

# Back Stage

July 2020



## Covid-19 shuts down two Players shows

By Kel Nagel

As I write this, I should be making final preparations to open *Kiss Me, Kate* or helping Sharon make final preparations to open *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

When we got word that we could not get rights for *Superstar*, we all felt bad for Sharon. For months, she had been planning staging, blocking, etc.

When the board picked *Kiss Me, Kate* as the replacement, I was happy, but still sad for Sharon. As time went on, my wife and I became more and more enthusiastic. Then the shutdown came and it became obvious that Players could not do *Senior Follies* in April nor *Kiss Me, Kate* in June. Never before have we had to cancel three shows in one season.

I would like to thank my friends who helped with some aspect of production: choreographer Katie Oakley; musical director Bill Folger; costumers Lynne Bratten, Jean King, and Sallie Ridgway; set designer Ken Johnson; and builders David Allen and Bill Zlakowski

I would also thank all those who expressed interest in auditioning. I expect to propose doing *Kate* in the 2021-2022 season.

Meanwhile, we have an excellent season announced for this coming year. We need to do everything possible to get these shows on stage. I can pretty much guarantee that Matt Hatfield, Matt Bogdan, Rusty Mumford, and Sharon Benchoff are already staging them in their heads.

## The view from Row G

By Sharon Benchoff, President (fresnelop@gmail.com)

Those of you who have worked on or attended shows with me know that I like to look at the stage from row G. You get a full view of the action and are close enough to see the expression on the actors' faces. As president, I want to give you a monthly snapshot of Players activities from my perspective. That includes news and some "did you know" information.



audience survey seeking your thoughts on some of our ideas. You can mail the completed survey or email it to me. The survey will be posted on our Facebook page and our website, [sbyplayers.com](http://sbyplayers.com). Your

opinion really does matter.

That's it for now. Be in touch soon.



## New year ... new editor

Rusty Mumford, Corresponding Secretary

With every new Board comes change and a new secretary takes over the reins of our newsletter, *Back Stage*. Thanks to Robin Finley for her excellent work over the past several years as editor of our newsletter!

Beginning in July, articles and photos should be emailed to me at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

I would also like to add a Player Spotlight. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself), please email me. And, if you have ideas for improving our newsletter, please let me know!

## Next meeting is July 1

Our July 1 meeting will be at Nutters, face-to-face. We will observe social distancing protocol, and masks are recommended.

If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, please email Darrell Mullins ([dgmullins@salisbury.edu](mailto:dgmullins@salisbury.edu)).

First, I want to express not only my gratitude, but the gratitude of Players to Darrell Mullins who faced obstacle after obstacle as president. What started out as a great season ended in, well, you know. Through it all, Darrell kept his calm and carried on. Also, big thanks to our retiring Board members, Kate Adkins, Judy Hearn, and Robin Finley. Never fear, Darrell, they have already signed on to two newly created committees designed to get us rolling again with fundraisers and performances.

Players also says a grateful thank you to our loyal audiences and supporters. Only a handful of you requested a refund on the tickets you purchased for our two final shows. That means so much. We still have to pay for the maintenance and utilities at our much loved property on Nutters Cross Road. Without income from ticket sales for half a season it makes paying the bills more difficult. If you have never visited our "home away from home," I am happy to arrange a tour for one or a group. We love to show off!

This has been a long intermission, and we want to get back to work. We are anxious to see all of you again. But we want to do so in a safe manner. In this newsletter there is an

## **REOPEN AUDIENCE SURVEY**

How likely are you to attend Entertainment Trivia nights/days at Community Players with eight team tables set up at least 15 feet apart (no more than 48 participating)?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How likely are you to participate in Murder Mystery Game nights/days at Community Players with no more than 20 in attendance?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How likely are you to attend live theater performances where the actors wear face masks?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How likely are you to attend a live performance “drive-in theater” style with you sitting in your car with the radio tuned to a specific frequency to hear the performers?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How likely are you to attend a performance outside in September with you bringing a lawn chair? Social distancing of the chairs will be marked.

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How likely are you to attend an indoor performance in September with social distancing, limited seating and audience members wearing face masks?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

As things are progressing now, how likely are you to attend an indoor performance in October following guidelines of social distancing reserved seating and face masks?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

As things are progressing now, how likely are you to attend an indoor performance in November following guidelines of social distancing reserved seating and face masks?

- Very Likely       Somewhat Likely       Doubtful       Not At All

How important would it be to have Community Players staff enforcing masks and social distancing guidelines at entrances, seating, restrooms, etc.?

- Very Important       Somewhat Important       Not Important

Would you feel safer if we limited the performance to an hour or less without intermission?

- Yes       No       Other

Comments:

If not this fall, when would you feel safe returning to indoor performances with sanitization, masks and social distancing?

Comments:

Other than sanitization, masks and social distancing, are there any additional measures that would make you feel safer?

Comment Box

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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 2019-20, your dues are not up-to-date.

**Next Monthly Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 1, at 7:00 PM**  
**at 5109 Nutters Cross Road**



**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021**

President: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@gmail.com  
Vice-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net  
Recording Secretary: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com  
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net  
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com  
Immediate Past President: Darrell Mullins - dmullins@salisbury.edu

**Board Members**

Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta, Matt Hatfield - Term Expires 2021  
Sammy Barnes, Nate Drehmer, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022  
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023

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