

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

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, July 1 (7:00 PM) and August 5 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

President: Kyle Hayes
Vice-President: Lynne Bratten
Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford
Treasurer: Charlie Linton
Immediate Past-President: Darrell Mullins

Board Members

David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027
Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2028
Bob Herbertson, Ken Johnson, Devin La Femina - Term Expires 2029

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.

We're on the Web: www.SBYplayers.org

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COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

July
2026

Back Stage



Hello All,
That is a wrap on our 89th season!

For our main stage shows, we are most recently congratulating director Sharon Benchoff on a successful run of the musical **1776**. For special productions, Matt Bogdan has just concluded **America 250: A Birthday Celebration**. Both historical, insightful, and quite topical shows as we celebrate the 4th of July.

If you haven't heard, we have decided on our main stage shows for our 90th season! They are full of heart and full of laughs. We hope you can be involved with them whether on stage, backstage, or as an audience member! Our November show will be **Come From Away**, February will be **Buddies**, April will be **Birthday Candles**, and June will be **Clue: On Stage**. The fun doesn't stop there as we will have a variety of special fundraising productions throughout the year as well. We hope to see you there!

Something else that you might not have heard is that we have a new website (sbyplayers.org). It is a work in progress, but you will hopefully enjoy a sleeker design that is more user friendly.

I would like to extend kudos to our Immediate Past President, Darrell Mullins, who helped ensure a successful and on track 89th season. I will do my absolute best to follow suit and keep pushing us forward as an organization.

If you have any questions, inquiries, or comments on anything at all regarding the Community Players of Salisbury, please never hesitate to contact us. You can reach me personally at Kyle@sbyplayers.org.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hayes

President

Players' next meetings will be **July 1 (7:00 PM) and August 5 (7:00 PM)**. Join us as we work on our special production and get our new season rolling.

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 are sorry to report that Ernie Matthews passed away on June 16, 2026. Ernie was a great worker and supporter of Community Players for many many years. Ernie gave freely of his time and talents in many capacities as a valued member of Players. He will be sorely missed. Please keep his family and many friends in your prayers.



The Broadway Jukebox
A Music Revue
PART TWO
Friday, August 14 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, August 15 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 PM
Players' Theater
Nutters Cross Road
Salisbury, MD.
Tickets will be \$10 per person and can be purchased at the door.
Join us as an ensemble of Players' singers celebrates the American jukebox musical with a sampling of shows produced from 1976 to today.
For further information or to make reservations, contact director Rusty Mumford, popirusty@comcast.net or 410-546-0099.

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! For further information or to schedule an audition for another date, contact Rusty Mumford, 410-546-0099 or popirusty@comcast.net.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED (AND CONTINUING) OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY

PRESIDENT - KYLE HAYES

VICE PRESIDENT - Lynne Bratten

RECORDING SECRETARY - Melissa Dasher

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Rusty Mumford

TREASURER - Charlie Linton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027
Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2028
Bob Herbertson, Ken Johnson, Devin La Femina - Term Expires 2029



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 WINNERS
OF THE
COMMUNITY PLAYERS SCHOLARSHIPS!**



Isabel Cockey



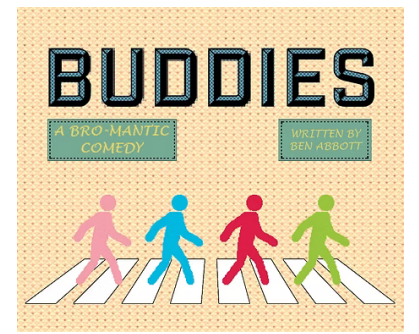
Adithya Bhaskaran



November 2026
directed by Sharon Benchoff



April 2027
directed by Kim Cuesta



February 2027
directed by Todd Ristau



June 2027
directed by Ken Johnson

**CPOS
2026-2027
SEASON**



WATCH PARTY

Community Players' November musical is announced!

You may have heard the title but are not familiar with the uplifting story.

All current members are invited to a watch party of the filmed Broadway version at Community Players Theatre on Friday, July 31st at 7:30 pm.

Bring your own snacks & beverages ● Rated PG

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

April 2027
directed by Kim Cuesta



1. George M. Cohan
2. 1776
3. Bloody Andrew Jackson
4. Irving Berlin
5. Lin-Manuel Miranda
6. Lyndon Johnson
7. Cambridge, MD.
8. Suff's
9. Ragtime
10. West Side Story

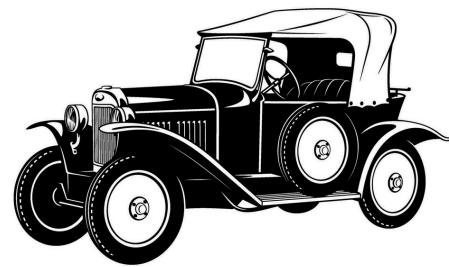
Answers:

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. Our fundraising efforts in June featured a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction at the 1776 performances. The raffle raised \$920; the silent auction raised \$1200. Thanks to all who were involved in these efforts.
2. America 250: A Birthday Celebration was held June 26-28. The Wicomico Historical Society sponsored the event and donated \$1000 toward the cost. Donations were accepted. Results of those donations will be reported in the next newsletter. America 250: A Birthday Celebration will also be held July 5 at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 in Salisbury. Free admission, but seating is limited, so reservations are encouraged. Call 443-235-3272 for reservations.

GRANTS UPDATE

1. The Worcester County Arts Council granted Community Players \$2,500 to help with the cost of the production of *The Great Gatsby*, a stage adaptation of the classic novel that will be held September 18-20 at the Herring Creek Venue at 12308 Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City. The production will also be held September 11-13 at Community Players Theater in Salisbury. Players thank the Worcester County Arts Council for their support.
2. An application has been made for a two-year operating grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC). Players thank the SWAC for their continued support.



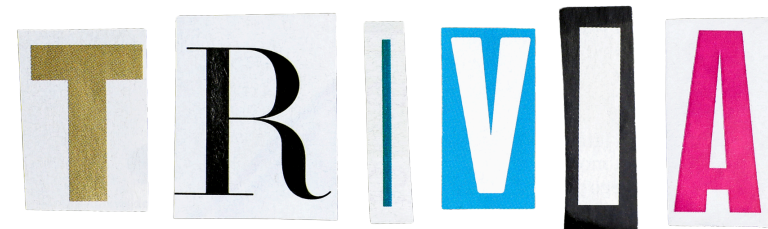
THE GREAT GATSBY A SPECIAL PRODUCTION

Auditions will be held for the special production of *The Great Gatsby*, a stage adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, written and directed by Matt Bogdan.

Auditions will be held on Tuesday, June 30, at 7 p.m. at Community Players' Theater on Nutters Cross Road. Six adult males and five adult females are needed for specific roles. Male and female singers are also needed. Memorization of lines from the script and the songs will be required. If you are interested in singing, bring a song to sing to auditions.

If you are interested in reading the script prior to auditions, contact Matt Bogdan oceancityhappyme@aol.com or 443-235-3272. If you are unable to attend the audition on June 30, please contact Matt to make other arrangements.

The show will be held September 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and September 13 at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. It will also be held September 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and September 20 at 2 p.m. at Herring Creek Venue, 12308 Old Bridge Road, Ocean City, MD, on the grounds of Beach Bum West Ocean City.



THEATRE TEASERS Trivia by Sharon Benchhoff July - America's 250th Birthday

1. This composer wrote "Yankee Doodle Boy" and "Grand Old Flag". There is a statue of him in Times Square.
2. Community Players of Salisbury just closed their production of this Tony winning musical.
3. This campy musical by Alex Timber is an irreverent look at our 7th President.
4. This Russian born composer's songs form a large part of the Great American Songbook.
5. Who wrote the hugely successful and groundbreaking musical *Hamilton*?
6. *All The Way* is a play about this President's efforts to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
7. *Annie Get Your Gun* American folk heroine lived in this Eastern Shore town in the 1900's.
8. This musical tells the struggle of the movement to make the 19th amendment a reality.
9. Through fictional portraits and real events from the turn of the 20th century, this musical explores racial tension, labor rights, and the struggle of immigrants.
10. This musical by two American greats, Bernstein and Sondheim, set Romeo and Juliet in New York City.

Answers found on page 6

