

August
2024



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

Congratulations to all who were involved with the Children's Theater Workshop held in July. A lot of time and effort was put in by the staff, and the children had a wonderful experience.

Rusty Mumford held auditions in July for Show Stoppers, with performances to be held August 2-4 at Players. Come and see a marvelous group of singers.

Sherri Trader Hynes, director of Guys and Dolls, announced auditions for the classic musical, which features great songs and dances. Auditions will be held August 25-27 at Players, and the show dates are November 1-3 at the Wicomico High School auditorium.

Sharon Benchoff is holding auditions for Para-Cles, a parody, on August 11-12 at Players. The performance will be held September 14 at the Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD. Also, mark your calendar for the next Trivia Night, to be held August 30.

Players recently received grants from Coastal Association of Realtors, Beach to Bay Heritage Area, the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, and the Worcester County Arts Council. We appreciate their support.

The fundraising committee met in July and reviewed previous fundraisers and brainstormed future fundraisers. Funds are being raised to purchase theater chairs for the ongoing renovation of our building on Nutters Cross Road. Each chair is \$50, and your name goes on a plaque on the back of the chair. You can also buy a chair or chairs in memory of someone. If you would like to purchase a chair, contact me at oceancityhappyme@aol.com.

For more information about main stage shows, special performances, and fundraising efforts, visit sbyplayers.org.

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 scheduled for November 1 - 3 at Wicomico High School Auditorium.

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





Do you like stories with pirates, princesses, villains and warriors?

Then audition to become part of the cast of "Para-Cles".

Each actor will play multiple parts with no lines to memorize.

Para-Cles is a physical play with lots of whacky comedy moments.
Roles for teens to seniors

Auditions: Sunday, August 11th and Monday, August 12th at 6:00 at
Players

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sharon Benchoff at
fresnelop@gmail.com



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
August - Potluck Picnic

1. What Broadway musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda is based on a biography by Ron Chernow?
2. What long-running musical features songs like "All That Jazz," "Cell Block Tango"?
3. What 1960 Broadway musical is based on the life and times of American philanthropist and survivor of the 1912 sinking of the Titanic, Margaret Brown?
4. The classic song 'Memory' is featured in which Andrew Lloyd Webber musical?
5. In William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, what is the name of the Queen of the Fairies?
6. The opera 'Madame Butterfly' was the inspiration for which musical?
7. Which character was known as the demon barber of Fleet Street?
8. The play *Uncle Vanya* was written by who?
9. Which modern play features suspicious nun in a 1960's Catholic school?
10. Which animated Disney film featuring songs by Phil Collins has a Broadway musical version?

Answers found on page 6



**Friday, July 26th and August 23rd
7:00 pm**

Join us at Players
5109 Nutters Cross Rd for
Entertainment Trivia

Bring your friends and family

Come alone and join a team

Bring your snacks and beverages for a
fun couple of hours

\$5.00 cash per person

GRANTS UPDATE

1. The Coastal Association of Realtors (CAR) recently granted Players \$500 to be used for the World War II production. Earlier in the year CAR granted Players \$500, which was used for our Children's Theater Workshop held in July.
2. Beach to Bay Heritage Area (BBHA) recently granted Players \$5000 to be used for the World War II production. Last year BBHA granted Players \$3000 for the production of Paths to Freedom: The Underground Railroad on Maryland's Eastern Shore.
3. The Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC) recently granted Players \$2167 to be used for general operating expenses for 2025 and \$2167 for 2026. SWAC has been a consistent grant provider over the years. Kel Nagel, Debbie Nagel, and Matt Bogdan attended the SWAC luncheon in June in which grantees of SWAC throughout the committee were recognized.
4. The Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC) recently granted Players \$500 to be used for the Para-Cles production.
5. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) earlier this year granted Players \$5366 to be used for general operating expenses. MSAC has been a consistent grant provider over the years.
6. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) earlier this year granted Players \$6435 to be used to purchase and install a fire exit door as part of the renovation of the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road. CFES also provided a grant of \$2375 last year for the production of Paths to Freedom.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Hamilton
 2. Chicago
 3. The Unsinkable Molly Brown
 4. Cats
 5. Titania
 6. Miss Saigon
 7. Sweeny Todd
 8. Anton Chekhov
 9. Doubt
 10. Tarzan

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The fundraising committee met in July and discussed the following:

1. Previous fundraisers, including Movie Night, Trivia Night, 50/50 raffles, manning the gate at Bordeleau Winery, the Guest Bartending event at Brew River, and The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts.
2. Current fundraisers planned for 2024, including Show Stoppers in August, Para-Cles in September, Trivia Night in July, August, and September, Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror in October, Giving Tuesday in November, the 50/50 raffle at performances of Guys and Dolls, and It's a Wonderful Life radio show in December.
3. Potential future fundraisers for 2025, including Dessert Theater, Family Feud game,, tribute bands, a Night of Play Readings, a Children's Show, a Murder Mystery, a yard sale, radio plays, A Gift to Remember Christmas show, technical workshops, another musical review, and another guest bartending event. The production World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore will definitely happen in 2025.

If you would like to participate in any of these fundraisers, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.



Thanks to Lynne and Jenny and everyone who helped them with Wardrobe Wednesdays. The costume area has really shaped up and is much more organized!



Congratulations to Director Kel Nagel and his production staff, the technical crews, and the cast of Kiss Me Kate on a job well done. KMK was a great way to end our season and was enjoyed by our audiences! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to Make KMK a success! Welcome to the new people who were welcomed to the Players' stage as a part of the Players' family.



Two staff members, four counselors, and 27 student participants spent a very busy and fun-filled week at the Summer Theater Workshop. The kids learned about singing, acting, tech and made new friends along the way. Special thanks to those Players members who came in and gave demos on additional theater topics--Alexa, Lynne and Jenny, and Rusty. The audience for the final production was standing room only.

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.