

September  
2024



COMMUNITY  
PLAYERS  
*of Salisbury*

# Back Stage



## From the desk of the President...

Congratulations to Rusty Mumford and the cast and crew of *Show Stoppers*, a musical revue held in early August featuring great songs and great singers.

Sherri Trader Hynes held auditions for *Guys and Dolls* in late August. Show dates are November 1-3 at Wicomico High School.

Sharon Benchoff held auditions in mid-August for *Para-Cles* and *Shakespeare's Shorts*, a comedic production of the works of the Bard of Stratford upon Avon. The performance will be held September 14 at 4 p.m. at the Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD.

Funds are being raised to purchase theater chairs for the ongoing renovation of our building on Nutters Cross Road. Each chair is \$50, and your name goes on a plaque on the back of the chair. You can also buy a chair or chairs in memory of someone. So far we have 105 chairs sold or committed to. Help us get to our target of 125 chairs. Contact me at [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com) or 443-235-3272.

Players is purchasing risers for the building. Thanks so much to the Salisbury School for letting us borrow risers until ours arrive. A Capital Campaign is in the early stages to help raise funds for other necessary renovations, including lighting and sound equipment. If you would like to make a donation to this campaign, please contact me.

For more information about main stage shows, special productions, and fundraising efforts, visit [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org).

*Matt Bogdan*

President

## 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 **September 4 (6:30 PM)** and **October 2 (6:30 PM)**. Join us as we begin work on our new season!

### Guys & Dolls Cast Announced

Director Sherri Hynes is pleased to announce the cast of this season's Fall musical, *Guys & Dolls*:

Mission Band —  
Arvide — Ken Johnson  
Sarah — Shelbie Thompson  
Agatha — Bobbie Calloway  
Martha — Lillian Hoffman  
Mary — Kristen Shockley  
The General — Susan Upton

Hot Box —  
Adelaide — Devin La Femina  
Mimi — Erin Bradley  
Hot Box dancers - Maddie Shockley, Kate Bubas, Skye Osbourne, Rachel Lynch, Emma, Limbeck, Orli Ospital

Gamblers —  
Nicely Nicely — Lester Huss  
Benny Southstreet — Andy Nyland  
Rusty Charlie — Kyle Hayes  
Nathan Detroit — David Ospital  
Sky Masterson — Joshua Smith  
Harry the Horse — Steve Culver  
Big Jule — Rusty Mumford  
Liver Lips — Owen Shockley  
Angie the Ox — Joe Emond  
Society Max — Zach Werner  
Other Gamblers — Gavin Causey, Konnor Stever, Diego Padilla, Alex Tingle, Caden Vanhoy, Wethny Antoine

Lt Brannigan — Sammy Barnes

Ensemble — Emelia McGrew, Emily Skorobatsch, Sarah Wagner, Kauriee Wood, Summer Friel



**Why become a MEMBER of Community Players?**

Community Theatre **CANNOT EXIST** without its **members**.

It **NEEDS** producers, directors, builders, painters, craftsmen, set dressers, prop gathers, seamstresses, makeup artist, lighting experts, sound technicians, stage crew, ticket sellers, ushers, patrons, advertisers, actors, dancers, singers & audience members.

Community Theatre **NEEDS YOU**.

**Membership benefits include:**

- A monthly newsletter with information about auditions, productions, events, and member happenings
- Free admittance to four main season Player's Nights (the night prior to Opening Night)
- Discounted admission to summer drama camp or workshops
- The right to borrow costumes, props, or set pieces without a deposit (pending Committee Chairman approval)
- The ability to serve on a committee
- The right to vote for Officers & Directors (members age 18 and over)
- An opportunity to serve as an elected Officer or Director on Player's Board of Directors (members age 18 and over)
- A great way to meet new people, learn about the many facets of stagecraft & have lots of fun – All while working together for a common goal

**Patron benefits include:**

- All the membership benefits listed above
- Tickets to our main season shows
- Special seating
- Listing in show programs
- All contributions above the retail value of tickets are tax deductible



# Membership Application

(Valid September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025)



Check one:

- \$2,000 and Up : LEGACY CLUB PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 8 season tickets
- \$1,500 - \$1,999 : ANGEL PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 6 season tickets
- \$1,000 - \$1499 : BENEFACTOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 5 season tickets
- \$750 - \$999 : GUARDIAN CLUB PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 4 season tickets
- \$500 - \$749 : SPONSOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 3 season tickets
- \$250 - \$499 : DONOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 2 season tickets
- \$125 - \$249 : FRIEND PATRON MEMBERSHIP**  
You will receive 1 season ticket
- \$50 : FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**  
One household - up to 2 adults and all children who are under the age of eighteen (18) or twenty-two (22) if a fulltime student or on active duty in the military
- \$25 : INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \*\***  
An individual who is eighteen (18) years old or older
- \$10 : STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \*\***  
An individual who is under the age of twenty-two (22) and is a fulltime student

Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds, race, gender identity, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

#1 First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
<b>Patron or Family Membership ONLY</b>			
Adult #2 First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
Children: First Name(s):	Last Name(s):		Age(s)

\*\* Any individual who has never been a member of CPOS is eligible for a FREE membership for this season. If you wish to to waive the fee (\$25 or \$10) please initial here \_\_\_\_\_

Remit Form and Payment to: **Community Players PO Box 2431 Salisbury, MD 21802**

Questions? E-mail us at: [membership@cposmd.com](mailto:membership@cposmd.com)

# THEATRE TEASERS

## Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

### September - A rose by any other name

1. This is the name of the nurse in *South Pacific* who fell in love with Emile.
2. This character taught Eliza Dolittle how to be a "lady" in *My Fair Lady*.
3. What is Tennessee Williams' first name?
4. What is the name of the salesman in *Death of a Salesman*?
5. Who is Sven's best friend in *Frozen*?
6. This spurned wife sings "No Way" in *Six*.
7. What is the name of the character that kills Macbeth?
8. What is the name of the girl "Who Can't Say No" in *Oklahoma*?
9. He won the best actor in a musical at the 2024 Tony Awards.
10. This is the main character who bakes pies in *Waitress*.

Answers found on page 6



**COMMUNITY PLAYERS**  
*of Salisbury*

PARA-CLES and  
**Shakespeare's Shorts**

Two frantic comedies  
for the whole family

At historic **Rackliffe House**  
overlooking Assateague

Saturday, September 14th  
\$10 Adults, \$5 Children  
rackliffehouse@gmail.com  
for tickets and information

Hey, we all need a good laugh, and I have the perfect way for you to have a fun experience with the whole family. I'm directing two funny parodies of William Shakespeare's plays written by Melainie Walker. Para-Cles (Pericles) features kings, princesses, pirates, warriors and lots of action. Shakespeare's Shorts (adapted by me from Melanie's fantastic script) covers 21 of Shakespeare's plays in 30 minutes. Yep, I said 21 plays. Fast and furious with lots of laughs, even with the tragedies.

Go to [rackliffehouse@gmail.com](mailto:rackliffehouse@gmail.com) for information and tickets. Please come and join us. Bring your lawn chair or blanket.  
Hope to see you there,  
*Sharon Benchoff*



Well, another season of wonderful plays, fun musicals and terrific talent has come to an end. As house manager, I'd like to thank every person who served as an usher for these performances in the 2023-2024 season. The usher/greeter is the first person people see when arriving at the performances. Their friendly greeting and helpful manner assure our audience members that they are welcome and valued by the Community Players of Salisbury. Their professionalism sets the tone for the performance, and I am proud they represent CPOS so successfully. My thanks to: Bettie Messick, Bev Yurik, Sherrie Hynes, Tammy Taylor, Sharon Benchoff, Matt Bogdan, Melissa Dasher, Ken Dasher, Holly Bruce, Jason Bruce, Bonnie Nay, Natalie Cook, Maddie Cook, Lou Elin Sheller, Carol Willette, Kevin Willette, Konner Stever, Padma Manohar, Deb Nagel, Kel Nagel, Becky Mumford, Skye Osborne, Maria Demetriou, Ted Demetriou, Emma Klein, Vera Johnson, Hema Bhaskaran, Allie Donovan, Trish Long, Julie Bellamy, Pat Oberholtzer and Bobbie Calloway. I hope to see you all next season!

*Betsy Metzger*  
House Manager



**Friday, September 27th  
7:00 pm**

**Last one for 2024**

**Hope to see you there!**



**ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:**

- Answers:
1. Nellie Forbush
  2. Henry Higgins
  3. Tom
  4. Willy Loman
  5. Kristoff
  6. Catherine of Aragon
  7. Macduff
  8. Ado Annie
  9. Jonathan Groff
  10. Jenna



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. *Show Stoppers*, a musical revue, was held in August at Players and was very successful, raising over \$1600. Thanks to Rusty Mumford for coordinating the special production, and thanks to those who shared their singing talents during the show.
2. *Para-Cles* and *Shakespeare's Shorts* will be performed on Saturday, September 14, at 4 p.m. at the Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD. Bring your own chair. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information contact Sharon Benchoff at [fresnelop@gmail.com](mailto:fresnelop@gmail.com).
3. Trivia Night was held August 30. The next Trivia Night will be held on September 27 at 7 p.m. at Players on Nutters Cross Road.
4. *Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror* will be held October 18 at 7 p.m. at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, DE, October 19 at 7 p.m. at the Old Firehouse in Snow Hill, MD, and October 26 at 7 p.m. at Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, MD. For more information contact Matt Bogdan at [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com).
5. We are seeking a fundraising coordinator for Giving Tuesday, which be held December 3. If interested, contact Matt Bogdan.



## GRANTS UPDATE

Matt Bogdan, our grant writer reported that he has:

1. Completed and submitted final report for FY24 Grants for Organization for the Maryland State Arts Council.
2. Completed and submitted final report for Round 2 Arts Relief for the Maryland State Arts Council.
3. Re-applied for Maryland State Arts Council Arts Capital Grant.
4. Applied for a grant from the Melon Foundation.
5. Applied for a grant from the Poetry Foundation.
6. Reported to the board at the August meeting that we have secured over \$32,000 in grant funds this year.

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

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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, September 4 (6:30 PM) and October 2 (6:30 PM).**

**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025**

*President: Matt Bogdan - [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com)  
Vice-President: Darrell Mullins - [dgmullins@salisbury.edu](mailto:dgmullins@salisbury.edu)  
Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher - [bizemomx5@comcast.net](mailto:bizemomx5@comcast.net)  
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net)  
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - [charliecamtransport@yahoo.com](mailto:charliecamtransport@yahoo.com)  
Immediate Past-President: Tom Robinson - [tomchicken@aol.com](mailto:tomchicken@aol.com)*

*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*

*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.*