

# Back Stage

December 2015



## Steel Magnolias — the Cast

By Rusty Mumford, Director

Auditions for *Steel Magnolias* went very well!

Twenty-three very talented women tried out for the six roles in the show. After some very difficult decisions I am pleased to announce the cast.

Annelle - Mandy Moss

Truvy - Judy Hearn

Clairee - Robin Mandelson

Shelby - Allison King

M'Lynn - Charmaine Cowell

Ouiser - Bobbie Calloway

I am very excited to work with these talented ladies and the technical crew to bring the show to our audiences!

If you are interested in helping with the show please contact our producer Becky Mumford at [mimibecky@comcast.net](mailto:mimibecky@comcast.net) or me at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net).

The show will be at WorWic Community College on Friday, January 29 at 8 PM, Saturday, January 30 at 2 PM and 8 PM, Friday, February 5 at 8 PM, and Saturday, February 6 at 2 PM. Call 410-546-0099 to order your tickets.

## Joanne Little receives Community Players Lifetime Achievement Award

By Tom Robinson, President

It was my honor and privilege to present longtime Community Players member, Joanne Little, with the first Community Players Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a member of Community Players who is 60 years old or older with at least 25 years of service to Community Players.

Joanne has played as rehearsal pianist and/or orchestra pianist for almost every Players' musicals.

She has played for countless auditions, many times saving singers who forget the words or melodies when their nerves get the best of them. She has done props, set decorating, and assisted with costumes for numerous shows.

Joanne appeared on Players' stage only once, in *Come Blow Your Horn*.

Joanne studied at Peabody Conservatory of Music (she was an accomplished pianist and was destined to be a concert pianist however her parents didn't "approve"). She graduated in 1960 from Salisbury State Teachers College with a BS in Elementary Education and got her Masters degree in 1968. She taught for twenty-two years in Wicomico County.

Joanne has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to Players from her service as a



member, Board member, Production Committee member, and in any other capacity she serves.

Even though she is very busy volunteering with numerous other organizations, Joanne has remained faithful

to Players.

Congratulations Joanne Little on the first ever Community Players Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Give the gift that always gets applause ... Community Players theater tickets

Are you looking for the perfect gift for someone this Christmas? Consider giving tickets to a Community Players show.

Tickets for *Steel Magnolias* and *Moon Over Buffalo* are \$14 each and tickets for *Mary Poppins* are \$22 each. Tickets for all three shows are only \$42.

Call 410-546-0099 to order your tickets.

**After Steel Magnolias  
Community Players  
has two additional  
shows in 2016**



**April 29, April 30**

Charlotte and George Hay are on tour in Buffalo. In 1953, with a repertory consisting of *Cyrano de Bergerac* “revised, one nostril version” and Noel Coward’s *Private Lives*, when they receive word that they might just have one last shot at stardom: Frank Capra is coming to town to see their matinee.

**Directed by Sharon Benchoff**

**At WorWic Community College**



**June 17, June 18, June 19,  
June 24, June 25**

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to the troubled Banks family. His children have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family how to value each other again.

**Directed by Joe Benamati  
Music Director Susan Robinson**

**At Wi Hi Auditorium**

**Tickets are available  
at 410-546-0099**



**We have a  
Logo Design Contest  
winner!**

In September we began a contest to have an official logo designed for Community Players. We had sixteen designs submitted from all over the country.

The Board of Directors met in December and selected a design that was submitted by Barbara Phillips from Cincinnati, Ohio.

As the winner of the contest Barbara will receive two tickets for the next three shows in 2016, a \$100 Visa Gift Card, recognition on the Community Players website, and the right to identify herself as the logo designer for Community Players.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a logo design and congratulations Barbara.

**Theatrical Superstitions:  
“Break a leg”**

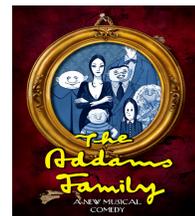
“Break a leg” is a phrase used in theater to wish a performer “good luck”. Well-wishers typically say “Break a leg” to actors before they go on stage to perform.

The expression reflects a theatrical superstition in which wishing a person “good luck” is considered bad luck.

The earliest known example in print is from 1939 in which the author writes, “... all the understudies sitting in the back row politely wishing the various principals would break a leg”. In 1948 *The Theatre Handbook*, mentions theatrical superstitions: “Before a performance actors never wish each other good luck, but ‘I hope you break a leg.’”

**The Addams  
Family was the  
“best ever”**

By Ken Johnson, Director



Now that *The Addams Family* is in the books, I’d like to take a minute and reflect on this experience.

I have been involved in many productions and I know that at the end of each show the general feeling is that this has been the best show EVER! Now, over a month later, I’ve got to say that – this still feels like it has been the best show ever. (Granted, I may be a little biased!)

When I first ran across this show I knew it was something Players could/should do. The story was different and yet familiar, the songs were catchy, and it was full of lots of little special effects moments like little yellow birdies that appear out of a torture rack, a heretic’s chair complete with a special surprise, and a giant iguana lurking under a bed.

I’ve always said that a good director starts by surrounding themselves with the very best team. And, not to brag, but I think I was able to do just that. Without attempting to list every person involved (because you KNOW I would miss someone) I couldn’t have asked for a better crew. Each and every request I made (and some of them were pretty unusual!) came to life on stage.

My cast, as well, did a fantastic job. They came together as a group of individuals and came out of this as a family. This show called for a chorus as well but they really stepped it up and made the ancestor parts more than just a chorus. With very few lines, they succeeded in telling their story and creating very different and unique characters.

I just cannot express my gratitude to the cast and crew of *The Addams Family* for making my vision come to life and for treating Salisbury to one fantastic show!



# Community Players of Salisbury

www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out and remit form with payment to:  
**Community Players**  
**P.O. Box 2431**  
**Salisbury, MD 21802**

### Membership Fees – September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016

Individual – \$10                       Family – \$20                       Student (18 or younger) – \$5

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member Names (for Family Memberships Only): \_\_\_\_\_

I am also paying my dues for 2016-17 (paying double the amount shown above)

Please send me information on how I can become a Community Players Patron.

Please send me information about purchasing Season Tickets.

Areas of interest (check all that apply):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting / Dancing / Singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Props                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising / Publicity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance         | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage Crew                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Office                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Make-up             | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Construction / Painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costumes                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Design                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directing                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality                | <input type="checkbox"/> Program             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____      |  |  |

Please indicate previous experience in theatre (continue on back as needed):

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

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Membership**  
**Dues Reminder**

If the address label on this  
newsletter does not show  
2015-16 — your dues  
are not current.

Join today! Fill out the form  
on the previous page.

**Next Monthly Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, January 6, at 7 PM

At Community Players, 5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury 21804



**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors - 2015-2016**

President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com

Vice President: Megan Davis - m.l.davis43@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Matt Hatfield - mmhatfield1596@gmail.com

Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net

**Board Members**

Jeff Baer, Joe Benamati, Mary Veise - Term Expires 2016

Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Katie Simms Parsons - Term Expires 2017

Judy Hearn, Kel Nagel, Steve Culver - Term Expires 2018

**We're on the Web: [www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org](http://www.communityplayersofsalisbury.org)**