for the *WHS Drama Club*, students, alumni, and the Woodstown arts community at large.

We extend a warm welcome to both parents of current *WHS Drama Club* students and proud *WHS Drama Club Alumni* to join hands in supporting our student and ensuring our stage remains a vibrant center for creativity. Visit our "Get involved!" page and contact Jim Cook at Jim.Cook@CurtainCallClub.org to join the new *Curtain Call Club of Woodstown!*
www.CurtainCallClub.org

HERE'S THE PLAN



Lady Be Good (1953)

*Woodstown Drama
Directed by Douglas Kersey*

TRADITION #2:

A lot happens before each performance. One event is the 'call back' where everyone loudly recites the first stanza of *Modern Major General* by Gilbert & Sullivan.

Our three core goals are ...

1 FUNDRAISING

Our primary goal is to provide accessible funds to the *Woodstown High School Drama Club*, with a target of fully funding the Fall Play and Spring Musical by the 2025-2026 academic year. In addition to revenue earned from tickets and concession sale, we will host local fundraisers, win grants, and provide members of the community avenues to donate annually to the *WHS Drama Club* through our *Curtain Call Club Benefactor Program*:

STAGEHAND (\$25+)
PATRON (\$100+)
SPOTLIGHTER (\$250+)
SHOWSTOPPER (\$500+)
DRAMA VISIONARY (\$1,000+)
DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$5,000+)
MAESTRO (\$10,000+)

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the spirit of the original *Curtain Call Club*, we are dedicated to engaging our Woodstown-Pilesgrove community through sponsorships with local businesses, partnering with other community theatres and civic groups, and hosting our annual *Woodstown Student-Alumni Theatre Gala*.

3 LEGACY & ENRICHMENT

We believe a foundation built on our rich history will guide us to a stellar and sustainable future. In order for students to learn more about the groups they represent, we will consult with the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Historical Society, Woodstown-Pilesgrove Library, and local residents, to create comprehensive databases preserving the history of both the original *Curtain Call Club* and the *Woodstown High School Drama Club*,

In addition, we believe education should not end when the school bell rings. The *Curtain Call Club* will have volunteers dedicated to programing workshops and masterclasses to supplement and elevate the theatre education Woodstown students receive in and out of school through the *Curtain Call Club Enrichment Program*.



MEET THE TEAM

03



CURTAIN CALL CLUB



JIM COOK JR
PRESIDENT

Mr. Cook is a Woodstown alumni (2006), a U.S. Army veteran, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Levey Theatre. He works with numerous theaters in South Jersey. WHS credits: *The Music Man*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Gaslight Girl*, *Guys & Dolls*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Hello, Dolly!* He is passionate about community service, Woodstown-Pilesgrove History, and the performing arts. He is the *Town Crier* of Woodstown and can be seen at local events welcoming everyone to the best town in America!



WOODSTOWN DRAMA



SHANNON SHERIDAN
WHS MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs. Sheridan became the Drama Director at Woodstown High in 2016 when she debuted with *The Sound of Music*. She is the Director of Bands at Woodstown Middle School and Mary S. Shoemaker Elementary School, and the Director of the Woodstown High School Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Band.



KAHLIL V. GUNTHER
WHS DRAMA MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Gunther became Music Director of the Woodstown spring musical in 1996 with *Big River*. He currently is the Director of Music Instruction at Woodstown High, and teaches Music Theory, Music Fundamentals, Piano, and Music Technology. He is the Director of the award winning WHS Chamber Choir, Select and Concert Choirs. He is also the Director of the Salem County Oak Singers at Salem Community College.



JENNIFER ARCOLESSE
WHS DRAMA PRODUCER

Mrs. Arcolesse has been the producer of the WHS shows since she started at Woodstown in 2021. Mathematics instructor at Woodstown High; Theatre director in Millville High School and assistant director at Williamstown High School. Graduate of Rowan University (Masters in School Administration); University of Delaware, Stockton College. Former Vice Principal of Haddon Heights High School.



STEPHANIE HILL
WHS FALL PLAY ADVISOR

Ms. Hill has been the faculty advisor to the Woodstown Fall Play since 2021. She is an alumni of Woodstown High School and Liberty University. She is the owner and operator of Capture The Moment Photography. During her time at Woodstown, she appeared in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She recently advised for *The Great Gatsby* and *Little Women*.

TRADITION #3:

During the week leading up to the opening of a show, rehearsals go late into the night. At the end of each late rehearsal, everyone gathers onstage in a circle and sings "Good Night, Sweetheart!"

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS, FUTURE BOARD MEMBERS, DONORS, AND COORDINATORS TO FILL MANY ROLES IN THE CURTAIN CALL CLUB. IF YOU ARE A WOODSTOWN ALUMNI, PARENT OF A CURRENT OR FORMER STUDENT, OR A DEDICATED MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SUBMIT UNDER THE 'GET INVOLVED!' PAGE.

WWW.CURTAINCALLCLUB.ORG

WHAT WE NEED...

POSITIONS

- Board of Directors (VP, Secretary, Treasurer)
- Membership Chair
- Fundraising Chair
- Event Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Student Liaison
- Faculty Advisor
- Director of Educational Enrichment
- Legacy historian

LEGAL NEEDS

- Certificate of Incorporation with NJ Div of Revenue and Enterprise Services
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Nonprofit 501(c)3 status
- Form 1023 or 1023-EZ filed to IRS for federal tax-exempt status
- Organizational Bylaws
- Liability Insurance

FINANCIAL NEEDS

- Professional tax and accounting services
- Official CCCW Bank Acct
- Financial Policies and Procedures
- Financial controls and reporting system
- Implementation of *Curtain Call Club Benefactor Program*

GET THE WORD OUT!

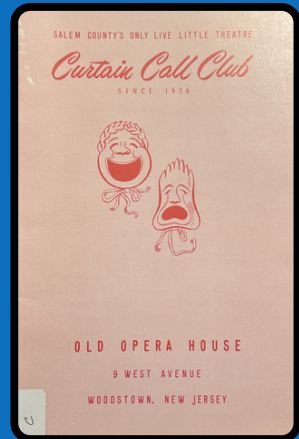
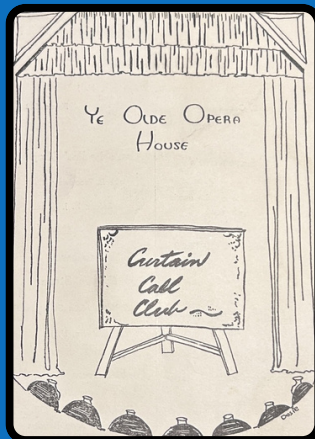
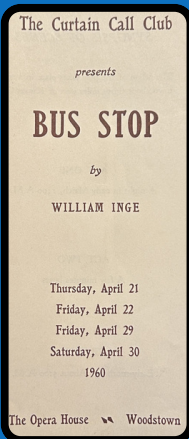
- Publicity in local media
- Outreach to Woodstown-Pilesgrove residents, alumni, parents, community leaders
- Outreach to local businesses for sponsorships and partnerships
- Membership drive, crowdfunding campaign, publicity materials
- Social media management

PLANNING FOR ...

- First fundraiser (goal by summer 2024)
- Inaugural Woodstown Student-Alumni Theatre Gala
- Applying for local, state, and national-level grants
- Implementation of *Curtain Call Club Enrichment Program*
- Funding for scholarship

LEGACY RESEARCH

- Databasing the *WHS Drama Club* plays and musicals from 1915 to present
- Partnering with WP Historical Society to build a comprehensive history of *The Curtain Call Club* productions at the Woodstown Opera House



Programs from
THE CURTAIN CALL CLUB
1950s & 60s



- 1934 ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ORGANIZE *THE CURTAIN CALL CLUB* TO SUPPORT WOODSTOWN STUDENTS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION
- 1938 FIRE DESTROYS THE WOODSTOWN OPERA HOUSE
- 1949 *CURTAIN CALL CLUB* REORGANIZES, REBUILDS THE OPERA HOUSE, AND BEGINS PERFORMANCES WITH *THE CURSE OF THE ACHING HEART*.
- 1964 *CURTAIN CALL CLUB* PLAYS ITS LAST PERFORMANCE AT THE OPERA HOUSE WITH *LUTE SONG* ON MAY 9, 1964.



Bye Bye Birdie (1999)
 Woodstown High School Drama Club
 Directed by Paul Kranz

2024

WHEN THE NEED AROSE FOR A WOODSTOWN DRAMA BOOSTER CLUB, *THE CURTAIN CALL CLUB OF WOODSTOWN* WAS REVITALIZED. THE REVIVAL OF *THE CLUB* WAS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ON FRIDAY, JAN 5, 2024 BY THE *DRAMA CLUB*. THE NEW PARTNERSHIP WILL ENSURE SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS OF THE *DRAMA CLUB*, AND THE INCLUSION OF ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND THE GREATER WOODSTOWN-PILES GROVE COMMUNITY IN ALL *WHS DRAMA + CURTAIN CALL CLUB* EVENTS.

- 1915 ● WOODSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL OPENS
- 1924 ● WOODSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CLUB PRODUCES THE OPERETTA *ALL AT SEA* AS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE WOODSTOWN RADIO CLUB. IT WAS THE FIRST MUSICAL ON THE WOODSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STAGE.
- 1920S-1970S ● MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR CLASSES PRODUCE PLAYS AND OPERETTAS ON THE WOODSTOWN STAGE.

- 1972 ● THE WOODSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB IS FORMALLY CREATED, OPEN TO FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS.
- 1990 ● WOODSTOWN ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR PAUL KRANZ BECOMES THE FORMAL DIRECTOR OF THE *DRAMA CLUB*, STANDARDIZING THE PRODUCTION OF A SPRING MUSICAL EACH YEAR BEGINNING WITH *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING*.
- 1996 ● KAHILIL GUNTHER BECOMES THE MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE SPRING MUSICALS, INCORPORATING LIVE ORCHESTRAS, BEGINNING WITH *BIG RIVER*.
- 2005 ● THOUGH PLAYS (NON-MUSICALS) HAD BEEN PRODUCED BY STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE *DRAMA CLUB'S* HISTORY, IN 2004 (04-05 SCHOOL YEAR), *WHS DRAMA CLUB* STANDARDIZED THE PRODUCTION OF AN ANNUAL FALL PLAY DIRECTED BY STUDENTS. THE FIRST PRODUCTION WAS *HARVEY*, DIRECTED BY COREY FRANK (CLASS OF 2005).

TRADITION #4:

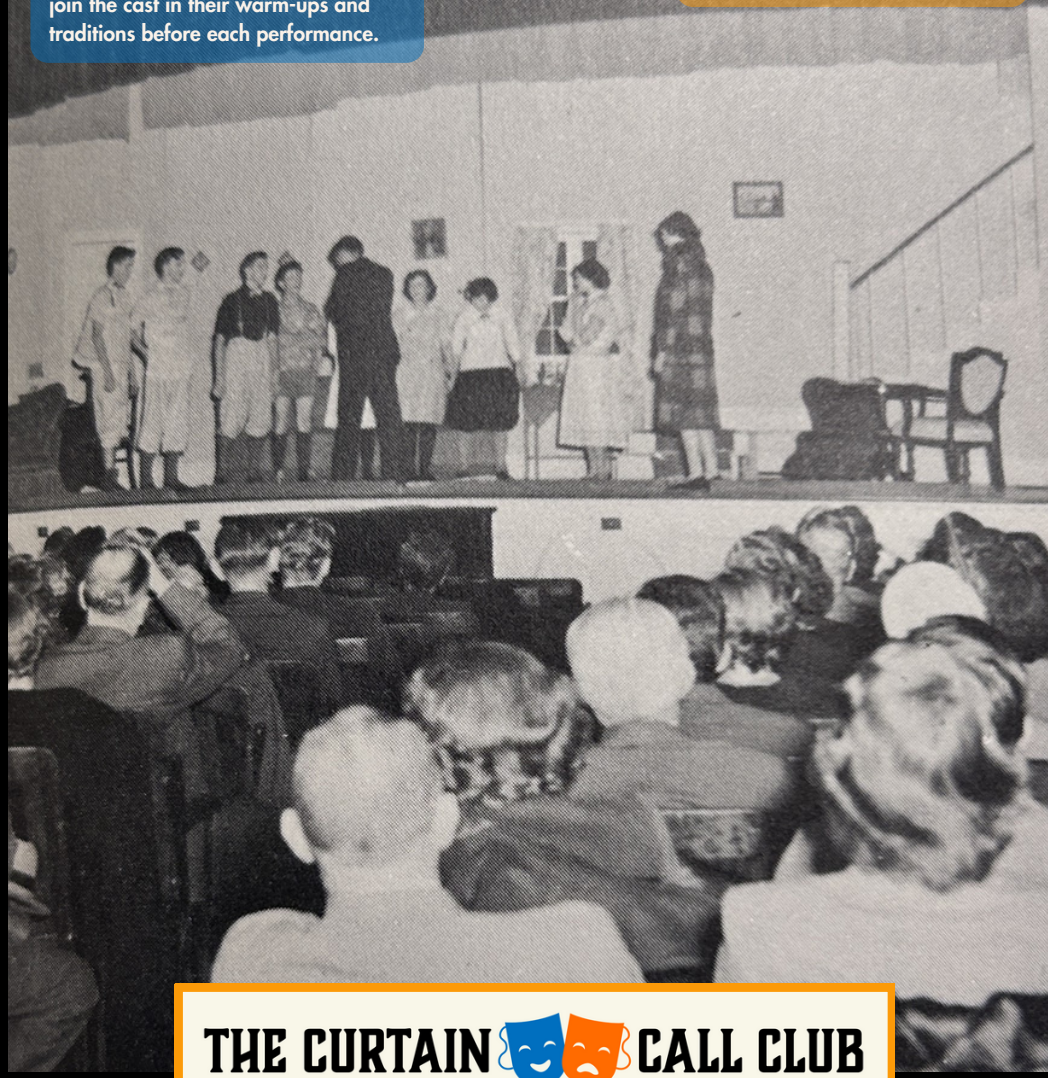
Before each performance, the *Drama Club* gathers together outside. Once the speeches are made and *Modern Major General* is recited, the seniors choose a line from the show and the cast & crew say the line 3x, getting louder each time. Once this is complete, everyone cheers and "PLACES!" is called to begin the show.

TRADITION #5:

Woodstown Drama Alumni are welcomed back by special invitation to join the cast in their warm-ups and traditions before each performance.

Cheaper By The Dozen (1951)

*Woodstown Drama Senior Play
Directed by Douglas Kersey*



THE CURTAIN  CALL CLUB

CIRCA 1934
WOODSTOWN, N.J.



P.O. Box 264
Woodstown, N.J. 08098

www.CurtainCallClub.org
@CurtainCallClub