



**COMMUNITY
PLAYERS**
of Salisbury

June
2024

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

As we approach the month of June and the end of my time as President, I can't help but reflect back on everything that has happened this year.

We did three major shows this year and one more to come in June. We did *Pippin* in November directed by Pete Cuesta, we did *Rumors* in January directed by Sherri Trader Hynes and we did *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in April directed by Sharon Benchoff. In June we will do *Kiss Me, Kate* directed by Kel Nagel. We also did Jammin' in July, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Edgar Allen Poe: His Tales of Horror, Old Time Radio Christmas Show, The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts, and Movie Nights. All of these shows were coordinated or directed by Matt Bogdan to raise money for our renovations at our facility at Nutters Cross Road.

We are moving forward with our renovations. Our parking lot has been fully paved. The front office area has a new floor. We have a new handicap restroom. We have new chairs. We have hired an architect to reconfigure the front office area. We will be adding an additional door to the front area.

We have selected our four main shows for the 2024-25 season. They are *Guys and Dolls*, *A Few Good Men*, *I Hate Hamlet*, and *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

This summer we will host a Children's Summer Workshop on July 8-12 at Nutters. The children (grades 3-8) will participate in acting, singing and dancing.

We will vote for our new slate of Officers and Members of the Board at the meeting on June 4.

Thanks for a great year and I look forward to a great 2024-25.

Tom Robinson
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 **June 5 (7:00 PM) and July 3 (7:00 PM)**. Join us to see where you can help with the second half of the season!

Kiss Me Kate, the classic Cole Porter musical comedy, is well under production. A very talented, hard-working cast will be sure to entertain our audience.

The cast includes several Players regulars who are welcoming some newcomers to our group. Thom Harris, who has extensive theater experience and has been in two shows with us in the past, is on a production team here for the first time as choreographer. Bill Folger, who last did a show, Chicago, with us several years ago, is our musical director.



Debby Nagel is heading up the costume committee for the first time. We appreciate the continuing help of Lynne Bratten, who is continuing to improve from her recent health issues. She and Debby took another trip to Sallie Ridgway and got another large donation of costumes. We are pleased to announce that Piedmont Airlines has joined us as a corporate sponsor, probably the first time we have had such a sponsor for a main stage show. We hope the relationship will continue.

We continue to need help with the set construction and painting on Saturday mornings, and hope to have a good crowd for moving to Wi Hi on June 14 at 5 (truck loading) and June 15 at 10 (move in and set construction).

Several front of the house people are in this cast, so please volunteer to help Betsy Metzger with ushering.

Please encourage friends and family to see this wonderful show. And when you see a post on FaceBook, hit the share button to help spread the word.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts was held in April and raised over \$1600.
 2. Two members of Wicomico Women Who Care donated \$200 to Players on May 16 at their monthly meeting at Sobo's.
 3. Movie Night was held on May 18 with the showing of Buster Keaton's "The General." Funds raised were \$50.
 4. The Guest Bartender fundraiser will be held June 6 from 5-9 p.m. at the Brew River Dock Bar with Shelbie Thompson as the coordinator. Shelbie is looking for four volunteers to "bartend," with two bartenders per shift (5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) Please let Shelbie know if you are interested and what time you prefer. No training or certification is needed. Guest bartenders are just there for fun and to promote Players. We will be having entertainment by Devin (Bradley) La Femina who may be able to sing a song or two from Kiss Me, Kate! to promote the upcoming performance. Save the date and tell your friends to come support Players as we receive 20% of all proceeds from the dock bar that evening. Shelbie also needs assistance in set up and gathering banners, yard signs, etc. to have at the event. If you would like to assist with this fundraiser in any capacity, contact Shelbie at 443-523-6602.
 5. A 50/50 raffle will be held at the Kiss Me, Kate! shows in June. If you would like to help with the raffle, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.
 6. Trivia Night will be held on June 28 at 7 p.m. at Players with Sharon Benchoff as the coordinator. Admission is \$5. Come as a team or join a team. Lots of fun, and the winning team wins a prize. BYOB. Other Trivia Nights are July 26, August 30, and September 27. For more information contact Sharon at fresnelop@gmail.com.
 7. A Musical Review entitled Show Stoppers will be held August 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and August 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Auditions for the show will be held June 25 and June 26 at 7 p.m. at Players. Rusty Mumford is the coordinator. For more information contact Rusty at popirusty@comcast.net.
 8. A special production entitled World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore will be held September 13 and September 14 at 7 p.m. and September 15 at 2 p.m. with a live band playing Glenn Miller music and other WWII music, as well as slides and dramatic readings. Matt Bogdan is the coordinator. Auditions for singers and dramatic readers will be held July 15 and July 16 at 7 p.m. at Players. For more information contact Matt at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.
- If you would like to help with any of these fundraisers or have ideas for fundraisers, contact Matt Bogdan.



Registration has begun for the Children's Theater Workshop/Summer Camp which will be held July 8-12 for children going into grades 3-8. The cost is \$200 with a \$50 discount for Players' family or Patron membership. Scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. Registration ends June 15. Registration forms are available at the Players' website.

GRANTS UPDATE

Unfortunately, the Maryland State Arts Council denied our application for funds to help with the renovation of the building. We are still waiting to hear from Beach to Bay Heritage Area regarding our application for funds for the renovation.

An application was submitted for a grant from the Coastal Association of Realtors and the Beach to Bay Heritage Area to help fund the September production of World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore. We did receive \$500 from Coastal Association of Realtors for help funding the Children's Theater Workshop to be held in July.

An application for an Operating Grant was submitted to the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council. An application for a grant was also submitted to the Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation.



SHOWSTOPPERS!

A Musical Revue

August 2 & 3 at 7:00 PM
August 4 at 2:00 PM

Players on Nutters Cross Road

\$10 per person

For information: 410-546-0099



Auditions will be held June 25 and 26 at 7:00 PM at Players on Nutters Cross Road. For more information, contact Rusty at popirusty@comcast.net.

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
June - Where am I?

1. My name is Roxie Hart and ended up in jail with Velma Kelly in what city?
2. The famous nightclub Moulin Rouge is in this city.
3. Which state is the setting for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*?
4. *Romeo and Juliet* takes place in this "fair city".
5. In *Kiss Me Kate*, in what city does the cast sing they will open?
6. *Cabaret* is set in this 1929-1930 pre-World War II city?
7. This state is the setting for the play *Inherit the Wind*.
8. There's "no place like" this city in *Sweeney Todd*.
9. In what country do you hear *The Sound of Music*?
10. Tracy Turnblad sings "good morning" to what city in *Hairspray*?

Answers found on page 6



Meet the Nominees for the Board of Directors:

David Allen – If you read our programs, you know that David has been a major force on the tech end of our productions. Over the decades, David has done lighting, sound, special effects and set construction. David has served on the Board and as an Officer.

Kim Cuesta – Not only has Kim appeared on stage in *Calendar Girls*, *Cuckoo's Nest* (Nurse Ratched) and *Pippin*, she has also served as Producer for productions as well as head of Costumes and Props. Kim is also a Players Patron.

Pete Cuesta – He started with Players as a cast member in *Les Misérables*. Since then, he has acted in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mark Twain*, and *Poe* to name a few. Pete directed *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Pippin*. He has served on the Board and works on set construction.

Betsy Metzger – In 2021, she moved to Salisbury and almost immediately joined Community Players. While she started out as a volunteer usher with CPOS, she soon became House Manager in charge of the smooth running of the house and lobby.

Kel Nagel – Currently, Kel is serving as Immediate Past President. Heavily involved in turning our property on Nutters Cross into a performance space, Kel is a Players Patron as well as an actor and director in many productions over the decades and serves on several committees.

Skye Osborne – Skye came to us during our covid season and acted in *Almost Maine*. Skye is on the Board at the Marva Theater. She worked on *Leading Ladies* as a dresser, *Crimes of the Heart* for costumes, and *The Harlem Renaissance* as a singer.

Charlie Szentesi-Thomas – They first became involved with Players in 2012. The majority of Charlie's experience has been as an actor recently in *Rumors* and *Vanya and Sonia...* In the '23-'24 season, they also served as stage manager, assistant stage manager, and set construction.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



Answers:
1. Chicago
2. Paris
3. Mississippi
4. Verona
5. Venice
6. Berlin
7. Tennessee
8. London
9. Austria
10. Baltimore

COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY - 2024 BALLOT

NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

Darrell Mullins

NOMINEE FOR RECORDING SECRETARY:

Melissa Dasher

NOMINEE FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Rusty Mumford (continuing)

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER:

Charlie Linton (continuing)

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (you may vote for no more than 3)

David Allen

Betsy Metzger

Charlie Szentesi-Thomas

Kim Cuesta

Kel Nagel

Pete Cuesta

Skye Osborne

Your Name _____ *OR* Membership number _____
(Please Print)

All adult members (18 and over) whose dues are paid for 2023-2024 may vote.

(Individual, Family, Patrons)

This ballot may be copied so that all adult members may vote.

Mail your completed ballot to: Community Players – PO Box 2431 – Salisbury, MD 21802
or drop off in the Ballot Box on the front porch at Players, 5109 Nutters Cross Rd. Salisbury

All ballots must be received by June 4, 2024

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
2023-24, 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, June 5 (7:00 PM) and July 3 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

*President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com
Vice-President: Matt Bogdan - oceancityhappyme@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past-President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com*

Board Members

*Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024
Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026*

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.