

*A few words from Founding Artistic Director, Guy Strauss, as Payomet nears its 15th season in 2013:*

**It's gratifying to see how far Payomet has come since its founding October, 1998. The original concept was to offer the citizens of Truro, Cape Cod and beyond, affordable educational and entertainment possibilities which would complement those offered by theatres in the abutting towns of Wellfleet and Provincetown. I believed a Performing Arts Center combining a variety might find its audience, and the programming evolved to include Equity Plays, Concerts, Spoken Word Programs, Comedians, One-Person Shows, Shakespeare Youth Workshops, Kids Drama Classes & Shows, Free Community Programs such as the Cape Cod Storyteller Project, Truro Treasures Prose & Poetry Night, Touring Shakespeare in collaboration with Cape Cod Community College.**

**Our goal of paying all performers and participants, as well as production staffs, even though sometimes difficult, helped to set the bar high. Quality and audience satisfaction was and remains a hallmark. I also aimed to keep an eye on the bottom line to assure financial viability.**

**The challenge of a viable venue started with the first two years installed in the gym of the Truro Central School, followed by a stay at the first Payomet Tent on Route 6 as the guest of our friend and benefactor, Donald 'Ducky' Noons, moving a third time, to our present location and newer Tent at Highlands Center. Have Theatre, Will Travel!**

**My dream of installing a year-round, brick-and-mortar theatre at Highlands Center, as per the RFP to the Cape Cod National Seashore exactly nine years ago, remains elusive. But, where there's life, there's hope. When I invited Kevin Rice to become my successor, it was my hope he would bring Payomet to the next level. He has done that and more, much more, and deserves our congratulations and thanks.**

**Onwards & Upwards!**