

# Back Stage

August 2020



## The view from Row G

By Sharon Benchoff, President (fresnelop@gmail.com)

First, I want to say “thank you” to everyone who completed our How to Reopen Survey. We had over 100 responses, and in



reading your comments, I can tell that you gave your answers a great deal of thought. Most of you believe it is important for Players to ensure that safety measures are followed and enforced, and I promise you, that will happen.


A large majority liked the idea of social-distancing outdoor theater and “drive-in theater” style of productions. Based on those responses, we are trying to secure permission from County Zoning to perform outside at our Nutters Cross Road property. Our property line goes all the way back to the tree line, providing plenty of room for our audiences to spread out safely. Feel free to ride by and take a look. We are moving forward working with a local church for our “drive-in”.

I was touched that the comments included concern for the safety of our actors and crew, as well as the audience. Players is in agreement that this is not the right moment to bring a cast together for rehearsals and performances. But, I believe that we can safely rehearse for a six-person concert and reader’s theater.

These are alternatives that would bring you live entertainment while keeping everyone safe. Even though these would not be full productions with sets,

costumes, etc., we will still have to pay for the rights to perform the songs and use of the script for readers theater. We will have to charge for these performances. We still have building expenses, insurance, etc., but the ticket prices will be lower than our regular ticket fees.

Many of you said you would be interested in attending Trivia nights. We have put the finishing touches on our first Trivia Night. To keep the social distancing, we can only have eight teams, with a maximum number of six per team.



**MEETING**

**Next meeting is August 5**

Our August 5 meeting will be at Nutters at 7 PM, face-to-face. We will observe social distancing, and masks are required.

If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, please email Darrell at [dgmullins@salisbury.edu](mailto:dgmullins@salisbury.edu).



## Show off your smarts at Community Players' Entertainment Trivia Nights!

Trivia Nights will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month! The first event is Tuesday, August 4, starting at 7 PM!

Admission is \$5 per person, CASH ONLY. There will be eight teams will be allowed each week on a first-come, first-serve basis, with a maximum of six players per team. You can register in advance by sending an email, with the names of team members and the date you would like to participate, to [communityplayersby@gmail.com](mailto:communityplayersby@gmail.com).

Teams should arrive at 6:45 PM to sign in. Bring your own food and drinks! Masks must be worn and each team will have their own socially distanced table.

Wear a “show” t-shirt and get an extra point for your team! Shirts can be Players or other local theater shows, Broadway, film, or television related! One extra point per team.

The winning team on August 4 will receive a \$50 gift card to Market Street Inn, in Salisbury, courtesy of iHeart Media.

Join us for a fun evening of questions and answers! You will be sure to have a great time!!

## Lifetime Membership Award

The Lifetime Membership Committee is seeking nominations for this year's award. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Chairman Pete Cuesta at [pjcuesta@comcast.net](mailto:pjcuesta@comcast.net). The requirements, rights, and nomination procedure are as follows (taken from the CPOS Constitution):

*A Lifetime Membership may be granted by the Board of Directors and all rights of Individual Membership will be given with dues payment waived. To be eligible for Lifetime Membership, a person must be at least 60 years old and have been a member for at least 20 years. A letter of recommendation from a member must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the August meeting. A nomination must be made by a Board of Directors member based on that letter of recommendation. Voting will take place based upon these nominations. No more than two Lifetime Memberships shall be awarded in any year.*



## Update on our newsletter

Rusty Mumford, Corresponding Secretary

Articles, photos, etc. for publication in *Back Stage* should be emailed to [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

This month marks the beginning of the *Meet the Board* feature in our newsletter. Each month, two board members will be featured.

I would like to add a *Player Spotlight* to our regular items. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself), please email me. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!



## Consider a tax-free donation to Community Players from your IRA

Congress has created a rule that allows traditional IRA owners, who are at least 70 ½ years old, to exempt their required minimum distributions from taxation. The amount that can be taken as a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) is capped at \$100,000 per year.

One of the biggest advantages is the ability for taxpayers to lower their adjusted gross income.

Another key advantage is that the donor does not have to itemize deductions in order to qualify for this deduction, since the exclusion applies to adjusted gross income and not taxable income.

The key rule to remember is that the distributions must be made directly to the charity. The owner can receive this check and deliver it to the charity, but he or she cannot deposit the check and then make out another one to the charity. Community Players of Salisbury is a qualified 501(c)3 organization.

IRA owners who wish to lower their adjusted gross income can use this qualified charitable distribution strategy to efficiently disperse money to a charity of their choice.

Please consider making a donation to Community Players. Community Players of Salisbury is a qualified 501(c)3 organization.

For more information contact Tom at 410-422-0635.

**We're on the Web:  
[www.SBYplayers.com](http://www.SBYplayers.com)**



**President  
Sharon Benchhoff**

Sharon began her love of theater at an early age in her home town of Waynesboro, PA. She attended rehearsals with her mom, who acted in local productions as part of Trinity Players.

Sharon began her directing career in the fourth grade with a class production of *The Princess and the Pea*. She assumes she was assigned the job of directing because she was bossy even at ten years old.

Sharon majored in Speech and Theater at Salisbury State College (yes, she is so old it wasn't a university yet) and soon realized she was a much better techie than actor and fell in love with lighting.

Sharon has worked for over thirty-five years with Community Players painting, building, running props, and producing.

She has designed lighting for numerous productions including *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Chicago*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and most recently, *Into the Woods*.

Directing credits include *Wait Until Dark*, *Laughing Stock*, *Tom, Dick & Harry*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Calendar Girls*, and *Les Misérables*.

Over the years, she has served on the board and has held various offices.



**Vice-President  
Melissa Dasher**

Melissa recently served a 3-year term as a member of the Player's Board of Directors and is currently Chairman of the Membership Committee. She also worked for several years with the Production Committee reading all the proposed scripts, on the Marketing Committee, and with two ad hoc committees exploring non-traditional performance ideas during this Covid-19 season.

Since 2013 she has worked behind the scenes building, painting, and moving sets and props, and most recently, as Back Stage Manager for *Matilda*, Producer for *The Dining Room*, Stage Manager for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Props Coordinator for *Death of a Salesman*.

On stage, she portrayed Nurse Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

**Community Players of Salisbury**

**TRIVIA NIGHT**



Tuesday, August 4    7-9 PM  
5109 Nutters Cross Road Salisbury, MD  
Email [communityplayersby@gmail.com](mailto:communityplayersby@gmail.com) to reserve your space!

# Community Players of Salisbury

## 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### Why become a MEMBER of Community Players?

Community Theatre **CANNOT EXIST** without its **members**.

It **NEEDS** producers, directors, builders, painters, craftsmen, set dressers, prop gathers, seamstresses, makeup artist, lighting experts, sound technicians, stage crew, ticket sellers, ushers, patrons, advertisers, actors, dancers, singers & audience members.

Community Theatre **NEEDS YOU**.

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."  
— Oscar Wilde

"I believe that in a great city, or even in a small city or a village, a great theatre is the outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture."  
— Laurence Olivier

### Your membership benefits include:

"There is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique.

And if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and it will be lost."

-Martha Graham

- A monthly newsletter with information about auditions, productions, events, and member happenings
- A free Ticket to all Player's Nights (usually a Thursday show prior to Friday's Opening Night)
- Player's Night Member's reception
- The right to borrow costumes, props, or set pieces without a deposit (pending Committee Chairman approval)
- The ability to serve on a committee
- The right to vote for Officers & Directors (members age 18 and over)
- An opportunity to serve as an elected Officer or Director on Player's Board of Directors (members age 18 and over)
- A great way to meet new people, learn about the many facets of stagecraft & have lots of fun – All while working together for a common goal

\*\*\*\*\* Memberships forms and dues received during our Membership Drive, August 1 – September 30, will be entered into various raffle drawings. \*\*\*\*\*

"Great theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to." – Willem Dafoe



# Community Players of Salisbury

## Membership Application



(Valid September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021)

Check one

**\$50.00 Family**

One household - up to 2 adults and all children who are under the age of eighteen (18), twenty-two (22) if a fulltime student or on active duty in the military

**\$25.00 Individual**

An individual who is eighteen (18) years old or older

**\$ 10.00 Student**

An individual who is under the age of twenty-two (22) and is a fulltime student

First Name:		Last Name:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
<b>Family Membership ONLY</b> Adult #2 First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
Children: First Name(s):	Last Name(s):		Age(s)

**Interests (Circle all that apply)**

Advertising	Box Office	Costumes	Design	Directing	Hair
Lighting	Maintenance	Make-up	Marketing	Membership	Painting
Performance	Props	Set Building	Stage Crew	Sound	Ushering

Remit Form and Payment to:

**Community Players**  
**PO Box 2431**  
**Salisbury, MD 21802**

Players use only:

finance		
mailing		
e-mail		
membership		



## Community Players merchandise available

By Rusty Mumford

The following Community Players' merchandise is available for purchase. The car magnets are \$5. Mugs are \$10 and are printed on both sides and hold 11 ounces. The canvas totes are \$20 and are perfect for carrying materials to rehearsals, books to the library, stuff to the beach, etc.

These items make perfect gifts for Players' members, patrons, and community members who support us.

If you want to purchase one or more of these items, contact me at 410-430-0423 or [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) to make arrangements. As a bonus, Players' members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased.

## It's time to consider being a member

Show how much you care about the organization and our continued commitment to bringing quality productions to the Shore. Won't you become a member today?

## What is happening next?

By Sharon Benchoff

Players is exploring all possible ways to bring productions to our audiences. In addition to creative ways to produce our regular season, we are also looking into alternate types of shows.

One recent suggestion was concert offerings. In the event that we can do a concert or a concert series, we would like to have your input.

If you have a favorite song or musical which you would like to have included, please email your ideas to me at [fresnelop@gmail.com](mailto:fresnelop@gmail.com).

## Shows for the 2020-21 season

Shelbie Thompson,  
Production Committee Chairperson

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, we hope to perform all shows as scheduled. However, we will continue to monitor the current world conditions and re-evaluate as needed to ensure the safety of all involved.

November 2020

*Cabaret*

February 2021

*Leading Ladies*

April 2021

*A Streetcar Named Desire*

June 2021

*Jesus Christ Superstar*

As always, we thank you for supporting Community Players. We look forward to getting back on stage soon!



## Cleaning and organizing the Wig and Make-Up Room has begun.

By Rusty Mumford

We hope to finish this phase soon, so that an inventory can be started. If you would like to help with the organization of the room or the inventory, please contact me at [popirusty@comcast.net](mailto:popirusty@comcast.net) or 410-430-0423. We hope to have both a paper and an online inventory of the room completed in the near future. Thanks again to Ken Johnson and crew for creating the wig stands on the shelves!



## Grants Committee will meet

Chairman Rusty Mumford has scheduled a Grants Committee meeting for Wednesday, August 12, at 7 PM in our Nutters' building.

Anyone who is interested in writing grants, researching grant sources, or offering ideas for grant-funded projects is welcomed to attend. The length of the meeting will be held to one hour. Masks and social distancing required.



## Together, we can stop the spread

Help our community stay safe and decrease the spread of COVID-19 by making these behaviors part of your routine.

### Physical (Social) Distancing

- Practice social distancing from others.
- Follow directional and spacing guidelines and instructions.

### Keeping Things Clean

- Wash your hands frequently, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your inner elbow.
- Dispose of used tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### Wear a Face Covering/Mask

- A face covering should be worn at all times, including outdoor spaces, to further reduce the risk of transmission as people travel from place to place.

### Feel Sick? Stay Home!

- Do a CDC COVID-19 symptom self-check every day before leaving your home.
- Stay home and contact your health-care provider if you are sick or experiencing any symptoms.

## Cartoons capture what life feels like in New York City right now

By Shaye Weaver

If you're like me and quarantine is your life, check out cartoonist Arielle Royston's drawings at [www.timeout.com/newyork/news/these-cartoons-perfectly-capture-what-life-feels-like-in-new-york-right-now-032620](http://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/these-cartoons-perfectly-capture-what-life-feels-like-in-new-york-right-now-032620). The 29-year-old is using her at-home downtime to churn out a new cartoon every day, depicting this new world we live in, from the ways we spend our time at home to clever perspectives on what's going on in the news.



**Doctors in NYC are running out of protective gear and Broadway is shut down, are you thinking what I'm thinking**

"I love to run and often come back with a ton of ideas," she tells us. "The constant flood of scary news headlines, mixed with memories of my former fast-paced, busy life, inspires me to make content people can relate to. Plus, I live in NYC, and it's hard not to be inspired by the energy of the city and crazy things we see here."

She tackles some heavier subjects with humor, hoping to give people a reprieve from the news.

"Laughter, even for a few seconds, can help us feel good during a terrifying and uncertain time," she says. "Plus, right now, we're all bored and glued to our phones, so content production needs to be at an all-time high!"

But how is she being so productive, creating a cartoon a day, when fear can shut down motivation?

"Like many people, Covid-19 has me reaching record levels of anxiety, and I always get extra creative when I'm anxious," she says. "I've learned that a global pandemic makes my personal problems seem like a picnic. Also, I have a ton of energy, and I need an outlet while I'm cooped up inside. I can't concentrate on shows or books right now, but for whatever reason, I'm easily able to get into the 'drawing zone'. Plus, I've always had the goal of being a cartoonist, so I figured why not get serious about it now with all this extra time."

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

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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 2019-20, your dues are not up-to-date.

**Next Monthly Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 PM**  
**at 5109 Nutters Cross Road**



**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021**

President: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@gmail.com  
Vice-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net  
Recording Secretary: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com  
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net  
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com  
Immediate Past President: Darrell Mullins - dmullins@salisbury.edu

**Board Members**

Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta, Matt Hatfield - Term Expires 2021  
Sammy Barnes, Nate Drehmer, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022  
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023

**We're on the Web: [www.SBYplayers.com](http://www.SBYplayers.com)**