

community | **NEWS**

**“The 39 Steps” comes to Theatre By The Sea**

Morgan A. Turano  
Special to the Press

Added to the end of the 2011 summer season of musicals, “The 39 Steps” is a bonus feature at Theatre By The Sea. It is the first play at the theatre since its reopening in 2007.

The play, set in 1930's Britain, follows main character Richard Hannay as he becomes entangled in a mystery. This farce is based on the spy thriller film by Alfred Hitchcock and original novel by John Buchan.

The play humorously incorporates puns and analogies to Hitchcock's other films. Using minimalist sets, clever props and lighting, and cast-vocalized sound effects, the comedy is presented by only four performers.

Leading man Fred Rose plays Richard Hannay, Jennifer Byrne plays Annabella Schmidt, Pamela and Margaret, while Jason Parrish (Clown 1) and Brandon Roberts (Clown 2) play over a dozen other roles.

The carefully crafted minimalist sets allow the audience to imagine what the characters “see”. Using door frames, partial walls and suspended lights, the cast is able to convey settings such as trains, apartments, and a country house.

However, Hannay's periodic exasperation with his counterparts' dedication to the “reality” of the sets is very funny as it plays with the audience's suspended disbelief. Rose's portrayal of '30s bachelor Hannay is believable, and his straight character is exceptionally funny throughout the show.

Each of Jennifer Byrne's characters is uniquely funny. Byrne's ability to remain perfectly rigid and still after one of her characters dies in Scene 3 is truly impressive.

Jason Parrish and Brandon Roberts



MARK TUREK / Special to The Press  
Fred Rose (center) as accused murderer Richard Hannay runs across the roof of a train with Jason Parrish (left) and Brandon Roberts (right) as policemen in hot pursuit.

play off each other hilariously. Their ability to switch characters quickly with accent and minor wardrobe changes is highly entertaining and adds a lot to the play.

Especially entertaining is the shadow puppetry utilized during Hannay's escape on the Scottish moors.

“The 39 Steps” is the last show of the 2011 season, ending September 18th. The 2012 Theatre By The Sea season will bring Forever Plaid, The Sound of Music, 9 to 5: The Musical, and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying to the stage.

“The 39 Steps” will be at the Theatre By the Sea with show times on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$34 to \$44, and rush tickets are available on a limited basis an hour prior to curtain.

For more information contact the box office at 401-782-8587, or visit theatre-bythesea.com.



Jennifer Byrne as Pamela

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**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following births have taken place at South County Hospital:

- A son, Johnathan Howard, to Harmony (Lizotte) Howard and Jason Howard, of Wakefield, on May 2, 2011.
- A son, Tannen Alrac Philo, to Lisa (DeProspero) Philo and Evan Knapp Philo, of Kingston, on May 2, 2011.

• A son, Westin Scott, to Katherine (Hoagland) Scott and Nathan Scott, of North Kingstown, on May 3, 2011.

• A son, Blake Kleczek, to Sara (Mastroianni) Mastroianni-Kleczek and Brian Kleczek, of Wakefield, on May 10, 2011.

• A daughter, Juliette Gray Decoteaux, to Kimberly (Abbaticola) Decoteaux, of Wakefield, on May 22, 2011.

• A son, Gian DiCicco, to Sena (Blanchet) DiCicco and Michael DiCicco, of Narragansett, on May 27, 2011.

• A son, Alessandro Boni, to Margaret Anne Paisley and Guerrino Boni, of Narragansett, on May 26, 2011.

• A son, Joel Shane Foreman, to Rachel (Armstrong) Foreman and Jeff Foreman, of West Kingston, on May 29, 2011.

• A daughter, Bristol Olivia Wilkinson, to Sarahmarie Wilkinson and Blaine Wilkinson, of Charlestown, on May 31, 2011.

• A daughter, Isabella Paige Mills, to Kelly (Gibbs) Mills and Howard Jason Mills, of Ashaway, on June 2, 2011.

• A son, Samuel Megrew, to Sara (Molack) Megrew and Chad Megrew, of Charlestown, on June 12, 2011.

• A daughter, Angelica Flores, to Kari Monfette and Ray A. Flores, of Peace Dale, on June 12, 2011.

• A daughter, Avery Kate Phillips, to Lindsay K. (Toth) Phillips and William B. Phillips, of Wakefield, on June 13, 2011.

• A son, Lawson Hanks, to Ashley (Martin) Hanks and Jeffrey Hanks, of Charlestown, on June 15, 2011.

• A daughter, Katelyn Moretti, to Jennifer (Hopkins) Moretti and Mark Christopher Moretti, of North Kingstown, on

June 16, 2011.

• A son, Anthony Joseph Flesia, to Vanessa Hazard and Mark Steven Flesia, of Wakefield, on June 19, 2011.

• A daughter, Cordelia Barnett, to Alexandra Henshel and Nathaniel Barnett, of Kingston, on June 19, 2011.

• A daughter, Maisee May Gordon, to Jessica Marie McCuiston and Jason Ryan Gordon, of Wakefield, on June 20, 2011.

• A daughter, Taylor Devine Sullivan, to Jennifer Devine and Gabe Sullivan, of Charlestown, on June 21, 2011.

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<sup>2</sup>Facebook Contest will run Sept. 1 - Nov. 30, 2011. Facebook fan (or friend/family etc.) must be in the photo with the vehicle and should be submitted on WCCU's Facebook page. Your photo is your entry to win a \$25 Exxon/Mobil Gift Card. One entry per car please. Two winners will be chosen and contacted at month end.  
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