

The Laconia Daily Sun

THURSDAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

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Winnepesaukee Playhouse's founding director returns for 2nd staging of 'The Woman in Black'



Spooky production runs Aug. 22-31 in Meredith

By JANICE BEETLE
FOR THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

When Neil Pankhurst produces a ghost story on stage, it's the gasps and screams from the audience that let him and his crew know they've done their work well.

Back in 2006, when he directed "The Woman in Black" for The Winnepesaukee Playhouse at the company's former location at The Weirs, Pankhurst and the show's lighting and scene designers stood behind the audience at the start of the show on opening night.

During a particularly tense scene, several members of the audience screamed.

"People were in shock, and the three of us were high-fiving each other," said Pankhurst, the company's founding artistic director. "Yes! We actually achieved what we set out to achieve."

This summer, The Winnepesaukee Playhouse will produce "The Woman in Black" again, in the company's space in Meredith at 33 Footlight Circle, and Pankhurst was invited to return as the director.

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Seth Hatch, left, plays the actor hired by Richard Brundage's character, the solicitor Kipps, to perform Kipp's tale of woe in "The Woman in Black," opening at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse on Friday, Aug. 22, and running through the end of the month. (Courtesy photo/Graham Edmondson)

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