

Lighthouse News Line

SGLA and Panhandle Players Produce "Island Light"

"Island Light," a 1950 novel by Apalachicola author Alexander Key, was reborn as "Island Light: War and Reconciliation" in a production co-presented by SGLA and local theater troupe, the Panhandle Players. The outdoor production, staged in Lighthouse Park, was the contribution of the two organizations to the Civil War History Weekend held in Apalachicola and on St. George Island.

The play tells the tale of Maximillian Ewing, the son of a prominent Apalachicola family, who joins the Confederate navy and is captured and imprisoned by Union forces at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas. Max escapes from prison and finds his way back to Apalachicola, determined to seek revenge for his years of imprisonment. But post-war Apalachicola is a different place, and Max's quest for retribution takes him to the lighthouse on St. George Island and a temporary position as Assistant Lighthouse Keeper before he returns to restore order in his home town.

What better place to set this dramatic tale of revenge, love, loyalty, honor, passion, and greed than in the park with the Cape St. George Light as a spectacular backdrop! Clever set construction turned the platform that once held the reconstructed lantern room into a stage for the 14 actors under the guidance of first-time director Ann Cowles.

A lively crowd of more than two hundred patrons brought lawn chairs and refreshments to the free production, which was the Players first effort at "theater under the stars" and a resounding success.

Several SGLA members appeared in the play, including Henry Kozlowsky as the Narrator, Elaine Kozlowsky as Eastpoint girl Lily Bright, and Jim Kemp as Union Captain Horatio Hornblower. Banjo interludes of period songs played by Brooks Jones delighted the audience between scenes. Other local talent contributing to the production included Vince Bishop, Michael Hatfield, Jeff Ilardi, Torben Madson, Donna McCoy, Beverly Kelley, Tom Loughridge, Sarah Madson, and Frederic Kahler. Jim Kemp served as stage manager, Caroline Ilardi was in charge of costumes and make-up, Elaine Kozlowsky and Terry Kemp handled props, Ed Aguiar and Eric Springer built the set, Dan Wheeler ran the lighting, and Frederic Kahler did the poster design.

Lighthouse volunteers also joined with Panhandle Players supporters to contribute baked goods which were available for purchase before the play and at intermission to raise funds for the theater company.

SGLA thanks the Panhandle Players, all the actors and actresses, stage personnel, volunteers, and audience members who made our first stage adventure such a hit!

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