

Happy
NEW
YEAR

COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

January
2026

Back Stage



Hello Everyone

As we head into January, and most likely more snow, I want to remind everyone that we have begun work on our winter show, **Misery**. The show is set during a severe blizzard in Colorado in which a famous novelist is rescued from the storm and tended to by a nurse, who just happens to be his number one fan. When she learns of his plans for her favorite character is a series of the author's book, the stage is set for mystery and suspense. Making her directorial debut with Community Players, Devin La Femina and her cast/crew have been hard at work bringing this spine-tingling thriller to our stage.

Thanks to all of you who attended our recent production of **A Gift To Remember**. Nearly every performance was sold out and we are grateful for your support. Thanks as well to Director, Pete Cuesta and his cast/crew for sharing with us that heart-warming story.

Here at Community Players, we are moving ahead with our Capital Campaign. We appreciate any contributions you can make to help us convert our existing space into a state-of-the-art performance venue. Our webpage has a "Capital Campaign" donate button that make it easy to support this initiative. We appreciate any donation, large or small.

Thank you all for continually supporting our efforts. It is my sincere hope that that you enjoy a joyous and relaxing holiday season.

Kind Regards,

Darrell Mullins

President

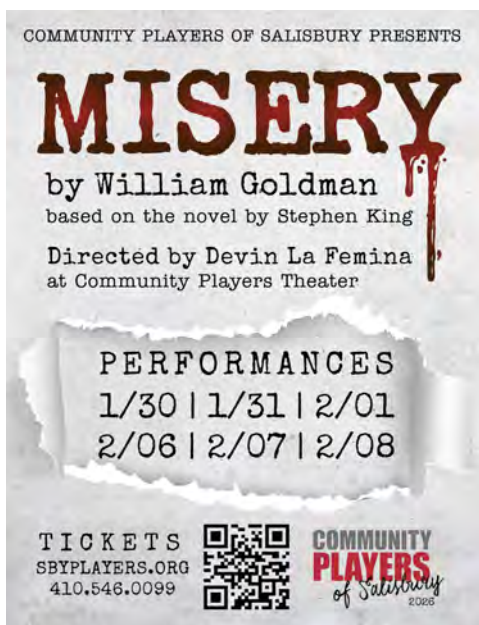
2026

Players' next meetings will be **January 7 (6:00 PM) and February 4 (7:00 PM)**. Please note the changes so that we don't conflict with **Misery** rehearsals. Join us as we continue to work on our season.

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



Director Devin La Femina is pleased to report that rehearsals are progressing well for the show. Cast and crews are hard at work to bring this show to the stage at the end of the month.

Tickets are available on our website (sbyplayers.org) or by calling 4510-546-0099.

Congratulations to Pete Cuesta, the cast, and crew of **A Gift To Remember!** This special Christmas production was a heart warming story which was enjoyed by everyone who saw it. The show was truly a great addition to the holiday season.



OLD HAMS TO REPLACE TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the production rights for ***To Kill A Mockingbird*** are not available at this time. Due to this situation, the Players' Board of Directors has chosen to replace that show with the comedy, ***Old Hams***, written by Bob Rinfret.

Old Hams is a hilarious comedy about aging, forgotten film/radio stars living in a historic home (The Ophelia L. Davis Home) who must raise money to prevent foreclosure by a greedy developer's son, leading them to use their fading showbiz skills for a chaotic garage sale and showdown, filled with disguises and a missing lottery ticket to save their home and legacy.

Auditions for ***Old Hams*** will be held Saturday January 31 at 10am, Sunday, February 1 at 7pm and Monday February 2 at 7pm at players building. The show is about 5 older actors trying to outfox an unscrupulous attorney. There is physical comedy including falling off the couch.

Character descriptions for ***Old Hams***

Louise Crockett – Former nurse with a checkered past, physical comedy, between 40 and 50

Rose Blume – Feisty, self-assured, think Dorothy from Golden Girls, 65+

Iris Blume – Rose's younger sister, think Rose from Golden Girls, 65+

Madame Clara Voyant – Retired psychic, similar in age to the other women, quite odd

Eddie Chambers – Leading man type, self-assured but forget=ful, 60+

Gus Hall – Eddie's lifetime friend, "funny man", 60+

Ben McAllister, Jr – Family attorney, 50s, the villain...

David McAllister – Ben's nephew, 20s, love interest for Sarah

Sarah Davis – Granddaughter of Ophelia Davis (owner of the home they live in), love interest for David

Radio Announcer...

Old Hams will be performed at Players' Theater on April 10, 11, 12 and April 17, 18, 19. For further information, please contact director Sherri Hynes at sherri.hynes@yahoo.com.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Christmas came early for Players when we received word from the Richard A. Henson Foundation that we were being awarded a \$150,000 challenge grant to be used toward the completion of our new theater.

We have done three main stage shows and some special productions there in 2025 and have seen how the performance space has improved with each show. Now it is time to finish the job.

Using designs by Becker-Morgan architects, builders Gillis-Gilkerson will completely rework the front of the building. We start by building a staircase to the attic, allowing us to move much of our costume inventory to free up space downstairs, where we will have dressing rooms, upgraded restrooms, a box office, concession stand, and audience lounge area. The administrative area will be made more efficient.

So far, we have raised around \$40,000 in the “quiet phase” of the campaign. Now, we are asking our members, patrons, and audience members to continue the support they have given over the years. When the 40 thousand reaches 150 thousand, we match the Henson grant and will have \$300,000 to get us off the launching pad.

The Community Players Capital Campaign Fund is being held at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. To donate visit www.cfes.org/donate and you can specify your contribution is for the “Community Players Fund”. To contribute by check, make the check payable to the Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore, with Community Players Fund on the memo line and mail to CFES, 1324 Belmont Ave., Ste 401, Salisbury, MD 21804.

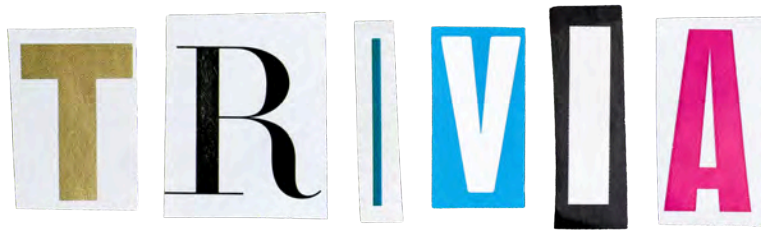
Every contribution, no matter the amount, brings us closer to realizing a fully equipped, modern theater space that will benefit our entire community. Your generosity not only supports the arts but also helps foster local talent and enriches cultural experiences for audiences of all ages.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A Gift to Remember was performed in December and was well-received and well-attended. Thanks to Pete Cuesta, director, the production staff, the actors, and anyone else who was involved in this special production. Total net profit from the show will be announced in the next newsletter, but expectations are that it will be near \$10,000.

GRANTS UPDATE

To help us with our Capital Campaign, The Richard A. Henson Foundation has awarded the Community Players of Salisbury a challenge grant of \$150,000, specifically for the necessary renovations to our theater. In order to receive those funds, we must raise \$150,000 by the end of 2027. If you would like to help us reach our goal, go to sbyplayers.org and click on the donate button. Your support is greatly appreciated.



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

January - Golden Age of Broadway (1950s)

1. Players produced this musical featuring gamblers and the Salvation Army in 1964 & 2024.
2. Arthur Miller wrote this play that takes place in 1692 Salem, MA.
3. Henry Higgins falls in love with his pupil in this musical.
4. He wrote ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***.
5. This musical features the songs "Tonight" and "Somewhere".
6. This acclaimed play is about Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller.
7. He wrote the classic American musical, ***The Music Man***.
8. This eternal boy taught Wendy how to fly.
9. The play ***The Fourposter*** was adapted into this musical.
10. James A. Michener's book about the Pacific in World War II was adapted to this musical.

Answers found on page 6

Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship

The Community Players of Salisbury, Inc is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in Maryland. In 1937 a group of 26 charter members hoped to bring culture and pure entertainment to the Eastern Shore while providing an outlet for people interested in dramatics. Players was organized under the Recreation Division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in May of 1938.

Each spring Community Players of Salisbury will award grants up to \$500 to two high school seniors from Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County and/or Delmar area public, private or home-schooled programs, depending on suitable applicants and availability of funds.

Students wishing to apply for this scholarship must:

- A. Be a graduating high school senior in a Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County or Delmar public, private or home school program
- B. Have applied for admission to a post-secondary institution
- C. Have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions or be a member of a family that has participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
- D. Financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA will be consideration

The award shall be made under the following specific conditions:

1. Each candidate must submit a completed Community Players of Salisbury scholarship application.
2. The scholarship shall be paid directly to the student and shall be used for payment of normal school expenses such as tuition, school fees, room, board or books.
3. Student or their family must have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
4. Final selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by the Board of Directors of the Community Players of Salisbury.
5. Winner will be announced during the student's senior award program or at a Community Players of Salisbury function or meeting.

Name _____

Date	Organization	Production	Role/Job
<i>Example - Fall 2023</i>	<i>Community Players</i>	<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	<i>backstage helper</i>

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



1. *Guys and Dolls*
2. *The Crucible*
3. *My Fair Lady*
4. *Tennessee Williams*
5. *West Side Story*
6. *Miracle Worker*
7. *Meredith Wilson*
8. *Peter Pan*
9. *I Do, I Do*
10. *South Pacific*

Answers:

Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship Application

Name _____
Address _____
Cell phone _____
Email _____
School or home school program _____
Parent's names _____
Parents' Occupation (Please provide information for each parent)

1. What is your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined on the FAFSA? _____
2. What college, university or school of higher education do you plan to attend?

3. Have you been accepted? _____
4. What is your planned major and minor? _____

Essay Question

How do you plan to incorporate theater or associated theater arts into your college experience?

Please respond with a minimum 100-word response using complete sentences and paragraph format.

Responses in bulleted list format or incomplete sentences will not be considered.

Participation Form

Complete the attached form in reference to participation in Community Players of Salisbury productions for applicant and/or applicant's family.

Activity List

Attach a current resume that includes community and school activities and work experiences.

Reference Letters – 2 total

- A. Attach one current reference letter from an adult, other than your drama teacher/sponsor who can testify to your seriousness of purpose and general moral and civic responsibility (teachers, ministers, local business person, employer, etc.)
- B. Attach one letter of recommendation from your drama teacher or a director.

Transcript

Attach an official high school transcript including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores

Due Date – March 16, 2026 (late applications will not be considered)

The completed application and all related materials should be mailed to:

Community Players of Salisbury
c/o Lynne Bratten
1519 Woodland Road
Salisbury, MD 21801

Or sent via email to brattencollege@gmail.com

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

*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
2025-26, 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 7 (6:00 PM) and February 4 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

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

Board Members

*Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027
Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2028*

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.