



# Spotlight

discover what all the applause is about . . .

**July, 2021**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- July 3rd - **Volcano Cannonball Run & 4th of July Parade**—the amphitheatre will be open, so come and check it out when you're in town!
- July 13th - Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Cobblestone Theatre
- July 30th - **OPENING NIGHT of HAY FEVER!! WooHoo!!!**

Volcano Theatre Company Presents

# HAY FEVER

By Noel Coward

Directed By  
Jim Estes



**July 30th September 5th**  
Friday & Saturday Evenings, 8pm  
Doors open at 6:30 for your  
picnicking pleasure  
**Volcano Amphitheatre**

Sponsored by  
**STERLING AUTO REPAIR**

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Concord Theatricals. 2021

Tickets at  
[volcanothetre.net](http://volcanothetre.net)  
or by calling  
209-419-0744

**OPENING NIGHT!**  
**Friday, July 30th**

No Sneezing With THIS Hay Fever!

We are **THRILLED** to reopen our amphitheatre after a 22 month Covid closure with the outrageous Noel Coward comedy, *Hay Fever*, sponsored by Sterling Auto Repair!

Back in March when auditions were held, Director Jim Estes was unsure of what to expect. The last amphitheatre production was 2019's *James and the Giant Peach* and a lot had changed since then. Naturally, he was thrilled when almost two dozen actors flocked to the amphitheatre to try out. "Everyone was so talented and having so much fun it was difficult to choose a final cast!" said Jim. But choose he did and they've been rehearsing 2-3 times each week since then to make *Hay Fever* a triumphant return for the VTC!

## *Hay Fever, continued . . .*

A Noel Coward comedy was decided upon for its universal appeal and name recognition. Sir Noel Peirce Coward (yes, he was knighted in 1970) was born in 1899 and was an actor, dancer, director, novelist, painter, playwright, screenwriter, singer, songwriter, lyricist and style icon who shaped important aspects of English and American culture from 1920 through 1970. He was known for his wit and flamboyance and what Time magazine called “a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise”. He wrote more than 65 plays and musicals, including, but certainly not limited to: *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, which was re-made into a movie starring Dame Judi Dench just last year. He appeared in more than 70 stage productions and 17 films.

Hay Fever was the first of Noel Coward’s plays to be embraced by mainstream theatrical repertoire and has been described as a “marriage of a farce with a comedy of manners” and “a dazzling achievement . . . Pure comedy with no mission but to delight”.

The setting is the great room of the Bliss family’s country estate in the 1920’s. The four artistic and over flamboyant Bliss family members consist of Simon and Sorel Bliss, brother and sister (played by Alex Sharp and Madison Stevens, respectively), mother Judith (Paula Bibby), a “temporarily retired” stage actress, and father David (Jim Caudle), an author. The fifth Bliss home resident is housekeeper Clara (Dana Hein). The action begins as the Bliss family members learn that each of the others has secretly invited a guest for the weekend. Sandy Tyrell (James Dove) shows up at Judith’s invitation; flirtatious Myra Arundel (Brenda Metzger) is invited by Simon; diplomat Richard Greatham (Rocky Lane) comes at Sorel’s call and naïve Jackie Coryton (Savannah Mulderrig) is David’s guest. Tea turns into an awkward silence. A parlous game plays into the theatrical hands of the Bliss family while leaving their guests confused. As characters pair up and flirting fires up, more theatrics occur culminating in a scene from one of Judith’s favorite plays, Love’s Whirlwind: “Is this a game?” “Yes, and a game that must be played to the finish!” And a wild and hysterically funny finish it shall be!

In addition to Director Jim Estes, the VTC Hay Fever production team includes Ellie Routt as Assistant Director; Karen Rovane, Producer; Alicia Barber, Set Design and Decoration; Jorja Perea and Alison Galloway, Costume Design; Jeff Fausett, Stage Manager and Set Builder; Dan Edwards and Roxanne Fausett, Stage Crew; Margaret Lewis and Alicia Barber, Script Supervisors; Alex Sharp, Sound Design; Jim Caudle, Lighting Design; Bob Duzdevich, House Manager and Kevin Barnett, Poster Design.

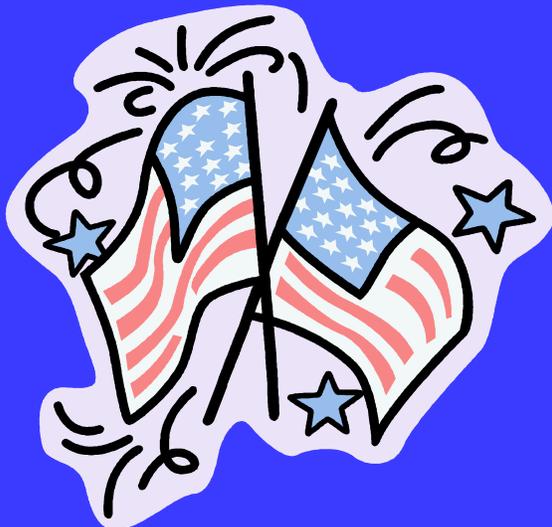
Hay Fever opens July 30th and will run each Friday and Saturday evening through September 4th with a special closing night on Sunday, September 5th. The theatre will open at 6:30 for your picnicking pleasures, with the performance beginning at 8 p.m. Plan to bring lawn chairs, picnic dinners, beverages of choice and a blanket for when the evening cools.

Tickets are on sale NOW at [www.volcanotheatre.net](http://www.volcanotheatre.net). Don’t miss out on fun times with great friends in a beautiful amphitheatre this summer! You will be thoroughly entertained!



## VOLCANO THEATRE CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING

Back in late 2019, the Volcano Theatre Company discovered their entire Amphitheatre stage and greenroom structure had to be demolished and rebuilt and the Save Our Stage 2020 Campaign was born. Thanks to many generous donors, enough funds were raised to enable the small community theatre to rebuild its performance space, and in time to open its Summer 2020 season, which was ultimately cancelled due to the pandemic. The newly rebuilt and unused amphitheatre remained sadly quiet for well over a year, but now, finally, the company was able to keep one of its "campaign promises" to have a private Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to which all the donors were personally invited. So on Saturday, June 5th, in the presence of about 100 dedicated theatre lovers, the Volcano Theatre Company Board of Directors, together with General Contractor Gerry Elliott and Contractors Chuck Hagyard and Steve Bergendahl, officially re-opened the venue. President Kathleen Harmon personally thanked all three contractors for their hard work, to Lowe's Hometown Heros for their contributions, to all the volunteers who came when called upon to dig ditches, shovel gravel, or do whatever was asked of them, and especially to all the wonderful people whose donations made it all possible. A delicious tri tip sandwich dinner was provided by Sizemore's Country Store and everyone took home a commemorative "Save Our Stage 2020" cup with a dessert cookie tucked inside.



## Volcano Cannonball Run

### Parade & Car Show

**Saturday, July 3rd!**

Volcano Theatre Company will be participating in the Volcano Parade this Saturday morning, so come on down and have some fun! And, after the parade, the Amphitheatre will be open for tours of the new green room, a sneak peek at the progress of the Hay Fever set currently under construction, and we can answer any questions you may have about the company or our productions!

See you on Saturday!

# BALANCING THE BOOKS CAN BE A CHALLENGE!

. . . and never more so than during this time of Covid when the theatre has been dark for more than a year and with no source of income, except those kind and generous donations made by our community of theatre lovers. Venue maintenance, taxes, utilities and insurance must be paid, whether we have an audience or not.

Any amount of financial support will be greatly appreciated, and of course, is tax-deductible. Thank you for supporting YOUR Community Theatre!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_; email: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO:**

**VTC, P.O. Box 88, Volcano, CA 95689**

## **2021 Board of Directors**

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### **Theatre Manager, Jim Estes**

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### **Tech Manager, Alex Sharp**

scott.alexander.sharp@hotmail.com/418-5502

**Spotlight, volcanotheatre@volcano.net**

## **STONE BY STONE, BRICK BY BRICK**

Thanks to all of you who have donated money and time towards theatre improvements. However, maintaining and improving the Cobblestone and Amphitheatre properties is an on-going adventure. You can help by buying a brick. For each \$100 donation, a brick engraved with your name will be added to the walkway in the Amphitheatre! Your tax-deductible donation will be greatly appreciated!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

N A M E S     T O     B E     E N G R A V E D :  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to VTC, P.O. Box 88,  
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