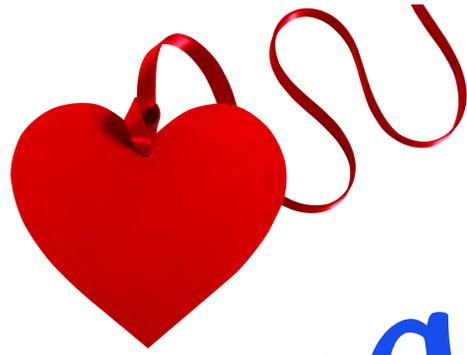


COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury



Back Stage

February 2022



From the Desk of the President...

Theater Lovers,
Wow. Theater (along with most everything) during a pandemic is a bit of a roller coaster ride. Disappointed when we had to postpone **Senior Follies** just weeks before it was to open. Depressed as weeks turned into months. Creative as we performed in Players' back yard and by streaming online. Encouraged while we planned ahead for the next season. Optimistic when auditions were announced. Joy-filled when we returned to the stage. Thankful that we were awarded grant money. Concerned as COVID cases were rising among us. Cautious when we postponed **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** for a few weeks. Hopeful as **Senior Follies** returns to rehearsing.

Grateful for our members, patrons, advertisers ... **YOU**.

~Melissa Dasher
President

AUDITIONS!



The rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice now celebrating its 50th anniversary. For many, this dramatic opera was their first exposure to theatre. The musical is a dramatization of the last week of the life of Jesus Christ, reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation.

*Yes, I know what you are thinking.
Weren't you going to do Superstar in 2020? And 2021?*

The answer is yes, and well, we all know that didn't happen, through no fault of Players. Andrew Lloyd Webber decided to mount a national tour in 2020, so the rights were denied. And then we all know what happened in 2021.

Keeping the faith, we moved forward.

We have the rights and we have Wi-Hi for performances on
June 17th, 18th and 19th 2022

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 27TH, 28TH and 29TH

In February, visit our website: sbyplayers.org and Community Players Facebook page for all the details including place, time, audition song suggestions and what to expect at auditions. More will be coming in the March newsletter as well.

Sharon Benchoff-Director

Susan Robinson-Musical Director

Katie Oakley - Choreographer



BOX OFFICE OPEN

Community Players has opened a pre-show box office at 5109 Nutters Cross Road. The box office will be open on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Tickets may be purchased by cash, check, or credit card during these times. When you come to buy tickets, come in the front door of the building (under the porch). The box office will be to your right. Save yourself the hassle of standing in line when you come to the show; stop by Players and get your tickets in advance.



As we know, school districts all across the country have been facing challenges of snow day and covid closures. Putnam County is in the same boat. **25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** has been postponed. The new dates are:

Fri, Feb 18 at 7:30

Sat, Feb 19 at 2:00 & 7:30

Fri, Feb 25 at 7:30

Sat, Feb 26 at 2:00

Current ticket holders will be contacted, or they may call Players at 410-546-0099. All the cast and crew are hoping to see you there!



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

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM** at Players. Looking forward to seeing new and old friends!



A GOOD AUDITION SONG

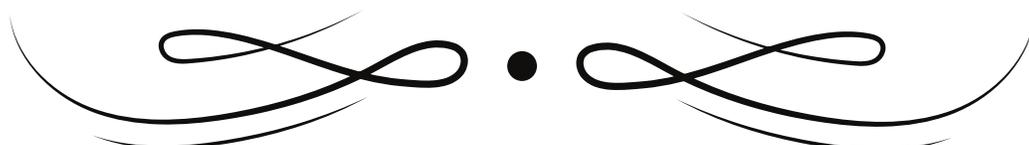
- **Be less than two minutes.** Two minutes is more than enough to show your stuff. You don't want the casting crew to start wondering if this is ever going to end. The director may cut you off – don't take it personally. If you choose a longer song, choose to sing the section that shows your range.
- **Have a clear objective.** You can't just stand there and sing. You have to be actively "talking" to someone you've imagined, and you must be trying to get something from them. That's true even if you are having an inner dialogue.
- **Think of the character.** If you are auditioning for a specific role, choose a song that reflects that character. Let the director be able to see you in that part. If you do not have a specific role in mind, then think of the musical; its theme and tone.
- **Age Appropriate.** If you are 15, don't sing "I Miss the Mountains" or "Ladies Who Lunch". Don't sing about your years of surviving a faithless marriage or nights spent at the bar drowning your sorrows.
- **If possible, memorize.** No one wants to watch an actor staring at their phone or a piece of paper instead of making eye contact at the people in the audition room.
- **Enjoy the experience!** I've never seen anyone die at an audition. Believe it or not, most of the actors in the room are rooting for you to do a good job. Remember too, there is a fine line in choosing a song we all love to hear and one that the casting crew has heard a few hundred times too many.

AND WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT BAD...



CPOS webmaster, Tom Welsh, received sad news from his cousin, Roy Hensel, who is a very active member of Purchase Players in Mayfield, KY. Roy, who was playing Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, was scheduled for a three-show run in mid-December. Roy left the theater and headed home to Paducah, 40 miles away after a successful opening night. By the time he arrived home, much of the city of Mayfield, the home of the Purchase Players, was gone, destroyed by tornadoes.

CPOS' collective prayers go to the people of Kentucky who continue to rebuild after those horrific tornadoes!



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
(This month's topic-Notable people of color in Theatre)



1. Lorraine V. Hansberry was the first African-American female author to have a play performed on Broadway in 1959. Name this well-known play (that was turned into an award-winning film)
2. Who was the first black to play Othello?
3. Morgan Freeman, Brock Peters and James Earl Jones all portrayed Hoke Coleburn in this play that takes place in Atlanta.
4. Juanita Hall, who played Bloody Mary in the original 1949 production of this musical, was the first African-American performer to win a Tony Award.
5. This beloved actor has performed on Broadway in Pippin, Jesus Christ Superstar and Fosse.
6. The Broadway Theater located at 245 W 52nd St, New York, NY is named for this prolific playwright.
7. She is the first actress to win six Tony Awards.
8. Madea is a character that appears in several plays written by this playwright, actor and producer.
9. Daveed Diggs, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Leslie Odom, Jr. and Okieriete Onaodowan were all cast members of this groundbreaking musical.
10. This was the first (1921) full-fledged Broadway musical with an all-black cast, playwright, composer and lyricist. Revival in 2016.
11. For his leading turn in The Great White Hope, this actor was awarded Best Actor in a Play at the 1969 Tony Awards, the first African-American winner in any play category.

Answers found on page 6

A GOOD MONOLOGUE

- **Be less than two minutes.** Two minutes is more than enough to show your stuff. You don't want the casting crew to start wondering if this is ever going to end.
- **Have a clear objective.** You can't just stand there and talk. You have to be actively talking to someone you've imagined, and you must be trying to get something from them. That's true even if you are having an inner dialogue.
- **Have a distinct beginning, middle, and end.** A beginning: A strong sentence to grab attention. A middle: Content. Build the middle featuring a climax, revelation or turning point. An end: A strong finish. Instead of ranting or shouting for the entire piece, have some variation. When your monologue has structure, you are more likely to be remembered.
- **Contain conflict.** Drama or Comedy cannot exist without conflict. Who wants to see a play about everyone getting along and not having any bumps in the road of their life? Boring...
- **Think of the character.** If you are auditioning for a specific role, choose a monologue that reflects that character. Let the director be able to see you in that part. If you do not have a specific role in mind, then think of the play; its theme and tone.
- **Age Appropriate.** If you are 15, don't tell us about your years of surviving a faithless marriage, nights spent at the bar drowning your sorrows or ungrateful adult children.
- **If possible, memorize.** No one wants to watch an actor staring at their phone or a piece of paper instead of making eye contact with the people in the audition room.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

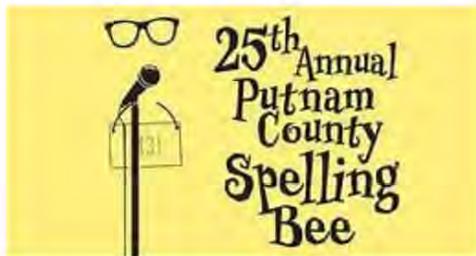


11. A Raisin in the Sun
2. This one was tricky, I thought it was James Earl Jones, too. It was Ira Frederick Aldridge (July 24, 1807 – August 7, 1867) who was an American and later British actor, playwright, and theatre manager. He played Othello in 1825 in London to rave reviews.
3. Driving Miss Daisy
4. South Pacific
5. Ben Vereen
6. August Wilson
7. Audra McDonald
8. Tyler Perry
9. Hamilton
10. Shuffle Along
11. James Earl Jones

Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.

Ticket Order Form

Due to possible COVID restrictions and venue issues, Community Players will be unable to offer Season Tickets for our 85th season. We will, however, be selling tickets for each show individually. Tickets may be purchased through our website--www.sbyplayers.com, or by completing and returning this order form with your check.



Adults	___	at \$25 each
Senior (55+)	___	at \$20 each
Student	___	at \$20 each
Child (<12)	___	at \$15 each
Family	___	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

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Senior (55+)	___	at \$20 each
Student	___	at \$20 each
Child (<12)	___	at \$15 each
Family	___	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

___ February 18 at 7:30 PM

___ February 19 at 2:00 PM

___ February 19 at 7:30 PM

___ February 25 at 7:30 PM

___ February 26 at 2:00 PM

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

___ April 1 at 7:30 PM

___ April 2 at 2:00 PM

___ April 2 at 7:30 PM

___ April 8 at 7:30 PM

___ April 9 at 2:00 PM

Please fill in the requested information below and return this form with your check to Community Players of Salisbury, PO Box 2431, Salisbury, MD 21802. Make all checks payable to **Community Players**.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Your check will serve as your receipt. Tickets will be held at the Will Call table.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
SALISBURY, MD 21801
PERMIT 186

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
2021-22, your dues
are not up-to-date.*

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 PM.
5109 Nutters Cross Road



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

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

Board Members

Sammy Barnes, Cass Dasher, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023
Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024