



COMMUNITY PLAYERS of Salisbury

June
2026

Back Stage



Greetings!

As we move into the final stretch of our season, I want to take a moment to celebrate the tremendous success of **Old Hams**. Veteran CPOS Director, Sherri Hynes assembled a talented cast and crew to bring us lots of laughs. This production reminded us once again what makes Community Players of Salisbury such a special organization. The laughter, energy, and support from our audiences demonstrated the incredible strength of our theater community. Thank you to everyone who helped make the production such a memorable one.

Now, we eagerly turn our attention to our June production of **1776**. This beloved musical brings history, heart, humor, and powerful music to the stage, and it promises to be another exciting experience for both our members and audiences. As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence next year, **1776** offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the passion, debate, sacrifice, and vision that shaped the founding of our country. I encourage everyone to come out and support the cast and crew as they continue the hard work of bringing this classic production to life.

Community theater thrives because of volunteers, and there are always opportunities to get involved. Whether you enjoy building sets, organizing events, helping backstage, ushering, publicity, or serving on one of our committees, your time and talents make a real difference. Saturday Set Construction continues each week, and we welcome anyone interested in lending a hand — no experience necessary. It's a wonderful way to meet fellow members and become more connected to the theater.

I also want to remind everyone about our ongoing Capital Campaign. As we continue working to improve and preserve our theater for future generations, your support is more important than ever. Contributions of any size help us maintain our facility, enhance our productions, and ensure that Community Players of Salisbury remains a vibrant home for the performing arts in our community.

Please reach out to me at any time at dgmullins58@gmail.com if you have questions about any of the above!

Kind Regards,

Darrell Mullins

President

Players' next meetings will be **June 3 (6:00 PM) and July 1 (7:00 PM)**. Join us as we work to finish 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



We had so much fun last year that we are going to do it again this year! There is so much more music from Broadway's Jukebox musicals yet to be showcased!

Auditions for

The Broadway Jukebox
PART TWO

are

Monday, June 22 & Tuesday, June 23, at 7 PM

Singers who plan to audition should sing an upbeat song from any Broadway show. Please bring a track recording for auditions. A Bluetooth speaker will be available.

*The eagle is going to crack the shell of
the egg that England laid*



June 12th, 13th and 14th

1776
The Musical 

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**



**2026 SUMMER
YOUTH
THEATER
WORKSHOPS**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
YOUTHWORKSHOPS@SBYPLAYERS.ORG**

Youth Theater Showcase!

The kids of Community Players of Salisbury's Summer Youth Theater Workshops will be presenting some of what they learned this summer in a special showcase performance titled "Show Your True Colors!". The showcase will take place at the Community Players Theater on Saturday, July 18th at 2pm, with doors opening to audiences at 1:30pm. Admission is free, donations accepted. Community members are welcome to come and support the next generation of theater-lovers!

If your child is interested in attending the workshops, visit SbyPlayers.org and click the "Workshops" link for information. Registration is open until June 26th.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. The Optimist Club of Salisbury donated \$1000 toward the 2026 Children's Summer Workshop so that participants will be able to have T-shirts. Thanks to Lynne Bratten for championing this cause. We also thank Coastal Association of Realtors for donating \$1000 toward the workshop, as well as the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for donating \$2400 toward the workshop for counselor stipends.
2. We will be holding a silent auction in the lobby of Wicomico High School Auditorium during the performances of 1776. Please consider contributing an item, gift card, or gift certificate to support the auction. Contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com if you would like to contribute.
3. The 50/50 raffle held at the performances of Old Hams raised \$1185. Thanks to all who helped with this raffle, as well as audience members who participated. The raffle will be held again at 1776 performances.
4. The Wicomico Historical Society, in cooperation with the Community Players, is sponsoring America 250: A Birthday Celebration, to be held June 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater and July 5 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 at 1109 American Legion Road in Salisbury. The show features patriotic speeches, songs, poems, and slides celebrating America's history. The band, the WWIIs, will be featured. Admission is free; donations are encouraged. For more information call 443-235-3272.

GRANTS UPDATE

1. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program has awarded Community Players \$10,000 for the production of The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass. The project is a documentary in play format featuring the key events in Frederick Douglass' life. Addressed will be his years on the Eastern Shore, as well as Baltimore and other areas throughout the world. Also, the project will emphasize the impact Frederick Douglass had on the abolitionist movement and social reform, using Douglass' speeches, dramatic readings, songs, and slides to show how he became the most important leader of the movement for African-American civil rights in the 19th century. Performances of the play, to be written, directed and produced by Matt Bogdan, will be held at various venues on the Shore during 2027 and 2028. Players thanks the Maryland Heritage Areas Program for its support.
2. The Community Players has been awarded a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that Players can complete renovations on the Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. Renovations include installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. In order for Players to receive the \$150,000, we need to raise \$150,000. One way to donate to this worthy cause is to go to our website at Sbyplayers.org. On the home page click on the donate button which takes you 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' mission of encouraging education, interest, and participation in theater and providing quality theatrical productions for local audiences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Cuesta, Capital Campaign Chairperson, at heycue1@icloud.com.



THEATRE TEASERS
Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
June - Summer, Sun and Stars

1. "Summertime and the livin' is easy" is from which Gershwin musical?
2. ***A Reason in the Sun*** was written by this playwright
3. "Good Morning Starshine" is from this American Tribal Love-Rock Musical.
4. What does Annie sing will come out tomorrow?
5. Lancelot sings that he can never leave her in summer.
6. Danny sings "Summer Nights" in what musical?
7. ***Sunset Boulevard*** is the address of what silent screen star?
8. ***Suddenly Last Summer*** is a play written by this playwright who also wrote ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** and ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***.
9. This Shakespeare play features fairies named Titania, Oberon and Puck.
10. ***Bright Star*** is a play written by this "wild and crazy guy" who stars in "Only Murders in the Building".

Answers found on page 6

AMERICA

You Are Invited!

250

America 250: A Birthday Celebration

Sponsored by the Wicomico Historical Society
In cooperation with Community Players

A two-act presentation of patriotic speeches, songs, poems, and slides celebrating American's 250th birthday

June 26 and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m.
Community Players' Theater, 5109 Nutters Cross RD, Salisbury

July 5 at 2 p.m. at American Legion Post 64, American Legion Road,
Salisbury

Board of Director Nominee Bios

Bob Herbertson: Bob made his Players debut last year in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Recently audiences thoroughly enjoyed his performance as Eddie Chambers in *Old Hams*. Bob also served on Community Players' Production Committee to help select next season's shows. Bob has extensive acting roles with Maryland Ensemble Theatre and Heritage Theatre to name a few.

Ken Johnson: You have seen his name in Players' programs in almost all productions over the past thirty years. Ken has acted, designed lighting and sets for scores of shows. His director's credits include *Into the Woods*, *Noises Off*, *Addams Family* and *Matilda* to name a few. Ken has served as president and on the board of directors in the past.

Devin La Femina: Devin has been performing with Community Players for seven years, and in that time has taken to the stage in several supporting and lead roles in shows including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Guys and Dolls*. She was Assistant Director for *A Few Good Men* and made her directorial debut with the highly successful production of *Misery*.

Emily Lawson: Emily is a thespian of many talents. Emily acted in *Kiss Me Kate*. She was on the stage crew for *Guys and Dolls*, ran sound for *Misery* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and has worked on set construction on numerous productions. Audiences will see her on stage in *1776* in June where she also helped with set construction.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. Porgy and Bess
2. Lorraine Hansberry. The title comes from the poem "Harlem" by Langston Hughes.
3. Hair
4. Sun
5. Guenevere
6. Grease
7. Norma Desmond
8. Tennessee Williams
9. A Midsummer Night's Dream
10. Steve Martin

Answers:

COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY 2026 BALLOT

NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT:

Lynne Bratten

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)

Bob Herbertson

Ken Johnson

Devin La Femina

Emily Lawson

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

All adult members (18 and over) whose dues are paid for 2025-26 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 3, 2026

America 250: A Birthday Celebration Cast Lists

Cast 1 (June 26 June 27)

Kel Nagel

Debbie Nagel

Bob Snyder

Judy Hearn

Nick Thomas

Charlie Szentesi-Thomas

Cast 2 (June 28 and July 5)

Lew Kadushin

Ben Hamilton

John Marino

Billy Conry

Carole Willette

Jerry Freeman

Adrienne Kadushin

Community Players of Salisbury
P. O. Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21802

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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 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, June 3 (6:00 PM) and July 1 (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.