

THE EARLY YEARS

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1957

Playhouse - Greenport High School

*The Man Who Came to Dinner*  
*Harvey*

1958

Playhouse - Greenport High School

*Bus Stop*  
*A Visit to a Small Planet*

1959

Playhouse - Greenport High School

*All My Sons*

1960

Playhouse - Greenport High School

*Romanoff and Juliet*

1961

Playhouse - Mechanic's Hall, Orient

*Night Must Fall*  
*Born Yesterday*

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Some of the people involved in those early productions were: Syd and Elaine Breese, Jack and Maureen Moffat, Doris and Jim MacCammond, Dorothy Robertson, Connie Overton, Jack Reed, Joan Smith, Donald Boerum, Francis Adams, Herbert Vail, John and Nancy Weissman, Elsie Powers, Audrey and Fred Newell, Charlie and Joan Jaschob, George Cottral.

1961

First Mattituck Production

The Glass Menagerie

Director Fred Newell  
Cast Jack Moffat, Bente Snellenburg, Audrey Newell,  
~~and an unknown gentleman caller.~~  
Chuck Jones

Guys and Dolls

Director Malcolm Luce  
Producer Charles Jaschob  
Cast Joan Jaschob, Herb Blaise, Harriet Mountain,  
Audrey Rothman, Marge Graves, Joan and Ed  
Hindermann, Monte Warren, Amy Penny, Joe  
Ulrich, Blanche Corovessis, Jack Moffat, and  
Russ Mann.

1962

The Happy Time

Director Jack Moffat  
Producer Elaine Breese  
Cast Paul Trautman, Herb Blaise, Pat Seaman, Monte  
Warren, Malcolm Luce, Charles Jaschob, Lee  
Adamson, Maureen Moffat, Madeline Warren,

Bob Rothman, Vernon ("Chummy") Appelt,  
and Bob Freeman.

The Hasty Heart

Director Fred Newell  
Cast Van Foske, Jack and Maureen Moffat, Fred Hamblett,  
Charles Smith, Chummy Appelt, Ed Hindermann, and  
Larry Brewer.

1963

Damn Yankees

Director Jack Moffat  
Producer Joan Smith  
Cast Jerry Lipman, Bob Freeman, Van Fosky, Ed  
Hindermann, Keith Cowan, Harriet Mountain,  
Monte Warren, Arthur Williams, Charles Smith,  
Dorothy Elsis, Francine Osmer, Pat Seaman,  
Maureen Moffat, Amy Penny, Cathy O'Brien,  
Jerry Polatnick, Herb Wells, Chummy Appelt,  
Joe Ulrich, Jean Peters, Fred Hamblett, Jack  
Adams, Peggy Fellows, Ruth Becker, Art Wilks,  
Dick Dries, and Bob Rothman.

Petticoat Fever

Director Ruth Becker  
Producer Maureen Moffat  
Cast Art Wilks, Dick Pierson, Jack Moffat, Sue Collins,  
Vera Cowan, Audrey and Bob Rothman, Fred  
Hamblett, Joan Smith, and Rosemary Eddy.

Critic's Choice

Director Fred Newell  
Producer Charles Smith  
Cast Hal Young, Pat Seaman, Chummy Appelt, Jack  
Moffat, Ann McDonough, Audrey Newell, and  
Ruth Oberlander.

1964

Pajama Game

Director Jack Moffat  
Producer Syd Breese  
Cast Dick Fleming, Art Wilks, Fred Nelson, Monte  
Warren, Jack and Maureen Moffat, Ruth Becker,  
Bill Kelsey, Van Foske, Joe Ulrich, Jean Peters,  
Ann McDonough, Rosemary Eddy, Audrey  
Rothman, Russ Mann, Jerry Polatnick, Dick  
Pierson, Jeff Smith, Mary Sturm, Sylvia Shaffran,  
Blanche Corovessis, and Bill Kelsey.

*Mousetrap*

*Director* Audrey Newell  
*Producer* Pat Seaman  
*Cast* Joan and Charles Smith, Mary Sturm, Russ Mann, Clacia Young, Charles Jaschob, Bill Kelsey, and Jeff Smith.

*Separate Tables*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Jack Moffat  
*Cast* Laurie Waitz, Sylvia Shaffran, Peg Fellows,

Mary Sturm, Madeline Warren, Dick Pierson, Maureen and Jack Moffat, Ruth Becker, Art Wilks, and Deirdre Howley.

*The Crucible*

*Director* Ruth Becker  
*Producer* Art Wilks  
*Cast* Honor Reynolds, Dick Fleming, Alice Dart, Dolores McCullough, Debbie Mann, Rosemary Eddy, Dave Detrich, Madeline Warren, Bente Snellenberg, Jack Moffat, Edna Benedict, Lou Padavan, Hal and Clacia Young, Laurie Waitz, Bill Hess, Jeff Smith, Bob Rothman, Art Wilks, and Fred Hamblet.

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1965

*Kiss Me Kate*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Dick Pierson  
*Cast* Hal Young, Monte Warren, Harriet Mountain, Bob Rothman, Mary Holton, Ed Hindermann, Joe Ulrich, Mary Sturm, Maureen Burns, Pat Seaman, Mary Yates, Sylvia Shaffran, Barbara Jazombek, Lou Padavan, Keith Cowan, Ed Graham, Dave Detrich, Art Wilks, Bob Freeman, Clay Young, Greg Moffat, Russ Mann, Anne McDonough, and Charles Smith.

*Blithe Spirit*

*Director* Clacia Young  
*Producer* Ruth Becker  
*Cast* Joan Smith, Gertrude Reynolds, Jack and Maureen Moffat, Dave Detrich, Fran Osmer, and Audrey Newell.

*Peanut Butter Prince*

*Written, Produced, and Directed by* Jack Moffat  
*Cast* Keith Cowan, Barbara Jazombek, Pat Seaman, Joan Smith, Joe Ulrich, and Art Wilks.

*The Potting Shed*

*Director* Maureen Moffat  
*Producer* Dave Detrich  
*Cast* Mike Dougherty, Honor Reynolds, Peggy Fellows, Dave Detrich, Hal Young, Lou Padavan, Jack Moffat, Joan De Hayes, Linda Lieblein, and Art Wilks.

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1966

*Call Me Madam*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Linda Lieblein  
*Cast* Barbara Jazombek, Bob Rothman, Jack Graves, Maureen and Jack Moffat, Art Wilks, Sylvia Shaffran, Art Kaelin, Linda Lieblein, John Miesner, Carolyn Siefert, Larry Seeger, Mary Sturm, Dave Detrich, Jim Code, Mike Dougherty, Blanche Corovessis, Brian Kavanaugh, Fran Osmer, Honor Reynolds, Hal Young, Cathy Barber, Russ Mann, Mary Holton, and Peggy Fellows.

*Mary, Mary*

*Director* Clacia Young  
*Producer* Sylvia Shaffran  
*Cast* Jack Graves, Cathy Barber, Fred Newell, Jack Moffat, and Gertrude Reynolds.

*Save Me a Place a Forest Lawn*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Gertrude Reynolds  
*Cast* Agnes Mothersele and Peggy Fellows.

*The Browning Version*

*Director* Maureen Moffat  
*Producer* Gertrude Reynolds  
*Cast* Clacia and Clay Young, Art Wilks, Jack Moffat, Allan Dawe, John Miesner, and Maureen Burns.

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1967

*There Comes a Time*

*Written, Composed and Directed by* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Clacia Young  
*Cast* Barbara Jazombek, Art Wilks, Ed Graham, Bob Freeman, Vicki Hills, Sis Winters, Larry Seeger, Jack Graves, Mary Jane Sidor, Gertrude Reynolds, Maureen Burns, Hal Young, Betty Eckert, and Pat Seaman.

*Write Me a Murder*

*Director* Ruth Becker  
*Producer* Nick Kinsch  
*Cast* Jack Graves, Cathy Barber, Jack Seaman, Dick Winters, Gertrude Reynolds, Clay Young, Art Wilks, and Larry Seeger.

*My Three Angels*

*Director* Fred Newell  
*Cast* John Wall, Ruth Becker, Honor Reynolds, Hal, Clacia and Clay Young, Chuck Bondi, Art Wilks, Bob Freeman, and Jack Graves.

1968

*She Loves Me*

*Director* Chuck Bondi  
*Producer* Ruth Becker  
*Cast* Chuck Corovessis, Ben and Maureen Burns, Annette Lieblein, Jack Moffat, Dick Nelson, Joe Ulrich, Vicki Hills, Dot Fleischmann, Mary Yates, Maureen Cahill, Dorothy Luce, Larry Seeger, Art Wilks, Clay Young, Lester Seaman, Nick Kinsch, and Artemus Ward.

*Peanut Butter Prince*  
(Revival)

*Cast* Hal Young, Art Wilks, Barbara Jazombek, Ralph Williams, Joan Smith, Mary Holton, and Jim McGuyer.

*Bell, Book, and Candle*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producers* Loretta Hess and "Sis" Winters  
*Cast* Maureen Moffat, Jon Richmond, Peggy Fellows, Ralph Williams, and Bob Freeman.

*Absence of a Cello*

*Director* Clacia Young  
*Producers* Anne Detrich and Anne Richmond  
*Cast* Gertrude Reynolds, Hal Young, Pat Tucker, Cathy Cahill, Alice Dart, Paul Trautman, and Dick Dries.

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1969

*The Little Foxes*

*Director* Ruth Becker  
*Producers* Bob Ackroyd and Dick Nelson  
*Cast* Wilhemina Taylor, Lester Smith, Clacia Young, Dick Dries, Jon Richmond, Maureen and Jack Moffat, Joe Ulrich, Marilyn Corwin and Jack Reed.

*Jack in a Box*

Written, Composed, Produced, and Directed by Jack Moffat  
Cast Everybody

*Thurber Carnival*

Director Jim Lull  
Producers Syd Breese and George Vande Woude  
Cast Dick Dries, Art Wilks, Jac and Eve Saffer, Dick Warrington, Cindy Ackroyd, Bob Freeman, Mary Register, and Beth Proom.

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1970

*Little Moon of Alban*

Director Dick Dries  
Producers Sis Winters and Loretta Hess  
Cast Frank Steele, Art Wilks, Paul Trautman, Bob Ackroyd, Clacia Young, Pat and Holly Seaman, Larry Presby, Jack Reed, Gertrude Reynolds, Mary Register, Maureen Burns, Nancy Moyna, Walter Clay, Jon Richmond, Dave Detrich, and Dan McCarthy.

*Bells are Ringing*

Directors Jon and Anne Richmond  
Producer Linda Graham  
Cast Annette Lieblein, Dot Fleischman, Mary Register, Les Hart, Ed Morganstern, Dave Detrich, Chuck Bondi, Frank Steele, Dick Dries, Ed Hindermann, Art Wilks, Pauline Arnold, Linda Graham, and Hal Young.

*The Odd Couple*

Director Pat Tucker  
Producer Jon Richmond  
Cast Bob Ackroyd, Jack Reed, Frank Steele, Dick Winters, Lou Padavan, Dick Dries, Maureen Cahill, and Fran Schmidt.

1971

*The Haunting of Hill House*

Director Lou Padavan  
Producer Maureen Cahill  
Cast Linda Graham, Marian Beaton, Pat Tucker, Jack Reed, Joe Townsend, Diane Marcus, and Joe Remkus.

*The Man of La Mancha*

Director Frank Steele  
Producer Bob Ackroyd  
Cast Hal Young, John Rasanen, Pat Tucker, Don Hamblin, Jack Moffat, Don and Cathy Cahill, Georgia O'Connor, Joe Nolan, John Ashton, Barbara Jazombek, Joe Remkus, Art Quintana, Joe Noon, Harrison Bachrach, Carman Sweeney, and Mary Register.

*Auntie Mame*

Directors Dave Detrich and Pat Tucker  
Producer Diane Marcus  
Cast Judy Utter, Ben Sisson, Larry Presby, Maureen Cahill, Joe Pufahl, Lou Padavan, Bill Price, Joe Nolan, Sis Winters, Mike Tucker, Bob and Janet Freeman, Bob and Mary Register, John and Teena Christie, Ed Vaitus, Fran Osmer, Maureen Moffat, Roger Bancroft, Elizabeth Romeo, Kathy Larsen, Joe Townsend, Marge Moffat, John Ashton, Nancy Moyna, Cindy and Bob Ackroyd, Maureen Tucker.

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1972

*The Price*

Director Sandra Scappetone  
Cast Judy Utter, Don Hamblin, Jack Moffat, and Hal Young.

*Finian's Rainbow*

*Directors* Ben and Maureen Burns  
*Producer* Dick Winters  
*Cast* Danny Larsen, John Tapner, Dwayne Rhodes, John Cornell, Alice Dart, Kathy McGrath, Alan Alexander, Deidre Nolan, John Ashton, Georgia O'Connor, Joe Nolan, Bob Ackroyd, Ken Nelson, Don Hamblin, Kayo Crump, Mark Dickerson, Cheryl Burns, Dick Winters, Bill Price, Ben Burns, Roger Stoutenbergh, Mark Dickerson, and Chris Wacker.

*Wait Until Dark*

*Director* Lou Padavan  
*Producer* Fran Schmidt  
*Cast* John Corazzini, Art Wilks, Dick Dries, Pat Tucker, John Ashton, Sue Wiegand, Mark Volinski, and George Grattan.

*See How They Run*

*Directors* Judy Utter and Allen Derrick  
*Producer* Jon Richmond  
*Cast* Cindy and Bob Ackroyd, John Ashton, Roger Bancroft, Dave Detrich, Mark Volinski, Jack Moffat, Barbara Matassa, and Allen Dane.

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1973

*Spoon River Anthology*

*Director* Bob Freeman  
*Producer* Janet Freeman  
*Cast* Art Wilks, Bob Ackroyd, Chris Clarke, John Ashton, Bob Freeman, Maureen Moffat, Marian Beaton, Willi Braunschweig, Alice Dart, Beth Miller, and Dwayne Rhodes.

*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

*Director* Sandra Scappetone  
*Producer* Marge Moffat  
*Cast* Allen Derrick, Willi Braunschweig, Joe Townsend, and Pat Arden.

*Carnival*

*Director* Jon Richmond  
*Producer* Anne Richmond  
*Cast* Art Quintana, Bob Wiltse, Pat Tucker, Betty Jeanne Townsend, Mike Cortese, Russ Wells, Joe Duerr, Bill Price.

*Summer and Smoke*

*Director* Allen Derrick  
*Producer* Judy Utter  
*Cast* Lauren Lessard, Jon Richmond, Teena and John Christie, Allen Derrick, Jack Reed, Georgia O'Connor, Marjorie Tuthill, Maura Clarke, David Tomei, Pat Forrest, Sue Wiegand, Art Quintana, and John Rasanen.

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1974

*A Thousand Clowns*

*Director* Joe Townsend  
*Producer* Barbara Clay  
*Cast* Danny Larsen, Bob Ackroyd, Sue Kelly, David Tomei, Don Hamblin, and Ned Harroun.

*The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*

*Director* Sandra Scappetone  
*Producer* Marge Moffat  
*Cast* Beccy Beaton, Willi Braunschweig, Lisa Michel, Jean Lawless, Sue Wiegand, and Harvey Freeman.

*Cabaret*

*Director* Camilla Clay  
*Producer* Jane Stahler  
*Cast* Linda Crawford, Tim Hurley, Robert Ramirez, Willi Braunschweig, Pat Arden, George Stahler, Gail Schauder, Jim Thompson, Judy Davids, and the Kit-Kat Girls.

1975

40 Carats

*Director* Pat Reed  
*Producer* Jane Stahler  
*Cast* Bernadette Aldcroft, Tim Brown, Sheryl Chiat, Helen Hunt, David Tomei, Jack Reed, Judy Utter, June Seaman, Bob and Janet Freeman, and David Markel.

*The Lion in Winter*

*Directors* Bob Ackroyd and Sue Kelly  
*Producer* Janet Freeman  
*Cast* Kathy Shaw, Jack Moffat, Angela Tomei, Brian Monsell, Mark Volinski, John Williams, and Chris Young.

*A Ms. by Any Other Name* by Robert DeMaria

*Director* Allen Derrick  
*Producer* Judy Utter  
*Cast* Pat Reed, Allen Derrick, George Stahler, Jewell Gonzalez, Linda Szymanowski, Bill Claudio, Bernadette Aldcroft, Billie Burgess, Ronnie O'Reagan, John Christie, Vic Prusinowski, and Carl Berry.

*Kismet*

*Director* Frank Steele  
*Producer* Marge Moffat  
*Cast* John Rasanen, Bette Jean Townsend, Don Wirth, Leona White, Dick Dries, George Stahler, Mark Volinski, Dave Markel, Ted Doroski, Art Wilks, Frank Wanser, Marge Moffat, Elisa Lieblein, Allison Mann, Sara Harnett, Debbie Schneider, Rachel Levin, Jack Moffat, John Ashton, Art Quintana, Ed Morgenstern, Bob Wall, Gladys Flurry, Sue Greenwald, Dot Devlin, Tom Fischer, Diane Mallory, Adrienne Tapner, Maureen Tucker, and Helen Hunt.

1976

*Bertha, the Beautiful Typewriter Girl*

*Director* George Stahler  
*Producer* Billie Burgess  
*Cast* Alan Levine, Janice Olsen, Jack Moffat, Mark Kwansa, John Ashton, Anne Marcus, Bob Shaw, Hal Young, Judy Utter, and Judy Sarkisian.

*Dark of the Moon*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Producer* Kathy Shaw  
*Cast* Art Wilks, Dave Markel, Sue Kelly, Anne Marcus, Clacia Young, Bob Rinklin, Jack Moffat, Bob, Cindy, and Robin Ackroyd, Billie, Bill, and Belinda Burgess, Kathy Shaw, Jay Schondebare, Bob and Christopher Freeman, Chuck Bondi, Diane Detrich, Dave Boutcher, Sue Ulrich, Barbara Albertson, Dot Devlin, and John Ashton.

*Prelude* by Bob Freeman

*Director* Bob Ackroyd  
*Producer* Janet Freeman  
*Cast* John Ashton, Art Wilks, Steve McConnell, Dave Detrich, Bob Ackroyd, Bill Burgess, Bob Freeman, Dave Markel, Art Quintana, Dick Keogh, John Williams, Ken Scanlon, Syd Breese, Bob and Kathy Shaw, Dick Tessitor, Sue Wiegand, Nancy Toner, Ami Young, and Anne O'Donohoe.

*Of Thee I Sing*

*Director* Allen Derrick  
*Producers* Teena and John Christie  
*Cast* Sam Levine, Ken Scanlon, Doris Zito, Vic Prusinowski, Stanley Poole, Eileen Sheldon, George Stahler, Mike Diveris, Allison Mann, Dave Boutcher, Barbara Ann Podlas, Janice Olsen, Ken Walther, Pat Milford, Ted Doroski, and Alan Levine.

1977

*Arsenic and Old Lace*

*Director* Anne Marcus  
*Producer* Kathy Shaw  
*Cast* Clacia Young, Bob Shaw, George Stahler, Dave Markel, Vic Prusinowski, Maureen and Jack Moffat, Gladys Flurry, John Ashton, Bob Ackroyd, Kip Clauss, Mike Diveris, and Ken Scanlon.

*The Night of January 16th*

*Director* Maureen Moffat  
*Producer* Maureen Moffat  
*Cast* Ronnie O'Reagan, Ann Tessitor, John Ashton, Warren Teleira, Marilee Scheer, Janice Olsen, Judy Utter, Bob Shaw, Rob Werber, Hal Young, Jane Stahler, Jean Lindsay, Barbara Podlas, Vic Prusinowski, Sue Wiegand, Ann O'Donohoe, Jack Moffat, and Tom Taylor.

*Finishing Touches*

*Director* Jack Moffat  
*Cast* Phoebe Rey, Ken Scanlon, Tim Pillsbury, Dick Scotti, Ted James, Mark Kwansa, Anne Marcus, and Sue Wiegand.

*The Country Girl*

*Director* Allen Derrick  
*Producer* Joanna Paulsen  
*Cast* Bob Ackroyd, Phoebe Rey, Marilee Scheer, Rob Werber, Allen Derrick, Dick Tessitor, Barbara Greese, and Jack O'Donohoe.

*Fiddler on the Roof*

*Director* Frank Steele  
*Producer* Helen Hunt  
*Cast* John Rasanen, Tom Brennan, Barbara Roesch, Frank Wanser, David Wittenstein, Betty Jean Townsend, Butch Ross, Lee Pufahl, Marge Moffat, Colleen Brennan, Eileen Sheldon, Elizabeth and Beverly Steele, Janice Olsen, Allen Derrick, Gail and Mike Diveris, Joseph Remkus, Rusty Wells, Barbara Sayre, Josh Fierer, and Jim Donlin.

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1978

*Desk Set*

*Director* Judy Utter  
*Producer* Noreen Bowman  
*Cast* Laurie Roberts, Marilee Scheer, Elisa Thomas, Chris Young, Phoebe Rey, Tom Brennan, Bill Gage, Judy Utter, John Jackson, Gladys Flurry, Janice Olsen, Brian Gallagher, Patrick Perrella, Stephen Sweeney, and Kim Raynor.

*A Man for All Seasons*

*Director* Bob Ackroyd  
*Producer* Joanna Paulsen  
*Cast* John Ashton, George Stahler, Mike Diveris, Peter Boody, Clacia and Hal Young, Lois Pike, Bruce Walker, Bill Gage, Dick Tessitor, Brian Gallagher, Gene Durney, Mary Taber, and Vic Prusinowski.

*Angel Street*

*Director* Chris Young  
*Producer* Bill Gage  
*Cast* George Aldcroft, Dawn Brennan, Priscilla Sprague, Marilee Scheer, and George Stahler.



## *Calamity Jane*

Director  
Producer  
Cast

Frank E. Steele  
Patricia T. Wall  
Frank Wanser, Gene Durney, Janice Olsen, Peter Pece, Leona White, Katherine Stevens, George Stahler, Lauren Dickerson, Rev. Kenneth Nelson, Tom Brennan, Robert Shaw, Chris Young, Andrew Cunliffe, Ronald Horton, Judy Utter, Marietta Sylvestri, Len Archer, Eileen Sheldon, Marilee Scheer, Phoebe Rey, Jane Stahler, Beth Charters, Maureen Tucker, Nadine Cartoski, Gladys Flurry, Judy Marshall, Kathy Shaw.

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In the Fall of 1956, a small newspaper advertisement appeared in the pages of *The Suffolk Times*. It said, in effect, "Wanted – people interested in starting an amateur theatre.

Meet in the basement of the Floyd Memorial Library, Greenport" and a date was given. A small but eager group came together to meet Jim and Doris MacCammond, then living in Orient, who had placed the advertisement. Jim was an art instructor at the Greenport School. Doris had graduate training in dramatics and speech. They were experienced and skilled – well qualified to organize a play group.

At that time the Orient Play Shop, which had been active for seven or eight years up to 1954, was inactive. The Greenport Teachers' Association was interested in a fund raising event for May 1957, so the fledgling theatre group and the teachers joined forces.

Students and faculty of Greenport School and community members from Southold to Orient gathered together to put on *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. The original choice for the lead role was unable to complete his assignment, so Jim MacCammond played *Sheridan Whiteside* and Doris directed the production. Lighting and stage settings were improvised to fit the somewhat odd dimensions of the high school stage.

The new theatre activity drew members from all along the North Fork. Scientists and others, from the then relatively new Plum Island Laboratory, teachers, members of Orient Play Shop combined to produce *Harvey*, directed by Dorothy Robertson, and *Bus Stop* directed by Connie Overton. These were produced in Greenport. The affairs of the group became more organized. We elected our first president, George Cottral of Greenport, and a year later moved forward to formal incorporation.

The North Fork Community Theatre next staged *Visit to a Small Planet*, *All My Sons*, and *Romanoff and Juliet*. More people had joined the group, bringing talents which contributed to successful shows. However, the Greenport High School stage

was unwieldy and our production problems had to be dovetailed into school schedule. We moved to Orient where the small stage and more intimate auditorium of Mechanic's Hall served us well for *Night Must Fall* and *Born Yesterday*.

In the winter of 1960 Mr. James Moreno came to see our shows in Orient and told us he would equip and open a professional summer theatre in Mattituck. This was our opportunity for a theatre home. We moved to Mattituck in the Fall of 1961 and opened with *The Glass Menagerie*, directed by Frederic Newell.

—Sydney Breese, 1968

## A HISTORY OF OUR BUILDING

At the junction of what is now Route 25, Love Lane and Sound Avenue, in Mattituck, the early settlers erected, in the 1640's, a Meeting House, bounded on the west by "Ye Olde Free Burying Ground." Some of the tombstones still stand along the east wall of this theatre.

In 1715 James Reeve conveyed to "Ye Inhabitants and Their Heirs and Successors forever" one-half acre of land for a Church and another half-acre for a Church burying ground, adjoining the old free cemetery. On this land was erected the Presbyterian Church. It was replaced in 1830 with a larger church, and this was replaced in 1853. The 1853 building, with subsequent alterations and sizeable additions, is the Presbyterian Church as it stands today.

The 1830 Church became the Mattituck Episcopal Church and was moved to a plot of ground, 50 x 75 feet, to the west of the Olde Burying Ground. This plot had been sold in 1853 by Barnabas Horton to Thomas Hallock for One Dollar "for the Purpose of a Church Edifice." In 1856 The Methodist Church was enlarged. The 1830 section was moved to the rear and became a Chapel, connected with sliding doors to the new main section. The cornerstone of the 1856 addition remains in the northwest corner of the theatre, facing Sound Avenue.

Later on the Methodist congregation moved to Cutchogue, in the early 1920's, the building was taken over by Council No. 34 of the Junior Order of American Mechanics which had been organized in 1895. This lodge remodeled the building, changing the floor and pulpit space to suit their needs. The steeple was removed in 1950.

The organization, in its turn, declined and in 1960 leased the premises to James Moreno who established a Summer Theatre with a professional company. This resulted in drastic alterations to provide seating and a stage; and plays were produced on a summer stock basis during the years 1961 through 1962.

Concurrently, beginning in 1961, the North Fork Community Theatre set up its schedule of three amateur productions from October to June. In 1963, under generous arrangements with the Presbyterian Church, they became the sole lessees; and the enthusiastic support of North Fork audiences enabled the amateur group to purchase and modernize Mr. Moreno's equipment, and to repair and redecorate the theatre.

So this old building has known three lives, all serving the Community laudably. Its present tenants, like those who preceded them, are people of good will and high hopes. Talented and dedicated, may they continue to achieve their goal of "The Best in Amateur Theatre" and may the historic old building continue to stand foursquare to all the winds that blow. Floreant Histriones!

---John J. Mackay, 1968