



COMMUNITY PLAYERS *of Salisbury*

February
2026

Back Stage



Hello and Happy February!

If you haven't already done so, be sure to get your tickets for our upcoming production of **Misery**. This spine-tingling thriller will surely keep you on the edge of your seat.

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify our current two-pronged approach to fundraising. As you may know, what used to be known as "Giving Tuesday," coordinated by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, is now known as "Shore Gives 365." This transition recognizes that non-profit organizations have ongoing needs. Donations to Community Players through this outlet help us with production-specific expenses such as royalties, set construction materials and costumes (to name but a few).

We are also embarking on a Capital Campaign. Donations here help us as we work to transform our facility on Nutters Cross Road into a state-of-the-art performance venue so that we can take our already high-quality productions to the next level. Donations to the campaign, which will be part of a matching grant program, will allow us to continue producing the majority of our productions at our facility and avoid paying expensive rental fees charged to use local high school auditoriums.

If you go to our website, sbyplayers.org, you will see the "Donate" button which allows you to choose which of the two you would like to support. All donations, regardless of size, are much appreciated.

Thinking ahead to Spring, we are excited to announce that we will be producing the comedy **Old Hams**. As you may have heard, our original plan was to produce **The Welkin** but the rights became unavailable. Our follow-up plan was the timeless classic **To Kill A Mockingbird**. The rights for that were also unavailable. So, as they say, "Third time's a charm" and we are excited to bring **Old Hams** to the stage.

>>>>>>>>

Veteran Players' Director Sherri Trader Hynes will helm this story of elderly performers trying to protect their retirement home. Auditions will be held on January 31 at 10:00 am, February 1 at 7:00 pm and February 2 at 7:00 pm. Character descriptions are available on our website.

As always, thanks to all of you who support us by being on stage, backstage or in the audience.

Kind Regards,

Darrell Mullins

President

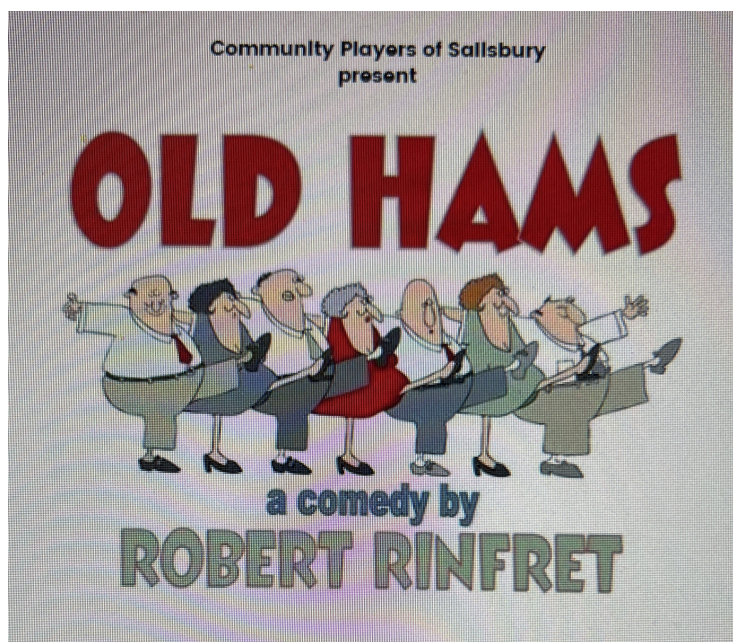
Players' next meetings will be **February 4 (7:00 PM) and March 4 (7:00 PM)**. Join us as we continue to work on our season.

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



Old Hams by Bob Rinfret 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.

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.

MISERY

by William Goldman
based on the novel by Stephen King

Directed by Devin La Femina
at Community Players Theater

PERFORMANCES

1/30 | 1/31 | 2/01

2/06 | 2/07 | 2/08

TICKETS
SBYPLAYERS.ORG
410.546.0099



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury
2028



AJ Payne (Annie Wilkes)

AJ is a Salisbury University Theatre alum, who is thrilled to be performing onstage with the Community Players of Salisbury for the very first time! Prior to performing onstage, AJ ran props for **Leading Ladies** and was a stagehand for **Crimes of the Heart** for Players. Most recently they appeared in Fultontown Theatre Company's productions of **The Tempest** (Stephano), **The Merry Wives of Windsor** (Mr. Ford), and the originally adapted piece, **Falstaff the Friend, Falstaff the Fool** (Falstaff/Various Characters), some of their other favorite roles include those in **Peter and the Starcatcher** (Smee), **Cabaret** (Fräulein Scheider), and **Hairspray** (Tracy Turnblad). AJ would like to thank their friends and family (and most specifically their mom, Jadie), for their endless love and support and hope you enjoy the show.

Chuck Rafferty (Paul Sheldon)

Chuck Rafferty is delighted to be making his Community Players' debut in **Misery**. Chuck has an extensive background in local theaters, participating in productions at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Second Street Players in Milford, and the Kent County Theater Guild in Dover. Since 2012, he has enacted roles in a diverse variety of productions, from big dopey musicals (**Miracle On 34th Street**) to Shakespeare (**The Merry Wives Of Windsor**), and from classical dramas/comedies (**To Kill A Mockingbird**; **The Sunshine Boys**) to more contemporary works (**God Of Carnage**). Chuck has undergone an unusual preparation regimen for his role in **Misery**. That preparation includes practice rolling out of bed and painfully dragging himself across the floor; also nontraditional weapons training with a focus on the deployment of antique typewriters, and defensive wrestling techniques used to fight off crazed nurses. Chuck is extremely excited to be working with AJ and Heather and Devin and Cass to bring you a great **Misery**, and he sincerely hopes you enjoy this horrific blood-soaked gorefest of a light comedy!

Heather Oland (Sherriff Buster)

This is Heather's sixth mainstage production with Community Players; she previously appeared in **Rumors** (Claire), **Crimes of the Heart** (Chick), **Senior Follies** (Bernice), **Noises Off** (Belinda), and **A Streetcar Named Desire** (Eunice). Favorite shows with other companies have included **On Golden Pond** (Chelsea), **Desire Under the Elms** (Abbie), **Noises Off** (Brooke), and **Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean** (Mona) at Church Hill Theater; **A Delicate Balance** (Julia) at the Garfield Center for the Arts in Chestertown; and **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Helena) with the Shore Shakespeare Company. Heather is a certified Spanish to English translator and lives in Salisbury with her husband Kevin and their canine chaos muppet Apollo.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Now that the holidays are over, we are anxious to get moving on with our capital campaign. As of this writing in mid-January, we have received more than \$10,000 in new donations, including \$1000 from patrons Ginny and Wayne Outten.

While we are writing grants, and approaching various businesses, we will need donations both large and small, to reach our goal. Once we get to \$150,000, we will reach the threshold for the Henson Foundation challenge and be able to start construction.

Actor and artist Damien Sykes has created a poster displaying our goal and progress which will be displayed in the lobby of *Misery*. We will also have written information to hand out, so look for us near the concession stand.

Anyone who is ready to donate now should go to our website, sbyplayers.org, where a donate button in the upper left corner will take you to our donation page at the Community Foundation.

Questions? Contact Campaign Chair at kelnagel@yahoo.com or 410-726-0670

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our next major fundraiser is the Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on March 28, 2026, with Wendy Stever as the coordinator. The flyer for this event is in this newsletter.

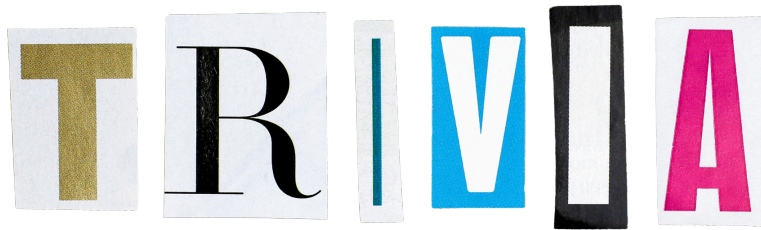
GRANTS UPDATE

We have been awarded a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that the Players can complete renovations on the theater that is located at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury, including installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. In order for Players to receive the \$150,000, we need to raise \$150,000. As of this printing, we have already raised \$34,000 toward our goal of \$150,000.

Would you be so kind to donate to this worthy cause? To donate online, go to www.sbyPlayers.org. On the home page there is a donate button, which takes one to the Players' Capital Campaign page. There, donations can be made by credit or debit card. If you prefer to write a check, make the check out to Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore, with Community Players' Capital Campaign fund on the memo line. Mail the check to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21804.

All donations will be acknowledged and tracked by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, who will verify compliance with IRS and other regulations. Your donation will be instrumental in helping the Community Players of Salisbury meet its mission of encouraging education, interest, and participation in theater and providing quality theatrical productions for the local audiences.

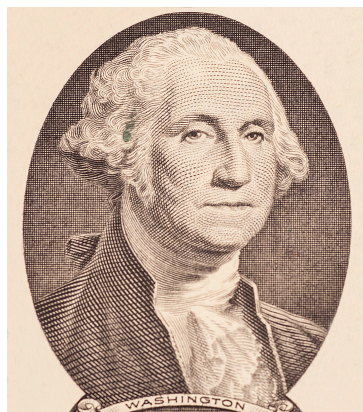
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kel Nagel, Capital Campaign Chairperson, at 410-726-0670.



THEATRE TEASERS
Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
February - Black History Month

1. He won a Tony for ***Kinky Boots*** and is about to star in ***La Cage aux Folles*** in June, 2026.
2. Wendell Pierce starred as Willie Loman in this Arthur Miller play.
3. Although better known for the film *Sister Act*, she won a Tony as producer of ***Thoroughly Modern Millie***.
4. In 1967, Pearl Bailey starred in an all-Black cast version of this musical that features the songs "Before the Parade Passes By" and "It Only Takes a Moment".
5. He is best known for his roles as Lead Player in ***Pippin*** and Judas in ***Jesus Christ Superstar***.
6. Tom Robinson is the character that Atticus Finch defends in what play?
7. ***A Raisin in the Sun*** was written by this playwright.
8. Leslie Odom Jr. played which founding father in ***Hamilton***?
9. George & Ira Gershwin wrote this opera, featuring an all-black cast of classically trained singers.
10. Juanita Hall, who played Bloody Mary in the original 1949 production of this musical, was the first African-American performer to win a Tony Award.

Answers found on page 6



SPRING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH
10 AM TO 3 PM!

Craft Artists, Book Authors, Direct Sales,
Vendors, Food Truck, Children Activities
and more!

Silent and Ticket Auctions!

Community Players Theater -
5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury

For more information email
wendystever@gmail.com

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. Billy Porter
2. *Death of a Salesman*
3. Whoopi Goldberg
4. *Hello Dolly*
5. Ben Vereen
6. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
7. Lorraine Hansberry
8. Aaron Burr
9. *Porgy & Bess*
10. *South Pacific*

Answers:



SPRING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

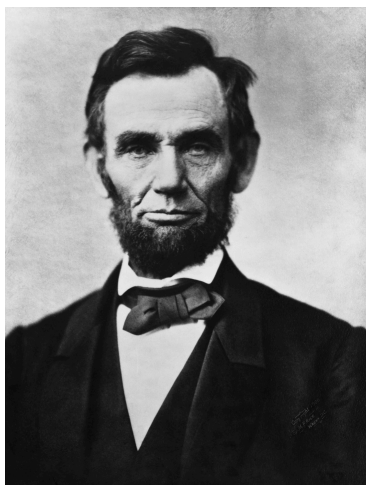
CRAFTERS / VENDORS WANTED!

Saturday March 28th 10 am to 3 pm
Community Players Theater -
5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury

Crafters, Vendors, Chance and Silent Auctions!

For more information or to request an application
please email Wendy Stever
wendysteвер@gmail.com

COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury



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, February 4 (7:00 PM) and March 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.