



## SANDWICH 375 COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **March 22nd: "If this Stage Could Talk!" what would it say?**

Sandwich, MA – March 14, 2014. Sandwich 375 Committee is very proud to announce a very unique and historic theatrical experience at Sandwich Town Hall, Saturday March 22nd at 7:00 PM. "If This Stage Could Talk" brings a troupe of local actors to Town Hall stage in a Readers Theatre performance that will include scenes from three plays performed at Town Hall in days gone by, along with students from Sandwich High School performing their original one-act play written in celebration of the town's 375'th Birthday. The evening is being produced by Theatre of Sandwich as part of "March for the Arts", and directed by Mrs. Linell Grundman and Ms. Marci Galvin.

Recently the upstairs of Sandwich Town Hall was renovated and the stage which hadn't been used since 1950 was brought back to life. Ms. Grundman commented, "If this stage could talk, what would it say? What plays would it want to have performed again? After some research with the help of our archivist Mrs. Barbara Gill, we decided the answer would be to perform scenes from these plays: "The Deestrick Skule", "Miss Civilization" and "The Crimson Cocoanut"- and so we are!

The "Deestrick Skule" was performed on Town Hall stage in November 1895. It uses a day in the life of a one room school house to explore community, people, and fun.

"Miss Civilization" is a one act comedy performed by the High School Senior Class of 1915. When a well-to-do home is broken in to, the teen age daughter takes charge to keep the criminals in place till the authorities get there after placing a telephone call for help.

"The Crimson Cocoanut" is a one act comedy performed by the same Senior Class of 1915. Set in an urban restaurant of London, a Scotland Yard investigator, a lovely young woman and a waiter, get involved in thwarting the attempts of radicals to place a bomb in a bank.

In addition to the plays, several historic and delightful pieces will be performed in Elocutionist style, a popular entertainment in days-gone-bye on Town Hall stage. One piece being performed has ties to local Author Christie Lowrance. It was performed by her grandmother, Helen Moore of Dunmont, New Jersey, a trained elocutionist who earned wide praise in the early 1900's for her recitations and readings of popular works.

Bringing these plays to live will be our Theatre of Sandwich actors: Debra Barrette, Andrew Gorsuch, Justin Horner, Carol McManus, Jim Schneider, Ted Scribner, Bryce Thomas, Chris Smythe and Elizabeth (Lizzy) Smythe.

The evening's program will continue with an original one act play "Our Town: Sandwich" written and performed by Sandwich High School students that looks into Sandwich's past with a satirical lens. "If you were ever wondering why the town was named Sandwich and not Casserole, the students have an answer for you. Is it accurate . . . probably not, but it is entertaining. They make light of the never ending string of canal building attempts as well as the breaking away of Bourne. While we hope the audience can appreciate their farcical situations and slightly exaggerated facts, - all events actually happened and endless hours of research went into the discussions of what they finally act out," added Ms. Galvin. Seniors Ryan Sheehan and Ben Romanelli and Juniors Genieva Aboltin and John Cahill represent the present day students while Juniors Caroline Murphy, Angela Lorino, and Madison Oakley represent students from the past.

But the satire soon ends as a serious and dramatic look at the fascinating life and choices of Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner starts not just to tell of her scandalous end, but also to point out the motivations of all the "characters" involved. Since there are more unanswered questions than answers about this disgraceful woman, the play offers its own interpretive answers to those questions. Actors are Senior Molly Mason (Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner), Junior John Petty III (Joshua Spooner), Sophomore Andrew Sivco (Gen. Timothy Ruggles), and Sophomore John MacLoud (Ezra Ross).

The play is directed by Ms. Marci Galvin, but the ideas, scenes, and much of the staging was student produced. All of the students volunteered their time (up to 15 hours) to produce this play in celebration of their town.

Of course, the play ends on a light note and hopefully the audience appreciates their attempt at humor and self-deprecation. Ms. Galvin ended with, "We hope you laugh and we hope you are moved, but most especially, we hope you see the past as merely one person's interpretation: a possibility - not an absolute."

Please plan to attend this charming performance that will bring the Town Hall auditorium alive again with historic and entertaining words. Be the guests of the Sandwich 375th Committee as we continue our yearlong celebration. Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

## **About US**

In 1639, Sandwich became the first town on Cape Cod. Since today's citizens of Sandwich both love and embrace the town's rich culture, proud heritage and pristine beauty, we wish to truly celebrate its 375<sup>th</sup> year in 2014. The celebration will consist of a variety of gatherings, lectures, festivals, artistic and educational endeavors, and museum exhibits throughout the year, for all Sandwich residents and visitors to thoroughly enjoy and understand what makes Sandwich, Sandwich!

For more information visit [www.sandwich375.com](http://www.sandwich375.com) and like us on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/Sandwich375](https://www.facebook.com/Sandwich375)

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