

Leading Players Join Players

It all started in the bathroom. A men's bathroom.

After being paired up during Georgetown Palace auditions to read a scene from *Evita*, other actors scattered around the theater finding corners and nooks in which to practice their lines with one another. **Jim Lindsay** and **Ann Pittman** found the only space left: a bathroom. But since all the world's a stage, this sterile and slightly sonorous beginning did not hinder Pittman and Lindsay from securing the roles of Eva and Perón ushering them into a drama that initiated not only a collegueship but a profound friendship as well. (*Jim and Ann are now playing the leads in She Loves Me.*)

After the highly successful run of *Evita*, it came as no surprise to Jim Lindsay that Austin Live Theatre named his leading lady, Ann Pittman, as one of the Best Actresses in a Musical for her performance in the title role. With each performance, he found Pittman's Eva Perón as lovable as she was ruthless, as piteous as she was stylish. What did come as a surprise to Lindsay was that he was named as one of the Best Supporting Actors in a Musical for his rendition of Juan Perón. "Jim is one of the best actors I've work with," Pittman states. "The joy of live theater is you never know what will happen onstage (the sound goes out, the leading lady chokes on a dust particle, a wig slides off-center) and Jim is quick-thinking, flexible and often saves the scene, all the while staying in character!"

Both Lindsay and Pittman are thrilled to be together again in the Wimberley Players' revival of *She Loves Me*, which runs from November 18-December 11. For this production, the two are pitted against each other for most of the show, so Ann and Jim are channeling their characters with biting remarks and sarcastic comments to one another during rehearsal.

"Jim, dear, are you quite finished yet? The rest of us would like to rehearse as well."

"That was lovely Ann... once you found the pitch."

But any novice can see it's all in jest. "We are well matched, respond to one another easily, and very much enjoy unraveling the creative process together," claims Lindsay.

"*She Loves Me* provides a different style, however, Lindsay continues. "While *Evita* is light opera, this show follows more of a chamber musical style. I am excited to reveal different characters as well – characters who are flawed but dear, comic but romantic."

"I first discovered this show in high school, when the revival came out on Broadway," chimes in Pittman. "I fell in love with the song, *Vanilla Ice Cream*. When I heard Wimberley was doing *She Loves Me* this season, I couldn't stop myself from auditioning!"

It's quite a commute for both actors who live and work in Austin. But they find the cost much worth the gain since they are working again with each other on a piece of art they both love.

She Loves Me runs four weeks during the holiday season. Join Ann Pittman and Jim Lindsay at the Wimberley Playhouse and immerse yourself in this delightful show about a perfume shop, ice cream, and of course, love!

Curtain Call thanks Jim and Ann for their contributions to this interview.

Starlight Symphony Notes

Following a very successful start of our tenth season with our concert *Unfinished Business*, The orchestra is furiously rehearsing to present our annual Holiday Concert(s).

The Holidays are fast approaching, so it is not too early to mark your calendars to attend these festive performances. On Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 pm we will be performing at the Blanco High School, 1215 Fourth Street in Blanco and on Sunday afternoon, December 4 at 4:30 pm the concert will be at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000FM 3237 here in Wimberley. And we will continue our tradition of Handel Messiah sing-along on Sunday, December 18 at 4:30 pm, also at St. Stephens. We hope to see you there.

Announcement...

Show Calendar Improvements

When the board met to approve the shows for our 2012 Season, it was decided after much discussion to rearrange our annual show schedule beginning next year. These improvements create a calendar of 5 shows utilizing more effective time management for our entire schedule. In the past, we presented 2 shows in the first 6 months of the year. As a result, the last 3 shows of the year suffered from shortened production/rehearsal timeframes. This was especially difficult for complicated sets and musicals, rushing shows into performance when an extra week would have been beneficial to the directors, actors, designers and other volunteers.

In order to standardize the production and rehearsal opportunities for each show, The Wimberley Players will now present its first 3 shows from early February - early July. The last 2 shows of the season will take the stage beginning in mid-September, closing early in December. Because our final show opens in early November, we will be able to cast performers and musicians with less concern for overlapping and conflicting with other holiday events. We're looking forward to an entertaining season and will make the announcement of our 2012 Season at the opening night (Friday, 11/18) of *She Loves Me!*