

Back Stage

July 2020



Covid-19 shuts down two Players shows

By Kel Nagel

As I write this, I should be making final preparations to open *Kiss Me, Kate* or helping Sharon make final preparations to open *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

When we got word that we could not get rights for *Superstar*, we all felt bad for Sharon. For months, she had been planning staging, blocking, etc.

When the board picked *Kiss Me, Kate* as the replacement, I was happy, but still sad for Sharon. As time went on, my wife and I became more and more enthusiastic. Then the shutdown came and it became obvious that Players could not do *Senior Follies* in April nor *Kiss Me, Kate* in June. Never before have we had to cancel three shows in one season.

I would like to thank my friends who helped with some aspect of production: choreographer Katie Oakley; musical director Bill Folger; costumers Lynne Bratten, Jean King, and Sallie Ridgway; set designer Ken Johnson; and builders David Allen and Bill Zlakowski

I would also thank all those who expressed interest in auditioning. I expect to propose doing *Kate* in the 2021-2022 season.

Meanwhile, we have an excellent season announced for this coming year. We need to do everything possible to get these shows on stage. I can pretty much guarantee that Matt Hatfield, Matt Bogdan, Rusty Mumford, and Sharon Benchoff are already staging them in their heads.

The view from Row G

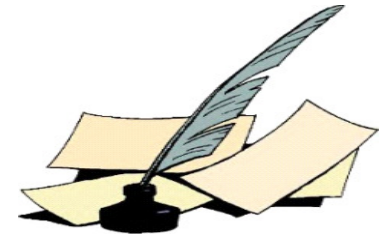
By Sharon Benchoff, President (fresnelop@gmail.com)

Those of you who have worked on or attended shows with me know that I like to look at the stage from row G. You get a full view of the action and are close enough to see the expression on the actors' faces. As president, I want to give you a monthly snapshot of Players activities from my perspective. That includes news and some "did you know" information.



audience survey seeking your thoughts on some of our ideas. You can mail the completed survey or email it to me. The survey will be posted on our Facebook page and our website, sbyplayers.com. Your opinion really does matter.

That's it for now. Be in touch soon.



New year ... new editor

Rusty Mumford, Corresponding Secretary

With every new Board comes change and a new secretary takes over the reins of our newsletter, *Back Stage*. Thanks to Robin Finley for her excellent work over the past several years as editor of our newsletter!

Beginning in July, articles and photos should be emailed to me at popirusty@comcast.net by the 15th of each month.

I would also like to add a Player Spotlight. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself), please email me. And, if you have ideas for improving our newsletter, please let me know!

Next meeting is July 1

Our July 1 meeting will be at Nutters, face-to-face. We will observe social distancing protocol, and masks are recommended.

If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, please email Darrell Mullins (dgmullins@salisbury.edu).

REOPEN AUDIENCE SURVEY

How likely are you to attend Entertainment Trivia nights/days at Community Players with eight team tables set up at least 15 feet apart (no more than 48 participating)?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How likely are you to participate in Murder Mystery Game nights/days at Community Players with no more than 20 in attendance?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How likely are you to attend live theater performances where the actors wear face masks?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How likely are you to attend a live performance “drive-in theater” style with you sitting in your car with the radio tuned to a specific frequency to hear the performers?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How likely are you to attend a performance outside in September with you bringing a lawn chair? Social distancing of the chairs will be marked.

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How likely are you to attend an indoor performance in September with social distancing, limited seating and audience members wearing face masks?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

As things are progressing now, how likely are you to attend an indoor performance in October following guidelines of social distancing reserved seating and face masks?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

As things are progressing now, how likely are you to attend an indoor performance in November following guidelines of social distancing reserved seating and face masks?

- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Doubtful Not At All

How important would it be to have Community Players staff enforcing masks and social distancing guidelines at entrances, seating, restrooms, etc.?

- Very Important Somewhat Important Not Important

Would you feel safer if we limited the performance to an hour or less without intermission?

- Yes No Other

Comments:

If not this fall, when would you feel safe returning to indoor performances with sanitization, masks and social distancing?

Comments:

Other than sanitization, masks and social distancing, are there any additional measures that would make you feel safer?

Comment Box

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please consider becoming a member of Community Players. If you are not sure if your dues are paid for the current year, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it does not show 2019-20, your dues are not up-to-date.

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, at 7:00 PM
at 5109 Nutters Cross Road



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

President: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@gmail.com
Vice-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net
Recording Secretary: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President: Darrell Mullins - dmullins@salisbury.edu

Board Members

Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta, Matt Hatfield - Term Expires 2021
Sammy Barnes, Nate Drehmer, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023

We're on the Web: www.SBYplayers.com