

November
2024



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

Our first main stage show is underway, with the production of *Guys and Dolls*. Players first produced this classic musical 60 years ago. It was the Players' first musical, and it was performed again by Players in 1996. Under the direction of Sherri Hynes, I am confident that this show will be wonderful. Show dates are November 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., and November 3 at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at Wicomico High School Auditorium. For tickets go to sybplayers.org.

Besides *Guys and Dolls*, our current season includes *A Few Good Men* (February 2025), *I Hate Hamlet* (April 2025), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (June 2025). Special productions include the Edgar Allan Poe show (Nov. 15 and Nov. 17), *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts* (Nov. 22-23), and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Dec. 20-22).

We are in the process of renovating our building at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury, transforming it into a performance space. In fact, we will be performing our second main stage show, *A Few Good Men*, as well as our special productions, there. This transformation is exciting, but it does require funding. We appreciate the financial support received from the Maryland State Arts Council, the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, the Worcester County Arts Council, Beach to Bay Heritage Area, and the Coastal Association of Realtors. We also appreciate the support of local businesses, our patrons, our members, and our audience. If you would like to help Players financially, please contact me.

If you are not a member of Players, please consider joining. You will find a membership form, as well as other information about our community theater, at our website at sbyplayers.org. I encourage you to audition for one of our upcoming shows or get involved behind the scenes. You are welcome at Players.

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 **November 6 (7:00 PM)** and **December 4 (7:00 PM)**. We will begin work on the second show of our season which will be the first main stage production in our own theater.



Guys & Dolls Updated Cast Announced

Director Sherri Hynes would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this production of *Guys & Dolls* a huge success! Every cast and crew member has gone above and beyond to do all they could to put this show on the stage.

Congratulations to Sherri, above all others, whose vision led the way to bring the show back to Players' stage!



Auditions for *A Few Good Men* will be held at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 10 at 4 p.m., November 11 at 7 p.m. and November 12 at 7 p.m. Show dates are in January 31, February 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9. This will be the first main stage production in our own theater on Nutters Cross RD. Aaron Sorkin's groundbreaking debut tells the story of a group of military lawyers assigned to defend two Marines in Guantanamo Bay. During the course of the trial, they uncover a high-level conspiracy designed to eliminate weaker soldiers in the name of patriotism. The show is rated PG. Pete Cuesta is the director.



Para-Cles
and
Shakespeare's Shorts

by Melaine Walker
adapted and directed by Sharon Benchoff

November 22 at 7:30
November 23 at 4:00 and 7:30
at Community Players

Ready for some belly laughs?

Then join us for these Shakespeare parodies.

The fast-paced comedies are suitable for the entire family

Come to our evolving performance space at Community Players
located at

5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury.

\$10 cash, payable at the door.

Support local theatre and have some fun at the same time while
watching G rated Para-Cles (Pericles) and 21 of Shakespeare's plays

All in about an hour!





This holiday season, **The Community Foundation** will be hosting on-line **Giving Tuesday** (December 3rd) where nonprofit organizations can raise funds during this time of giving. Community Players will be participating again this year. Due to generous donations last year, Players were able to replace flooded carpet with new durable flooring, much needed shelving storage for props, wireless microphones, a new shop vacuum and more. Our four major productions are not all we do for the Shore. Players also lends set pieces, furniture, costumes and props to schools in Wicomico and Worcester Counties as well as other organizations for their productions. To provide live theatre to more, we take several productions "on the road" across the Lower Shore. Players also have Theatre Camp for students in the summer and provide scholarships to our high school graduates.

Here are a few examples of our yearly expenses:

Performance Space Rental - \$17,000.00

Orchestra - \$13,000.00

Performance Licenses - \$12,650.00

Of course, the figures above do not include the money spent on sets, lighting, costumes, props, etc. As the rights of more recent Broadway productions become available, more sophisticated technical demands are necessary.

We are not complaining, we truly love what we do. No one is paid a penny to direct, design, stage manage, act, produce, work tech, build, usher, sew or paint. Giving Tuesday is our one big yearly fundraising event.

Our website will supply the link to the easy to use The Shore Gives More website where, in a couple of steps, you will be able to donate whatever you are able to give. All contributions are tax deductible, and all donations are truly appreciated. **Save the date, December 3rd!**

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.



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

November - *Family Time*

- 1 In this musical, the family escaped Austria as the Nazis were coming into power.
- 2 The play *Romeo and Juliet* centers on these two families.
- 3 *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is a semi-autobiographical play by the Odd Couple playwright.
- 4 This musical revolves around Ralphie and his obsession with owning a BB gun.
- 5 Perhaps the ultimate story of family, this musical features Tevye, a poor Jewish milkman.
- 6 The story of the Potts family and their adventures with their extraordinary car.
- 7 The story of Troy Maxson, a star in the Negro baseball league and his family relationships.
- 8 There are all types of families. This one has a mom named Sarabi.
- 9 Mortimer Brewster's two lovely elderly aunts are not quite as innocent as they seem.
- 10 A mysterious detective investigates the wealthy Birling family following the suicide of a young woman.

Answers found on page 6



GOD OF CARNAGE AUDITIONS

Andrew Peters is directing *God of Carnage* for Possum Point Players. He is seeking actors (two males and two females) who can comfortably play within the 30s-40s range. There is no restriction in terms of race/ethnicity. Auditions are November 22 and 23. For more information go to possumpointplayers.org or contact Andrew Peters at 443-614-2587 or andrewpeters4@gmail.com

Murder Mystery Auditions

Are you interested in performing at a dinner theater murder mystery? Players is seeking three adult males and 3 adult females to perform *Dying for Chocolate: A Delicious Mystery* on November 16 from 6-8 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Human Society to be held near Bordeleau Winery in Eden, MD. Auditions will be held October 3 at 7 p.m. at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road. If you would like to see a script ahead of the auditions, contact Matt Bogdan, director of the show, at oceancityhappyme@aol.com or 443-235-3272.



It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Auditions

Auditions for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* will be held at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 13 at 7 p.m. and November 14 at 7 p.m. Show dates are December 20 at 7:30 p.m., December 21 at 7:30 p.m. and December 22 at 2 p.m. This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble of 15 men and 10 women, as well as children, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds. The show is rated G. Matt Bogdan is the director.



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. The Sound of Music
 2. Capulets and Montagues
 3. Neil Simon
 4. A Christmas Story
 5. Fiddler on the Roof
 6. Chitty, Chitty Bang Bang
 7. Fences
 8. The Lion King
 9. Arsenic and Old Lace
 10. An Inspector Calls

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Players recently raised funds with a 50/50 raffle at *Guys and Dolls* and with performances of *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts* at Rackliffe House in Berlin and the *Poe Show* at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, DE, the Old Firehouse in Snow Hill, MD, and Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, MD.

Our next three fundraisers are all special productions. We will be performing *The Poe Show* at Players on November 15 at 7:30 p.m. and November 17 at 2 p.m. We will be performing *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts* at Players on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. and November 23 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. We will be performing *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show* at Players on December 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and December 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets for all shows are \$10, cash or check, and available at the door.

A fundraising committee meeting will be held November 18 at 7 p.m. at Players. The committee is open to all members. Please attend this meeting if you can so that we can plan the fundraising events for 2025, which will include a show entitled World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore. For more information about fundraising, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272.



GRANTS UPDATE

We thank the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council and Maryland State Arts Council for their support of *Guys and Dolls* and other productions.

We also thank the Worcester County Arts Council for their support of *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts*, performed at the Rackliffe House in Berlin, and *Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror*, performed at the Old Firehouse in Snow Hill.

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 2024-25, 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, November 6 (7:00 PM) and December 4 (7:00 PM).

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

President: Matt Bogdan
Vice-President: Darrell Mullins
Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford
Treasurer: Charlie Linton
Immediate Past-President: Tom Robinson

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.