

Back Stage

September 2020



The Show must go on

By Shelbie Thompson,
Production Committee Chairperson

After much deliberation, we've decided to turn our back lawn into a Drive-In Theater!!

One of the most prevalent phrases in entertainment is, "the show must go on". Over the past few months, members of Community Players have brainstormed ways to make that happen, since COVID19 caused us to cancel multiple productions this year.

The Production Committee was tasked with finding performance options that feature a small cast size, minimal technical requirements, and allow for social distancing between actors. As always, safety is our number one priority during this time for our cast, crews, and audience members.

Beginning in September, Players will hold outdoor readers theater performances and concerts at their location, 5109 Nutters Cross Road, in Salisbury. These performances will be a drive-in style, with audiences enjoying the show from the comfort and safety of their vehicle. Each performance will be broadcast via FM Transmitter directly to your car radio!

The following shows are recommended for outdoor readers theater performances at the Community Players facility: *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, *Love Letters*, *Hate Mail*, and a concert to be organized by Rusty Mumford and Darrell Mullins

A schedule with tentative dates, times, and rain dates for each show is attached. Schedule is subject to change or be rearranged based on weather, casting decisions, ability to obtain performance rights, and other unforeseen factors.

Since Covid-19 threw a curve ball in our original season plans, Community Players has put together a collection of outdoor performances to be held at our 5109 Nutters Cross Road location!

These performances will be held in a drive-in style with audiences enjoying the show from the comfort and safety of their vehicle. Each performance will be broadcast via FM Transmitter directly to your car radio!

Weekends on the Lawn schedule is as follows:

Love Letters
by A.R. Gurney
September 11 & 12

Hate Mail
by Bill Corbett
September 18 & 19

A Broadway-Themed Concert
September 25 & 26

Love, Loss, and What I Wore
by Delia Ephron, Ilene Beckerman, Nora Ephron
October 2 & 3

| Show | Performance Dates | Rain Date |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Love Letters | Friday, Sept. 11 - 7 PM Saturday, Sept. 12 - 2 PM | Sunday Sept. 13 2 PM |
| <i>Hate Mail</i> | Friday, Sept. 18 - 7 PM Saturday, Sept. 19 - 2 PM | Sunday Sept. 20 2 PM |
| <i>Concert</i> | Friday, Sept. 25 - 7 PM Saturday, Sept. 26 - 2 PM | Sunday Sept. 27 2 PM |
| <i>Love, Loss, & What I Wore</i> | Friday, Oct. 2 - 7 PM Saturday, Oct. 3 - 2 PM | Sunday Oct. 4 2 PM |

Outdoor Performances Audition Announcement!!

Sunday, August 30, at 6 PM
5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury, 21804

Prepare 2 short monologues,
one comedic and one dramatic

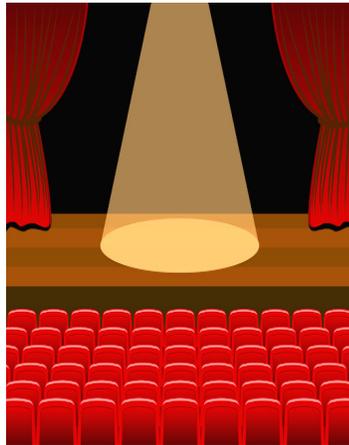
Masks required & social distancing will be practiced



The view from Row G

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

Those of you in my generation remember going to the drive-in theater every weekend during warm weather. Well, the drive-in theater is back! In September and October, Players will have live readers theater and concerts on our property at 5109 Nutters Cross Road. We purchased an FM transmitter, and our audiences will be able to use their car radio to hear every word and note of the performance while they safely watch the entertainment from their vehicle.



We will soon share the details on our website, Facebook, and by email. Now, I must share disappointing news with you. As you know, we perform our musicals at one of the Wicomico County high school auditoriums. Due to the schools being closed through the first semester, we will not be able to present *Cabaret*, in November. Not only because the schools are closed, but in considering the safety of our actors, crew, and audiences, it is the only sensible decision. There were a lot of sad faces at our last meeting, both in person and via Zoom, when that tough decision was made.

We are meeting and discussing different production options for October through December. Players is used to planning at least six months in advance. During these times, we must be flexible and think outside the proscenium. No performing arts groups, professional or community based, are alone in trying to work through this pandemic. Theater people are a very close-knit group, and all of us are finding it difficult not spending time with each other creating. It is what we love to do.

Let's end on a fun note. In my first article, I said I would offer some "Did You Know?" facts. Here are some of the questions from our first Entertain-

ment Trivia Night on August 4. No checking internet! I'll give you the answers next month.

FILM

Who dubbed the singing for Natalie Wood in the film "West Side Story" and for Audrey Hepburn in "My Fair Lady"?

What was the name of the boat in the movie

"Jaws"?

BROADWAY

Who is the Broadway icon who won a Tony, Emmy, and Oscar all in the same year; 1973? This classic musical was based upon the play *Pygmalion*.



Wanted: Old Players show shirts

Did you buy a Show shirt and wear it once or twice? Is it hanging in the closet or folded in a drawer? If you are like many of us, they don't even fit anymore.

Ken Johnson has begun a project to repurpose those shirts into wall hangings. He has used all his and is looking for old Players' show shirts that are not being worn anymore.

If you have any shirts you would like to donate, please contact Ken at kjohnson71063@gmail.com. What a creative idea! We look forward to seeing the result of his work!!

Become a Member of Community Players!!

2020 - 2021 Membership Drive
August 1 - September 30

Receive member's only benefits and
be entered for a chance to win CPOS Merch!



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors Spotlight



Kel Nagel
Recording Secretary

Kel is a lifelong fan of theater, especially musicals. Kel was encouraged to get on stage by his friend and former outstanding Player, Mary Ann Dunn. When he filled out his first audition form, for the 1996 production of *Guys and Dolls*, he answered the acting experience question with “President of Wicomico County Board of Education, 11 years.” Director Chris Harris, not knowing what to do with an outsized rookie, invented the role of Big Jule’s body-guard. Friends and family all told him how happy he looked to be up there. He was delighted when his next director, Rusty Mumford, described him as a “Players Regular”. Since then, he has appeared in over twenty shows. He was encouraged to try directing by his friends Jack Lynch and Cindy Gore. Cindy served as assistant director for his first direction gig, *You Can’t Take It with You*, and played lead roles for Kel in *The Hollow* and *Doubt*.

Kel’s last appearance on stage was our last show, when he played Cheswick in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. He has directed seven shows, the last being *The Drowsy Chaperone*, in 2019. He was scheduled to direct *Kiss Me Kate*, which was cancelled this June due to the pandemic.

Kel’s partner in life and in theater, Debby, has never appeared on stage, but has been set decorator and props and furniture getter for many shows. Thanks, Deb, for the support, forbearance, and love.

A retired pulmonologist, Kel wants to remind everyone that Covid 19 is not likely to magically disappear, and that until we get a vaccine, effective anti-viral treatment, or both, we need to keep up with the social distancing and masks. The better our society is at containing the virus, the sooner we get to do live indoor theater.



Rusty Mumford
Corresponding Secretary

Rusty has been a member of Community Players for over 30 years. During that time, he has held every office in the organization (except treasurer) and has taken part in almost every show, either onstage or backstage. Rusty’s first Players’ show was *Li’l Abner*, in which he played a bearded blond mountain man with two lines. *Are you crazy man?* He has directed numerous productions for Players, the first being *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* and the most recent *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He is scheduled to direct *A Streetcar Named Desire* this season.

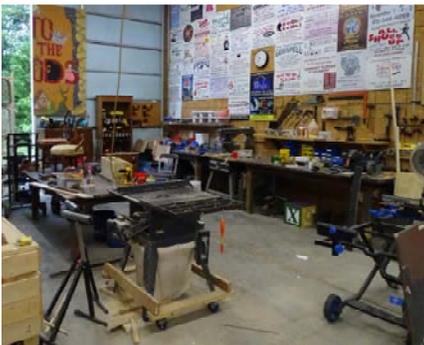
On stage, Rusty has appeared in many productions. Among his favorite roles are *Jekyll & Hyde* (Lord Reginald Kensington), *Rumors* (Ken), *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd), *Social Security* (David Kahn), and *Christmas Carol* (Scrooge/Dickens). He has also had the privilege of playing the same role multiple times ... Schroeder in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* twice, one of Vernon’s alter egos in *They’re Playing Our Song* twice, *Sound of Music* ensemble twice, and *Godspell* ensemble three times.

Rusty’s love for theatre is a family affair. His wife, Becky, has been a Players’ member for almost as long as he, serving on the Board, performing on stage, and taking backstage responsibilities. Both of his sons have been seen on stage and behind the scenes and his oldest granddaughter has two stage appearances to her credit.

Rusty is a retired educator. He taught French, Spanish, and Drama in Somerset County for 30 years. He then worked as an MSP grant administrator for Worcester County Public Schools for eight years. He is currently the president of the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA), which is dedicated to the support and growth of world language education in Maryland and across the country.

Getting organized

With less shows happening because of COVID-19, we have had more time to work on organizing our Scene Shop, Prop Storage, and Wig Room. Thanks to everyone who has helped.



Time for a name!

By Rusty Mumford,
Corresponding Secretary

Do you remember this day? I do!
Were you there? Many of us were.

We have been in our Nutters facility for six years, and we still refer to it as the Nutters property. This building and the surrounding land are so much more to us than the “property”. It is time to give our home a name. If you have a suggestion, please email it to me at popirusty@comcast.net.

All suggestions will be presented to the Board for a final choice.



MEETING

Next meeting is September 2

Players’ next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 PM, face to face at our Nutters’ building. Social distancing and masks will be required.

If you would prefer to ZOOM in, please email Darrell Mullins at dgmullins@salisbury.edu.

Please consider becoming a Community Players Patron

By Kel Nagel, Patron Chairman

We hope you will consider becoming a Patron of Community Players of Salisbury.

Even if we are not performing shows and selling tickets, we have ongoing expenses — maintaining our building, insurance, utilities, and other non-show expenses. Since we are an all-volunteer business, we did not have to worry about paying or laying off employees. We were also, therefore, ineligible for the small-business loan program.

For all these reasons, your patron donations are more important than ever. The ghost light is burning. We will be back on stage, but only with your help.

Patron application can be found on the next page.

Please contact me at 410-726-0670 or kelnagel@yahoo.com, if you have any questions or concerns.

Update on our newsletter

Rusty Mumford, Corresponding Secretary

Articles, photos, etc. for publication in *Back Stage* should be emailed to me (popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15th of each month. Remember to nominate a fellow member for the *Player Spotlight* or you may be the next nominee. To nominate someone (or yourself), please email me. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!

We’re on the Web: www.SBYplayers.com

Lots of fun at Trivia Night

**Congratulations to the winning team from Trivia Tuesday, August 18
Pandemic at the Disco!**



Next Trivia Tuesday is September 1, 7 – 9 PM

Show off your smarts at Community Players Entertainment Trivia Night, held the first and third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7 PM!

- Admission is \$5 per person. Cash Only.
- Maximum of 4 members per team.
- 8 teams allowed per week on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Register your team by Facebook Message OR send an email to communityplayersby@gmail.com with names of team members and date you'd like to participate in.
- Teams arrive at 6:45 PM to sign in.
- Prizes TBD.
- Bring your own food and drinks.
- Masks must be worn at all times, and each team will have their own socially distanced table.
- Have a great time!!

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



COMMUNITY PLAYERS PATRON ENROLLMENT FORM

2020-2021 SEASON

Thank you for your support! Your donation makes it possible to bring quality theatre to Delmarva. As a patron, you will receive tickets to all of our shows, special seating at WiHi, and an invitation to a Patrons Reception in the spring. Please select the level at which you wish to be listed in our programs:

___ LEGACY CLUB: For a contribution of \$2,000 or greater, you will receive eight season tickets

___ ANGEL: For a contribution of \$1,500 to \$1,999, you will receive six season tickets

___ BENEFACTOR: For a contribution of \$1,000 to \$1499, you will receive five season tickets

___ GUARDIAN: For a contribution of \$750 to \$999k you will receive four season tickets

___ SPONSOR: For a contribution of \$500 to \$749, you will receive three season tickets

___ DONOR: For a contribution of \$250 to \$499, you will receive two season tickets.

___ FRIEND: For a contribution of \$ 100 to \$249 you will receive one season ticket.

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____

Because of the continuing coronavirus emergency, we are unable to provide show dates at this time. We will contact patrons regarding show dates and your choice of dates as soon as they are available. A valid email address would be very helpful in facilitating this effort. We will not share your email address.

NAME (as you would like it in the program)

ADDRESS _____

PHONE(S) _____

EMAIL _____

All contributions above the retail value of the tickets are tax deductible

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: | |
| Family Membership ONLY 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 of Salisbury
P. O. Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21802

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
SALISBURY, MD 21801
PERMIT 176

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 2020-21, your dues are not up-to-date.

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 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