

June
2025

COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



**From the desk
of the President...**

Author John Steinbeck wrote the following: "In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different." It is a remarkable month, and the Community Players of Salisbury have a remarkable show planned for you.

Director Cass Dasher, cast, and crew are busy preparing for *The Importance of Being Earnest*. I congratulate all of them on their efforts, and I am sure the show will be amazing.

This is my last month as president of Players. I will continue to serve on the board in July as immediate past president. I am pleased that during my term, with the help of so many, we have opened our new theater, The Community Players' Theater, secured risers and chairs, built a stage, and installed curtains, lighting and sound equipment. It truly has been a team effort. Thank you so much for your support.

We at Players will continue to grow. We have started a Capital Campaign to help raise funds for the renovation of the front of the building. If you would like to contribute to this cause or become a member of Players, please contact me at oceancityhappyme@aol.com or 443-235-3272. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Matt Bogdan

President



Players' next meetings will be **June 4 (6:00 PM) and July 2 (7:00 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



Director Cass Dasher and the cast/crew of *The Importance of Being Earnest* are busy putting the final touches on the final production of our season. All performances will be at The Players' Theater on Nutters Cross Road and the show dates are:

Friday 6/13 7:30 PM
Saturday 6/14 2:00 PM
Saturday 6/14 7:30 PM
Sunday 6/15 2:00 PM
Friday 6/20 7:30 PM
Saturday 6/21 2:00 PM
Saturday 6/21 7:30 PM
Sunday 6/22 2:00 PM



L.S.O. A.: The Lighter Side of Aging is an original musical comedy created and directed by Ann Northam, featuring quips, quotes, poems, and jokes, music and dances and odd circumstances. The cast of senior citizens includes Lew and Adrienne Kadushin, Richard Bird, Lisa Shahan, Betsy Metzger, Maria White, Joe Emond, Capri Harrison, Mary Bargion, Matt Bogdan, and Carolyn Stegman. It's a party, so come and "lighten up."

Performances will be held at the Community Players' Theater on Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, July 6 at 2 p.m., Friday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. For reservations call 443-235-3272.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. We received many donations for World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore.
2. 50/50 raffles will be held at the performances of The Importance of Being Earnest.
3. The Lighter Side of Aging, directed by Ann Northam, will be performed at our theater on Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, July 6, at 2 p.m., Friday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Reservations are not necessary but encouraged since seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.
4. A Guest Bartending fundraiser, coordinated by Shelbie Thompson, is scheduled for July 10 at Brew River. More details to follow.
5. A Music Revue, directed by Rusty Mumford, is scheduled for August 15-17 at our theater. More details to follow.

GRANT UPDATE

1. Players thanks Beach to Bay Heritage Area for the \$5,000 grant which was used for the production of World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore.
2. Players thanks the Maryland State Arts Council for the \$9,324 grant which will be used toward the July Youth Workshops and other projects for our theater
3. Players thanks the Coastal Association of Realtors for the \$500 grant which will be used toward the July Youth Workshops.
4. Players thanks The Beat Goes On, Inc. for the \$1,700 grant to be used for the purchase of an AED for our theater.
5. Players thanks the Jack P. and Anne R. Smith Foundation for the \$10,000 grant to be used for the purchase of additional lighting and other projects for our theater.
6. Players thanks the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council for their continued support.

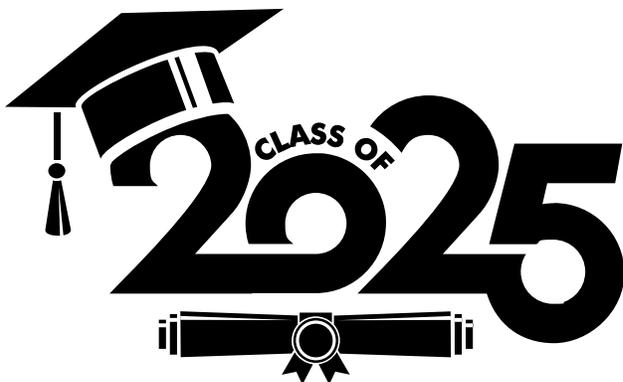


Matt--
On behalf of all the families of the WWII veterans that you honored in your production - THANKS!!!! Your research was phenomenal and the way you organized it was GREAT!!! The music presented by the WWII's was so reminiscent of the music my parents enjoyed when I was growing up. What a gift it would be if the youth of today could see this presentation in their history class. Your ability to put it all together in such a dramatic way was superb!!! Thanks again for the job well done!!

Pat Oberholtzer

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 RECIPIENTS
OF THE
COMMUNITY PLAYERS'
RUTH BURNETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Ava Baer
Orli Ospital
Diego Padilla
Lauren Suizbach-Oliviera
Dayna Tyler
Caden Van Hoy*





THEATRE TEASERS
Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
June--Tony Winners

1. The first Tony Award for Best Musical was presented in 1949 to this musical.
2. The playwright of *The Crucible* and *Death of a Salesman* won the first Tony in 1947.
3. He won Tony awards for *Company*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Into the Woods* to name a few.
4. Carol Channing and Bette Midler both won a Tony playing this matchmaker from Yonkers.
5. This musical won Tony awards in 1995 and is nominated this year for the revival of Norma Desmond's story.
6. This Green Day musical won 2010 Tony awards for lighting and scenic design.
7. Danny Burstein and Aaron Tveit both won Tony awards for this musical; a theatrical celebration of truth, beauty, freedom and above all love set in Paris.
8. The original 1949 production won 10 Tonys, and the 2008 revival won seven. The most of any musical.
9. Choreographer with most Tony awards with eight, plus one for direction.
10. 2016 musical with the most Tony award nominations.

Answers found on page 6

Board of Director Nominee Bios

Pete Cuesta: Pete has been a member of Community Players since 2012, has been on the Board of Directors and built many set, directed and acted in many productions. He would love nothing more than to make Players prosper and be a vibrant outlet for everybody's creative inspiration going forward.

Devin La Femina: Devin has been performing with Community Players for six years, and in that time has taken to the stage in several amazing shows including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Kiss Me Kate*. She was Assistant Director for *A Few Good Men* and is now making her directorial debut this winter and is so excited about this new challenge.

Betsy Metzger: Betsy has been a member of Community Players for four years. During that time, she has attended and participated in most of the monthly meetings. Currently, she is serving as Community Players' House Manager, interacting with our audience members, gathering ushers for each performance and helping where needed.

Heather Oland: Heather has been with us since 2020 and since that time has been seen on stage in *Noises Off* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* to name a few. Heather has also served as a member of the Production Committee whose responsibility is to read and recommend shows for upcoming seasons.

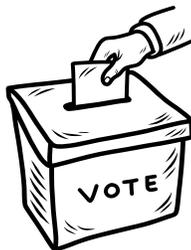
Tom Robinson: Tom has been a long-time member and Patron of Players and has served on the Board and as President. For most full stage musicals, Tom can be found working at the sound board. Tom currently serves on the Performance Space Committee whose goal is to turn our home on Nutters Cross Rd into a successful theater.



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Kiss Me Kate
 2. Arthur Miller
 3. Stephen Sondheim
 4. Dolly Levi in Hello Dolly
 5. Sunset Blvd
 6. American Idiot
 7. Moulin Rouge
 8. South Pacific
 9. Bob Fosse
 10. Hamilton



COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY -2025 BALLOT

NOMINEES FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

Kyle Hayes

NOMINEE FOR RECORDING SECRETARY:

Melissa Dasher (continuing)

NOMINEE FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Rusty Mumford (continuing)

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER:

Charlie Linton (continuing)

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (Vote for no more than three people)

Pete Cuesta

Betsy Metzger

Tom Robinson

Devin La Femina

Heather Oland

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

All adult members (18 and over) whose dues are paid for 2024-25 may vote.
(Individual, Family, Patrons)

This ballot may be copied so that all adult members may vote.
Bring this ballot to the June General Membership Meeting or mail it to:
Community Players - P. O. Box 2431 - Salisbury, MD 21802
Or place in the Ballot Box on the front porch at Players: 5109 Nutters Cross Rd.

Mailed ballots must use the PO Box address and be received by June 4, 2025

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 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, June 4 (6:00 PM) and July 2 (7:00 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.