

Wethersfield High School Presents

Our Town

By Thornton Wilder

Thursday, November 10, 2022 - 7:30pm

Friday, November 11, 2022 - 7:30pm

Saturday, November 12, 2022 - 7:30pm

Sunday, November 13, 2022 - 3:00pm

**Tickets at the door or
online at ShowTix4U.com**

\$10 General / \$5 Students and Seniors

Wethersfield High School

Auditorium

411 Wolcott Hill Rd.

Wethersfield, CT 06109

Cast (in order of appearance)

The Stage Managers - Thalia Black, Samantha Coty, Allie Lesser

Mrs. Gibbs - Sophia Murrihy

Mrs. Webb - Nazli Akpinar

Dr. Gibbs - Eamon Baginski

Joe Crowell - Catarina Espírito Santo

Howie Newsome - Mr. Marc Pfister

George Gibbs - Isaiah Friedman-Ringwood

Rebecca Gibbs - Mattie Matarazzo

Wally Webb - Izzy Kinney

Emily Webb - Sophie Torrance

Professor Willard - Mr. Jeff Moger

Mr. Webb - Ryan Fazzina

Woman in the Balcony/Woman Among the Dead- Ms. Susan Coco

Belligerent Man in the Auditorium/A Woman Among the Dead - Elle Lombardo

Lady in the Box/Woman Among the Dead - Ava Chaffee

Simon Stimson - KaitLynn Tinker

The Choir: Sophia Murrihy, Nazli Akpinar, Lily Gebhardt, Ava Chaffee, Aidan Cook, Haley Day, Thalia Black, Sam Coty, Allie Lesser

Mrs. Soames - Lily Gebhardt

Constable Warren - Aidan Cook

Si Crowell - Liv Hammer

Baseball players - Aidan Cook, Izzy Kinney

Sam Craig - Liv Hammer

Joe Stoddard - Bailey Cox

Man Among the Dead- Mr. Brandon Chatfield

Woman Among the Dead - Haley Day

Mr. Carter - Mr. Jeffrey Roets

Production Staff:

Director: Jeffrey Roets

Producer: Sondra Blanzaco

Technical Director: Alona “Bibi” Humphries

Poster Design: Andrea Haas

Set Construction: Behn Sikora, Bill Embacher, Larry Carrier

Technical Crew:

Stage Managers: Elle Lombardo and Jaydalize London

Lights: Luke Krout

Sound: Aedan Baginski

Stage Crew: Lian Dunn, Jenna Laufer, Colin Gilligan, Emily Beaupre, Jayden Anduha

Director’s Note

I taught this play for several years in the 90s and early 00s, and stopped only when Mrs. Wachtelhausen stopped insisting we teach it. I was ready to stop teaching it; like many folks who have read or seen the play without committing to it, I thought it was dated and overly sentimental about an America that no longer exists. Kids didn’t care about it, and it didn’t seem worth the trouble. And then, life happened. I grew, lost people dear to me, survived COVID, and watched my kids grow up and start their adult lives. The play means so much more to me now.

In winter 2022, thanks to the folks at the Wethersfield Historical Society and the Wethersfield Public Library, I was able to meet writer Howard Gardner, who wrote a book called *Another Day’s Begun: Thornton Wilder’s Our Town in the 21st Century*. The book is a collection of interviews with 100+ actors/creators who have produced the play in this century, as well as some contextual scholarship that explains the pervasiveness of the play in American culture. It is a fascinating book, and made me totally rethink the play. So I taught it again last year, and Mr. Gardner came to the high school and talked to students about why this play, written in the 1930s, and set in the early years of the twentieth century in small town New Hampshire, is still one of the most produced plays in America, and the world.

Despite its setting, it is one of the most universal of plays. You will recognize moments in *Act 1: Daily Life*. Parents hustling kids out the door to school, siblings squabbling, husbands and wives negotiating, neighbors chatting, homework getting done, and a young romance beginning. *Act 2: Love and Marriage*, shares those awkward moments as young lovers determine to spend the rest of their lives together, and parents let their children go. *Act 3* is unnamed, but it is set in the cemetery. And it is here where we find the heart of the play; the basic truth that life “goes so fast,” “we don’t have time to look at one another,” and no “human beings ever realize life while they live it.” (except “The saints and poets, maybe – they do some.”)

For the record: Mrs. Wachtelhausen was right.

Coming this March! Disney's *The Little Mermaid*.
Look for Audition information on the screens, Blue Eagle News, and
<https://whsroets.weebly.com/whs-drama.html>

