

Community Players of Salisbury

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

Board Members Present: Tom Robinson, Presiding, Matt Bogdan, Lynne Bratten, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes, Ken Johnson, Charlie Linton, Rusty Mumford

Other Attendees: Bonnie Bosies, Tony Broadbent, Pete Cuesta, Melissa Dasher, Betsy Metzger, Ann Northam, Susan Robinson, Christine Smith, Charlie Szentesi Thomas

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the Minutes: Rusty Mumford/Charlie Linton moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was approved as distributed.

President's Report: Tom Robinson congratulated everyone involved in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* and *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts*.

Committee Reports

Concessions:

Brenda Allen reported as follows:

1. Concessions from V&S&M&S netted a profit of \$178.
2. This week guests that attended the Harlem Renaissance enjoyed their treats and showed appreciation with donations of over \$100 in addition to their ticket price, in just the three days.
3. Next month we will be popping popcorn for the movie night.

Facilities Management:

Ken Johnson reported as follows:

1. Things in the warehouse are almost back in the right places.
2. Be mindful of dumping things in the warehouse when clearing the rehearsal space for an event. Those in charge of the event should make sure that things are returned to the right place.

Further discussion was as follows:

1. Lynne Bratten commented that there is a similar issue with costumes.

2. Cass Dasher questioned whether or not people know where the right places are in the warehouse. Ken Johnson replied that it should be on the director or event coordinator to make sure.
3. Tony Broadbent suggested that the cast should be helping.
4. Cass Dasher suggested that we get a return date when something is borrowed, then get people to help with placing items.

Rusty Mumford commented that the front office/meeting room are a big mess and asked that individuals using those spaces clean up after themselves.

Lynne Bratten reported as follows:

1. Wardrobe Wednesdays will resume starting in July. Several years ago during the summer all costumes were organized by decades, sizes etc. Due to the recent water issues, everything is out of place, but still usable. We will work around the summer workshop, as needed.
2. Long-Time friend of Players, Sallie Ridgway, is selling her home place and has offered Players any and all of her collection. I have some items in my garage already, but her collection is massive. I look forward to hearing from you on a possible way forward on this offer. She is reaching out to other performance organizations and most of the groups we have a relationship of shared usage, but there are massive collections of suits, period clothing, and really cool stuff! Pictures of her storage barn and exterior are attached,

Fundraising: Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

1. A 50/50 raffle was held at the *Vanya, etc.* shows. We raised \$592. Thanks go to those who helped with this fundraiser.
2. *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts* was held April 26-28. It was well received and featured a diverse cast, which led to a diverse audience. Ticket sales were \$1290, with 38 in attendance on Friday, 44 in attendance on Saturday, and 47 in attendance on Sunday, with an overall attendance of 129. Concession sales were \$146, and bookmark sales (bookmarks donated by Judy Hearn...thanks, Judy!) were \$220. Ernie Matthews, who in memory of his wife Elizabeth, sponsored the show at \$200, and two programs ads totaled \$100. Gross income for the show was \$1956. Expenses, which included cast gifts, cast party, and set pieces, totaled \$350. Net profit for the show was \$1606. Thanks go to the band, the cast, and the crew for their time and effort.
3. Matt Bogdan will be seeking funds at Sobos on Thursday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m. from the organization Wicomico Women Who Care. Lynne Bratten made Matt aware of this potential fundraiser.
4. A Movie Night will be held on May 18 with the showing of Buster Keaton's "The General," a remarkable 1926 silent film classic considered by some to be the greatest comedy of all-time. The plot involves Johnnie, played by Buster Keaton, who loves his train ("The General") and Annabelle. When the Civil War begins, he is turned down for service because he's more valuable as an engineer. Annabelle thinks it's because he's a coward. Union spies capture The General with Annabelle on board. Johnnie must rescue both his loves. Tickets are \$5, cash or check, and available at the door. Social hour begins at 7. Movie begins at 8. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator.

5. The *Guest Bartender* fundraiser will be held June 6 from 5-9 p.m. at Brew River with Shelbie Thompson as the coordinator.
6. A 50/50 raffle will be held at the *Kiss Me, Kate!* shows in June.
7. *Trivia Night* will be held on June 28 at 7 p.m. with Sharon Benchhoff as the coordinator.
8. A Musical Review entitled *Show Stoppers* will be held July 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. and July 28 at 2 p.m. at Players. Many of the songs will very upbeat. Tickets will be \$10. Auditions for the show will be held June 25 and June 26 at 7 p.m. at Players. Rusty Mumford is the coordinator.
9. *Trivia Night* will be held on July 19 at 7 p.m. with Sharon Benchhoff as the coordinator.
10. *Trivia Night* will be held on August 30 at 7 p.m. with Sharon Benchhoff as the coordinator.
11. *World War II: A Tribute* will be held September 13 and September 14 at 7 p.m. and September 15 at 2 p.m. with a live band playing Glenn Miller music and other WWII music, as well as slides and dramatic readings. The format will be similar to the Harlem Renaissance show. Tickets will be \$10, with partial proceeds to support WW II veterans. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator.
12. *Trivia Night* will be held September 27 at 7 p.m. with Sharon Benchhoff as the coordinator.
13. The October fundraiser will be the Poe show. Performances will be October 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Delaware, October 19 from 7-9 at the Snow Hill Firehouse in Snow Hill, October 20 from 2-4 p.m. at Players Playhouse in Salisbury, October 25 from 7-9 p.m. at Players Playhouse in Salisbury, October 26 from 7-9 p.m. at Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, and October 27 from 2-4 p.m. at Players Playhouse in Salisbury. Tickets are \$10. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator. This will be the fourth year of the production.
14. The November fundraiser is Giving Tuesday with Sharon Benchhoff as the coordinator.
15. Another November fundraiser will be the 50/50 raffle at *Guys and Dolls* shows.
16. The December fundraiser will be the radio play *It's a Wonderful Life* with Matt Bogdan as the coordinator.
17. If anyone has ideas for fundraisers or would like to coordinate or help coordinate a fundraiser, please let Matt know.

Kyle Hayes, on behalf of Shelbie Thompsen, asked if we could use Venmo as a payment method for the upcoming Guest Bartending event. Charlie Linton commented that we cannot use Venmo because that app can only be connected to one email address. Further, Venmo cannot be used for a charitable event. Matt Bogdan volunteered to research other platforms, such as PayPal.

Rusty Mumford asked if the musical revue that was originally planned for July could be moved to August 2-4. Discussion about the event was as follows:

1. Kyle Hayes asked how big the cast would be. Rusty Mumford replied that it would be 10-12.
2. Tony Broadbent asked what the technical needs would be. Rusty Mumford replied that there would be minimal lighting, and that backing tracks would be used for music. Rusty Mumford will meet with Tony Broadbent to clarify technical needs.

Grants: Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

1. We received a grant of \$6,435 from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore so that we can install a fire door from the dressing room to the main stage. The check has been received by treasurer Charlie Linton.
2. I continued to work on the Operating Grant for SWAC, which is due June 7, as well as the final report for our current SWAC grant, which is due June 30. I will be attending the SWAC luncheon in June.
3. I am still waiting to hear back from the Beach to Bay Heritage Area in which I requested a grant of \$96,753 for renovations to our building.
4. I am still waiting to hear back from the Maryland State Arts regarding the grant request of \$222,864 for renovations to our building. I was told that the notification of acceptance will take place in April. I did see that it is in panel review.
5. I am working on a grant from the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation. Stephen Engler, a Players' member, is a Perdue associate who is endorsing the grant request.
6. I am still waiting to hear from the grant request to the Maryland State Arts Council.

Historical: Nothing to report

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford reported that we remain hospitable and that events are being planned.

House: Nothing to report.

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Pete Cuesta reported as follows:

1. Send nominations to him.
2. There is a September deadline
3. He will create a nomination form.

Marketing:

Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

1. We have logos for all mainstage productions of the 2025/2025 season.
2. The next committee meeting will be on May 9.

Membership: Melissa Dasher reported that she would provide an updated membership form at the June meeting.

Nominating:

1. Sharon Benchoff has submitted a provisional ballot identifying nominations up to this point. Those nominations are as follows:

Nominee for Vice President:

Darrell Mullins

Nominee for Recording Secretary:
Nominee for Corresponding Secretary:
Nominee for Treasurer:

Melissa Dasher
Rusty Mumford (Continuing)
Charlie Linton (Continuing)

Nominees For Board of Directors (you may vote for no more than 3):

David Allen
Kim Cuesta
Pete Cuesta
Betsy Metzger
Kel Nagel
Sky Osborne
Charlie Szentesi-Thomas

2. Nominations can come from the floor to be added to the ballot.
3. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

Continued discussion was as follows:

1. Tom Robinson reminded everyone that those seeking positions have to be up to date on their dues.
2. Melissa Dasher stated that she has no information on one of the candidates, Skye Osborne.
3. Bios of all candidates are forthcoming.

Patrons: Nothing to report.

Performance Space:

Kel Nagel reported as follows:

1. Becker/Morgan representatives came to the facility to take measurements. Christine Smith stated that the next step would be to create a model.
2. The required Fire Door (for which we received a grant) will be installed on the wall where our "Moose Daddy" bar currently is.

Kel Nagel/Matt Bogdan moved to approve up to \$7,000 to install the door. Discussion was as follows:

1. Rusty Mumford and Lynne Bratten suggested we should wait until we have a full report from Becker/Morgan on the entire rehearsal space in order to ensure that it will be installed in a way consistent with the final plan.
2. Matt Bogdan stated that the plan was to definitely make sure that the door will be installed according to that plan. Others were concerned that the motion did not necessarily state that.
3. Christine Smith commented that Becker/Morgan will provide three proposals for the job.
4. Motion passed, 5-4.

Production: Nothing to report.

Program: Nothing to report.

Program Advertising: Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Debby Nagel reported as follows:

1. Billboards and yard signs were placed for *Vanya, Sonya, Masha and Spike*.
2. Advertisements and promotional material were printed in The Salisbury Independent and The Daily Times.
3. Sharon Benchoff and Steve Culver were featured on WBOC'S Delmarva Life.
4. Plans are underway to advertise Kiss Me Kate.
5. We are still not able to make contact with our last yard sign vendor. Will look into new contacts.

Lynne Bratten reported that the production had 800 views on the "Next Door Neighbor" platform when it was first posted. Upon second post, it had 400 views.

Scholarship:

Lynne Bratten reported as follows:

1. The community players scholarship award can be presented at Pocomoke High School on May 23 at 7 PM to the student from that school. As I will not be in town, I am looking for someone to represent Community Players. Details. - May 23, Location - Pocomoke High School, Time - 7 PM. Presenters are asked to arrive by 6:45 PM. Guidance will notify the family that their student is getting an award. See attached poster
2. The second award will be presented at the student's graduation ceremony in May with family, friends and others in attendance. I will represent Players at that event. Family has been notified.
3. Presentation for both students at a community players event is something I would like to do...perhaps at the opening of Kiss Me Kate.

Pete Cuesta volunteered to make the presentation at Pocomoke High School.

Season Tickets/Box Office:

NOTE: The information below may not be the same as presented by Rusty Mumford. The Recording Secretary was not able to get every detail. Corrections can be made at the June meeting.

Ticket sales for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*:

Friday, April 12	7:30 pm	81
Saturday, April 13	2:00 pm	139
Saturday, April 13	7:30 pm	69
Friday, April 19	7:30 pm	107
Saturday, April 20	2:00 pm	159

28 of the tickets above were “Run of the House” seats

Social Media:

Kate Adkins reported as follows:

1. We continue to post daily about upcoming events, productions, and players in general on Facebook and Instagram.
2. Please send any photos, artwork, graphics for any promotional or production so we are able to have consistency for our audiences.
3. I will be posting our next season as soon as I receive the posters from the directors and promotional committee.

Old Business

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.

- Well-Done, Congrats to all involved.

The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts.

- Raised \$1,600
- Diverse Cast and Audience
- Well-Received

Kiss Me Kate

- Rehearsals have begun.
- Kel Nagel is in need of a Stage Manager.
- Tony Broadbent will do lights and sound.
- Debby Nagel will do props and set decoration.

Summer Camp

- Cass Dasher reported that 4 potential counselors have been approached to participate.
- The next step is to meet with the counselors to begin curriculum development.
- The format will be similar to that used last year.
- Kyle Hayes commented that we need to push the event.

New Business

Hiring Architect: See the “Performance Space” committee report

Fire Door: See the “Performance Space” committee report

Scholarship: See the “Scholarship” committee report

Restroom Signs:

- Tom Robinson commented on the long line at the ladies room at the “Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts performance. He recommended that we remove the signs and just make each a single-use bathroom. While no formal motion was made, there was unanimous agreement.

Ridgeway Costumes:

Lynne Bratten reported as follows:

- Sally Ridgeway, long-time Players costume designer and friend, is willing to donate her collection to Community Players.
- This is an opportunity for us to acquire a significant costume collection.
- Sally is in no rush to have the costumes collected but also does want it to take a long time.
- The challenge is where to store the costumes as our current space is very cramped.
- Sally is not looking for compensation.

Discussion was as follows:

- Consider renting a storage unit.
- Storage space must have climate control as some pieces are unique and fragile.
- Consult Chelsea Dean, Costume Specialist at Salisbury University and Co-Founder of Fultontown Theatre for suggestions.
- Perhaps we can have a temporary structure. On this idea, Tom Robinson stated that we are not able to build but will research to see if we can have a temporary structure.
- Store the collection in our rehearsal space.
- Perhaps we could get a grant for this.
- Consider a storage unit rental while we figure this out.

Maryland Charitable Registration

Charlie Linton reported as follows:

If we want to register with Maryland State Charitable Fund organization, the yearly fee is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Donations of \$-24,999 | No Fee |
| • Donations of \$25,000-49,999 | \$50 |
| • Donations of \$50,000-74,999 | \$75 |
| • Donations of \$75,000-99,999 | \$100 |

- Donations of \$100,000-499,999 \$200
- Donations of \$500,000+ \$300

Other New Business

WBOC Request For Actors (NOTE: This issue was discussed during committee reports so that Mr. West would not have to wait so long to make his request. As it is, however, a new business item, it is presented here).

- Steve West of WBOC needs 3 actors for a documentary about The Farmers Bank of Willards as part of the bank's upcoming 100th anniversary.
- The scene will be circa 1925 when the bank first opened.
- Characters are the bank President as well as a young couple who will arrive in a 1925 Model T.
- The shoot will take place in Girdletree
- Shooting will take one week in May.
- A stipend of \$200 will be paid to each actor.
- Needs help with costumes. Lynne Bratten will meet with him to determine needs.

Nominations for Officers and Board Members

- The floor was declared open for nominations from the floor in addition to those listed on the preliminary ballot (see the "Nominations" committee report).
- As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Rusty Mumford/Cass Dasher moved that nominations be closed. Motion passed.
- Voting will take place during the June 4, 2024 meeting.
- Tony Broadbent again asked if nominees could make a brief speech before voting.
- A ballot will also be in the Newsletter.

Clarification of Time for June Meeting

- Rusty Mumford asked for clarification of start time of the June meeting. It was announced that it will be 7 pm.

ASCAP License

- Rusty Mumford stated that we need to renew our ASCAP license at a cost of \$300.
- Lynne Bratten/Cass Dasher moved approval. Motion passed.

Camcorders Purchase

- Rusty Mumford commented that it would be a good idea to purchase camcorders for the purpose of recording rehearsals which can then be posted on social media.
- Cass Dasher commented that we need to be careful where we post. Rusty Mumford replied that we can post them to our private Google Drive.

- Lynne Bratten commented that we should get the actors' permission.
- Rusty Mumford/Matt Bogdan moved to spend up to \$600 for two camcorders.

Platform Ladder

- Tony Broadbent suggested we purchase a platform ladder for the purpose of installing lighting and other materials at the ceiling of the rehearsal space.
- The question of why do we not have our Lift here instead of at WI-HI. Responses were as follows:
 - We did not need it until recently.
 - It is expensive to transport.
 - If we take it, we need to communicate that to other groups that use it.
- Lynne Bratten/Rusty Mumford moved that we spend up to \$500 for the purpose of a 12 Foot Platform Ladder. Motion passed.

Upcoming Movie Night

- Matt Bogdan reminded us that the movie night for "The General" on May 18th.

PAC 14

- Matt Bogdan commented that we could do a show once a month on PAC 14 as a way of promoting what we do.
- There will be a training session on May 9 at 1:00 pm. Anyone interested should reach out to Matt.

As there was no other business, Rusty Mumford/Charlie Linton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.