Back Stage GO May 2021





The View from Row G
By Sharon Benchoff, President
(fresnelop@gmail.com)

I think it is safe to say that spring is here. Flowers and sunshine make everyone a little more optimistic. The same is true for Players. We are striding forward with our plans for next season. Because you have been with us throughout the pandemic; attending our "Weekends on the Lawn", donating your ticket costs for cancelled productions, becoming Patrons and supporting "Almost Maine" by either acting, working tech or buying a ticket, you deserve to be the first to hear the official announcement of our 85th season. Drum roll please...

"Noises Off" - the Tony winning comedic tour de force is a play in three acts, showing what is happening on stage and behind the scenes while a chaotic theatre company is performing "Nothing On." Act one shows the group during the dress rehearsal late at night. However, with only a few hours before the premiere, things run anything but smoothly.

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" - Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box. The tale of several socially awkward youngsters finding joy, heartache and a purpose in competing at the regional spelling bee, a riotous ride, complete with audience participation, his intimate musical is delightful.

The View From Row G cont...

"Senior Follies" – The chairs are not the only rocking happening at the Pleasant Valley Retirement Home, especially since Howard discovered Viagra! The feisty divorcee and lovely widow who are constantly scurrying out if his reach and refuse to play strip poker or skinny dip in the hot tub breathe a sigh of relief when a new resident seems to enjoy Howard's advances. She turns out to be a con artist and comedy ensues.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - The Andrew Lloyd Webber global phenomenon. Opening on Broadway in 1971, for many, this rock opera was their first exposure to theater. The story, told through song explores the relationships between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his followers and the Roman Empire. No matter if you have never seen a production or have seen this timeless show ten times, it never fails to affect.

Of course, all our "best laid plans" may come to naught if we are unable to secure the space to perform these plays. We realize that safety comes first and social distancing and masks may be with us for some time. But we will do all we can to open the curtain to live performances.



Articles, photos, etc. for publication in Back Stage should be emailed to me (popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15th of each month. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!

Rusty Mumford Corresponding Secretary



Next meeting is May 5, 2021

Players' next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **May 5 at 7:00 PM**. This meeting will be an **IN PERSON** meeting! Please bring a mask and we will be socially distanced

If you would like to ZOOM in, please email Darrell Mullins at dgmullins@salisbury.edu. Invitations will be emailed the day before the meeting.



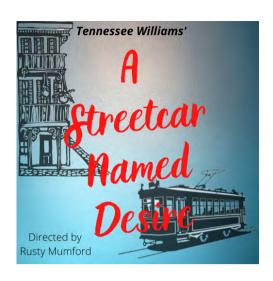
Want to make theater happen, but not into acting or tech? Well, we may have the perfect volunteer job for you. Community Players hopes to expand our grant and sponsor support. If applying for grants and contacting prospective sponsors for funding sounds like your thing, please contact Tom Robinson at tomchicken@aol.com



Match the following lyric or name with the title of their Broadway show

(Don't cheat! Answers are on Page 6)

- 1. Momma *Rose*
- 2. *Edelweiss*, Edelweiss, Every morning you greet me
- 3. Like a petal on a stream, a feather on the air. *Lily* white and *poppy*
- 4. So Machiavell me, make an Argentine **Rose**
- 5. *Daisy* Werthan 6. **Jasmine**
- 7. Rain drops on *roses*
- 8. I haven't seen a **crocus** or a **rosebud** or a robin on the wing.
 9. Though **belladonna** is my favorite flower I love its shape and its perfume You'd likely join the angels in an hour
 10. **Magnolia** Hawks



A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Director Rusty Mumford is very pleased that rehearsals are progressing well and that the whole show should be blocked by the end of April. This will leave lots of time for refining and polishing the show for our audience. Set work is also going very well. The set should be finished well before our move-in date. Definite dates, times, and location will be announced in the very near future via the newsletter, email, and social media.

We would like to thank those members and patrons who have helped us locate and loaned or donated the phone chair (gossip bench), the metal bed headboard, and the vintage Coke bottles. We are looking for some other very specific pieces of furniture and set decoration. If you can help with any of the following items, please contact Director Rusty Mumford (popirusty@comcast.net) or Producer Becky Mumford (mimibecky@comcast.net).





Do you have a wooden kitchen cupboard or a formica/ porcelain topped kitchen table that you would be willing to loan us for the show? Do you know someone who does or where we could find one? Please let us know if you do.



Performed at the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke City, Md.

Friday, April 30 – 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 1 – 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 2 – 3 p.m.

Friday, May 7 – 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 8 – 2 p.m.

Adults \$15 Youth \$10



Book by Jennifer Lee Music & Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Loper & Robert Loper



DID YOU KNOW -

The process of selecting a season is a months long process that usually begins in November. The vice president forms a committee of nine, comprised of directors, actors and techies so that all aspects of a production are represented. Would-be directors submit shows for consideration. All scripts are read by and discussed during committee meetings. Factors such as audience appeal, budget, ability to produce a high-quality production are some of the areas that are taken into consideration during the selection process. Recommendations for a season are submitted to the board of directors. A "pitch" meeting with the potential directors, the board and committee is held and the directors explain why they believe their show should be selected and provide a budget for the show. At the April meeting (per Players' by-laws) the board votes for the next season.

As part of our "Weekends on the Lawn" we are considering a Broadway Music concert. If there are songs and/or musicals you want us to include, please send me your thoughts at frenselop@gmail.com
Sharon



Murder 10. Showboat

9. A Gentleman's Guide to Love and

8. State Fair

7. Sound of Music

6. Aladdin

Z. Driving Miss Daisy

4. Evita

3. Hadestown

2. Sound of Music

1. Gybsy

ANSWERS TO FLOWERS TRIVIA:

COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY PATRONS

LEGACY CLUB

Pete and Kim Cuesta Elks Lodge # 817

Jerry's Fund from the Gietka Family in honor of Bernadette Tom and Susan Robinson

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Jim and Jean King Betty Wootten

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Karen and Chuck Lutz
Optimist Club of Salisbury
PNC Bank
Joel Smith Music
Alice Tweedy
Stephanie T. Willey

Kate and Dan Zimmerman

Community Players of Salisbury P. O. Box 2431 Salisbury, MD 21802 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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
2020-21, your dues
are not up-to-date.

Next Monthly Membership Meeting Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00PM. 5109 Nutters Cross Road



<u>Community Players Officers & Board of Directors</u> <u>July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021</u>

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