

A Midwinter Celebration



Welcome  
**YULE**

FEATURING:

MUSIC, DANCE, SONGS & STORIES

December 13th, 14th & 15th 1996

**The Shea Theatre**  
7.1 AVENUE A TURNERS FALLS

☞☞ PERFORMERS ☞☞

*Chorus*

Montserrat Archbald  
Dominic Baird  
Big Bart Bales  
Erin Berard  
Rick Bingham  
Joan Deeley  
David de la Barre  
Louise Doud  
Carol Flandreau  
Caitlin Flynn

Jan Frazier  
Jean Johnson  
Ryan Johnson  
Jinny Mason  
Cindy Mathews  
Alan McArdle  
Devon McArdle  
Fred Momaney  
Steve Morgan  
Naomi Oberski  
J. Lorelle Paul

Julian Proujansky  
Renee Schatteman  
Rose Sheehan  
Liz Smith  
Andrea Stover  
Olivia Tamzarian  
Andrea Tarr  
Alicia Walter  
H. Martin Wobst  
Natalia Wobst

*Children*

Hattie Love Archbald  
Owen Baines  
Adrienne Berard  
Grace Berard  
Susannah Berard

Kendra Bingham  
Elizabeth Carlton  
Colin de la Barre  
Evin de la Barre  
Autumn Johnson  
Ember Johnson

Rose Regina Lawrence  
Laura McDonough  
Kelly Morgan  
Nora Proujansky  
Cody Wallace

*Musicians*

David de la Barre — Scottish small pipe, whistles, bodhran  
Naka Ishii — Fiddle  
Brittany Kaplan — Fiddle  
Paul Kaplan — Guitar  
Rose Sheehan — Melodeon, drum

*Juggler Meadow Morris Men*

Sam Kelly  
Craig Marden

George Naughton  
Geoffrey Rogers

Mark Skinder  
Jonathan Tauer

☞☞ PRODUCTION STAFF ☞☞

Artistic Director — *Rose Sheehan*

Producers — *Jinny Mason & Alan McArdle*

Music Director — *Bill Venman*

Staging Director — *Jim Ellis*

Stage Manager — *Diana Venman*

Technical Director — *Matt Kimmel*

Set Design — *Mary Decker*

Costumes — *Jeanne Closson*

Light Crew — *John McDowell – Board Operator*  
*Jacqueline McDowell, David Stokes*

Set Construction — *Henry Decker Sr., Henry Decker Jr.,*  
*Mary Decker & Dotty Decker*

Creation Choreography — *Diana Venman*

Puppet Construction — *Mary Decker*

Props — *Andrea Tarr*

Creation Props — *Sally Venman*

Children's Assistants — *Wilma Lawrence & John Berard*

Child Care — *Heather Truelove*

Program & Poster Design — *Elizabeth Bonney*



***Special Thanks To***

Valley Light Opera

Northfield Country Players

University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center

Hugh Davis

Windsor Castle BORDER Ballet and Fire Brigade

Gerald Stockman

➡ ➡ PART ONE ➡ ➡

*The Song of Creation\** – Rose, Lorelle, Dom and Chorus  
Story by Rose Sheehan

*Gower Wassail\** – Carol F., Lorelle, Liz, Andrea S., Louise,  
Dom, David, Martin, Rick, Patricia, Fred  
“Wassail” is a salutation to “be whole”

*The Moon & The Sun* – Children

*The Shortest Day* – Jim  
by Susan Cooper Used with permission of Revels, Inc.

*Yule Log Procession\** – Chorus and Musicians  
Touch the Yule Log with a holly leaf and make  
a wish for the New Year!

*The Holly & The Ivy* – Chorus

*Christmas is Coming* – Children

*Porcupine and the Sky Mirrors* – Steve & Children  
Siberian Folk Tale

*Come and I will Sing You* – Rose, Steve, the Musicians  
and Chorus (Words included. Turn the page!)

*The Wren* – Children  
Wrenning, an Irish tradition, is a remnant of ritual involving  
the sacrifice of a King, the wren being King of the birds.

*The Wren Boys* – Steve, Musicians and Chorus  
(Words included. Turn the page!)

*Mummer's Play* – Jill-of-All-Trades: Joan, Father Time: Alan,  
Happy Daze: Renee, D.S. Knight: Bart, Sonny Boy: Paul,  
Clare de Loony: Erin  
Written by Jim Ellis

*Gloucestershire Wassail* – Chorus  
Traditional, new refrain\*  
In this wassail, we toast a succession of horses and cows

INTERMISSION

➡ ➡ PART TWO ➡ ➡

*Boys & Girls Come Out to Play* – Andrea T.

*The Sun it Rises* – The Children

*Lullay My Liking* – Jan & Chorus  
15th Century Lullaby Carol Music by Gustav Holst

*Scottish Smallpipe Tune Medley* – David

*Personent Hodie* – Chorus

*Es Ist Ein Ros* – Chorus  
15th Century German Carol  
English Words by Ursula Vaughan Williams  
Arranged by Michael Praetorius

*Dark the Night* – Chorus  
Welsh Carol Translation by the Rev. W. Lloyd  
Melody by Canon Owen Jones Harmonized by Dr. Caradog Roberts

*The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance* – Juggler Meadow  
Morris Men and Naka

*The Cutty Wren\** – Liz, Rose, Steve, Andrea S., Dom

*Golden Apples of the Sun* – Lorelle  
Words by W.B. Yeats

*The Sun's Daughter & The Garden of the Rose* – Rose  
Story by Rose Sheehan

*Come, The Golden Sun is Shining* – Chorus  
Music by J.S. Bach

*Lord of the Dance\** – Rick, Louise & Chorus  
Words by Sydney Carter Music is Traditional Shaker  
(Words included. Turn the page!)

*The King\** – Chorus  
From Wales, a final wrenning song

➡ ➡ THE END ➡ ➡

\* Arrangement by Thomas W. Hutcheson

## *Come and I Will Sing You*

Come and I will sing you.

What shall I sing you?

I will sing you one alone.

What shall be the one alone?

**One** is one and one alone.

Come to me dilly come dally come dilly alone  
and ever more shall be so.

**Two** are the Chrissymas babes in green

**Three** are the three that's in Bethlea

**Four** the carollers at the door

**Five** are the oxen standing by

**Six** the six that never did mix

**Seven** the shiners up in the sky

**Eight** of them are the filly-shine white

**Nine** of them's Aunt Mary Ann

**Ten** are the ten command-i-ments

**'Leven** the eleven all gone to heaven

**Twelve** the followers all in a row

## *The Wren Boys*

Hurrah, me boys, hurrah! Hurrah me boys, hurrah!

Knock at the knocker and ring at the bell.

What will you give us for singing so well?

Singing so well, singing so well.

Give us a copper for singing so well.

## *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.

## What is “Welcome Yule, a Midwinter Celebration”?

The meaning of solstice is “sun stands still”. Midwinter is our standing still place, a place to breathe in before we cross the threshold from the faded light of our old year into the hope and promise of new light and new life. It is a transition point of darkness on the wheel of life and light.

The fast pace of our technological culture, the constant presence of artificial light and other “man-made miracles” hold us separate from the natural rhythms and cycles of creation. They deny us our moment of darkness, our moment to catch our breath. We are in danger of suffocation, of slipping off the wheel of life.

*Welcome Yule!* is a celebration by cast and audience together of the midwinter threshold. It is our opportunity to share in the increasingly infrequent live, human transmission of song, music, story and dance. It is our handhold with one another before entering the darkness with its’ prospect of the light to follow.

This year we present the images of our greatest natural luminaries, the sun and the moon as symbols of hope and guidance. We do not stand still between the sun and the moon but move back and forth, breathing in and out, from day to night to day again, from month to month, season to season, year to year.

In the words of D.H. Lawrence:

“The sun, I tell you, is alive, and more alive than I am, or a tree is. It may have blazing gas, as I have hair and a tree has leaves. But I tell you it is the Holy Ghost in full raiment, shaking and walking, and alive as a tiger is, only more so, in the sky.”

As always, this year and every year, Welcome, Yule!