

# COMMUNITY PLAYERS

of Salisbury



# Back Stage

February 2023

## From the desk of the President...



In mid-January on Sunday afternoon at our headquarters, I was impressed with the number of activities going on. Matt Bogdan and Bonnie were going over costumes for **Leading Ladies**. Robin Finley was organizing her first production meeting for **Crimes of the Heart**. Rusty, in addition to getting wigs ready and supervising ticket sales for **Leading Ladies**, was considering various methods for making it rain on stage for **Singin' in the Rain**.

We held a meeting of our ad hoc committee for using our building as a performance space. We are awaiting final approval of the zoning board. Tom Robinson has submitted plans for re-grading our grounds, paving a parking lot, and we hope to get that done when the weather permits. We also discussed how we want the interior to look, where the stage, dressing rooms, etc. would be. Keep an eye on the newsletter and website for information.

This newsletter should arrive in your mailbox just before opening night for **Leading Ladies**. Having read the script and attended some rehearsals, I can assure you that this show is hilarious. Matt and his cast will have you laughing out loud. I hope to see you there

See you at **Leading Ladies**.

*Kel Nagel*



## AUDITIONS!

Sunday--February 12th at 2:00

Monday & Tuesday--February 13th and 14th at  
7:00

Auditions will be held at Players – 5109 Nutters  
Cross Road, Salisbury

Do you love comedies and dramas? Well, this Pulitzer Prize winning play written by Beth Henley has both.

The play takes place in 1974 Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Three sisters gather as their grandfather is living out his final hours. The play, is about attempted murder, suicide, attempted suicide, failure, interracial sex, blackmail, vengeance, self-deception, death by stroke, death by lighting, and caticide. What more could you ask for? The play is at once touching, truthful and consistently hilarious. Mature themes. Rating PG13.

**LENORA (LENNY) MAGRATH:** Lenny is in her late 20's. She is the oldest Magrath sister. She is a thoughtful and responsible, yet frustrated and lonely lady. She takes care of her old, sick grandfather. She sleeps on a cot in a kitchen to be close to him. The relationship of Lenny is not stable with her sisters.

**MARGARET (MEG) MAGRATH:** Meg is the middle sister. She is in her mid-twenties. As a child, Meg has a traumatic experience. This experience changes Meg's personality. She wanted to test her strength by looking for a singing career on the West Coast. Now she is back after that failure.

**REBECCA (BABE) BOTRELLE:** Babe is the youngest sister in her early 20's. We quickly learn that innocent Babe has shot her husband in the stomach. She says because she doesn't like him. Under stress, she considers suicide.

**CHICK BOYLE:** Chick is the Magrath sisters' older cousin. She has yellow hair and shiny red lips. Chick is very concerned about her reputation in the community. When the news of Babe shooting her husband comes, she worries that how will she keep her head up in the community.

**BARNETTE LLOYD:** Barnette is a lawyer who Babe hires to fight her case. He is 25-30. He is a graduate of the Ole Miss Law school. He takes Babe's case as a chance to take personal revenge on Babe's husband for ruining his father. He is a clever man and possesses a strong attraction to Babe.

**DOC PORTER:** He is Meg's old boyfriend. He is in his 30's. He is still called "Doc" even when his medical career died after he was seriously injured in hurricane Camille. His love for Meg makes him stay when other people leave. For this reason, many people believe that Meg persuaded Doc to stay with her there.

Those auditioning will be reading pages from the script which will be handed out at auditions. Performance dates are April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29. If you have any questions, please contact director, Robin Finley at [robinfinley@comcast.net](mailto:robinfinley@comcast.net)

## **Fundraising Committee**

Matt Bogdan is chairing a Fundraising Committee which met following the January meeting. Here is a list of the ideas which were suggested. If you would like to serve on this committee or have other suggestions, please contact Matt.

Be consistent, throughout the year, and scheduled on calendar.

Have a fund raiser of some type at each show, such as a 50/50 raffle.

Ask for donations in various ways.

Have sponsors for each show.

Publicize the fact that we are raising funds for the building.

Reach out to the "high rollers".

Hire a grant writer.

Ask for federal Covid money from the county council.

Perform special productions, such as Poe, Twain, Pooh, and other public domain shows.

Perform murder mysteries.

Have a yard sale.

Have a kick starter.

Have a rock concert, such as all-female bands.

Have a revival show.

Have acting workshops.

Have a paint and sip class, with artists volunteering their time.

Have advertisers or sponsors shown on a screen at shows.

Have a bake sale.

Have acting workshops.

Raffle off local art works donated by local artists.

Have a cabaret.

"Sell" name on wall or on back of chairs.

## **FUNDRAISING cont.**

Have a Sloppy Joe or spaghetti dinner (a fund raising party).

Have a special "giving" day.

Rent out the space.

Have a silent auction.

Have a talent show, such as Delmarva's Got Talent.

Have a Reader's Theater.

Have corporate sponsors the building itself or rooms in the building.

Sell ad space in the monthly newsletter.



**Leading Ladies** is getting closer and closer to public performances. Publicity is in full swing with billboards, yard signs, ads in local papers and on Facebook, posters, an article on the show in the Salisbury Independent, radio PSAs, and a segment on Delmarva Life. Matt Bogdan, director of the show, thanks all of the actors and crew who will bring this production to the stage.

Set in York, Pennsylvania in 1958, this farce centers on two down-on-their-luck Shakespearean actors, Leo Clark and Jack Gable. The pair discover through a newspaper that Florence, an older ailing woman, has been unable to find Max and Steve, her sister's children who moved away to England as children in order to include them in her multimillion-dollar inheritance. They decide to pose as Max and Steve to claim portions of it. When they discover that "Max" and "Steve" are actually "Maxine" and "Stephanie," they continue on, undaunted, in drag.

Show dates for **Leading Ladies** are 2/2 and 2/3 at 7:30 PM and 2/4 at 2:00 PM as well as 2/9 and 2/10 at 7:30 PM and 2/11 at 2:00 PM. All performances will be in Guerrieri Hall on the Wor-Wic Community College campus. Tickets are available at [www.sbyplayers.org](http://www.sbyplayers.org).

# THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff  
The Stage Celebrates Black History Month

1. He won the Pulitzer Prize twice: for **Fences** and **The Piano Lesson**.
2. Her Broadway credits include **Jelly's Last Jam**, **Into the Woods**, **Dreamgirls** and **The Wiz** but you may know her best for her role on The Cosby Show.
3. This 1982 play was adapted to a 2020 film featuring the late, talented actor Chadwick Boseman.
4. He first gained recognition for his role in the musical **Hamilton**, which earned him a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical.
5. In 2008, Debbie Allen directed this production of Tennessee Williams' drama featuring the characters of Big Daddy, Maggie and Brick.
6. He was nominated for a Tony for **Raisin in the Sun** in 1960. We remember him from films "To Sir with Love" and "In the Heat of the Night". He also was the first black actor to win an Oscar for what film?
7. This 2022 Tony winning musical tells the story of "Usher" who is writing a musical about an usher writing a musical.
8. He made his Broadway debut in 1997 as an ensemble member in **The Lion King**, ultimately playing Simba. You probably know his name from **In the Heights** and **Hamilton**.
9. One of the "juke box musicals" in recent years, this one tells the story of Michael Jackson.
10. In 2018 John Legend became the first Black male to officially achieve an EGOT with his Emmy for the television version of this Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

Answers found on page 6





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' next meetings will be Wednesday, February 8 and March 8 (7:00 PM). There is a lot going on at Players right now. Join us to see when and where you can help.

## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



1. August Wilson
2. Phyllicia Rashad
3. Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
4. Leslie Odom Jr.
5. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
6. Sidney Poitier, "Lilies of the Field"
7. A Strange Loop
8. Christopher Jackson
9. Mj the Musical
10. Jesus Christ Superstar

Answers:



## Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship

The Community Players of Salisbury, Inc is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in Maryland. In 1937 a group of 26 charter members hoped to bring culture and pure entertainment to the Eastern Shore while providing an outlet for people interested in dramatics. Players was organized under the Recreation Division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in May of 1938.

Each spring Community Players of Salisbury will award grants up to \$500 to two high school seniors from Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County and/or Delmar area public, private or home-schooled programs, depending on suitable applicants and availability of funds.

Students wishing to apply for this scholarship must:

- A. Be a graduating high school senior in a Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County or Delmar public, private or home school program
- B. Have applied for admission to a post-secondary institution
- C. Have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions or be a member of a family that has participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
- D. Have financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA

The award shall be made under the following specific conditions:

1. Each candidate must submit a completed Community Players of Salisbury scholarship application.
2. The scholarship shall be paid directly to the student and shall be used for payment of normal school expenses such as tuition, school fees, room, board or books.
3. Student or their family must have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
4. Final selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by the Board of Directors of the Community Players of Salisbury.
5. Winner will be announced during the student's senior award program or at a Community Players of Salisbury function or meeting.

## Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 School or home school program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's names \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents' Occupation (Please provide information for each parent) \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined on the FAFSA? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What college, university or school of higher education do you plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you been accepted? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is your planned major and minor? \_\_\_\_\_

### Essay Question

**How do you plan to incorporate theater or associated theater arts into your college experience?**  
 Please respond with a minimum 100-word response using complete sentences and paragraph format. Responses in bulleted list format or incomplete sentences will not be considered.

### Participation Form

Complete the attached form in reference to participation in Community Players of Salisbury productions for applicant and/or applicant's family.

### Activity List

Attach a current resume that includes community and school activities and work experiences.

### Reference Letters – 2 total

- A. Attach one current reference letter from an adult, other than your drama teacher/sponsor who can testify to your seriousness of purpose and general moral and civic responsibility (teachers, ministers, local business person, employer, etc.)
- B. Attach one letter of recommendation from your drama teacher or a director.

### Transcript

Attach an official high school transcript including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores

### Due Date – March 12, 2023 (late applications will not be considered)

The completed application and all related materials should be mailed to:

Community Players of Salisbury  
 c/o Lynne Bratten  
 303 South Blvd  
 Salisbury, MD 21801

Or sent via email to [brattencollege@gmail.com](mailto:brattencollege@gmail.com)

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

**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
**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  
2022-23, your dues  
are not up-to-date.*

**Next Meetings - Wednesday, February 8 (7:00 PM) and March 8 (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, Cass Dasher, 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.*