

COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury

New Year
2022

Back Stage
January 2022

MASC CREATIVITY GRANT

The Community Players of Salisbury would like to recognize the generous support of the Maryland State Arts Council for our 2021-2022 season. We will be receiving \$3,500 for our current season through the Creativity Grant (FY22) to help with our operating expenses and we are grateful for the contribution towards our efforts to bring live theater to the community.



AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED



Director Jerry Gietka has announced that auditions for Senior Follies, the third production of our 85th season will take place in January. The dates and times are:

Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 6 PM
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6 PM

All auditions will take place at Players on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury



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



NEXT MEETING

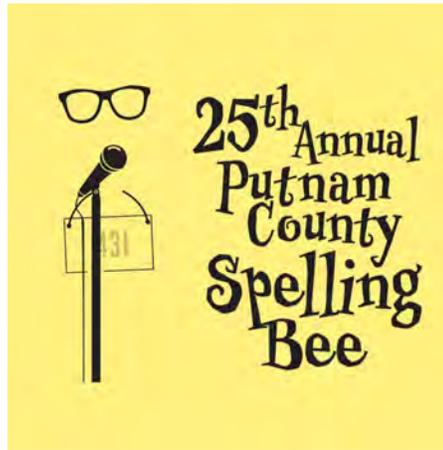
Due to conflicts with Noises Off, our November meeting has been canceled. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM** at Players. Join us as we hear the news of our many recent activities!

Box Office Help Needed



Are you interested in working in the box office for Payers' shows? The Tickets Committee would like to have a couple of members who would like to learn how to run the box office ticket sales for one or two shows per production. If you are one of these people, please contact Rusty at popirusty@comcast.net or 410-546-0099. Training on the ticket platform will be required





Director Jake Brittingham is pleased to announce the cast of Players' next production, **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**:

Marcy Park - Abby Cuesta
Leaf Coneybear - Luke Schoellkopf
William Barfee - Will Townsend
Olive Ostrovsky - Alana Troxell
Chip Tolentino - Kyle Hayes
Logainne Schwarzandgrubeniere - Lauren Sulzbach - Oliveira
Douglas Panch - Pete Cuesta
Mitch Mahoney - Joshua Smith
Rona Lisa Peretty - Susan Upton

Additional Spellers/Swings:

April Currey
Konnor Stever
Zachery Werner
Jessica Windsor



FRONT OF THE HOUSE

When most of us think about aspects of production, we think about getting the actors rehearsed and costumed the set built and decorated and getting all that on stage. We seldom think about getting the audience in their seats. Because managing the front of the house has been done so adeptly by Carol Alex and Mary Veise for so many shows, it was just something that happened. We miss them both. Having lost those two fine Players, it fell upon me to be House Manager for **Streetcar** and **Noises Off**. Being new to the job and having Covid to contend with, I was fortunate to be able to get some excellent help. So here is a big thank you to our ushers

When we did **Streetcar** in June, the local case rate for COVID was one per day. This was down from a peak of sixty-two in January, when we had to cancel the scheduled winter and spring shows, one of which was **Streetcar**. In June, we still had to take moderate precautions, with masks required in the lobby, but not when seated in the theater. There was a big spike of cases in the summer. It peaked at fifty in mid-September. It was seventeen for **Noises Off**, so we used more strict precautions, including alternate row seating, pod seating, and requiring masks at all times.

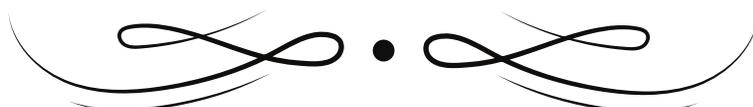
Getting the audience into their seats was more challenging, and we would like to thank these ushers who did it: Jim and Jean King, Jason and Holly Bruce, Betty Messick, Lou Elin Sheller, Kevin Shertz, Judy Sanders, Andy Renfrew, Bobbie Calloway, Betty Metzger, and Debby Nagel.

A special shout out goes to Wicomico Sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Hall, who went above and beyond as our security officer. She lent a friendly helping hand in the lobby, pointing people to the box office or will call table, reminding people to put on masks as necessary, and even grabbing a few masks from the box we provided to hand out to audience members who forgot to bring them.

As I write this, COVID cases have had a slight spike this week. We obviously can't predict what it will be like in late January, when we do **Spelling Bee**.

We are happy to be able to use the theater at Wor-Wic. Precautions will depend on Wor-Wic's policy and our own judgment. It is very likely that we will have to limit ticket sales to permit social distancing. For that reason, it would be advisable to get your tickets as soon as possible.

Kel Nagel
House Manager



THEATRE TRIVIA (with a well-deserved tribute to Stephen Sondheim)



1. How old was Stephen Sondheim when he wrote the lyrics to West Side Story?
2. What was the first Broadway musical to have an all-female creative team?
3. Name the actress who originated the role of Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd on Broadway?
4. Which Broadway musical is based on the 1924 trials of accused murderers Beulah Annan and Belva Gaertner?
5. Who painted A Sunday Afternoon which inspired Sondheim's musical?
6. What is the name of the carnivorous plant in Little Shop of Horrors?
7. Where are the Sharks from in West Side Story?
8. What is the opening scene of Phantom of the Opera?
9. Who originated the role of Bobby in Company?
10. Who played Judas in the original Broadway production of Jesus Christ Superstar?
11. What Sondheim musical is pictured above, produced by Community Players in 2017?

Answers found on page 6



Production Committee

Community Players Production Committee is accepting submissions of plays and musicals to be considered for Community Players 2022-2023 Season. Please email Production Committee chair, Shelbie Thompson at shelbiethompson4@gmail.com for a submission form. Submissions will remain open until December 31.



This is the first time that Community Players participated in this wonderful fund-raising campaign that takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. There were 117 non-profit organizations that joined in. Community Players ranked 48th in donations with \$1977.00 given by you, our friends, audiences and patrons.



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

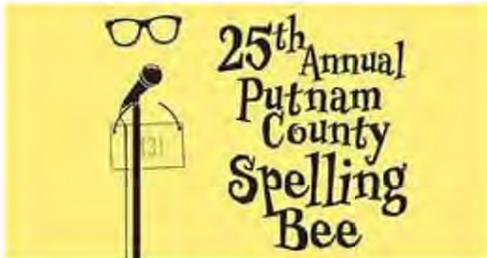
1. 25
2. Waitress
3. Angela Lansbury
4. Chicago
5. Georges Seurat
6. Audrey II
7. Puerto Rico
8. Auction of Theatre memorabilia
9. Dean Jones
10. Ben Vereen
11. Into the Woods



Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.

Ticket Order Form

Due to possible COVID restrictions and venue issues, Community Players will be unable to offer Season Tickets for our 85th season. We will, however, be selling tickets for each show individually. Tickets may be purchased through our website--www.sbyplayers.com, or by completing and returning this order form with your check.



Adults	_____	at \$25 each
Senior (55+)	_____	at \$20 each
Student	_____	at \$20 each
Child (<12)	_____	at \$15 each
Family	_____	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

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Child (<12)	_____	at \$15 each
Family	_____	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

January 28 at 7:30 PM
 January 29 at 2:00 PM
 January 29 at 7:30 PM
 February 4 at 7:30 PM
 February 5 at 2:00 PM

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

April 1 at 7:30 PM
 April 2 at 2:00 PM
 April 2 at 7:30 PM
 April 8 at 7:30 PM
 April 9 at 2:00 PM

Please fill in the requested information below and return this form with your check to Community Players of Salisbury, PO Box 2431, Salisbury, MD 21802. Make all checks payable to **Community Players**.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Your check will serve as your receipt. Tickets will be held at the Will Call table.

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
2021-22, your dues
are not up-to-date.*

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00 PM.
5109 Nutters Cross Road



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net
Vice-President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past-President: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@gmail.com

Board Members

Sammy Barnes, Matt Hatfield, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023
Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024

8 **We're on the Web: www.SBYplayers.com**