

January  
2025

\*Happy  
New Year\*

COMMUNITY  
PLAYERS  
of Salisbury

# Back Stage



## From the desk of the President...

I believe we had a wonderful 2024, which featured our main show productions of *Rumors* in late January and early February, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in April, *Kiss Me, Kate* in June, and *Guys and Dolls* in November. Our special productions last year included *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts*, *Showstoppers: A Musical Revue*, *Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror*, and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*.

We also had a successful Children's Theater Workshop in July, Trivia Nights throughout the summer, a couple of Movie Nights, and 50/50 raffles. *Shore Gives More* was a huge success for Players and many other organizations. Thanks so much for the support of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Worcester County Arts Council, the Coastal Association of Realtors, and Beach to Bay Heritage Area for their financial support.

Also, we are grateful for the support of local businesses and community members. Moreover, we are blessed with many volunteers who help us with our mission of bringing quality theater to the Shore. In 2025 we will be staging *A Few Good Men*, *I Hate Hamlet*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, all to be performed at 5109 Nutters Cross Road. There will also be a production honoring the men and women of the Eastern Shore who served during World War II. A Capital Campaign will help us meet our financial goals that will transform our present building into a performance arts space. We have made headway in that transformation, but so much more is needed.

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were wonderful.

*Matt Bogdan*

President

Players' next meetings will be **January 8 (6:00 PM) and February 5 (6:00 PM)**. Please **note the earlier start time**. This is so that we do not conflict with rehearsals for *A Few Good Men*.

## 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

A poster for a Spring Craft and Vendor Fair. The background is a soft-focus image of a field of colorful flowers in shades of pink, purple, and yellow. At the top, the text 'SPRING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with small, colorful flower icons interspersed between the letters. Below this, the text 'CRAFTERS / VENDORS WANTED!' is written in a large, black, serif font. Underneath, the event details are listed: 'Saturday March 29th 10 am to 3 pm', 'Players Play House -', and '5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury'. A line of text reads 'Crafters, Vendors, Chance and Silent Auctions!'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information or to request an application please email Wendy Stever' followed by the email address 'wendystever@gmail.com' in a smaller font. In the bottom right corner, there is a white rectangular box containing the logo for 'COMMUNITY PLAYERS of Salisbury', where 'PLAYERS' is in red and 'of Salisbury' is in a cursive script.



## ***Wrap Up***

This is Players' chance to say thank you! Thank you to the Community Foundation for providing the support to make this campaign a success. Community Players exceeded our goal thanks to all our donors who made it happen. Whether it was \$5,000 or a \$10 donation, we are appreciative of all the wonderful donors below, listed in the order in which they donated.

*Jacqueline Jones Abigail Hoffman Linda Davis Wayne & Nancy Decker  
Rusty & Becky Mumford Mark Decker Lynne Bratten Stephanie Lewis Kenneth Johnson  
Susan Cropper Kate Adkins Charlie Szentesi-Thomas Kyle Hayes Matt Bogdan  
Abigail Cuesta Cass Dasher Joshua Smith Belinda Thompson Steven Culver  
Peter Cuesta Charlie Linton Barbara Calloway William Nagel Sharon Benchoff  
Madison Cuesta Brenda & David Allen Susan & Tom Robinson Shelbie Thompson  
Kimberly Cuesta Melissa Dasher Darrell Mullins Kurt Ludwick Jean & Jim King  
Cheryl Greenfarb Robin Finley Deborah Pilchard Rebecca Ospital Adrian Kadushin  
Sharon Birch Judy Hearn Jay Robinson Sharon Stevenson Donna Blackwell  
Jordan Braniff Nancy Althaus Rick & Gina Gunter Luetta Semmes Ginny Studley  
John Juriga Sharon & Charles Sorrentino Frances Shipper Jane Burt Susan Rogers*

*Thank  
you*



**When:** Friday, January 31st, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 1st, 2:00 pm  
Saturday, February 1st, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, February 2nd, 2:00 pm  
Friday, February 7th, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 8th, 2:00 pm  
Saturday, February 8th, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, February 9th, 2:00 pm

**Where:** Players  
5109 Nutters Cross Road  
Salisbury, MD 21804

**For Tickets:** <https://our.show/fewgoodmen>  
410-546-0099  
**RESERVED SEATING ONLY**

This show is being directed by Pete Cuesta. He is leading a talented cast and hardworking crew to bring the second production of our season to the stage. This show marks the first production which will be presented in our Nutters Cross Road facility. Be sure to get your tickets soon and join the excitement as we inaugurate our new stage with this exciting drama!



**THEATRE TEASERS**  
**Trivia by Sharon Benchoff**  
**January - "It takes two" Name the play or musical that features these paairs.**

- 1 Oscar and Felix
- 2 Fanny Brice and Nick Arnstein
- 3 Carole Bayer Sager and Marvin Hamlisch
- 4 Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan
- 5 Orpheus and Eurydice
- 6 Emily Webb and George Gibbs
- 7 Leo Bloom and Max Bialystock
- 8 Celie and Shug Avery
- 9 Elder Kevin Price and Elder Cunningham
- 10 Stanley Kowalski and Stella DuBois

Answers found on page 6

*Shine  
Brighter  
in 2025*

**Production Committee  
2025-2026 Season**

The Production Committee has received numerous submissions of plays and musicals suggested for next season. The members are working now to read all of the suggested scripts and evaluate them as possibilities for next season.

After all scripts have been read, a meeting will be scheduled for prospective directors to "pitch" their shows to the Production Committee and the Board. Ultimately, the Committee will present a suggested season to the Board for consideration and a vote will be taken after the Board has had the opportunity to read all scripts.





*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show* was held December 20-22 at the Players Playhouse. Director Matt Bogdan thanks all of the cast and crew who were involved in the production, which raised over \$1100 that will go toward the building fund.



## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. *The Odd Couple*
  2. *Funny Girl*
  3. *They're Playing Our Song*
  4. *Carousel*
  5. *Hadestown*
  6. *Our Town*
  7. *The Producers*
  8. *The Color Purple*
  9. *The Book of Mormon*
  10. *A Streetcar Named Desire*



## USHERS NEEDED

House Manager Betsy Metzger is looking for ushers available for A Few Good Men. If you would like to usher one or more of the performances of our next show, please contact Betsy at [betsymetzger07@gmail.com](mailto:betsymetzger07@gmail.com). Remember that this show will be performed at our Nutters Cross Road facility (the first one on our new stage).



## I HATE HAMLET

Set in John Barrymore's old apartment in New York City – at the time, the author's real-life home – the play follows successful television actor Andrew Rally as he struggles with taking on the dream role of Hamlet, dealing with a girlfriend who is keeping a firm grip on her chastity, and playing host to the ghost of John Barrymore, who, clothed as Hamlet, has come back to earth for the sole purpose of convincing Rally to play the part. Real estate agent Felicia Dantine convinces Rally to stay in the apartment and hold a seance.

Barrymore proves to be very convincing (challenging Andrew to a sword fight in the middle of the New York loft), and Andrew decides to play Hamlet. But when a Hollywood friend shows up offering Andrew a new role in a television pilot, with a potentially large salary and fame, Andrew is forced to choose between Shakespeare, whom his girlfriend loves, or television, where he is loved by millions.

Directed by Darrell Mullins, *I Hate Hamlet* will be produced at Players on Nutters Cross Road. Show dates are:

April 4 & 5 at 7:30 PM  
April 6 at 2:00 PM  
April 10-12 at 7:30 PM  
April 13 at 2:00 PM

Audition dates will be February 10-11 at 7:00 PM at Players on Nutters Cross Road, with callbacks on February 12 if needed. Character descriptions will be included in the February newsletter.

**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 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, January 8 (6:00 PM) and February 5 (6:00 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.*