



WELCOME YULE - 25th ANNIVERSARY SHOW
NOTES FROM THE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I first saw Welcome Yule in 1989. I was instantly enthralled. It wasn't polished, it wasn't professional, and yet it was magic. The warmth, the fun, the energy filled the packed church, and really inspired me. For the past 20 years, various members of my family have been involved with the show, singing, dancing, helping with costumes and props, stage managing and designing programs.

The show, founded by Rose Sheehan, has grown into a community theatre group, with a core of people who come together year after year. Virtually everyone in the cast once sat in the audience, so enchanted by the show that they joined the company. This year cast members from the earliest productions have come back to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary, including Rose and her family.

Welcome Yule captures the feel of coldness and darkness taking over the earth at the approach of the solstice. Neighbors come together to cheer each other as the old year wanes, and then celebrate the turning of the new year and the return of the light. We sense that all will be well and the sun will return to light our way and warm our fields for another year.

This year, most songs were reprised from the previous 25 years. My goal was to emphasize the tradition but yet acknowledge growth and change by featuring some children in cameo roles. I hope the movement of time, in the yearly cycle and in generational change, are captured. Lines from Susan Cooper's poem, The Shortest Day, are used throughout the show to clearly mark this passage of time.

My husband coined a phrase we like to use, "Welcome Yule is never knowingly over rehearsed," but we make up in spirit for anything lacking in polish. We welcome you to sing along and enjoy the show, perhaps some year you'll be moved to join us too.

Wassail,

Jinny

A Note from the Founder:

Since its inception twenty-five years ago, Welcome Yule continues as a colorful presentation of music, dance and story. But its essence, then and now, is community. Welcome Yule is about joining in; it's about belonging. We welcome you, not as audience, but as co-celebrants in this festival of light and song. So sing with us, laugh with us, dance with us! Please, this year and every year, join in and WELCOME YULE!
Rose


WELCOME YULE

a midwinter celebration



25
YEARS

of music, dance, song, and story



December 11, 12, and 13, 2009
Shea Theater, Turners Falls

CHORUS

Eileen Almeida * Hattie Love Archbald * Montserrat Archbald
Owen Baines * Bart Bales * Catharine Ball * Jamie Bishop
Liz Castro * Margaret Christie * Carol Coan * Joan Deely
Colin de la Barre * Louise Doud * Bob Drinkwater
Dan Frank * Galen Frank-Bishop * David Jackson
Julie Jonassen * Saralinda Lobrose * Jinny Mason
Alan McArdle * Fred Momaney * David Nixon
Rick Rabe * Andrea Rogers * Geoffrey Rogers
Rachel Roy * Tom Shattuck * Rose Sheehan
Ed Smith * Liz Smith * Andy Tarr * Anne Thomas
Lorelle Wilson * Amanda Witman

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Celia Bales * Cecilia Ball * Anna Cabré*
Calla Jones * Larkin Christie * Elihu Christie Jones*
Benjamin Coan-Nixon * Rose Jackson * Elijah Jackson
Lucia Mason* * Miette LaClair Flaherty Muller
Fiona Rogers * Granger Smith-Massa* * Clara Swartzentruber
Elizabeth Wilson * Alden Witman * Avery Witman
Ellery Witman * Everest Witman

*Lords and Ladies of Misrule

MUSICIANS

Joli Lobrose * Michael Pattavina * Angus Rogers
Geoffrey Rogers * Ed Smith

OTHER PERFORMERS

Juggler Meadow Morris Men * The Blue Willies
Green River Tap and Die

PLEASE SING WITH US!

FURRY DAY CAROL

With hal and toe, sing merry-o,
With hal and toe, sing merry!
With hal and toe, sing merry-o,
With hal and toe, sing merry!



GREEN GROW THE RUSHES. O!

Twelve for the twelve apostles,
Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven,
Ten for the Ten Commandments,
Nine for the nine bright shiners,
Eight for the April rainers,
Seven for the seven stars in the sky,
Six for the six proud walkers,
Five for the symbols at your door,
Four for the gospel makers,
Three, three, the rivals,
Two, two, the lily white boys, clothed all in green-o
One is one and all alone, and evermore shall be so.

GLoucestershire Wassail

Drink to thee, Drink to thee
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

LORD OF THE DANCE

"Dance, dance, wherever you may be
For I am the Lord of the Dance," said he.
"And I'll lead you all,
Wherever you may be.
And I'll lead you all in the dance," said he.

ACT 1

BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES * Geoff and Adult chorus. Jim Boyes wrote this song that talks of the changing of the seasons and the importance of family, friends, tradition and change.

THE SHORTEST DAY * Andy. Poem written by Susan Cooper, used with permission of Revels, Inc.

FURRY DAY * All. A traditional English Carol. Touch the yule log with a piece of holly for good luck for the coming year. Words are in the program.

SHERBURNE * Adult Chorus. Words by Nahum Tate, tune by Daniel Read. An 18th century shape note hymn.

GREEN GROW THE RUSHES, O! * Liz S. and Liz C. and All. A traditional counting song. Please join us; the words are in the program.

THE WREN BOYS * Colin and the Children. A traditional wrenning song. In several parts of the British Isles, the wren is hunted on St. Stephen's day, December 26th. The sacrifice of a king was an important part of the mid-winter death/rebirth ritual cycle.

WOMEN'S BORDER DANCE * Mr. Dolly. Adapted from the Red Stags Morris by Saralinda.

THE PRAISE OF CHRISTMAS * Alan, Fred, Geoff, Bob, Eileen, Margaret, Lorelle, Liz S. Another traditional English carol. Carols were originally songs to dance to.

HUNTING THE WREN * Bart, Alan, Michael, Geoff, Fred. Traditional, adapted by many people.

HERE WE COME A WASSAILING * Children. Traditional song you can sing along with. Words are in the program.

APPLE TREE WASSAIL * Bart, Andrea, Geoff, Lorelle & Montserrat, Amanda, Jamie, Rick and Adult chorus. Traditional, additional verses by Ed. We must toast the apple trees.

TRUNCH WASSAIL * Some Old Crones. From the singing of the Kipper Family.

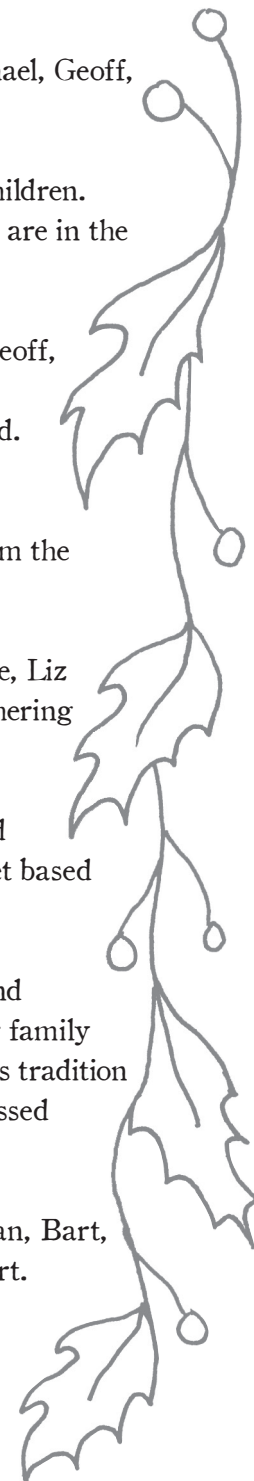
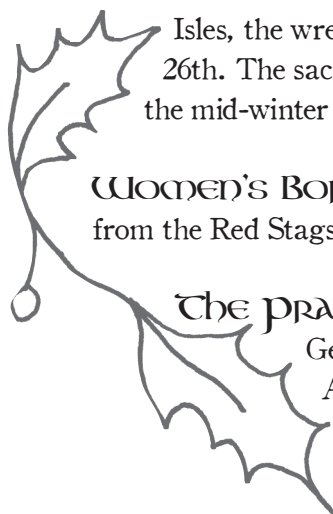
COMFORT OF SINGING VOICES * Anne, Liz S. and all. A modern song of friendship and gathering against the cold, written by Alouette Iselin.

THE APPLE TREE MAN * Louise adapted and now tells this traditional story from Somerset based on a version by John Kirkpatrick.

THE CHRISTMAS SONG * Rose, Colin, and Owen. This song is from the folk singing Copper family from Rottingdean, England. The Copper family's tradition of unaccompanied harmony singing has been passed down through the family for generations.

MUMMERS PLAY * Alan, Jamie, Fred, Dan, Bart, Saralinda. "Believe or Not, I'm 25, Mum" by Bart.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL * All. In which we toast a succession of cows, horses, milkmaids and butlers. Please join in!



ACT II

THE WINTER * Rachel. A poem for a cold season from a 13th century Welsh manuscript.

IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER * Montserrat, Carol, Julie, Saralinda, Andy, DJ, Dan, Rick. Words by Christina Rosetti, music by Gustav Holst.

FELLSWAY - Adult Chorus. A modern shape note hymn written by David Gaye.

ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE * Juggler Meadow Morris Men.

THIS LONGEST NIGHT * Children, with a little help. Written by Lorraine Lee.

RECITATION * by Fred based on an excerpt from Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee.

MOLLY DANCE * In which the old year dies and the new year (Larkin) is born.

JULIAN OF NORWICH * Anna, Hattie, Miette, Clara, Celia, Rose, Lucia, with Cecilia on flute. Lyrics by Sydney Carter. Julian shared her vision of hope in the 14th century.

HAIR SMILING MORN * Adult Chorus. Lyrics by Reginald Spofforth. From the Yorkshire pub caroling tradition.

LORD OF THE DANCE * Rose and Chorus. Traditional Shaker tune, lyrics by Sydney Carter. Please join us.

THE KING * All. The king in this song is the wren, the king of all birds.

STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR * Jinny Mason
STAGE DIRECTOR * Rachel Roy
LIGHTING DESIGN * Rachel Roy
STAGE MANAGER * Jed Proujansky
CO-PRODUCERS * Alan McArdle, Tom Shattuck
CHORAL MUSIC DIRECTOR * Julie Jonassen
CHORAL MUSIC CONSULTANT * Bill Venman
CHILDREN'S CHORUS DIRECTOR * Louise Doud
CHILDREN'S CHORUS ASSISTANT * Hattie Archbald
MUMMERS PLAY * Bart Bales
STORY ADAPTATIONS * Louise Doud, Fred Momaney
FOUNDER * Rose Sheehan
PUBLICITY * Montserrat Archbald, Margaret Christie, Mik Muller
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR * Phyllis Roy
COSTUME CREW * Marsha Smith
PUPPET CREATION * Jinny Mason, Montserrat Archbald
REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST * Julie Jonassen
HOUSE MANAGER * Marie Paquette
USHERS/FRONT OF HOUSE * Patrick Momaney, Tom Massa
CHILD CARE * Joli Lobrose, Jeanne Weintraub-Mason, Chris Mason
POSTER CONCEPT * Heidi King
POSTER ILLUSTRATOR * Soren Mason Temple
PROGRAM DESIGN * Liz Castro
LIGHTING AND SET CREW * Rachel Roy, Jed Proujansky, Joan Deely, David Nixon, Tom Shattuck
PRODUCED BY * Welcome Yule, Inc. and the Shea Theater

SPECIAL THANKS TO Rick Roy * Hester Brooks * Arena Civic Theatre * Valley Light Opera * WRSI

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: www.welcomeyule.org

