

Back Stage

March 2021

COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury



The View from Row G *By Sharon Benchoff, President* *(fresnelop@gmail.com)*

First, thank you to our cast, crew and production team who were willing to go where Players had never gone before to bring **Almost Maine**, our first recorded and streamed production, to our faithful audience. And, thanks to our faithful audience for watching. We have learned some do's and don'ts for our next production, which fingers crossed, will be **A Streetcar Named Desire**. More on that later.

Unfortunately, our stages at the Board of Education and Wor-Wic are not available, so we have had to cancel **Leading Ladies** and **Jesus Christ Superstar** for this season. But we are not throwing in the towel. If you remember way back to this time last year, we had to cancel productions due to COVID-19, but brought you **Weekends on the Lawn** outdoor performances in the fall. The feedback was positive and so we plan on performing again outdoors on our property. Right now, the Production Committee, chaired by Melissa Dasher, our VP, is busy working on putting together the recommendations for our next slate of shows. Normally (what's that?) that would be four shows. Not only is the Production Committee coming up with that slate of four shows for our regular season, but a slate of plays/concerts that can be performed outdoors. In addition, they are coming up with a slate that can be performed at indoor venues and productions that can be streamed. We always appreciate your feedback and ideas, so please feel free to let me know your thoughts. My email is fresnelop@gmail.com



I would like to continue working on the Make-up/Wig Room inventory. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact me. I'm also giving one last call for Grants Committee members. If interested, let me know and we'll set up a meeting.

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!

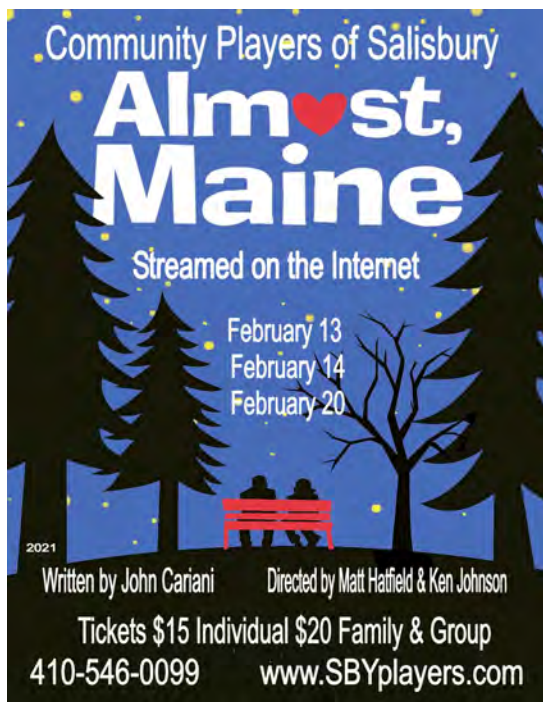
Rusty Mumford
Corresponding Secretary



Next meeting is March 3, 2021

Players' next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 3 at 7:00 PM**. This meeting will be an **IN PERSON** meeting! Please bring a mask and we will be socially distanced

If you would like to ZOOM in, please email Darrell Mullins at dgmullins@salisbury.edu. Invitations will be emailed the day before the meeting.

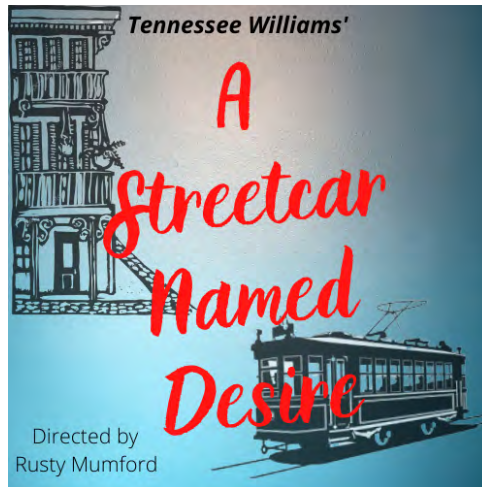


Congratulations to the directors, cast, and crew of our first streaming production, Almost Maine!! This production was a major step forward for Players during a time of great uncertainty created by the COVID crisis. Much time, hard work, creativity, and talent went into getting Players "on the boards" again, in a new virtual format.

Almost Maine proved that Players can and will survive COVID and be stronger because we did. Thanks to everyone involved in this groundbreaking production!



As Community Players continues to embrace new and different ways to express ourselves in the performing arts, we are always looking for talented individuals to join in the fun that is theatre. Our directors want to incorporate projections and video into their productions. We have now begun streaming as a way to reach audiences. Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians and production team members from varied backgrounds, race, gender identity, ethnicity and sexual orientation. . If you would like to volunteer to work with us, we would love to have you. Send us an email at communityplayers@cposmd.com or call us at 410-546-0099.



A Streetcar Named Desire Auditions Set

Director Rusty Mumford is pleased to announce that Players has secured the streaming rights to **A Streetcar Named Desire**. The production is tentatively scheduled to stream on June 4, 5, and 12, 2021.

Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, March 7 (2 PM), Monday, March 8, and Tuesday, March 9, (both at 6:30 PM). For those planning to audition, the following COVID guidelines will be enforced:

- ☐ Masks required unless actively auditioning
- ☐ Social distanced seating
- ☐ Temperature will be taken and release form signed upon entry (each date)—temperatures above 100° will not be allowed to stay
- ☐ Closed auditions—only those auditioning and production staff can be present during auditions
- ☐ Positive test or contact with COVID positive within 14 days—contact the director for alternative plans

Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds, race, gender identity, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

For further information, contact Rusty at popirusty@comcast.net or 410-546-0099.

Ranked as one of the greatest in American theater, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* reveals to the very depths the character of Blanche DuBois, a woman whose life has been undermined by her romantic illusions, which lead her to reject—so far as possible—the realities of life with which she is faced and which she consistently ignores. The pressure brought to bear upon her by her sister, with whom she goes to live in New Orleans, intensified by the earthy and extremely “normal” young husband of the latter, leads to a revelation of her tragic self-delusion and, in the end, to madness.

Rated PG-13 due to mature themes

A Streetcar Named Desire

Character Descriptions

Character Breakdown (All roles are open) Ages represent the age of the characters. The age and physical attributes listed for each character are a guide and are not necessarily final casting requirements. All those cast must be at least 18 years old due to the mature themes addressed in the show.

BLANCHE DuBOIS (f 30-35) A sensitive, delicate, moth-like member of the fading Southern aristocracy, about thirty years old, she has just lost her teaching position in Laurel, Mississippi, because of her promiscuity. She, therefore, left Mississippi and as the play opens arrives at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Stella and Stanley Kowalski. Slender, dark, and with features and a demeanor that connote an emotionally fragile person. NOT looking for an imitation of Vivien Leigh. Raised with money but now destitute, her grip on reality is far too loose, carries eternal guilt, has a way with words and possesses an alarming internal dialogue. She is a complex and contradictory character, an alcoholic, whose helplessness, fragility and vulnerabilities foreshadow her tragic end. When Blanche arrives at the Kowalskis she's tired but she hasn't given up, not just yet, but you can "smell the desperation." Her beauty from times past has to shine through in the beginning and slowly, as the play progresses, we see the "light of life" fade. (LEAD)

STELLA KOWALSKI (f 25-30) Blanche's younger sister, about twenty-five years old, she is married to Stanley and lives in the French Quarter of New Orleans. As the play opens we learn that she is pregnant with their first child. She is happy in her marriage and her home; however, much to the consternation of Blanche, she has forgotten her genteel upbringing in order to enjoy a more common existence. Fair, vivacious, sensual. Stella fell for Stanley because she liked the "passion" in their relationship - it made her feel "alive." That's actually something she and Blanche have in common when it comes to men, but it's not something they'd ever admit to each other. Stella is happy to see Blanche but also views her visit as an invasion. Blanche represents "the past" from which Stella has moved on and to which she has no interest in returning. Married to Stanley, Stella has discovered an overpowering physical passion which Blanche cannot understand. Stella surrenders totally to Stanley, accepting his world and its value; torn between Blanche and Stanley, she ultimately sides with her husband. (LEAD)

STANLEY KOWALSKI (m 30-35) A rather common working man, about thirty to thirty-five years old, his main drive in life is sexual. He is a former master sergeant in the engineer corps and faces everything and everybody in his life with a brutal realism. Must be muscular, well-built, and around 6ft tall. NOT looking for an imitation Marlon Brando. Stanley is shrewd and manipulative, always "working an angle." He isn't as "sure" of himself as he projects. Blanche represents a "reminder" of what Stella gave up to be with him, and thus a threat to his life as he knows it. He is lean, vibrant, radiates energy; has dirt under his nails. Unshakeable world view and sees his commonness as above Blanche's pretensions. He hits his wife, rapes her sister, and shows no remorse. (LEAD)

HAROLD "MITCH" MITCHELL (m 30-35) Stanley's friend who went through the war with him, he is unmarried and has a dying mother for whom he feels a great devotion. He is one of a group of men who gather regularly at the Kowalski home for poker. He, however, is a bit gentler than the others. Tall, solidly built, shy, clumsy, but gentle and kind; devoted to his ailing mother; Stanley's buddy from the war, work and poker; finds himself drawn toward Blanche. Frustrated at still being single, Mitch wants someone who's "genteel and a lady," so he can "marry up." He thinks he's found that in Blanche. He sweats through his awkwardness but is sensitive and a gentleman - until he learns the truth about Blanche's sordid past. Yet, at the end, he and Stella are the only ones who lament Blanche's fate. (SUPPORTING)

EUNICE HUBBELL (f 25-35) A bit crass and rough around the edges. She's a good friend to Stella and finds Blanche's "I'm better than you" airs annoying and insulting. She is Stella's friend, upstairs neighbor, and landlady. We see the low-class life of the French Quarter through her and her husband, Steve. (SUPPORTING)

STEVE HUBBELL (m 25-40) Same demeanor as his wife - on the crass side and very earthy. Loves his wife in a possessive, grabby kind of way but is still fascinated by the "lady" who comes into their midst. Given the opportunity, he'd grab Blanche in an instant for a little "footsy." As one of the poker players, Steve has the final line of the play. It comes as Blanche is carted off to the asylum and Steve coldly deals another hand. (FEATURED)

YOUNG COLLECTOR ("looks" 15-17 but will cast someone who is at least 18 years old, because of the interaction w/ Blanche). A teenager who comes to the Kowalski's door to collect for the newspaper when Blanche is home alone. The boy leaves bewildered after Blanche hits on him and gives him a passionate farewell kiss. (FEATURED)

PABLO GONZALES (m 25-40) Pablo Gonzales is one of the poker players, who punctuates games with Spanish phrases. Ability to speak Spanish is not required but is a plus as is a Spanish accent. (FEATURED)

NEGRO WOMAN (f 30-50) Has a "seen it all" air and look about her. (ENSEMBLE)

DOCTOR (m 40-60) Arrives at the end to bring Blanche on her "vacation." After the Nurse has pinned her, the Doctor succeeds in calming Blanche. She latches onto him, depending, now and always, "on the kindness of strangers." (ENSEMBLE)

NURSE (f 30-45) A brutal and impersonal character; quite severe, when no straight jacket is available, she is. Must be able to wrestle Blanche to the ground. (ENSEMBLE)

MEXICAN WOMAN (f 40-65) The Mexican Woman sells flowers for the dead during the powerful scene when Blanche recounts her fall from grace. A Spanish accent is a plus. (ENSEMBLE)

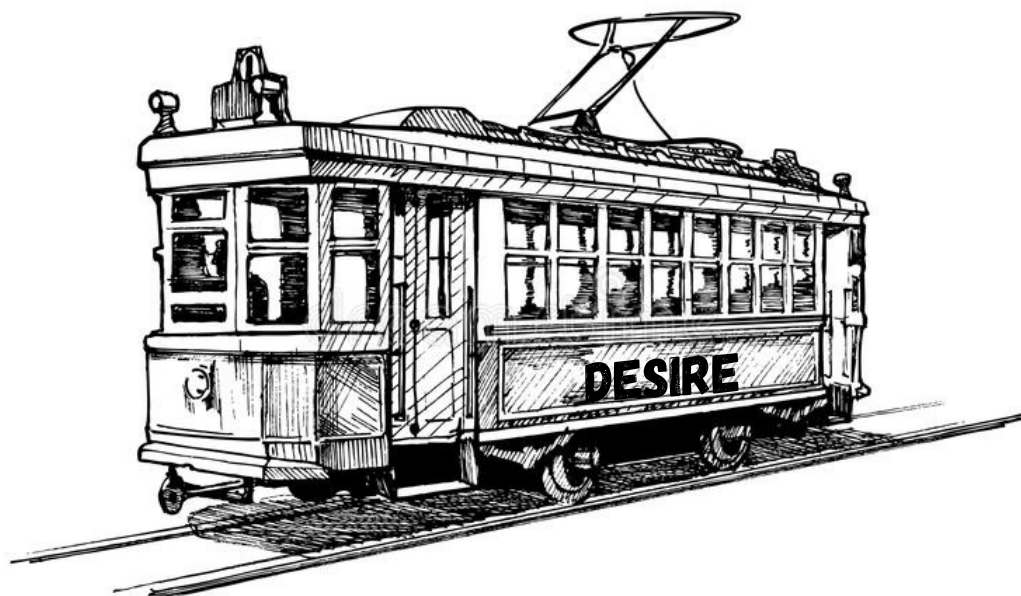
The ethnicity of some of the characters may be adapted to the pool of actors/actresses that audition for the show. In some instances, some actors/actresses may play more than one character.

A Streetcar Named Desire Set Work Dates

Director Rusty Mumford and Set Construction Coordinator Lester Huss will be working on the set for A Streetcar Named Desire on the following dates and times:

Feb 27th 9 AM – 12 Noon
March 2nd 7 PM – 9 PM
March 11th 7 PM – 9 PM
March 13th 9 AM – 12 Noon
March 15th 7 PM – 9 PM
March 20th 9 AM – 12 Noon
March 23rd 7 PM – 9 PM

All are welcomed to stop by Players' and lend a hand any of the dates/times listed. Stay all the time or just part. Jobs will be available for all skills sets.



"I suppose I have found it easier to identify with the characters who verge upon hysteria, who were frightened of life, who were desperate to reach out to another person. But these seemingly fragile people are the strong people really."
— Tennessee Williams

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

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*Please consider
becoming a member
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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
2020-21, your dues
are not up-to-date.*

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00PM.
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