

# COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury

Back Stage  
January 2023



## From the desk of the President...



As we enter 2023, we reminisce about a very successful 2022 and hope all agree that we did four outstanding regular shows plus a few extra shows in our "spare time."

We have the first show of our 86th season in the books, and Matt Bogdan and his cast and crew are busy at work on **Leading Ladies**. This hilarious farce will be performed at Wor-Wic in February. Tickets for it and our April show, **Crimes of the Heart**, are available online at our website, [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org). We are awaiting date confirmation for our June show, **Singin' in the Rain**.

Great news for our audience is that we are streamlining our ticketing process. Box Office chairman Rusty Mumford tells us that we will be able to eliminate the will call process for almost everyone for future shows.

Last, a brief update on our plan to build a performance space of our own. We have preliminary approval to do shows at our Nutters Cross Road headquarters but first we will need to do some sitework on the grounds and parking lot. We have a committee looking at all aspects of the conversion, with subcommittees appointed to look at planning the space in terms of stage, seating, dressing rooms, sound, lighting, and the many other things we will need to do to achieve our dream. This committee will next meet on Sunday, Jan 15 at 2PM. All are invited to attend the meeting, either to join in the work, add expertise, or just be better informed. If you can figure out how we are going to raise the money we will need, you are definitely invited!

See you at **Leading Ladies**.

**Kel Nagel**

## **The Production Committee is looking for members! It's show time, again!**

Tom Robinson, Community Players Vice-President, is in charge of the Production Committee and he is looking for people to serve on the committee.

This committee is to receive titles of shows from potential directors and to read the scripts of the proposed shows.

Then the committee will meet to discuss the merits of producing each show. The committee will then recommend shows for the 2023-24 season to the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like more information before volunteering please contact Tom at [tomchicken@aol.com](mailto:tomchicken@aol.com).

You do not have to be a theater expert to serve – just be willing to read the scripts and discuss the merits of the shows that are submitted.

Potential directors and their immediate family will not be able to serve on the committee.



## **Production Committee is looking for Directors for the 2023-24 season**

Are you interested in directing a play? Do you have a favorite play that you would like to direct for Players? What are you waiting for?

The deadline to submit a play or a musical for consideration for next season is January 15, 2023.

If you have that show in mind, contact Production Committee Chairperson, Tom Robinson, at [tomchicken@aol.com](mailto:tomchicken@aol.com). He can give you all of the information you will need to get your show submitted to the committee. If you need help, he will be glad to offer some assistance.

## Children's Summer Workshop

Would you love to share your time, talents, and expertise with a new generation of theater lovers? We are in the exciting planning stages for a weeklong children's theater camp to be held July 10-14, 2023 and are currently looking for high school students and adults to be on staff. After surveying a group of parents, we discovered that their children are interested in learning about all aspects of theater. Therefore, we need people to come for a few hours on one morning that week to work with the kids on topics such as makeup, costumes, set building, sound, lights, poster design, really all things theater! It would not be a successful week without a performance at the end, so we also need people who can attend every day to work with the students on songs, dance, and skits.

If you want to volunteer, please email [melissa.sbyplayers@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.sbyplayers@gmail.com) with your name, availability and how you can help. Examples of this might be:

- I can be there on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. I would like to talk to the kids about theater make up and then let them use the make up to make each other look 80 years old.
- I can help every afternoon. I play piano and sing and can teach the entire group a big opening number and work with a few individuals on solos.
- I can be there every day, all day! I love playing crazy theater games and can help rehearse small group skits or whatever you need me to do.
- I cannot be there during the day, but I could shop for snacks the week before hand.

This is the first time we will host a summer workshop in a number of years, and we need ALL the help from our Players' membership! Get creative! What is something you wish you learned about theater when you were young? Looking forward to hearing from you!





The production of **Leading Ladies** is under way. Director Matt Bogdan says the set is up, primed, and ready for painting. Costumes are being selected, props gathered, sounds recorded, and rehearsals conducted. Some of the actors are already out of book! "Getting out of book is critical," Matt said. "It allows the actor to start using hand gestures and getting comfortable and confident with the lines."

Show dates for **Leading Ladies** are 2/2 and 2/3 at 7:30 PM and 2/4 at 2:00 PM as well as 2/9 and 2/10 at 7:30 PM and 2/11 at 2:00 PM. All performances will be in Guerrieri Hall on the Wor-Wic Community College campus. Tickets are available at [www.sbyplayers.org](http://www.sbyplayers.org).

## Little Women, the Musical Raffle Winners!



During the performance of Little Women the Musical, a raffle was held for three dolls representing the sisters portrayed in Little Women. The raffle generated a great deal of interest, especially for young girls and doting mothers and grandmothers. During intermission of the last performance, three young girls helped to display the dolls on stage, and each drew a winning ticket. Our thanks for their hearty participation! We are happy to announce the winners and wish to thank all who participated in our fund raiser.

Winners were: Melanie Conaway, Elise Garde and Mae Esh. Mae was delighted to present her doll to her granddaughter Lucy. Lucy was in the audience and is pictured with cast members from Little Women. Her favorite character was Amy and it just so happened that this was the doll she won. She was thrilled!



Thanks again to all who participated and a special "shout out" to those who brought young people to our performance. Community Players feels strongly that theater not only entertains, but also enriches our lives. Little Women did exactly that, reinforcing family, commitment, strength, and belief in self.

We hope that by bringing this story to life, we were not only able to entertain our adult audience but also introduce musical theater to a younger generation. Here's to igniting a lifelong interest and enthusiasm for the stage!

# THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff  
Players January Grab Bag

*Hint: Community Players has produced all of these plays/musicals during our 85 years.*

1. In the Broadway play, Boris Karloff played Jonathan Brewster, who is said to "look like Boris Karloff".
2. Long before the Disney version, this play examined the possibility that the youngest Romanov daughter survived the murder of her family.
3. This was the first musical presented by Community Players. It features gamblers, the Salvation Army and Hot Box Girls.
4. J. Pierrepont Finch rises from window washer to chairman of the board of the World Wide Wicket Company.
5. "A captain with seven children, what's so fearsome about that?" Maria sings in this musical.
6. American playwright Thornton Wilder won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this play set in Grover's Corners.
7. The title character is invisible to all with the exception of Elwood P. Dowd.
8. Laughs ensue when mismatched roommates: the fussy, uptight Felix Ungar and the slovenly, sportswriter Oscar Madison share an apartment.
9. Location of the 25th Annual Spelling Bee.
10. The song filled story of the March sisters opened on Broadway in 2005 and was produced by Community Players in 2022.

Answers found on page 6

## YES, IT'S GOING TO RAIN! BUT, HOW?



After doing rain research, **Singin' in the Rain** director Rusty Mumford would like to discuss rainmaking ideas on the stage with anyone who is interested. To make it rain on stage, three things need to be kept in mind:

- 1) the rain must be seen,
- 2) the rigging must be portable, and
- 3) the WiHi stage must be protected.

The Rain Discussion Meeting will be held in the front meeting room on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 7 PM. Please let Rusty know that you plan to attend by email at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net).



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



Players' next meetings will be Wednesday, January 4 (6:30 PM) and February 8 (7:00 PM). ***Please join us at 6:00 PM before the January meeting for some New Year's refreshments.***

## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



1. Arsenic and Old Lace
2. Anastasia
3. Guys and Dolls
4. How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying
5. The Sound of Music
6. Our Town
7. Harvey
8. The Odd Couple
9. Putnam County
10. Little Women the Musical

Answers:

## Three Show Season Ticket Order Form 2022-2023



This package includes one ADULT ticket for each of the following shows - Leading Ladies, Crimes of the Heart, and Singin' in the Rain. Purchasers will have the opportunity to choose their preferred performance as specific dates and venues are announced. \$68 per package

This package includes one SENIOR ticket for each of the following shows - Leading Ladies, Crimes of the Heart, and Singin' in the Rain. Purchasers will have the opportunity to choose their preferred performance as specific dates and venues are announced. \$54 per package

This package includes one STUDENT ticket for each of the following shows - Leading Ladies, Crimes of the Heart, and Singin' in the Rain. Purchasers will have the opportunity to choose their preferred performance as specific dates and venues are announced. \$54 per package

This package includes one CHILD ticket for each of the following shows - Leading Ladies, Crimes of the Heart, and Singin' in the Rain. Purchasers will have the opportunity to choose their preferred performance as specific dates and venues are announced. \$41 per package

This package includes one FAMILY ticket for each of the following shows - Leading Ladies, Crimes of the Heart, and Singin' in the Rain. A Family ticket includes both parents and all children under 18 who live in the same household. The whole family must attend the same performance. Purchasers will have the opportunity to choose their preferred performance as specific dates and venues are announced. \$176 per package

Please complete the form. ALL fields are REQUIRED. Please print.

NAME:				
ADDRESS:				
PHONE: EMAIL:				
ADULT	SENIOR	STUDENT	CHILD	FAMILY
___ X \$68.00 =	___ X \$54.00 =	___ X \$54.00 =	___ X \$41.00 =	___ X \$176.00 =
TOTAL = A + SE + ST + C + F = _____				
Please make checks payable to Community Players of Salisbury, Inc. Your check will serve as your receipt.				

Mail to: Community Players, PO Box 2431, Salisbury, MD 21802

**Community Players of Salisbury**  
**P. O. Box 2431**  
**Salisbury, MD 21802**

**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SALISBURY, MD 21801**  
**PERMIT 186**

**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  
2022-23, your dues  
are not up-to-date.*

**Next Meetings - Wednesday, January 4 (6:30 PM) and February 8 (7:00 PM).**

**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

*President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com*  
*Vice-President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com*  
*Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu*  
*Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net*  
*Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com*  
*Immediate Past-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net*

*Board Members*

*David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023*  
*Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024*  
*Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025*

*Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds with regards to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical & mental ability, and religious & political beliefs.*