

May  
2025



COMMUNITY  
**PLAYERS**  
*of Salisbury*

# Back Stage



## From the desk of the President...

May comes from the Latin Maius, probably referring to the goddess Maia. She embodied the concept of growth, both in nature and in business. At Community Players I am happy to let everyone know that we continue to grow. The optimism is vibrant.

Congratulations to Darrell Mullins, director of *I Hate Hamlet*, and the cast and crew of the show. The audience's applause can still be heard.

Rehearsals are underway for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, our final main stage show of this season to be held in June. We also have a great lineup planned for next season, beginning with *Annie* to be held in November.

Our next special production is *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*, which will be held at the Community Players Theater on May 16 at 7:30 p.m., as well as other dates, times and venues in May.

In July we will have Youth Workshops for students in grades 3-8 and grades 9-12. For more information about the workshops, main shows, and special productions, go to [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org).

If you would like to help with our growth, please contact me. We want you to be a part of our success.

Happy May.

*Matt Bogdan*

President

Players' next meetings will be **May 7 (7:00 PM) and June 4 (6:00 PM)**. **Please note the time change in June.** This is so that we do not conflict with rehearsals for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

## 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

~~*I Hate*~~  
**HAMLET**

Congratulations to director Darrell Mullins, the extremely talented cast, and hardworking crew of *I Hate Hamlet* on a very successful run of this comedy! The show was enjoyed by our audiences and brought in loyal patrons and first-time attendees alike. This was another great step forward in our own Community Players' Theater!



Director Cass Dasher is pleased to announce the cast for the final production of our mainstage season, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Jack Worthing - Kirsten King  
Algernon Moncrieff - Caroline Lewis  
Gwendolen Fairfax - Julianna Markel  
Cecily Cardew - Raquel Ndirangu  
Lady Augusta Bracknell - Pete Evans  
Miss Letitia Prism - Robin Finley  
Reverend Dr. Chasuble - Robert Herbertson  
Lane/Merriman - Pete Cuesta

### A Note on Casting

*The Importance of Being Earnest* is a play with a long history of gender-bent or gender-blind casting. In keeping with this tradition, actors were encouraged to audition for any role they felt drawn to, and casting decisions were based on which actor best embodied the character, regardless of gender identity. The team is extremely excited for this immensely talented cast to share Oscar Wilde's timeless comedy with Salisbury audiences! Performance dates/times are posted on our website--[sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org).

Community Players of Salisbury presents

# World War II

## Heroes of the Eastern Shore



Community Players' Theater, 5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury, May 16, 7:30 PM  
American Legion, 30880 West Post Office Rd, Princess Anne, May 17, 2 PM  
American Legion, 29511 Canvasback Dr, Easton, May 18, 2 PM  
American Legion, 2308 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, May 24, 2 PM  
American Legion, 1109 American Legion Rd, Salisbury, May 25, 2 PM  
VFW, 115 Sandy Hill Rd, Cambridge, May 26, 2 PM

**Admission is free. Donations are accepted.  
Seating is limited. For reservations call 443235-3272.**

The show is sponsored by Beach to Bay Heritage Area.

Show your support for your family and friends who served during WWII by placing an ad in the program for the show WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore.

For example, the ad would say the following:

*This is a dedication to my uncle, Norbert Vacek, who served during WWII. He proudly served his country and we are very proud of him.*

*The Vacek Family*

Full page color ad in the program: \$50 (five inches wide, eight inches tall)

Half page color ad in the program: \$30 (five inches wide, four inches tall)

You can include a picture, as well, of the man or woman being honored. We will design the ad for you and send you a proof before publishing. If you want to place a dedication ad in the program, contact Matt Bogdan at [oceancityhappyme@aol.com](mailto:oceancityhappyme@aol.com) or 443-235-3272.

Please mail a check (made out to Community Players of Salisbury) by May 10, 2025, to:

Matt Bogdan  
c/o of The Community Players of Salisbury  
212 West Philadelphia Avenue  
Salisbury, MD 21801

Also, if you are a business owner and would like to advertise in the program, contact Matt Bogdan.

Registration for the CPOS Summer Youth Theater Workshops will open ay 1, 2025. Interested youth/parents should complete this registration form and mail it with registration fee to the indicated address.

## Community Players of Salisbury Youth Workshop 2025 Registration Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop registering for:

Grade (2025-26 School Year):

☐ Grades 3-8 (July 14-18)

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Grades 9-12 (July 21-25)

Parent/Guardians' Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size (circle one) Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Skin Tone for Make-Up Kit (circle one) Fair Olive Medium Dark Dark

Any allergies, dietary restrictions, or other medical info staff should be aware of?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Previous Theater Experience

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Please Rate the Following

1 = I totally want to do this!    2 = I am willing to try.    3 = Do I have to?

\_\_\_ Sing with whole group

\_\_\_ Sing with a few people

\_\_\_ Sing a solo

\_\_\_ Act with few or no lines

\_\_\_ Act in a supporting role

\_\_\_ Act in a leading role

\_\_\_ Dance with whole group

\_\_\_ Dance solo

\_\_\_ Backstage crew

\_\_\_ Set Construction

\_\_\_ Collecting/Making Props

\_\_\_ Collecting/Making Costumes

**Mail completed form**, with check made out to Community Players of Salisbury, to:

Community Players Youth Workshop, c/o Rusty Mumford

539 East Lincoln Ave.

Salisbury MD 21804

**Registration cost** is \$200/student, with a \$50 discount for current members of Community Players. Scholarship opportunities are available on request.

**Registration will be open** from May 1 - June 30. Workshop space is limited to 25 participants for 3rd-8th grade and 20 participants for 9th-12 grade. Students will be accepted in the order that forms are received.

**Contact** YouthWorkshops@SbyPlayers.org with any questions!



## **THEATRE TEASERS**

### **Trivia by Sharon Benchhoff**

***As we prepare to announce our exciting 2025/2026 Season, see how many shows you can name from Players' previous seasons.***

1. 1943 season: The play features two rather scary aunts and an uncle who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt.
2. 1951 season: This play's title character is an invisible six-foot rabbit.
3. 1959 season: This play examines the true story of a woman claiming to be the youngest daughter of the assassinated Czar.
4. 1968 season: Musical where Curly sings "Oh What a Beautiful Morning".
5. 1979 season: Musical based on the Dickens novel with the characters of Fagin and The Artful Dodger.
6. 1984 season: This musical depicts the events surrounding the writing of the Declaration of Independence.
7. 1991 season: This play features the ghosts of the former wives of Charles Condomine.
8. 1996 season: The play revolves around the lives of strong southern ladies in Truvy's Salon.
9. 2000 season: Everyone knows this adorable red-haired orphan who sings "Tomorrow".
10. 2020 season: The setting for this drama is a ward within a psychiatric institution in Oregon.

Answers found on page 6





## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The fundraising committee met April 17 and discussed various fundraisers, including the March 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Craft and Vendor Fair, which was a great success and raised over \$2000 for Players. Plans to have another craft and vendor fair in the fall are underway. Thanks to Wendy Stever, Konner Stever, and Shelbie Thompson for coordinating the event. David Allen also played a crucial role in the setup. Thanks to all who helped.

The 50/50 raffles held at the *I Hate Hamlet* performances raised over \$900. Thanks to all who helped.

*World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore* will be held at the Community Players' Theater on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. The live production uses dramatic readings, narration, slides, and a live band to honor the men and women who served at home and overseas during the war. The show will be held at other venues and on other dates in May. Admission is free. Seating is limited at most venues, so call 443-235-3272 for reservations. The show is sponsored by Beach to Bay Heritage. Go to [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org) for more information. If you would like to place an ad in the program either for a business or as a dedication to a family member or friend, call 443-235-3272.

Plans are underway for the following fundraisers: Friends and Family Feud Fundraiser in July; Music Revue in August; Guest Bartending and the show *Lighter Side of Aging* in September; *The Poe Show* in October; a radio show presented by Possum Point Players in November; and the Christmas show *A Gift to Remember* in December. More details on these fundraisers will be published in the next newsletter.

## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. *Arsenic and Old Lace*
  2. Harvey
  3. Anastasia
  4. Oklahoma!
  5. Oliver!
  6. 1776
  7. *Blithe Spirit*
  8. *Steel Magnolias*
  9. Annie
  10. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*



## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Community Players will be holding elections at the June meeting. But before that happens, nominations are now open for the Board of Directors and Officers.

If you want a say in the future of Community Players or know of someone who would be an asset to the organization, please submit the name to me by email by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

More details are on our website under the Members Page or ask me.

*Sharon Benchoff*  
fresnelop@gmail.com



## AUDITIONS!

for

### **L.S.O.A. THE LIGHTER SIDE OF AGING A Musical Comedy**

Created & Directed by Ann J. Northam

DATE: FRI. MAY 9th & SAT., MAY 10TH @ 7P & SUN., MAY 11th @ 6P

PLACE: COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY  
5109 NUTTERS CROSS ROAD, SALISBURY, MD

NEEDED: 9 FEISTY SENIOR CITIZENS, 55 YEARS OLD OR OLDER,  
4 MEN & 5 WOMEN, TO PLAY VARIOUS ROLES  
SPECIAL SKILLS NEEDED: 1 MAN TO DO A SAND DANCE &  
SINGERS FOR THE A CAPELLA CHORUS

If you want to audition but cannot make any of the scheduled dates/times, please contact Matt Bogdan @ 443-235-3272 to make alternative arrangements. Show dates are September 12-14, 2025.

**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  
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, May 7 (7:00 PM) and June 4 (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.*