

Community Players Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Call to Order @ 6:30 pm

Board Members Present: Matt Bogdan, Darrell Mullins, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, David Allen, Sharon Benchoff, Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes, Ken Johnson, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: none

Members Present: Brenda Allen, Tony Broadbent, Bobbie Callaway, Pete Cuesta, Sherri Hynes, Susan Robinson

Guests Present: None

Approval of the Minutes from September 2024

Minutes were previously e-mailed to the Board and membership shortly after the September meeting.

Motion to approve by Darrell, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Report previously to the Board. Summary given by Charlie.

President's Report

Everything is fine and we are very busy!

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. *Para-Cles* and *Shakespeare Shorts* were performed at Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD on September 14. Thanks to Sharon Benchoff, director, and the cast and crew who had a great time bringing this show to an entertained audience. The show will be presented again at the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. and November 23 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults; \$5 children. Pay at the door, cash or check.
2. *Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Terror* will be presented at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, DE on October 18 at 7 p.m. the old Snow Hill Firehouse in Snow Hill, MD on October 19 at 7 p.m., and Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, MD on October 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets at each venue are \$10. Pay at the door, cash or check. For reservations, call 443-235-3272. The show will also be presented at the Players Playhouse in Nutters Cross Road Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.
3. Our last Trivia Night for the year was held September 27. Thanks go to Sharon Benchoff and her crew for holding the event, and thanks to those who participated. Lots of fun!
4. We are seeking volunteers to help with the 50/50 raffle at the *Guys and Dolls* shows in early November. We are also seeking a fundraising coordinator for Giving Tuesday, which will be held December 3.
5. The fundraising committee did not meet on Thursday, 9/26, and it will be rescheduled.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Worcester County Arts Council granted the Players \$500 to help with the production of *Para-Cles* and *Shakespeare Shorts*. They also granted the Players \$500 to help with the production of *Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Terror*.

2. The Board of Directors of the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council recently authorized the awarding of a Community Arts Development Operating Grant to Community Players of Salisbury for general operations in the following amount: \$2167.

3. Grant application is in process for Chesapeake Gateways Event Support Grant (Award Range: \$10,000-\$25,000). The proposal demonstrates how the event or festival celebrates the rich cultural, historical, natural, or recreational legacy and ongoing story of Chesapeake Gateways communities. Public events and festivals should encourage exploration and enjoyment of the wealth of cultural, historical, natural, and recreational experiences available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The events encourage new and enhanced opportunities to connect with underrepresented communities through inclusive and welcoming events, festivals, places, and programming. This event would occur during the summer of 2025. Application deadline is October 21, 2024.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford

Will hold report until New Business.

House - Betsy Metzger

The appeal for ushers for Guys & Dolls will go out soon.

Lifetime Achievement Awards - Sharon Benchhoff

LAA committee meeting on October 2nd to select this year's recipient. We have four nominees for this year's LAA. Award(s) will be given during *Guys and Dolls*.

Marketing – Rusty Mumford

Help is needed with the building of the website. Knowledge of Wix platform a plus.

Membership - Melissa Dasher

The first round of membership cards will be in the mail soon, prior to *Guys and Dolls* Players' Night. New cards are double sided. Back states "Your membership card is also your ticket to Players' Night. Please present your card at the door for admission."

Nominating - Sharon Benchhoff

Nothing to report.

Patrons - Kel Nagel

Performance Space - Kel Nagel

Production - Darrell Mullins

The deadline to self-nominate and/or to suggest a show for consideration is December 31. You are not required to commit to directing in order to suggest a show. For committee membership, there will be a need to have a balance of performance and technical expertise. That may impact who is chosen. Contact Darrell Mullins, Production Committee Chair, at dgmullins58@gmail.com.

Program - Tom Robinson

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson

Last year we had 50 advertisers. Right now we have 31. We have 1 more week to submit.

Publicity – Pete Cuesta

Billboards are in process. With Sherri, Director of *Guys and Dolls*, decided not to put out yard signs. They will get lost among all the political signs. Banner to hang on Bennett fence waiting for BOE approval. Can we place cards advertising our season at a table on Wednesday at the Junior Board 100-year anniversary fashion show, held at Asbury church. (They are using our costumes and offered table space.) **Yes**

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten

Received a thank you card from Elijah Cockey.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

Box office is open for *Guys and Dolls*.

Social Media - Kate Adkins

Please continue to “like, comment and share” CPOS social media posts. Please make sure cast of all productions to engage are aware of our social and ask them to engage and share. It greatly increases our visibility online.

Our highest interaction in September on Instagram: on 9/24, 170 people, the second set pictures from rehearsal for G&D.

Our lowest interaction in September on Instagram: on 9/28, 41 people, last trivia of the year.

Our highest interaction in September on Facebook: on 9/16, 863 people, the first set pictures from rehearsal for G&D.

Our lowest interaction in September on Facebook: on 9/28, 120 people, an update that we will host Para-Cles in November.

For perspective on 8/30/24 the cast list for *Guys and Dolls* was posted. Reached 675 people on Instagram and 4,332 people on Facebook.

If you have photos to be shared on social media, please email Kate at “mariefox18@gmail.com”

There are times I learn about posts people are sharing of players promotional content without even getting a heads up. The algorithm of my own life does always correlate directly to players related information, Directors, board members please send me what you want to post, I will share it.

If you have info for posting please include an image if you intend to use one, I will have to create one (Instagram requires an image to post) not an issue, it just delays the post being shared.

Old Business

1. Rackliffe House

Board at Rackliffe House was very pleased with our production at the event. They would like us to come back in the spring. It is through one of their members that we were awarded a grant from Worcester County Arts Council.

2. Purchase of chairs update

Chairs are purchased, should arrive in December. Plaques have been ordered from Etch-Art Awards for \$5.00 each.

3 Architect meeting

Board approved Plan #2 at Special Board meeting on September 19. We have not heard back yet with time to meet with their engineer or estimated costs. We would like a copy of the blueprints for in the lobby at *Guys and Dolls*.

54. Tony Broadbent Update on equipment purchase

Checks are in the mail.

5. Other - Purchase of risers update

Risers arrived last Friday. 3 were dented. Matt contacted the company. They are sending 3 new ones to replace.

New Business

1. Guys and Dolls Update

Director Sherri reports the show is going to be great. Set help is needed on Saturdays. More stage crew help is needed. See Cass. Help is needed with the 50/50 raffle. See Matt.

2. Murder Mystery

We were approached by Bordeleau Winery to assist with a fundraiser for the Humane Society. Auditions have been announced for tomorrow, October 3 at 7pm. Show is November 16.

3. Poe Shows

To be held in October and November. We received a grant from The Worcester County Arts Council to assist with the Snow Hill performance. It is the same night as our Kick-Off dinner. Since the dates have already been announced, this cannot be changed.

4. Para-Cles/Shakespeare

Encore performances will be presented at our building November 22 & 23.

5. A Few Good Men

Auditions have been announced: Nov 10 @ 4pm, Nov 11 & 12 @ 7pm.

6. It's A Wonderful Life

Auditions have been announced: Nov 13 & 14 @ 7pm

7. Venue for A Few Good Men and beyond

Letter received from Wor-Wic Community College was very aggressive, stating we must be off campus by 9:30pm weeknights and 4:00pm on Saturdays. This will not work for us. Pete is fine with his show being performed in our building. Concerned about the weight load on ceiling. We can build a light bar, if needed. We can build a stage. Pete would light to hold 7-8 performances. He is looking into a temporary liquor license. He prefers the first 2 weekends in February.

Motion to do A Few Good Men at our building by Rusty, seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

8. Other

a. Charlie received a flyer about a National acting conference. See Charlie for details.

b. Melissa asked if it is necessary for us to include the Board members personal e-mail addresses in the newsletter and on the website due to increased phishing activity. **It was agreed we would remove the personal email addresses. David is looking into an organizational email.**

Motion to adjourn by Shelbie. Seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Adjourned at 7:07

Next Meeting – November 6, 2024, at 7:00 PM