Linda Quartner – President of the 84th Season

And thus the RPI Players' 84th season draws to a close. This was possibly the busiest season of which I have had the fortune to be a part. We produced 5 fantastic shows, had increasingly impressive publicity, and even managed to rewrite the Constitution and Bylaws. A new class of enthusiastic thespians has been inducted into our ranks, and I look forward to seeing the theatre thrive and grow in the coming years. I have also had the great pleasure of working with some of the most extraordinary people this year, for which I am very grateful. I would like to especially thank Jocelyn Griser and Jeremy Feldman, without whom I would not have survived this season.

I hope everyone gets the chance to visit the Playhouse next year for Dracula, EOP 2015, and/or Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

Austin Selick-Bottos – Technical Director of the 84th Season

Hello again! After a whole year of shenanigans, I can safely say that the Playhouse is in fact still standing. The newest additions to our beloved building this year include a new gas grill, a few new couches, and we finally completed the replacement of our stage curtains. All of the technical departments are still going strong and we've actually been seeing increased involvement in previously sparse departments like props and stage. The T-Comm was excellent this year in spending budgets and keeping their spaces clean. I could not have made it through the year without them and I hope that they continue to help make Players a wonderful place after I graduate.

Rebecca Calvanico-Weinstein – Membership Chair of the 84th Season

Hello, my name is Rebecca and I was the Membership Chair for players this past season. I have really enjoyed this past year in Players. We had three post production parties; one for our fall show, The Importance of Being Earnest, the second for our Evening of Performance and the third for our musical, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. In total there were over 30 new players initiated this year. Over the course of the year the membership went apple picking, carved pumpkins and had plenty of movie and games nights. Our close of the season Picnic at Thacher Park was a day filled with grilling, hiking and s'mores despite some rain. The past year as Membership Chair has been great; I had the privilege of meeting many wonderful people and inducting them into our club.
Brigid Angelini – Secretary-Historian of the 84th Season

Hello everyone, I'm the outgoing Secretary-Historian, Brigid Angelini! I'm currently a junior electrical engineering major. This year went by very fast and we had a great season. At the show selection meeting, we picked "Dracula" and "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" for next season. There were many great submissions so we ended up with what should be a fantastic 85th season. I'm excited for the next Secretary-Historian, Reece Kearney, to bring exciting things to fruition. Look out for announcements from him relating to the RPI Players' history!

Jeremy Feldman – President of the 85th Season

The 84th season has closed and continued on the great tradition of student theater of the best quality on the RPI campus. I am filled with joy and honored at the opportunity to take the helm in leading us through our 85th season where we will challenge ourselves with Dracula and dazzle with Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. The 84th season began some changes and there will be more to come during the 85th season. These changes will serve to strengthen us as a club and institution on campus as we try new things while never forgetting our great traditions that have shaped us. It is sad to see our seniors go, those that have meant so much to all of us. The most important aspect of Players, to me, is the theatrical family that exists and the seniors will always be a part of that as are all of you. I am proud to be a part of this family and bring a new class of freshmen into our fold. I hope to see many of you during the 85th season and ask you personally “which way is up?!"

Jocelyn Griser – Business Manager of the 85th Season

Good news, everyone! I’m Jocelyn Griser, an applied mathematics major and the new Business Manager. I got a jump-start on learning my job when I got elected mid-season in February, so rest-assured, I know what to expect for our 85th! I look forward to working with producers next year to finance our fantastic shows and our technical committee to help keep the building running smoothly (and maybe even updating equipment)! Next season is going to be fantastic, so I hope all of you can make it to a show or three!

Emily DiMambro – Technical Director of the 85th Season

My first and foremost goal in the upcoming season is to carry on the proud tradition of not setting the Playhouse on fire. In addition to this, I will be working with the Technical Committee to encourage more involvement in tech departments through workshops and freshman outreach. With the help of Jocelyn the Business Manager, I will also be taking on the exciting task of spending as much money as the Union will let me. I believe that with the enthusiastic and knowledgeable T-Comm and two fantastic shows on the schedule, the 85th season will be the best season yet for our technical departments.

Bryce Miller – Membership Chair of the 85th Season

Hello everyone. Bryce Miller here, operating in his new role as Membership Chair[-Elect]. After spending the earlier portion of this academic year as self-appointed Organizer of Things for the Players, I'm excited to work in this official capacity. Next year, I hope to organize more workshops like the Sheer Idiocy workshop we held in April, to bring new faces and new ideas into the Playhouse. Additionally, I am planning the creation of a Performing Arts Committee, consisting of student leaders from performing arts clubs, to schedule out performances, provide a forum for discussion, and cross-promote one other. Cheers!
Reece Kearney – Secretary-Historian of the 85th Season

Greetings, Players of years past! My name is Reece Kearney, aeronautical engineering major, class of 2015, and I am happy to be the Secretary-Historian of the RPI Players’ 85th Season. This upcoming year, I aim to fulfill all of my secretarial duties in a timely and complete fashion, including getting you all the next Old Timer Newsletter hastily after our next main stage production. I also hope to put the “Historian” back in my title and preserve a cache of Players-related historical artifacts by moving them safely to the RPI archives in Folsom Library. I hope to see many of you at the productions of our next, very exciting, season!

Jed Kundl – Producer of The Complete History of America (abridged)

Salutations! About one year ago today I was approached by a few members of RPI’s Residence Life with a proposition: Produce a show to be performed in downtown Troy as a part of RPI themed Troy Night Out. ResLife wanted to build a stronger connection between the RPI students and the surrounding community by getting more of us Engineers to break out of our comfort zone and walk down those large granite steps. Scary, I know. Brilliantly performed by a cast of three, Matt Scroza, Nathan Fullerton, and Robert Stewart, The Complete History of America (abridged) filled the black box at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy with an audience that laughed so much, they added 25 minutes to the run. This small but powerful cast was backed by a production team of only six, but who did the job of twenty. With no set to speak of, the scenes were instead built using elaborate properties, sounds, and lighting. I’m eternally grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with such a talented bunch of actors and tech. Their successes helped to build a bridge between the people of Troy and the students of RPI; I’m pleased to report that due to the success of this show, and the successes of other RPI TNO events, ResLife is seeking to make a tradition of putting on collaboration shows downtown.

Jeremy Feldman – Producer of Shut and Bar the Door

Producing Shut and Bar the Door was one of the most gratifying experiences I’ve had. Directed by Nate Fullerton and Maggie O’Connor the play was a great success; it packed the house both nights and gave a multitude of freshman their first real taste of players. Nearly all of them have caught the players bug and stayed heavily involved. Everyone was a pleasure to work with, especially when I could see their passion shine through in their work. When everyone’s hard work came together for two amazing performances, it made the stress and hiccups more than worth it.
Matthew Scorza – Producer of the *Importance of Being Earnest*

Hello Everyone. My name is Matthew Scorza, and I had the pleasure of producing the RPI Players’ fall show, The Importance of Being Earnest. Eric Shovah, who made his Players’ debut in Curtains, chose to make his triumphant return to the Playhouse as director this time. Our cast of nine talented students bravely tackled Oscar Wilde’s classic piece with a sense of serious triviality that would have made the author proud. The actors were costumed, made up, and voice-tutored to perfection and for five wonderful performances they flattered, beguiled, and wooed each other. Plates were broken, tea cake was thrown, and a moose head shattered on stage. But remember Old Timers, if you’re going to build a set that’s almost entirely shelves, you’d better have a man dressed as a women on stage to distract the audience from the thousands of objects you put on those shelves.

Thank you for everyone who came out to see the show, and to everyone who put their time and effort into such a wonderful piece of theatre. I thoroughly believe everyone left the production proud of their accomplishments.

Ryan Kutler – Producer of *An Evening of Performance 2014*

Hello everyone! This year’s Evening of Performance was a wonderful collaborative effort of many new and old members of Players. I had the privilege of managing a production team made up mostly of new Players and Players new to their role. This was an incredibly motivated and creative group of people, and I am glad to graduate leaving the Playhouse in their hands. My hat is off to them. We were treated to the RPI Players’ directorial debut of Madeline Heller (’14), with a comic take on the creation of the universe in “The Whole Shebang”. Mathew Tiberius Scorza and Nathan Fullerton (both ’14) collaborated to present a wonderfully encouraging end-of-days comedy in “Prommageddon”. Luc Lagace’s (’15) brought to the stage a conflict of character archetypes and tropes in “A Dollar”. Finally, we were pleased to receive performances from RPI greatest and only improve comedy group: Sheer Idiocy. Thank you to all who came out to support my favorite people.

Andrew Fasano – *Producer of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

Hello again, friends! This spring’s musical was the dazzling Gentlemen Prefer Blondes by Anita Loos, Joseph Fields, Leo Robin and Jule Styne. Directed by Sev Moro, Frank Leavitt, and Jennifer Volpe, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes featured a talented cast of 24 actors supported by an incredible 40-person production team and an amazing 23-piece orchestra. If you’re now wondering where the Playhouse could fit such a large orchestra, hold on to your playbills and I’ll let you in on our secret– we hid them on the beautiful "Mount Saint Pit" that we created off stage left. It was like the treehouse you always wanted as a child, only it was covered in musicians and a Frank (who may have been missing from your childhood dreams).

The show came together beautifully; on opening night you wouldn't have noticed a single mistake before the fire announcement played twice at the start of the show. But if I put the sound department jokes aside, I must say it really was a great production. The lighting department blinded the audience with a shimmer curtain, sound used more microphones than I could count, the prop “whiskey” allegedly tasked like delicious chai tea, and the wigs, makeup and costumes all transformed the cast into beautiful characters from the ’20s. Of course, the set was also beautiful; in fact, closing night audience members struggled to outbid one another to purchase pieces from it. All of this amazing technical work combined with our incredible cast and pit ensemble to form a beautiful production! We had great audience turnout and we even managed to crush the Union's projected income for the show.
To all who came out to see Blondes, we can't thank you enough for your continuing support. It means so much to us to see alumni at our performances and to hear your stories about days gone by. I hope to see you again at future productions, when I'll be joining your ranks, reserving my seat in the "old-timers section" and trying to see if my RPI ID will still get me a discounted ticket. Producing was a wonderful experience and I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with this fantastic group of talented and dedicated thespians. Unfortunately, this show was my last with the Players, but it was quite a fitting way to end four incredible years here. After being (re)playered 13 times during my 12 main-stage productions, I think I've finally gotten the hang of this and it's time for me to move on into the real world.

---START BLURB---

Andrew Fasano – Webmaster 84th Season – and David Archibald – Webmaster Emeritus

---START BLURB---

Webmaster [84th Season]

This year saw a few changes to the website (though hopefully none of you actually saw the effects of any of them). First up, we created a new position within the webmastering team, 'Webmaster Emeritus'. This position is mostly a way for former webmaster types to volunteer their time to help make the Player's site better. It also doesn't hurt that some people have companies willing to donate money to match volunteer hours. Our first Webmaster Emeritus is the former webmaster, Archie. {Waves} Second, we would like to announce our new Webmaster, Mason Cooper. Mason comes to this job with excitement and enthusiasm, which we assume will be crushed soon enough.

On a more technical side improvements were made to the backend of the site to make it possible to give restricted access to site users. This allows us to give the box office managers access to view and manage reservations for just the shows they are actually box office managing! In the future it will also allow us to give producers access to set the roles related to their shows. In security news, we have removed the former forums as nobody has seen them in years and old phpbb forums tend to be full of well compromised security holes.

We will close, as always, with a call to report any bugs, missing/incorrect roles, or any other problems to the Webmaster so that we can maintain a smooth user experience and up to date correct information on the history of the Players.

---END BLURB---
Mason Cooper – Webmaster 85th Season

You may have noticed we have quite a few webmasters nowadays. Between myself, Archie, and Andrew we’ve practically got a full IT department—and we plan on using that department to change up the website and make it more useful to the organization. You may have noticed the Gentlemen Prefer Blondes reservations section on the homepage. While that was thrown together quickly, in the future we’ll be doing a lot more with the website for each production. However, I’m really getting ahead of myself. I can’t imagine most of you know me beyond the name above this paragraph, so I’ll introduce myself. I’m Mason Cooper class of 2017, a Computer Science and ITWS dual major with a passion for web development and statistics. If you have any questions for me or suggestions for the website, you can reach me (and bother Archie/Andrew) at players-webmaster@union.rpi.edu. I’ve had a fantastic first year here and I couldn’t have hoped to find a more welcoming community to ease my transition into RPI and college life.

Mason Cooper – Publicity Director 85th Season

Hello again old timers! You’re probably still reeling from my last paragraph, but rest assured, the name above is not a typo. I, Mason Cooper, am also Publicity Director for the 85th season. I’m actually very excited about being both Webmaster and Publicity Director because the website is a major point of communication with the world outside the playhouse. I’d first like to note that the Players are the first entity ever to advertise with the RPI subreddit (in case you’re wondering what a subreddit is, check out www.reddit.com/r/rpi). It was an interesting experiment, and we’ll definitely be doing more with web publicity for future productions. Overall we’re really trying to restructure how we handle publicity season wide. Unlike in past years, the season director will oversee publicity for all of our productions in order to help maintain our brand throughout the season. Additionally, we’re really looking to help make publicity an organizational effort. We’d like everyone (even old timers) to participate in the promotion of Players shows and events. Whether it’s simply providing ideas or getting people to attend our productions, we hope all Players, past and present, will contribute in whatever way they can to help our organization continue expanding. If you have any questions or suggestions, please shoot an email my way at players-publicity@union.rpi.edu. El Psy Congroo!
If you would like to support the RPI Players through a financial contribution, please mail a check to the RPI Union Admin Office. Checks should be made out to the RPI Players, and please include “Gift Fund” in the memo line.

The Union’s address is:
RPI Admin Office RU 3716
110 8th Street
Troy, NY 12180

We greatly appreciate any contributions.

Photos by Andrew Fasano. Format by Bryce Miller.