



Clifton Park: WOMEN IN MY LIFE

Dinner Theater at the Hilton Garden Inn, 30 Clifton Country Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065; 518-631-6502

November 11, 5:00 PM and November 12, 12:00 PM

The romantic trials and tribulations of a fading singing star come to Clifton Park on November 11 and 12 as NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS presents WNYT news anchor Jerry Gretzinger leading a talented cast in the lively musical, *Women in My Life*. Gretzinger portrays Grammy award-winning performer Jerry Jerome, who hires his ex-wife and ex-girl-friend, along with his current love, as his back-up trio. Originally produced in 2014 at Washington County's Fort Salem Theater, this is musical comedy that tunefully deals with real-life relationship issues.

Jerry Gretzinger graduated twenty-three years ago from Marist College, weighing two career options: heading to Manhattan to pursue a career in theater, or taking a job as a television news reporter. Choosing Option Two eventually lead to his ascension as one of the area's most popular news anchors, first at WRGB, with Liz Bishop, and now at WNYT, with Elaine Houston and Benita Zahn.

"I can't complain about my career in television," says Gretzinger. "I was lucky, and have a great time meeting people and telling their stories. But I do wonder how things would have been if I'd followed my other dream and gone to New York."

"Jerry has something special going for him that many other young people who go to New York do not," says Fort Salem's artistic director, Jay Kerr, who spent over thirty years as a private vocal instructor of Broadway performers in New York City. "In a word: talent." Kerr met Gretzinger eight years ago, when then rival news anchor Benita Zahn brought Gretzinger and Jessica Layton to the Fort's cabaret to create a show that eventually became Fort Salem's touring franchise, *The Singing Anchors*. Zahn and Gretzinger now co-anchor the 4PM news hour at Channel Thirteen.

"As we worked on a succession of anchors shows, I got to know Jerry. I saw him going through bad times in his marriage, through a divorce, and watched him start to recover with his new girl friend," Kerr notes, speaking of Gretzinger's then-fiancée, Erin Weaver (now Mrs. Gretzinger), who, true to type, plays the girl friend in *Women*. "I went through a difficult divorce when I was his age, and owe whatever sanity I've got to the singing girl friend who became *my* wife."

"I wrote this show over twenty years ago as therapy to work through my own confusion during a tough time in my life," says Kerr. "I've reworked some of the material, added songs that fit Jerry's personality, including a number where he fantasizes how perfect life would be were he Frank Sinatra. And integrated enough elements of his own life that Jerry Jerome is neither strictly just him or me, but someone similar yet altogether different."

Helping the men through their mutual catharsis, Erin Gretzinger is joined by two other Capital Region triple threats, singing/dancing actresses Susan Cicarelli-Caputo and Heather-Liz Copps. Caputo performs regularly at Fort Salem, along with major roles throughout the area, including New York State Theatre Institute and Capital Rep, where she also consults and choreographs. She has also crafted the uniform moves for Jerry Jerome's back-up girls. Ms. Copps played opposite Gretzinger in 2013 in Not So Common Players' production of *The Music Man*, and just finished a successful run in SLOC's production of *Cabaret*.

"It's an emotional rollercoaster during each performance," according to Gretzinger, "and a bit like reliving the past. Jerry Jerome may have taken a route different from mine, and along the way he sure had fun singing some great songs with beautiful, talented women. Unsuccessful marriages are seldom this melodious!"

Jerry and the Women in his Life perform in Not So Common Players production at the Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park, November 11 & 12, as a part of a Dinner Theater package. Tickets available by calling Karen Harvey at the Hilton Garden Inn (518-631-6502) or by logging on to [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and entering *Women in My Life* into the event search.

