

Welcome Yule

A MIDWINTER CELEBRATION



DECEMBER 10, 11 & 12, 1993
Presented at
THE SHEA THEATRE
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

Co-sponsored by



PERFORMERS

CHORUS

Big Bart Bales
David de la Barre
Jim Ellis
Jan Frazier
Alden Johnson
Elysse Link
Jinny Mason
Alan McArdle
Fred Momaney
Steve Morgan
Cindy Moss

Naomi Oberski
Rowan Oberski
Pamela Owen
Michael Pattavina
Stephen Pohlrig
Geoffrey Rogers
Rose Sheehan
Andrea Stover
Andrea Tarr
Casey Mason Temple
Dawn Zabek

CHILDREN

Owen Baines
Elizabeth Anne Carlton
Arlen Crocker-McClellan
Caitlin Flynn
Alden Johnson
Ember Johnson
Evan Johnson

Ryan Johnson
Devon McArdle
Laura McDonough
Naomi Oberski
Rowan Oberski
Olivia Tamzarian

THE MUSICIANS

David de la Barre – Whistles, Scottish Small Pipe, Drum
Cindy Moss – Flute
Michael Pattavina – Guitar, Banjo, Bass
Geoffrey Rogers – Guitar, Mandolin
Rose Sheehan – Melodeon

THAT LONG TALL SWORD

Bob Adams
Tony Asch
Marge Bruchac
Lyle Gray

Steve Howe
Justin Kennick
Cindy Moss, Musician
Ijod Schroeder

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director – Rose Sheehan

Stage Director – Jim Ellis

Chorus Director – Bill Venman

Lighting and Scene Design – William M. Davis

Stage Manager – Diana Venman

Business Managers – Jinny Mason, Alan McArdle

Rehearsal Accompanist – Cindy Moss

Costumes – Jeanne Closson

Light Control Operator – Joseph E. Krusas III

Set & Lighting Technicians – William M. Davis,
Mike Farrick, Joseph E. Krusas III,
Paul Lanni, Gabriel Serlenga

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Valley Light Opera
Smith College Campus School
Country Players
Windsor Castle Border Ballet & Fire Brigade
Mary Decker
Thomas Hutcheson
Janet Winston

Benches Courtesy of Hugh Davis

Broad Hill Road Leverett, MA

Lighting Equipment Courtesy of:

Theatrix, Belchertown, MA

The Fine Arts Center and Hamden Theater, UMass, Amherst



PART ONE



PRELUDE – Geoff, Michael

THE SHORTEST DAY – Casey, Jan, Andrea T., Stephen, Andrea S.

Written by Susan Cooper; used with permission of Revels, Inc.

YULE LOG PROCESSION – Chorus, The Children

Touch the Yule Log with a holly leaf and make a wish for the New Year!

APPLE TREE WASSAIL – Rose, David, Geoffrey, Steve

"Wassail" is a salutation to "be whole". The Custom involves house to house visiting with the partaking of food and drink to bring good luck to both visitors and visited.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY – Bart, Jan, All

(Words included. Turn the page!)

CHRISTMAS IS COMING – The Children

THE GREAT WHITE CAT – Steve

A Christmas Eve tale of troublesome trolls

GREEN GROW THE RUSHES, O – Steve, All

(Words included. Turn the page!)

SWORD DANCE – That Long Tall Sword

THE WREN SONG – The Children

Wrenning, an Irish tradition, is a remnant of rituals involving the sacrifice of a King, the wren being King of the birds.

THE CUTTY WREN – Alan, Michael, Bart, Fred, Stephen, David

PIPE MUSIC – David

MUMMER'S PLAY – Fool-Steve, Old Bet-Alan, Hob-Andrea T. & Stephen, St. George-Bart, Dragon-Jinny, Doctor-Fred,

Mumming is part of a body of mid-winter customs in which the performing troupe disguises themselves and visits, often unannounced, house to house bringing good cheer. Other "guising" customs include sword dance plays and Border Morris dancing a thoroughly raucous affair in which dancers yell, hoot and clash sticks.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL – Chorus

In this Wassail we toast a succession of horses & cows.
(Words included. Turn the page!)

INTERMISSION



PART TWO



INTERLUDE – Cindy, David

THIS LONGEST NIGHT – Elysse, Chorus

Written by Lorraine Lee

GREAT BIG STAR – The Children

DON OICHE UD I MBEITHIL – David

Traditional Irish Gaelic

"That night in Bethlehem it was as if the sun was always on the horizon . . . The sky had glowing cheeks the earth had a blanket of white"

BRIGHTEST AND BEST – Cindy, Women

ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE – That Long Tall Sword

A dance from an English village where dancers use horns carbon dated to the 12th century.

THERE WAS A PIG WENT OUT TO DIG – The Children

BEARSKIN – Rose

An unusual variant of the Beauty and the Beast theme

PERSONENT HODIE – Chorus

SHERBURNE – Chorus

THE LORD OF THE DANCE – Rose, All

Traditional Shaker tune, lyrics by Sydney Carter.
(Words included. Turn the page!)

GOWER WASSAIL – All

(Words included. Turn the page!)

END

SONGS

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Chorus: The rising of the sun
The running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
The sweet singing all in the choir.

GREEN GROW THE RUSHES O

I'll sing you one-O
Green grow the rushes-O
What is your one-O
One is one and all alone and ever more shall be so.

Two, two the lily white boys, clothed all in green-O
Three, three the rivals
Four for the gospel makers
Five for the symbols at your door
Six for the six proud walkers
Seven for the seven stars in the sky
Eight for the April rainers
Nine for the nine bright shiners
Ten for the ten commandments
Eleven for the eleven that went to heaven
Twelve for the twelve apostles

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL

Chorus: Drink to thee, drink to thee
with a 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
I will lead you all in the dance said he.

GOWER WASSAIL

Verse 1

A Wassail, a wassail throughout all this town,
Our cup it is white and our ale it is brown.
Our wassail is made of the good ale and true,
some nutmeg and ginger it's the best we can brew

Chorus

Fol the dol, fol the dol-de-dol, Fol the dol-de-dol,
fol the dol-de-dee, fol the der-o, fol the dad-dy,
Sing tu-re-lye do!

Verse 2:

We hope that your apple trees prosper and bear
So we may have cider when we call next year
And where you have one barrel we hope you'll have ten,
So we may have cider when we call again.

Verse 3:

We know by the moon that we are not too soon
And we know by the sky that we are not too high
We know by the stars that we are not too far,
And we know by the ground that we are within sound.

Verse 4:

Our wassail is made of the elderberry bough
And so, my good neighbor, we'll drink unto thou;
And if we're alive for another new year
Perhaps we may call and see who do live here.

The spark of a flaming Yule log, of a candle burning in the dark, of stars blazing in the heavens all reflect the spark of life, the heart of our celebratory joy.

As we are confronted by the darkness of Mid-Winter we gather together and each of us gains the strength to find the light that is within.

This is the ninth year Welcome Yule has celebrated the Mid-Winter. I am honored that so many enthusiastic, supportive, talented and committed individuals have chosen to build and shape this tradition over the years. I offer them all my deepest gratitude. And to each of you it is my wish that you will leave with your inner light burning brightly for another new year.

WASSAIL!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose", with a stylized, flowing script.

Please sign our guest book in the lobby.
We would like to have you on our mailing list.

program design & production by Elizabeth C. Bonney