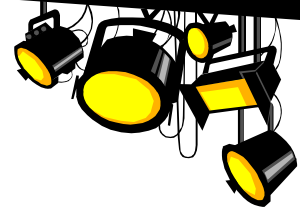


Community Players of Salisbury



Back Stage

January 2015

It's show time again!

The Community Players' production of *Vanities* is fast approaching and we want you to mark your calendar. The cast and crew have been working hard and can't wait to share this amazing show with each and every one of you.

The next two weeks are going to fly by faster than your Senior year of high school!!

Don't miss out on all the action while you hang out under the bleachers.

Don't forget to check out the *Vanities* Facebook page to get behind the scenes footage and Cheerleading Challenge information.

Vanities

Friday, January 30 at 8 PM

Saturday, January 31 at 2 PM & 8 PM

Friday, February 6 at 8 PM

Saturday, February 7 at 2 PM

At Wor-Wic Community College

For Tickets call 410-546-0099

(This show is rated PG13)



Vanities

the MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER



Synopsis, Comments, Audition Notes
By Kel Nagel, Director

The main thing I need to say about this show is that it is funny. It is played for laughs, with virtually no serious comment about the serious time (late 1930's) in which it is set.

While there are references to many well known personalities, we do not hear of Hitler, or Roosevelt. There is nothing about the impending war or the lingering depression. The world of this show does not revolve around serious issues. It revolves around the lead character, Sheridan Whiteside.

Whiteside, a famous writer, critic and radio personality is on a lecture tour of the country in December of 1938. He is prevailed upon to have dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stanley, leading citizens of Masalia, Ohio. He injures himself slipping on ice on their front porch, and is forced to stay with them for a few weeks. Since he is by nature egocentric and obnoxious, he wreaks havoc on the household, either alone or through his guests.

Four of the characters in the play are based on actual people. These include Whiteside, who was based on Alexander Woollcott, Beverly Carlton, based on Noel Coward, Lorraine Sheldon, based on Gertrude Lawrence, and Banjo, based on Harpo Marx.

The main plot features Whiteside's secretary, Maggie, an attractive and totally efficient employee upon whom Whiteside depends. During her

stay in Masalia, she meets and falls in love with Bert Jefferson, owner and editor of the local paper. Since Whiteside can't afford to lose Maggie, he sends for the beautiful actress Lorraine, who will seduce Bert away. Both Beverly Carlton and Banjo ally themselves with Maggie.

Numerous other subplots and characters round out the show. These include Miss Preen, long suffering nurse who puts up with Whiteside's abuse, the bumbling local doctor, Dr. Bradley, who attends Whiteside and tries to get him to read a book he has written about his career, and the Stanley family.

This show packs a lot into its eighty page script, and has a very large cast. Even some of the major roles have limited stage time.

Beverly Carlton appears only in Act I, Lorraine in Acts II and III, and Banjo only in Act III. The eccentric Professor Metz, who brings Whiteside a cockroach terrarium as a present, is on for only a couple of pages, as are Mrs. Stanley's friends, Mrs. McCutcheon and Mrs. Dexter. There are several roles for men who are briefly onstage, including three convicts, a prison guard, three radio technicians, two deputies and some delivery men. Some of these male roles will be doubled.

Character descriptions follow on the next page. As usual, listed ages may not be the actual age of the actor who is cast. For Whiteside, Banjo, Lorraine, and Carlton I listed the approximate age that Woolcott, Harpo, Gertrude, and Noel were in 1938. They could all play older.

The Man Who Came to Dinner **Audition Dates**

Monday, February 16 - 7 PM

Tuesday, February 17 - 7 PM

Wednesday, February 18 - 7 PM

Callbacks - Thursday, February 19 - 7 PM

**At Players' new building
5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury 21804**

Cast of Characters



Sheridan Whiteside (45+): A celebrity writer, critic and radio personality. In the Midwest of a lecture tour, slips on ice, is injured and forced to stay at the home of the Stanley's, a wealthy family who had invited him to dinner. He is generally obnoxious and disrupts the household.

Mrs. Stanley (50's): Wife of wealthy factory owner and society matron. Pleasant but somewhat stuffy.

Mr. Stanley (50's): A no nonsense businessman. Totally discomfited by the presence and antics of Whiteside.

Richard Stanley (21): Their son. Against his father's wishes he wants to travel and be a photographer.

June Stanley (20): Their daughter. Horrifies her father by falling in love with a union organizer in his factory.

Harriet Stanley (60+): An ethereal wraith-like presence. She is Mr. Stanley's older sister with a mysterious bearing and a mysterious past.

Maggie Cutler (30): She has been Whiteside's secretary since she got out of school. She is totally efficient and devoted to him. Falls in love with the local newspaper editor.

Bert Jefferson (30's): The newspaperman. An affable professional. We are rooting for him and Maggie.

Beverly Carlton (40+): Modeled on Noel Coward, is a famous playwright, actor and singer. He sings a song (What Am I To Do?) which Cole Porter wrote for this show. If we can cast someone who can act the part, sing, and accompany himself on the piano, we will try to get a working piano on stage, otherwise we will ask one of our members to record the accompaniment. For the role the acting is most important, but he will definitely have to sing. Speaks in an

upper class British accent, and does a funny imitation of a stuttering English nobleman, Lord Bottomley.

Lorraine Sheldon (35-50): Based on Gertrude Lawrence, she is a gorgeous, glamorous star. She is known for her romantic liaisons, and has been in England, pursuing the eligible Lord Bottomley. When Whiteside fears he is losing Maggie to Bert, he sends for his friend Lorraine, whom he expects will seduce Bert and steal him from Maggie.

Banjo (40's): Based on Harpo Marx, is another friend of Whiteside. He arrives for a Christmas visit to his sick friend. Funny character with some physical comedy. Does not play the harp or banjo, however. He comes to Maggie's aid by scheming to get Lorraine out of the picture.

Miss Preen (40+): A spinster nurse who is caring for Whiteside, putting up with much verbal abuse from him.

Dr. Bradley (60's+): Local doctor who is attending to Whiteside's hip, although not very well. He has written a huge book about his medical experiences and is trying to get Whiteside to read it and help get it published.

John (30+): Butler in the Stanley household.

Sarah (30+): Cook in the Stanley household. John and Sarah are apparently a couple although that is not explicitly stated. She is an excellent cook. Whiteside tries to get Sarah and John to move to New York to work for him.

Sandy (20's): Factory worker and union organizer in love with June.

Mrs. Dexter and Mrs. McCutcheon (both 35++): Friends of Mrs. Stanley and part of the Masalia social circle. They are a bit star struck, and visit in the hope of meeting Whiteside and giving him gifts. They are on stage only for a couple of funny pages early in act one, and are not seen again until curtain call.

Professor Metz (40+): Also appears for only a couple of funny pages in act one. He is a world renowned entomologist and arrives to present Whiteside with a terrarium containing ten thousand cockroaches. Speaks with a German or Eastern European accent. Actor cast as Metz will probably come back on as a radio technician or deputy later in the show.

The remaining small male roles (convicts, deputies, etc.) will be cast without specific auditioning. Volunteers are welcome. These roles might be very suitable for newer actors who wish to get some experience and develop stage presence.

Please call (410-726-0670) or e-mail (kelnagel@yahoo.com) if there are questions prior to auditions.

The Man Who Came to Dinner **Show Dates**

Friday, April 17 at 8 PM

Saturday, April 18 at 2 PM
& 8 PM

Friday, April 24 at 8 PM

Saturday, April 25 at 2 PM

Wor-Wic Community College

Tickets call 410-546-0099

Community Players of Salisbury
PO Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21803-2431

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Salisbury, MD 21801
Permit Number 176

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership
Dues Reminder

If the address label on this
newsletter does not show
2014-15 — your dues
are not current.

Adults - \$10

Family - \$20

Students - \$5

Send to: Community Players
P. O. Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21803

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 4 at 7 PM

At Players' new building, 5109 Nutters Cross Road.



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors - 2014-2015

President: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net

Vice President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Megan Davis - m.l.davis43@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com

Board Members

David Allen, Robin Finley, Sherri Hynes - Term Expires 2015

Jeff Baer, Joe Benamati, Mary Veise - Term Expires 2016

Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Katie Simms Parsons - Term Expires 2017

We're on the Web: www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org