

COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury

Back



Stage

April 2023

From the desk of the President...



As I am writing in mid-March, we have had two days of cold, howling wind, but maybe today March will start going out like a lamb.

Crimes of the Heart doesn't open until April 20, but Robin and cast are busy rehearsing, and the set is coming along nicely.

Because of construction at WI HI, we have had to move the production of **Singin' in the Rain** up a week. We are confident that a reduced production schedule will still give us a great show, but with a few extra headaches for Rusty and his team.

While we are coming to the end of our current season, the production committee is busy reading scripts and evaluating proposals for next season's shows. We will have the announcement after the April board meeting.

Last, our Performance Space committee and its subcommittees have been meeting to finalize plans. We hope to have some things we can share by the opening of **Crimes of the Heart** .

See you at **Crimes of the Heart**.

Kel Nagel



Meet the Magrath Sisters!

Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize winning play "Crimes of the Heart" centers around the Magrath sisters as they reunite at their Old Granddaddy's home in Mississippi after Babe, the youngest, shoots her abusive husband. The sisters endure their share of individual and collective hardships throughout the play, but in the end prove that their love for each other is stronger than any familial tragedy.

We sat down with the three actresses who play the Magrath sisters in "Crimes of the Heart" and asked them to share some insight on the show and their character.

Lenny Magrath, the eldest sister, is played by Mary Cathell. Crimes is Mary's third show with Community Players. She was drawn to playwright Beth Henley's mix of tragedy and comedy stating, "the script reminds me of a saying I tell myself; 'you gotta laugh about it because what are ya gonna do, cry about it?'" Lenny is the caretaker of the family; she remained home in Hazlehurst to take care of Old Granddaddy after their mother commits suicide. Lenny is responsible, insecure, and slightly resentful of her sisters who have lived more of a life than she has. As the oldest sibling herself, Mary finds similarities to Lenny but also differences. "I feel like Lenny holds on to things more, whereas I'd rather let things go," she said.

Kirsten King is making her Community Players debut as middle sister Meg Magrath. Kirsten connects to the role saying, "Meg is the wild child, snarky and sassy, protective of her little sister, with big dreams to express herself creatively for the entire world to see. If you asked my mom, she'd say that I fit that exact description to a T." Meg left her hometown to pursue a singing career in Hollywood that ended abruptly after she suffered a nervous breakdown. Kirsten was initially drawn to the show's drama but says, "as I became more familiar with the script, I also felt attached to the lighthearted, humorous moments, and felt the somber and sad moments were a nice balance to an overall moving piece."

Youngest sister, Rebecca "Babe" Magrath, is played by Caroline Lewis in her second Community Players show. Babe married a prominent lawyer of Hazlehurst, then shot him to protect someone she cares deeply about. Most of the play's drama centers around Babe and her impulsive actions. Caroline was drawn back to Crimes, having previously performed a selection of the show at Salisbury University, because of how relatable the relationship between the sisters is. "There's so much love there, they know how to be there for each other but also know all the things to say to hurt each other," says Caroline. "If you have siblings, you know that no one can push your buttons quite like they can."

Performances for "Crimes of the Heart" are April 20, 21, 22 and 27, 28, 29 at Wor-Wic Community College Guerrieri Auditorium. Visit SBYPlayers.org or call 410-546-0099 for tickets and more information! Rated PG13 for mature themes.





AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED

Community Players of Salisbury has announced that auditions for the June 2023 musical production,

Singin' in the Rain,

will be held on

Sunday, April 16 at 2 PM

Monday, April 17 at 7 PM

Tuesday, April 18 at 7 PM

All auditions will be held at Players at 5109 Nutters Cross Road,
Salisbury, MD.

For more information and character breakdown, please visit our website,
sbyplayers.org.

Each person who auditions for the show will read a short scene or scenes from the script. Everyone will be asked to sing a song from a Broadway show (not Singin' in the Rain). An accompanist will be available but all are encouraged to bring their own soundtracks. A bluetooth speaker will be available for use. Musical selections should be limited to one verse. Everyone will be asked to do a dance audition and a separate tap dance audition will be required of those who audition for specific roles.

The character breakdown is on the next page of this newsletter. If you have questions or need further information, please contact director Rusty Mumford at 410-546-0099 or Rusty@cposmd.com.

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.

**Singin' in the Rain Auditions
Character List**

Character	Description	Requirements
Don Lockwood	Hollywood's silent movie leading man, charming and charismatic, smart and level-headed (30s)	Strong baritone and dancer (tap)
Cosmo Brown	Don's right-hand man, serves as comic relief, quick-witted, fast with one-liners (30s)	Strong tenor and dancer (tap)
Kathy Seldon	Honest, likeable, tough exterior, wants to become an actress (20s)	Strong soprano and dancer (tap)
Lina Lamont	Glamorous star of Hollywood's silent films, exasperating ditz with a grating nasal voice, brash and crass (30s)	Mezzo who can sing off-key on purpose
Rod	Lina's manager, always at her side, making sure nothing upsets her (40+)	also in Ensemble
Dora Bailey	Hollywood gossip columnist, at every opening with all the scoops, à la Hedda Hopper (40s+)	also in Ensemble
R.F. Simpson	Studio producer in charge of Lockwood Lamont films, only interested in making money (50s+)	
Roscoe Dexter	Studio director in charge of Lockwood Lamont films, high strung, easily frustrated (50s+)	
Miss Dinsmore	Lina's vocal coach, classically trained, hired to turn Lina's voice into perfection, proper and tough (40s+)	also in Ensemble
Male Vocal Teacher	Vocal coach hired to work with all actors on the set, Shakespearean background, overworked (40s+)	also in Ensemble
Zelda Zanders	Flapper starlet with attitude, Lina's right-hand, dramatic and over-the-top (20s)	
Sam (Sound Engineer)	All business, take charge (Any adult age)	also in Ensemble
Assistant Directors	Dexter's "yes men" X 3 (20s+)	also in Ensemble
Production Soloist	(20s)	Tenor, also in Ensemble
Young Don	9-12 years old	Ensemble
Young Cosmo	9-12 years old	Ensemble
ENSEMBLE	At least 12, possibly more	Need to sing, dance (tap)

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
April is as easy is A B C...

1. **Camelot** is opening at the Lincoln Center. She played Guinevere in the original Broadway production.
2. When you think of **Cabaret**, **Pippin** and **Sweet Charity**, you think of him.
3. He is everywhere--**Some Like it Hot**, **Little Shop of Horrors**, **Something Rotten** to **Peter and the Star Catcher**.
4. This double D actor played Jefferson in **Hamilton**.
5. This Andrew Lloyd Webber musical tells the story of the former first lady of Argentina.
6. This musical tells the story of J. M. Barrie and the family that inspired **Peter Pan**.
7. A force to be reckoned with whether in **Chicago** or **Damned Yankees**, she was married to #2.
8. She tells her story, which began when she was Hansel, a "slip of a girlyboy" growing up in East Berlin.
9. From Elphaba in **Wicked** to Elsa in the film *Frozen*, this Tony winner has earned her legions of fans.
10. She transcends genre, taking her from roles like Jenna in **Waitress** to Julie Jordan in a revival of **Carousel**.

Answers found on page 6

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & BOARD

It is that time of year. If you are active in Community Players, want to step it up a notch and think you would like to be on the Board of Directors or serve as an Officer, then this is directed to you. We will have three Board positions available this year. There will be officer vacancies as well. Nominations will be presented at our May meeting and the election held at our June meeting. Players is looking for individuals who have the passion and wiliness to communicate ideas to make our organization even better. If that sounds like you or someone you know, then give this idea some serious thought. We have grown so much in the last 86 years and are working toward our own performance space. If you want to make a contribution to live theatre beyond the stage, please send me an email at fresnelop@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to supply you with details. There is also information available on our Members Page on our website.

Sharon Benchoff
Nominating Committee

newsletter

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, April 5 (7:00 PM) and May 3 (7:00 PM). There is a lot going on at Players right now. Join us to see when and where you can help.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



1. Julie Andrews
2. Bob Fosse
3. Christian Borle
4. Daved Diggs
5. **Evita**
6. **Finding Neverland**
7. Gwen Verdon
8. Hedwig
9. Idina Menzel
10. Jessie Mueller

Answers:

Tentative Schedule of Fund-Raising Events (2023)

April 8: Bordeleau Winery/Chili Cookoff Benefactor

May: Special production (potentially Underground Railroad production)

June: Community Yard Sale with bake goods and ice cream sales/Craft and art vendors

July: Rock concert (All-female bands, battle of the bands, benefit concert by Jay Copeland?) and/or dance marathon

August: Gala/Celebration of 2022-23 season (cookout or potluck?)

September: Paint and sip or artists sharing their talents/Art show?

October: Special production: Edgar Allan Poe

November: Auction/Casino Night; LuxGive.com offers "risk free" auction travel experiences

December: Special production of "A Christmas Carol"

If anyone is interested in helping with any of these fundraising projects, please contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.



Calling All Students--Help us design a t-shirt!

Do you like to draw? Know your way around a graphic design program? Enjoy experimenting with fonts? Design a t-shirt logo. We might use it for our summer workshop.

Here are the details:

1. Must include:
 - A. CPOS or Community Players of Salisbury
 - B. Children's Theater Workshop
 - C. 2023
 - D. Original Image
2. Open to students grades K -12
3. Deadline is April 30
4. Email design with artist's name and grade to Melissa.sbyplayers@gmail.com

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

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

Next Meetings - Wednesday, April 5 (7:00 PM) and May 3 (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

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