

'NEWvember'

By Timothy Malcolm

When: 8 p.m. Nov. 10-12, 2 p.m. Nov. 12-13

Where: Carpenter Shop Theater, 60 Broadway, Tivoli

Price: \$10, \$30 all shows

Call: 230-7020

Visit: www.tangent-arts.org



The fall theater season is here. This means a round of ambitious plays, a sprinkling of musical comedy, and pounds of sweat (equity and nonequity) left on the floors of various venues across the valley. The offerings, opening over the next seven days, don't have much in common. There's comedy and drama, community and professional. But each production has passion, and each tells you a little more about the rich theater tradition of our region.

Here are a few of the choice offerings. Consider this "Four Short Yarns about Hudson Valley Fall Theater":

On July 29, TangentArts opened Carpenter Shop Theater, a black-box venue for its character-driven, at times intense readings and plays. New possibilities blossomed with the new theater, including – thanks to an idea by co-conspirators Paul and Anna Nugent – a new plays festival.

"I said, 'Stop right here. I love this,'" said Michael Rhodes, another of the conspirators behind TangentArts. So, quickly, the group solicited submissions and read the approximately 20 received. The chosen six – "One Hand," "A Bright Wind Over a Bent World," "The Cat Vandal," "Dissonance," "Broken Wing" and "Pirate" – will be presented this weekend as staged readings.

The works are in various stages of completion and were penned by writers in various stages of career. But each is practically from the womb. Developing new plays, working with writers – that excites the TangentArts crew.

"I immediately fell in love with that because original work is one of the most exciting things to me," Rhodes said.

Another exciting aspect of the Tangent evolution: People are coming to Tivoli. What Rhodes said is an "under-the-radar" town along the Hudson is now being seen by new faces interested in the dynamic offerings TangentArts is bringing to town.

"We've been meeting people from Albany and Hudson and even Massachusetts," said Andrea Rhodes, the fourth conspirator. "It's a nice, interesting kind of movement happening in these parts."

"The Hudson Valley has great, great potential for theater," said Michael Rhodes. "The mind-set is different. You go to New York City and ... you expect to change the world. But those who come here, what I love, they're just about the work. I want to work on great plays.