

COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury

Back Stage

July 2022



From the desk of the President...



We are completing our 85th season and preparing for the next, but first a little reflection on the last three years, the Covid years. We have had cancelled shows, postponed shows, and done some out of the box things like streaming shows and performing outdoors. This season we managed to do all four scheduled shows, but not without some schedule changes, cast changes, social distancing and mask requirements, etc. Nevertheless, we can all be proud of what we did. So, congratulations and thanks to all the directors, production teams and cast members who got us on stage. Particularly, I want to thank our loyal audience members, patrons, and advertisers, who supported us even when we could not perform. You kept us afloat financially and supported us emotionally.

This summer, we have two special programs planned. The first is a series of Winnie the Pooh readings directed by Matt Bogdan. The second is a musical revue to celebrate our 85th anniversary directed by Rusty Mumford. Following the summer offerings, our 86th season includes Little Women (the musical) directed by Darrell Mullins, Leading Ladies directed by Matt Bogdan, Crimes of the Heart directed by Robin Finley, and Singin' in the Rain directed by Rusty Mumford.

Hopefully, we can have a regular season without Covid problems. We will do our best, no matter what. I hope everyone keeps up with vaccinations and public health requirements as needed.

See you at the shows
Kel Nagel



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



Players' Musical Memories

***A Celebration of Players' 85th Season
and
our Musicals from 1964 to today***



The concert will be held at

Revival

(on the 3rd floor of the City Center, Downtown Salisbury)

on

Friday, August 5 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, August 6 at 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

All current Players' members and anyone who attends the concert and joins Players/renews their membership will receive a special commemorative gift.

For more information, call 410-546-0099



Players' Musical Memories Ticket Links

Aug 5 7:30pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/players-musical-memories-tickets-353890665507>

Aug 6 2pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/players-musical-memories-matinee-tickets-353901046557>

Community Players of Salisbury presents
Winnie the Pooh

Based on A.A. Milne's Classic Children's Story



Featuring Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, and Christopher Robin

Thursday, July 14 - Moose Lodge in Salisbury - 7 PM

Friday, July 15 - St. Francis de Sales Church Hall - 7 PM

Saturday, July 16 - Globe Gastro Theater in Berlin - 7 PM

Thursday, July 21 - Asbury UM Church - 7 PM

Friday, July 22 - Christ UM Church - 7 PM

Saturday, July 23 - Wildflower Estate in Mardela - 2 PM

Adults - \$10 Kids - \$5 (cash or check only)

Half of the proceeds will go to St. Jude's Children Hospital

For Reservations call 443-235-3272

(Reservations are strongly encouraged)

Directed and Produced by Matt Bogdan

Sponsored by Eastern Shore Podiatry & Clearway Pain Solutions



Superstar Wrap

Full disclosure, I am biased. As the director, I have only superlatives to describe our production of Jesus Christ Superstar. This is the place where I can thank and state my extreme appreciation to everyone who was involved in making the production everything I had imagined. I hope all of you reading this article were able to attend a performance (some came to all three) or were part of the cast, crew, production team or orchestra - I am so grateful to all of you. The Oxford definition of community is "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals". I guess that's why the Oxford Dictionary has been around since the 1800s; I couldn't have said it better. JCS really was a community with true diversity working to the common goal of presenting the best, most professional production possible. We welcomed nine new cast members and several backstage and orchestra newbies. My desire is that they will become lifelong members of **Community** Players.

Sharon Benchoff



CAN WE BUILD IT? WILL THEY COME?

In 2007, I directed Harvey, featuring Rusty Mumford as Ellwood, Barbara Stevens as Veta, and Harvey playing himself. Rusty is still with us, acting, directing, and even editing this newsletter. Harvey continues to travel the world playing himself. Barbara, I haven't seen since. I hope she is well, but it is she that I wish to start this article with.

In 2007 she had recently moved to Ocean Pines from northern New Jersey, where she had acted in several community theaters for over thirty years. She was impressed by our group and overwhelmed by the fabulous set designed by Ernie Matthews. Her comment which struck me the most was that of all the theaters she had worked with, we were the only one who did not have our own performance space.

In 2014 we acquired, remodeled, and moved into, our great facility on Nutters Cross Road. Most of us figured we would be doing shows there by now. For various reasons, it hasn't happened yet. In recent months, several members and board members have again brought up the issue of building a theater. We could do it within the confines of our current building, expand the building, or construct a separate building on our property. We could even consider acquiring another property.

Any of these options would be expensive. They would also necessitate big changes in the way we govern ourselves, do business, and account for our finances. They would also demand an increase in the number of people we have actively involved in our group. We need to reach out to our entire community, not just the limited group who are currently most active.

At the July board meeting, I will ask the board to approve a task force to examine the feasibility of building a theater. This would be an initial study group. We aren't ready for a formal feasibility study at this time. But we will need supporters who are willing to volunteer a little time, a little expertise, or even just a bit of creative thinking. I will be looking for volunteers both inside our group and in the community.

I am at the time of life when people have bucket lists. Last month, I made my first visit to Wrigley Field. I would like a theater for Players to be one of the next ones I check off, and hope you do, too. I will be accepting emails or phone calls or texts or any other way you want to contact me and let me know how you want to help, or even if you think I am being unrealistic. Need to know that, also.

Kel Nagel, President
410-726-0670
kelnagel@yahoo.com



MEETING

Players' next meeting will be Wednesday, August 3 at 7:00 PM. Please join us as we prepare to get our 86th season underway.

SPECIAL PRODUCTIONS COMMITTEE

The **Special Productions' Committee** is looking for new members. Here is a great opportunity to share your ideas with this group who is committed to bringing unique shows outside the regular season. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or at oceancityhappyme@aol.com



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. 1776
2. Amazing Grace
3. Hamilton
4. Oklahoma!
5. Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter and Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson
6. All The Way (All the Way with LBJ)
7. Annie Oakley
8. Ragtime
9. The Crucible
10. Newsies



Answers:

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
(July Theatre Trivia--Happy Birthday America)

1. Using direct quotes from speeches and letters, this musical centering on our Declaration of Independence won Best Musical in 1969.

2 This musical focused on the life of John Newton, who wrote the ostensible American hymn. Newton was a slave trader who reformed to become an abolitionist.

3 Perhaps the first show that comes to mind when you think of musicals based on American history. This musical takes us through the personal journey from immigrant to becoming an aide to General George Washington to becoming a Founding Father.

4 Opening in 1943, this musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein is one of the most famous. It has been revived five times on Broadway. While not based on historic events, it centers on a territory that is about to become a state.

5 Benjamin Walker (In the Heart of the Sea, Jessica Jones, Underground Railroad) has played two American presidents; one a vampire hunter, the other on the \$20 bill. Name the film and the Broadway musical.

6 Bryan Cranston made his Broadway debut (and won his first Tony Award) starring in this story about President Lyndon Baines Johnson. Taking its name from Johnson's campaign slogan. It was later adapted into a movie for HBO.

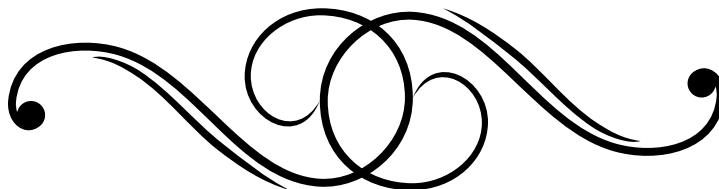
7 Annie Get Your Gun musicalizes the life story of this real-life sharpshooter with Buffalo Bill's Wild West traveling show. Fun fact, she lived in Cambridge, MD for a period of time after she retired.

8 Set in the early 20th century, this musical tells the story of three groups in the United States: African Americans, represented by Coalhouse Walker Jr., upper-class suburbanites, represented by Mother and Tateh a Jewish immigrant.

9 This play by American playwright Arthur Miller is a dramatized and partially fictionalized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts in 1692.

10 Did you ever hear about the Newsboys strike of 1899 in New York City? Then you should know the name of this musical.

Answers found on page 6



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*Please consider
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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
2021-22, your dues
are not up-to-date.*

Next Monthly Membership Meeting - Wednesday, August 3 at 7:00 PM

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

President: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Tom Robinson - tomchicken@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Darrell Mullins - dgmullins@salisbury.edu
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net

Board Members

David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023
Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024
Sharon Benchoff, April Curry, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025

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.