

July
2024



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

I thank Tom Robinson, Players' immediate past president, for his dedication to our organization. I also thank those board members who finished their term for their time and effort to Players. I welcome the new board members as they help Players grow. I feel confident that we will have a great 2024-25 season.

I congratulate the cast and crew of **Kiss Me, Kate!** Director Kel Nagel made his dream come true. The show finished with a standing ovation at the Sunday matinee.

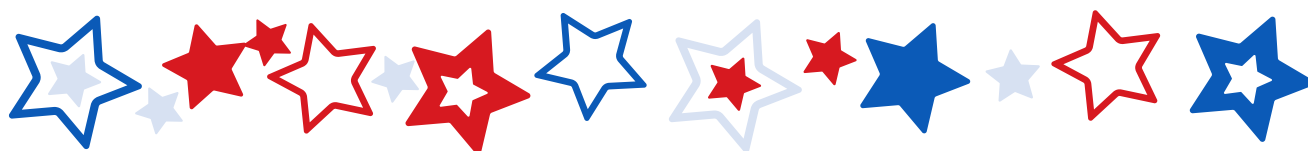
I thank Shelbie Thompson for coordinating the Guest Bartending fundraiser held at Brew River in June. I thank those who are involved in the Children's Theater Workshop that will run July 8-12. Rusty Mumford is coordinating Show Stoppers, a fundraiser to be held August 2-4 which will feature the musical talents of numerous singers.

The board meeting scheduled for July has been canceled due to time conflicts. The next board meeting will be August 7 at 7 p.m.

I intend to work hard in getting the necessary renovations completed so that we have our own theater. We need you to be a part of this campaign. We need you to be an active member. Feel free to contact me any time to voice your concerns and to share your ideas so that Players remains an outstanding community theater.

Matt Bogdan

President



BACK STAGE SUBMISSIONS

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 **August 7 (7:00 PM) and September 4 (7:00 PM)**. Join us as we begin work on our new season!

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Submission Slip

What is it?

An annual award to a member of Community Players for years and degree of service.

Criteria for Consideration:

1. At least 60 years of age and/or posthumous
2. At least 25 years of service (service as defined below)
 - a. Service: Something other than just showing up: (2 of 3)
 - A1 - acting
 - A2 - directing/stage crew/tech
 - A3 - administrative - board, committee, something!
 - b. Special circumstances: on case by case basis (sudden death / missed the timeline by a narrow margin but is felt deserving by board vote / someone who gets to Broadway)
3. Posthumous - a second award given the following evening to a past member who is gone. Consideration must be evaluated by the committee but after 2 years of waiting.

Your Nomination:

Living Recipient (Two Nominations Max)
Posthumous Recipient (Two Nominations Max)

Are you a member of Community Players in good standing? Y / N (Circle One)

What are your reasons for nominating this person(s)?



Audition for **Guys & Dolls** have been scheduled for Sunday August 25 at 2 PM, Monday and Tuesday August 26 and 27 at 7 PM at 5109 Nutters Cross RD. Please prepare a SHORT musical selection, preferably from a musical other than **Guys & Dolls**. There will be a dance audition and reading from the script. Rehearsals will begin immediately after casting. Rehearsals will be Sunday through Wednesday. Address specific questions to me at Sherri.hynes@yahoo.com Show dates are tentatively scheduled for November 1 - 3.

Guys & Dolls Character Descriptions

Mission Band —

Arvide — wise, sweet, Sarah's grandfather Baritone (Age: 60+)

Sarah — uptight, prudish, somewhat smug, Soprano (Age 25 — 30)

Agatha, Martha, Calvin — members of the band, singers... (Age — any)

The General — tough but sincere, strong, Soprano (Age — any)

Hot Box—

Adelaide — Hot Box main attraction, stubborn, comedic role, tap dancing, Alto/Mezzo Soprano, (Age: 35+)

Hot Box dancers - Sexy, mature... singing and dancing (tap), (Age: 20+)

Gamblers -

Nicely Nicely naive, lovable, sincere, comedic role, Tenor (Age — 30+)

Benny Southstreet — not the brightest, Tenor/baritone (Age: 30+)

Rusty Charlie - a smart crook, Baritone (Age 30+)

Nathan Detroit -good hearted schemer, Baritone (Age: 35+)

Sky Masterson — smart, suave, confident, Baritone (Age 35+)

Harry the Horse — quite the crook, Baritone (Age 30+)

Big Jule — mean gambler, tough guy but not very smart, Tenor (Age 40)

Liver Lips Louie, Angie the Ox, Society Max, etc.... singing, some dancing

Lt Brannigan — tough as nails no nonsense cop, non-singing

Ensemble —

Hot Box MC/waiters/patrons, Cuban waiters/dancers, NYC tourists, additional gamblers, etc



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW AND RETURNING

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

President: Matt Bogdan
Vice-President: Darrell Mullins
Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford
Treasurer: Charlie Linton
Immediate Past-President: Tom Robinson

Board Members
Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas



A graduate of Pocomoke High School, Treston Melvin is a recipient of a 2024 Community Players Scholarship. Treston has demonstrated outstanding leadership while fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all in the community, at the high school level and in all levels of theater involvement. At Community Players, Treston has performed in our main stage productions of **Singin' In The Rain** and **Pippin**. Additionally, Treston performed in the 86th Players Celebration and has been seen in productions of the Theater Academy of Delmarva, Ocean Pines Children's Theater, Pocomoke High School, and Salisbury University.

In the scholarship application, Treston shared a desire to return to the area to provide therapeutic and educational services using the performing arts platform, stating, "this award is an investment in my vision where the healing power of the performing arts can positively impact countless lives adding, your (players') commitment to fostering the dreams of students like me is commendable and inspiring." Next year Treston will be attending The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York.

Congratulations, Treston!

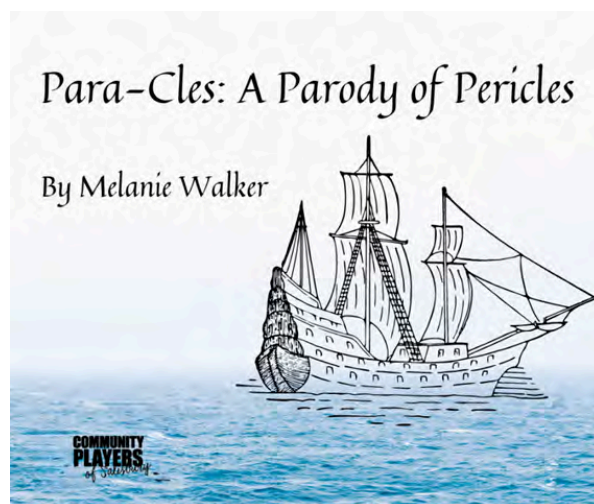


THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
July - Summer

1. This musical encapsulates the writing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence.
2. DuBose Heyward wrote the lyrics to "Summertime" featured in this Gershwin musical.
3. "Too Darn Hot" is sung by the cast in this musical that Community Players just produced.
4. Sandy and Danny describe their "summer nights" love to their friends in this musical.
5. Olaf the snowman imagines what summer will be like in this musical.
6. **110 in the Shade** is a musical based on this play.
7. Mrs. Lovett sings "By the Sea" in this musical.
8. **Suddenly Last Summer** is a play written by this playwright who wrote **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**.
9. Baseball fan Joe Boyd trades his soul to the Devil so his favorite team can win the pennant.
10. He wrote the music and lyrics for **In the Heights**, depicting a typical New York summer

Answers found on page 6



Keep an eye on our website, Facebook and the horizon for **Para-Cles** coming your way. Directed by Sharon Benchoff, this lesser-known Shakespeare work has been adapted by Melanie Walker into a funny, kid and adult friendly play. Look for audition and performance dates sailing your way.



Receiving one of the Community Players' grants for 2024 is a Elijah Cockey, who first performed as a cake eating student in the Fall 2018 main stage production of **Matilda**. As we entered the shutdown of the pandemic, Elijah supported Players as they produced a virtual production of **Almost Maine** in 2021 and then **Mark Twain** in the spring of 2022. In the Fall of 2022, Elijah supported the production of **Little Women** as a back stage worker.



As he mentioned in his scholarship letter, "my shaggy hair and theatrical background contrasted perfectly with my attraction to banjos and basses, piquing many people's interests." Many of us at community players have not only had our interests piqued, but we are looking forward to his future endeavors as he pursues training in Bluegrass/Traditional/ American Roots Music and History as a double major in college.

Congratulations, Elijah!



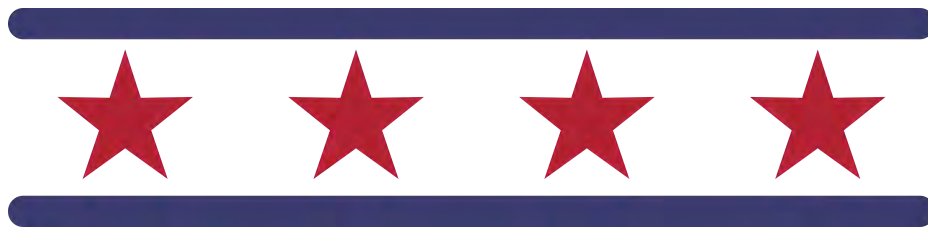
ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
 1. 1776
 2. Porgy & Bess
 3. Kiss Me Kate
 4. Grease
 5. Frozen
 6. The Rainmaker
 7. Sweeny Todd
 8. Tennessee Williams
 9. Damn Yankees
 10. Lin-Manuel Miranda

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. The Guest Bartending Event at Brew River on June 6 raised \$431.18. Thanks to Shelby Thompson for coordinating the event, Devin Bradley La Fetima and her band for providing the entertainment, and Robin Finley for running the raffle. Also, thanks to Players' members who supported the event.
2. A 50/50 raffle was held at the Kiss Me, Kate show, raising over \$700. Thanks to those who helped with this fundraiser.
3. Show Stoppers, a musical review, will be held August 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and August 4 at 2 p.m. at Players. Auditions will be held June 25 and June 26 at 7 p.m. at Players. Tickets for the show are \$10. Rusty Mumford is the coordinator.
4. Trivia Night was held on June 28. The next Trivia Night will be held July 26 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. BYOB. Come as a team or join a team. Expect lots of fun and prizes. Sharon Benchoff is the coordinator.
5. Auditions will be held in early August for a special production of Peri-Cles, to be held at the Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD in September. Sharon Benchoff is the coordinator.
6. World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore, scheduled for September, has been postponed to 2025. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator.
7. The October fundraiser will be the Edgar Allan 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, and October 26 from 7-9 p.m. at Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury. Tickets are \$10. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator.
8. The November fundraiser is Giving Tuesday with Sharon Benchoff as the coordinator.
9. Another November fundraiser will be the 50/50 raffle at Guys and Dolls shows.
10. The December fundraiser will be the radio play It's a Wonderful Life with Matt Bogdan as the coordinator.
11. If anyone has ideas for fundraisers or would like to coordinate or help coordinate a fundraiser, please let Matt Bogdan know.
12. Thanks to all who are involved in the Children's Theater Workshop which will run July.



Registration has closed for the Children's Theater Workshop/Summer Camp and we have a full house, which will be held July 8-12 for children going into grades 3-8. We have lots of fun and educational activities planned for our young participants as well as a final production scheduled for Friday, July 12, at 4 PM. Please join us for this student performance to see the fruits of their work for the week.

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

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*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
2023-24, your dues
are not up-to-date.*



Back Stage is funded, in part by a grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC). Players would like to thank SWAC for their continued support.

Next Meetings - Wednesday, August 7 (7:00 PM) and September 4 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

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

Board Members

*Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027*

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.