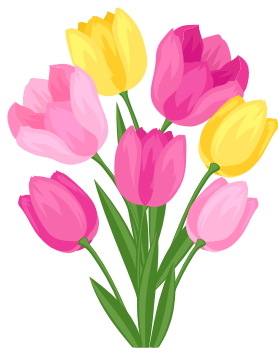


May
2024



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

It has been a cool spring but summer and warm weather are coming — I think.

We had a great show, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Director Sharon Benchoff and the entire cast and crew did an outstanding job. A special thanks to Charlie Szentesi-Thomas for stepping into the role of Nina, one week before opening night. You would not have known that she was not there from the beginning of rehearsals.

Unfortunately, Susan and I will miss “Harlem Renaissance”. I know it will be a great show. Thanks, Matt Bogdan, for putting this together.

As I am writing this article auditions are under way for the musical *Kiss Me, Kate*. Director Kel Nagel is excited to present this show in June at WiHi.

Elections are coming up for the Board of Directors. Contact me if you are interested in running for a position on the Board (Tomchicken@aol.com).

Tom Robinson
President

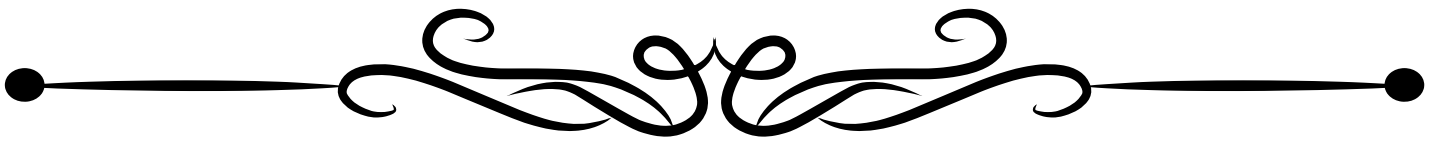




My sincere thanks to the wonderful crew, cast and everyone (it takes scores of dedicated people) who made the production a joyful experience not only for me, but for our audiences as well. Judging from the laughter during rehearsals and coming from our audiences at the performances, everyone had a great time.

Long live theatre and the joy it brings to all of us.

Sharon Benchoff
Director

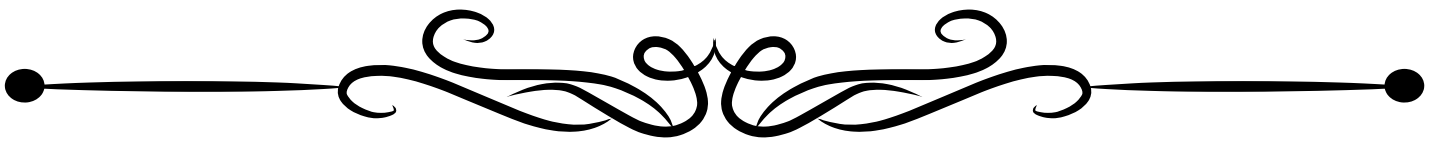


Auditions and casting for our next show, *Kiss Me Kate*, are underway. The cast list will be published in the June newsletter and on our website.



Director Kel Nagel reminds everyone that we can always use backstage help, set builders and painters. This is a big show, and as always, we can use all the help we can get. Set construction is expected to begin on Saturday, May 4. The date will be finalized and announced on our website and social media. If you wish to be an off stage or backstage helper, be part of the set construction team, or help with costumes and props, please contact Kel at kelnage@yahoo.com or 410-726-0670.

Show dates are Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, June 23 at 2:00 PM. All shows are at Wicomico High School Auditorium. Tickets are available at sbyplayers.org or by calling 410-546-0099





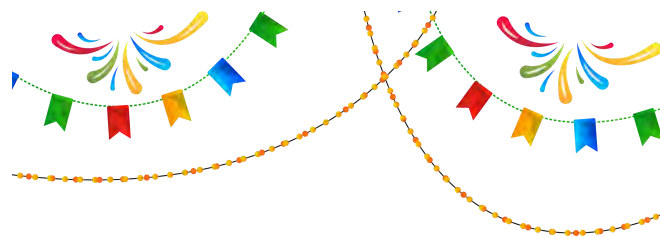
FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thanks go to Matt Bogdan, Bonnie Nay, David Allen, Becky Mumford, Rusty Mumford, Robin Finley and Robin's grandson Max for helping to man the gate at Bordeleau Vineyards and Winery in Eden as part of the Chili Cook-off and Spring Festival on March 30. Also, we thank Bordeleau Vineyards and Winery for allowing Players to be the beneficiary of their gate, which totaled \$710.

A 50/50 raffle was held at the Vanya, Sonya, Masha, and Spike performances in April, raising nearly \$592. Thanks to those who participated.

The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts was held April 26-28. Funds raised will be reported in next month's newsletter.

Our second Movie Night will be held on May 18 at Players with the showing of Buster Keaton's "The General." Tickets are \$5, cash or check, and available at the door. Social hour begins at 7. Movie begins at 8. Popcorn, prizes, and more. For more information contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.



GRANTS UPDATE

Matt Bogdan applied for Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Needs Grant a few months ago, and Players was awarded \$6,435 on April 9, 2024. The funds will be used to install a fire door, leading from the dressing rooms to the stage, which is one of the steps in the overall renovation of our building. Thank you, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, for your support.



Registration has begun for the Children's Theater Workshop/Summer Camp which will be held July 8-12 for children going into grades 3-8. The cost is \$200 with a \$50 discount for Players' family or Patron membership. Scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. Registration ends June 15. Registration forms are available at the Players' website.



Watch for Wardrobe Wednesdays starting in July! More information to come. Lots to organize, sort and store.

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
May--Who am I?

1. I was the second wife of Henry VIII. I sing my story, (beheaded) in the musical *Six*.
2. I am the Our Lady of the Underground and bring spring in *Hadestown*.
3. I am the king in *Spamalot*.
4. I am the salesman in *Death of a Salesman*.
5. I am the Evangelist Sergeant missionary, at Broadway's Save-a-Soul Mission in *Guys and Dolls*.
6. I moved in with Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple*.
7. I am the daughter of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
8. I am the window washer who became chairman of the board in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.
9. I am the prince who became the king in *Lion King*.
10. I am Seymour's girlfriend in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Answers found on page 6



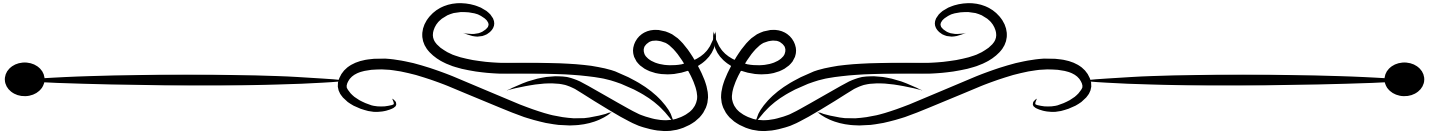
BACK STAGE SUBMISSIONS

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 **May 1 (7:00 PM) and June 5 (7:00 PM)**. Join us to see where you can help with the second half of the season!



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Anne Boleyn
 2. Persephone
 3. Arthur
 4. Willy Loman
 5. Sarah Brown
 6. Felix Ungar
 7. Scout (Jean Louise)
 8. J. Pierpont Finch
 9. Simba
 10. Audrey

MANY THANKS TO SALLIE RIDGWAY

Sallie Ridgway has been involved with Payers for many years. A professional costume designer, she has been a volunteer for many shows dressing characters in such shows as *Les Mis*, *Chicago*, *Guys And Dolls*, and *Hello Dolly*.

In recent years, she has been unable to do full time costume work, but she has loaned many costumes to us, consulting with Lynne Bratten, our costume chairperson.

This year she has decided to downsize, move into a smaller home in town, and liquidate her costume inventory. She has offered to donate much of her inventory. Lynne has said that we should take as much as we can store.

We can't take it all, but so far Lynne, Debby Nagel, and Kel Nagel have taken a trip down to Sallie's costume shops and selected two cars full of costumes, many of which will be used in *Kiss Me Kate*.

We offer our sincerest thanks and wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to Sallie. If you see her in the audience at one of our shows, be sure to extend your thanks to her.



(Debby Nagel, Lynne Bratten, and Sallie Ridgway with a carload of costumes)

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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, May 1 (7:00 PM) and June 5 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com
Vice-President: Matt Bogdan - oceancityhappyme@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past-President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com

Board Members

Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024
Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026

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.