



March
2025

COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

Hooray for us! We have officially presented a main stage show at Community Players Theater. *A Few Good Men* was a success from start to finish. Director Pete Cuesta and his cast and crew, as well as other Players who worked on getting the theater ready, deserve a standing ovation!

Director Darrell Mullins has selected a talented cast and crew for *I Hate Hamlet*. Rehearsals are underway. Set building will be taking place on Saturdays, so come on out and help. Darrell is also head of the production committee, so he and the committee members are busy reading scripts of shows submitted for the 2025-26 season.

Wendy Stever, Konner Stever, and Shelbie Thompson are coordinating a Spring Craft and Vendor Fair to be held March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed, as well as items for the silent auction. This is a great opportunity to get involved.

Auditions for *WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore* will be held March 6 at 7 p.m. and March 9 at 2 p.m.

Kel Nagel is busy organizing the Capital Campaign, which will help raise funds for other renovations at Community Players' Theater. Again, here is another opportunity to get involved.

As you can see, there are lots of ways to stay involved with Players. We truly are a community theater. May the luck of the Irish be with you this month.

Matt Bogdan

President

Players' next meetings will be **March 5 (6:00 PM) and April 9 (7:00 PM)**. **Please note the earlier start time in March and the date change in April.** This is so that we do not conflict with rehearsals for *I Hate Hamlet*.

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

I HATE HAMLET

Congratulations to the cast of *I Hate Hamlet*:

Felicia Dantine - Lillian Hoffman
John Barrymore - Ryan T. Bass
Andrew Rally - Damion Sykes
Deidre McDavey - Charlie Szentesi-Thomas
Lillian Troy - Capri Harrison
Gary-Peter-Lefkowitz - Mark Decker

Directed by Darrell Mullins, *I Hate Hamlet* will be produced at Players on Nutters Cross Road. Show dates are:

April 4 & 5 at 7:30 PM
April 6 at 2:00 PM
April 10-12 at 7:30 PM
April 13 at 2:00 PM

Rehearsals have begun and setwork will begin on Saturdays. There will be plenty for all skill levels to do so come out and join the fun.





Save the Date!

On Saturday March 29 Community Players of Salisbury will be hosting our 1st annual Craft/Vendor/Direct Sales fair along with Silent and Ticket Auctions. This event will be held at the Community Players Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury.

Participants along with community and business support during this event will help us continue to provide and expand on the much-loved theatrical performances we have been presenting for the past 80 plus years.

Please consider donating to this event with your tax-deductible donation which will be used in our Silent or Ticket auction or with a cash donation that will help offset the expenses of the day and our ongoing operating expenses. Examples of donations can be in the form of a product or service your business provides or a gift card to your business.

Donors will be mentioned in our advertisements leading up to the event including the donation item(s) as well as on signage during the event.

We are a 501(C)(03) organization, and our tax-exempt Federal ID number is 23-70636.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our request. If you would like to discuss the opportunity further, I can be reached at (443) 365-1225 or wendystever@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Wendy Stever, Event Committee Chairperson
Community Players of Salisbury, PO Box 2431, Salisbury, MD 21802



SOLD OUT! What a great way to open our new theater! Congratulations to Director Pete Cuesta, the cast, and crew for an exceptionally successful run of *A Few Good Men*! Everything we heard from our audiences was positive--about the show, the theater, lighting and sound, as well as the added beer/wine sales. Lots of hard work went into getting the theater open but it was all worth it. Kudos to everyone who had a hand in putting *A Few Good Men* on the boards!!



IT'S CLEAN-UP TIME !



Any help you can provide on
Saturday, March 8th
to get the shop and props back in shape
will be greatly appreciated.
We will start at 10:00.

NEW THEATER NAMED

Community Players is proud to announce the name of our new theater. At our February Board meeting, we voted to use the official name
The Community Players' Theater.

Please look for future news as we continue to our theater space and bring upcoming shows to our stage.



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

March--Women's Month

- 1 This Andrew Lloyd Webber musical chronicles the life of this former first lady of Argentina.
- 2 This actress originated the role of Glinda in *Wicked* on Broadway.
- 3 She was the acting equal of her famous brother, John Barrymore.
- 4 We knew her from "Murder She Wrote", but this actress won five Tony awards for her work on Broadway.
- 5 In addition to writing "Sleepless in Seattle", she also wrote the play *Love, Loss and What I Wore*.
- 6 She originated the role of The Bullet in *Hamilton* and went on to play Anita in the film "West Side Story".
- 7 This eight time Tony nominated actress starred in *Kiss Me Kate* and won a Tony for *The King and I*.
- 8 Her stage adaptation of *The Lion King* received eleven Tony nominations, with her receiving Tony Awards for direction and costume design.
- 9 She wrote *The Mousetrap* and *Witness for the Prosecution*.
- 10 This recent Broadway musical celebrates the women's fight to win the right to vote.

Answers found on page 6



CPOS SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2025



Completed applications and all related materials should be mailed to Community Players c/o Lynne Bratten (303 South BLVD, Salisbury, MD 21801) or emailed to brattencollege@gmail.com.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The fundraising committee met on February 13 and reviewed previous and upcoming fundraisers.

Giving Tuesday in December raised approximately \$30,000. *It's a Wonderful Life* in December raised over \$1100. The 50/50 raffle for *A Few Good Men* in January and February raised \$890. Trivia Nights over the last two years raised \$875.

A Spring Craft and Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Players at 5109 Nutters Cross Road. If you would like to set up a booth or donate to the silent auction, please contact Wendy Stever at wendysteve@gmail.com. Rain date is Sunday, March 30.

50/50 raffles will be held at the *I Hate Hamlet* performances in April.

WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore will be presented on weekends in May at various venues on the Shore. Auditions will be held Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m. at the Community Players Theater. Singers, musicians, and dramatic readers are needed. For more information contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.



Players' own Sammy Barnes participated in two films which are part of this year's Film Festival. He did sound for *Ocean vs. Bay*. He also had a role in the film *The Henry Hotel*. Way to go, Sammy!

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Eva Peron
 2. Kristin Chenoweth
 3. Ethel Barrymore
 4. Angela Lansbury
 5. Nora Ephron
 6. Ariana DeBose
 7. Kelli O'Hara
 8. Julie Taymor
 9. Agatha Christie
 10. *Suffs*



USHERS NEEDED



House Manager Betsy Metzger is looking for ushers available for *I Hate Hamlet*. If you would like to usher one or more of the performances of our next show, please contact Betsy at betsymetzger07@gmail.com.



Your opinion and experience can make an impact on the future of Community Players. It is time to begin to think about who a terrific addition to the Board of Directors would be. If you believe you would contribute to the decision-making process or know someone who would be an asset to Players, then let me know. I am accepting nominations for Board Members and Officers.

Board Members serve a three-year term and are expected to attend the meetings and contribute to discussions and decisions that affect Players, including voting on the season of shows. Officers serve a one-year term.

The VP will automatically serve as President after their one-year term. Nominations are accepted through the close of the May board meeting. Those nominated must be a paid member of Players. Elections take place in June and the terms begin in July.

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.

Sharon Benchoff
fresnelop@gmail.com

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Salisbury, MD 21802

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 2024-25, 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, March 5 (6:00 PM) and April 9 (7:00 PM).

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 - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027

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