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# THE WEIRS TIMES

## AND TOURISTS GAZETTE

"How blithely might the bugle horn  
Chide, on the lake, the lingering morn!  
How sweet at eve, the lover's lute  
Chide me, when the groves were still and mute."  
—Lady of the Lake.

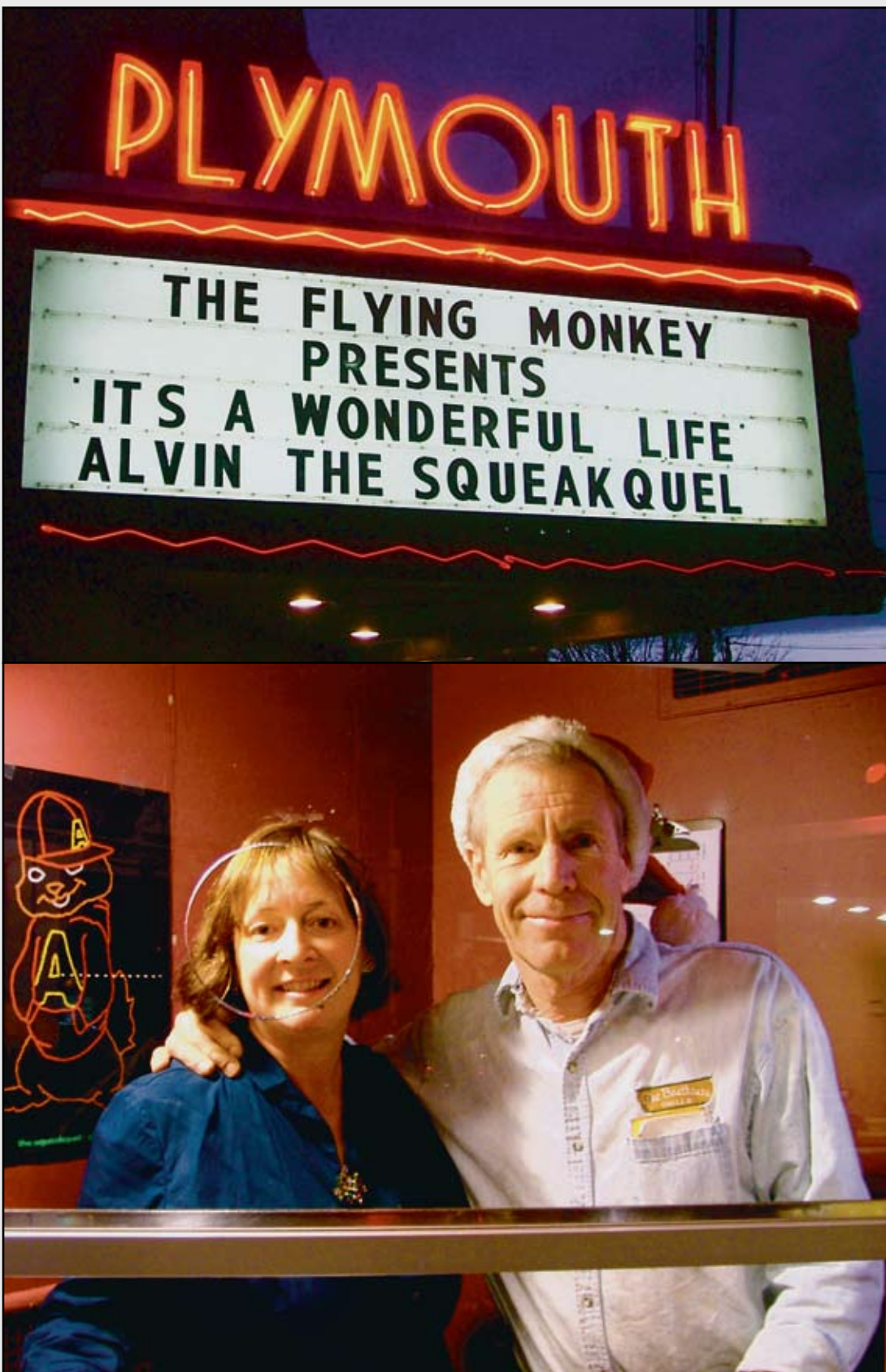
"Their wigwams that clustered o'er the vale,  
Have fled away like withered leaves  
Before the Autumn gale;  
But the memory liveth on your hills,  
Their baptism on your shore."—Stourney.

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COMPLIMENTARY



## THE FLYING MONKEY OPENS DOORS, RESTORATION PLANNED

by Roger Amsden  
News Correspondent

**PLYMOUTH** - It was entirely appropriate that the Plymouth Theater reopened last week playing the classic "It's a Wonderful Life" because the story line is something of the same; how a town faced with a bad situation comes together and finds out what is really important in life. That happy ending, which sees the theater doors reopening and new possibilities ahead, was made possible through the purchase of the closed theater by Alex Ray, owner of the Common Man restaurants, at an auction in October and his determination to make the 13,000 square foot theater building become once again a center of cultural life in this community.

Now known as The Flying Monkey, for the role that Ray played in the Wizard of Oz earlier this year, and in which the theatre's new manager, Lisa Lovett, played

the Wicked Witch, the theater will have a short run before it is transformed into a performing arts center in a few months.

During that brief run the theater will feature the latest films, like "Alvin and The Chipmunks" and "Sherlock Holmes" and will also host special 'Dinner and a Movie' nights.

Ray and Lovett say that around April 1, the theater will close for renovations which will see the original configuration of the 400-seat upper level restored to what it once looked like when it originally opened in the 1920s and hosted vaudeville shows.

That space is now occupied by two 200-seat movie theaters with a wall between them which was installed by Spinelli Cinemas about 10 years ago. The wall will come down and a small upper balcony restored, creating a venue for live theater productions

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— **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** —

- Page 32 - A rundown of celebrations planned throughout the Lakes Region
- Pages 12 & 13 - Make your resolutions a reality!

Lisa Lovett, manager of The Flying Monkey Movie House, and Alex Ray, owner of the Common Man Restaurants, at the ticket window in the recently-reopened Plymouth Theatre.

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO



**Lisa Lovett, a veteran performer and manager of community theater groups, is the new manager at The Flying Monkey Movie House.**

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO

as well as live music, comedy and other types of entertainment.

But the movie theater itself won't go away. It's going down one level, to the basement area, where two 200-seat split screen theaters and a black box theater will be created.

Lovett, a stage veteran who won a New Hampshire Theater Award for best performance in the Winnepesaukee Theater's "Father of the Bride" production in 2007, has managed the Papermill Theatre in Lincoln and the Little Church Theatre in Holderness.

A longtime friend and fellow community theater actor with Ray, she was the person who encouraged him to take a look at the theater, after it closed, and try to do something with it, pointing out its many possibilities.

And, since he bought it for \$125,000 at the auction sale, they've been busy putting together plans for what to do with it. They have been in contact with places like Concord's Red River Theater, Keene's Starving Artist Performing Center, the Wilton Town Hall Theatre, Portsmouth Music Hall and Hanover's Nugget as well as state Commissioner of Cultural



**Alex Ray was busy helping out at The Flying Monkey's first Dinner and Movie night.**

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO



**Steve Zackowski, former manager of the Spinelli Theater in Plymouth, winds a film in the projection booth before the movie starts.**

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO



**Old movie theater posters decorate the walls of the Flying Monkey.**

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO

its first "Dinner and a Movie" night.

But word spreads fast and they already had 60 reservations for the event, which should prove to be a popular night out for locals during the coming winter months.

Lovett said the Plymouth area is blessed by the Plymouth University population of about 4,400 and summer lakes visitors and winter skiers, in addition to the residential population not only of Plymouth but the surrounding towns.

"What we are trying to do is find out what the broader area is all about and what they want to see," Ray said.

Lovett stressed the importance of offering something for all ages, all the time.

Those with ideas can also go to The Common Man Web site at [www.thecman.com](http://www.thecman.com) or write to Lovett at [ttevol2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ttevol2002@yahoo.com).

Affairs, Van McLeod. "It's almost unbelievable that we took title to it on December 11, and were able to open it up nine days later," says Lovett, who said everyone was experiencing opening night jitters on December 23, when the theater hosted



**New Hampshire made items are featured at the refreshment stand at The Flying Monkey.**

ROGER AMSDEN PHOTO