

# COMMUNITY PLAYERS

*of Salisbury*



# Back Stage

March 2022



*From the Desk of the President...*

Dearest Theater lovers,

One of the great things about the Community Players of Salisbury organization is that it is always welcoming new people.

**The Putnam County 25th Annual Spelling Bee** (which was fantastic!) had a first time producer, first time music director, and a first time director (first time directing with Players, that is.) A couple of the actors made their on-stage debut and a few actors who were active many years ago while in high school returned to the Players' stage with The Bee. We also had a new-to-us person in the sound booth and a new person on stage crew. The seasoned veterans on and off stage were delighted to show them the ropes and work with new talent. Of course, we can't forget this season we also have new patrons, new advertisers, and new audience members.

Have you considered getting more involved with Players? We would love to have you! In addition to the roles mentioned above we need ushers & box office volunteers. Chat with any member of Players and we can find a place where you will fit in. Also, our monthly Board of Directors meeting are always open to the public.

*~Melissa Dasher*  
President

## AUDITIONS!



The rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice now celebrating its 50th anniversary. For many, this dramatic opera was their first exposure to theatre. The musical is a dramatization of the last week of the life of Jesus Christ, reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation.

Performances are scheduled in Wi-Hi on June 17th, 18th and 19th 2022

### AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 27TH, 28TH and 29TH

In February, visit our website: [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org) and Community Players Facebook page for all the details including place, time, audition song suggestions and what to expect at auditions. More will be coming in the March newsletter as well.

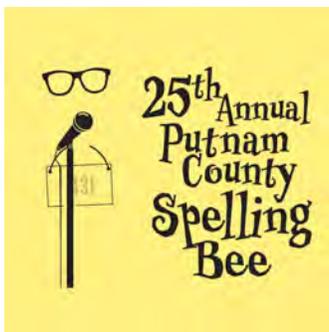
Want to join the production team? My vision for **Superstar** includes projections and video clips. Is that artistic technical job in your wheelhouse? Interested in sharing that talent as part of our crew during the show? If so, please contact me at [fresnelop@gmail.com](mailto:fresnelop@gmail.com)

Sharon Benchoff - Director



Articles, photos, etc. for publication in Back Stage should be emailed to me ([popirusty@comcast.net](mailto: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



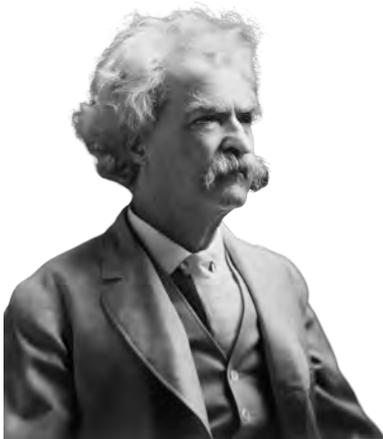
Congratulations to the cast and crew of **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** on an excellent production!! Director Jake Brittingham and his cast and backstage crews showed our audiences a good time at the Spelling Bee. Thanks for all your hard work and fun as you showed Salisbury a great show!



Director Jerry Gietka is pleased to announced the cast of **Senior Follies** in order of appearance:

Mildred Rice.....Melissa Dasher  
Bernice Thompson.....Heather Oland  
Howard Phelps.....Ted Demetriou  
Sarah Jane Dinsmore.....Bobbie Calloway  
Mrs. Rivers.....Kelly Marr  
Sybil Thackeray.....Judy Hearn  
Lowell Thackeray.....Mike Murphy  
Douglass Thompson.....Lew Kadushin  
Iris Cunningham.....Bonnie Northeimer  
Ida.....Linda Valliere

Producer Pete Cuesta and Stage Manager Sam Barnes are assisting the director in the production. If you would like to be a part of the production crew, please contact Pete, Sam, or Jerry.



Make your reservations to see **Mark Twain: His Wit and Wisdom**, a special production of the Community Players of Salisbury, directed and produced by Matt Bogdan. Globe Theater in Berlin, March 2; Brick Room in Salisbury, March 3; Moose Lodge in Salisbury, March 9; Kylan Barn in Delmar, March 11. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 cash or check. Reservations are strongly suggested since venue space is limited. Call 443-235-3272 to experience the works of Mark Twain, considered the father of American literature and the greatest humorist the United States has produced. The cast includes:

Sammy Barnes  
Matt Bogdan  
Jason Bruce  
Elijah Cockey  
Bob Connelly  
Billy Conry  
Abby Cuesta  
Kim Cuesta  
Pete Cuesta  
Charles Doherty  
Judy Hearn  
Mike Murphy

*WE SAY GOODBYE TO MARY VEISE,  
BELOVED MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY PLAYERS FAMILY*



Mary, age 92, passed away peacefully at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Frank Berry, on January 24, 2022. Mary was a strong-willed woman with a childlike enthusiasm and zest for life. She brought boundless joy to Players since 1969, and will be forever remembered enjoying the view of each day's sunrise or sunset, usually wearing one of her many brightly colored hats.

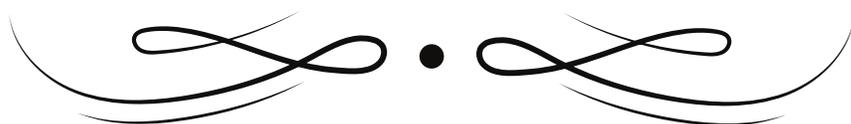
## THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

(March Women's History Month Trivia--See how well you know these wonderful women born in March.)

1. She Played Dorothy in the film "The Wiz".
2. Olivia Wilde made her Broadway debut in 2017 in this George Orwell play.
3. In 1975 she replaced Gwen Verdon in Chicago and in 1997 replaced Julie Andrews in Victor Victoria.
4. One of her most notable roles on stage was Norma Desmond in the Andrew Lloyd Webber production of Sunset Boulevard, for which she won her third Tony Award, playing the role on Broadway in 1993-94.
5. She was a four year member of the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. in such roles as Emily in Our Town, Honey in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? You may know her better from her roles in The Birdcage and Edward Scissorhands.
6. She has won the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical twice, in 2002 for her role as Millie in Thoroughly Modern Millie, and in 2011 for her role as Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes. Other Broadway credits include Little Women, The Drowsy Chaperone, and Violet. She is now Marion the Librarian.
7. In 2009, she appeared in Broadway's God of Carnage with Marcia Gay Harden, James Gandolfini and Jeff Daniels, for which she received a Tony Award nomination for Best Leading Actress in a Play. In 2009, she was cast as Hillary Clinton in the BBC / HBO film The Special Relationship, released in 2010.
8. Born into a family of actors, she made her Broadway debut in 1967, and performed in several stage productions in New York City while making frequent returns to London's West End. She performed with her sister Vanessa in Three Sisters in London.
9. She received great reviews for her roles in the film versions of the musicals Chicago and Hairspray.
10. In February 2020, she and her husband Matthew starred in a revival of Neil Simon's Plaza Suite which is scheduled to open on Broadway this spring.

Answers found on page 6



# 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 of 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.

***Deadline to apply is March 12. For information and application, contact Lynne Bratteen at [brattencollege@gmail.com](mailto:brattencollege@gmail.com).***

## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



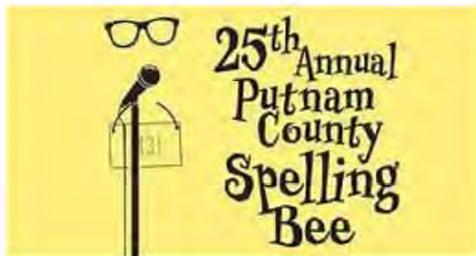
- 1. Diana Ross
- 2. 1984
- 3. Liza Minnelli
- 4. Glenn Close
- 5. Dianne West
- 6. Sutton Foster
- 7. Hope Davis
- 8. Lynn Redgrave
- 9. Queen Latifah
- 10. Sarah Jessica Parker

Answers:

# Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.

## Ticket Order Form

Due to possible COVID restrictions and venue issues, Community Players will be unable to offer Season Tickets for our 85th season. We will, however, be selling tickets for each show individually. Tickets may be purchased through our website--[www.sbyplayers.com](http://www.sbyplayers.com), or by completing and returning this order form with your check.



Adults	___	at \$25 each
Senior (55+)	___	at \$20 each
Student	___	at \$20 each
Child (<12)	___	at \$15 each
Family	___	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

Adults	___	at \$25 each
Senior (55+)	___	at \$20 each
Student	___	at \$20 each
Child (<12)	___	at \$15 each
Family	___	at \$65 each
TOTAL AMT.	_____	

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

\_\_\_ February 18 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ February 19 at 2:00 PM

\_\_\_ February 19 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ February 25 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ February 26 at 2:00 PM

Please choose the performance you plan to attend.

\_\_\_ April 1 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ April 2 at 2:00 PM

\_\_\_ April 2 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ April 8 at 7:30 PM

\_\_\_ April 9 at 2:00 PM

Please fill in the requested information below and return this form with your check to Community Players of Salisbury, PO Box 2431, Salisbury, MD 21802. Make all checks payable to **Community Players**.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Your check will serve as your receipt. Tickets will be held at the Will Call table.

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

**Next Monthly Membership Meeting - Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 PM**

**Community Players Officers & Board of Directors**  
**July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022**

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

*Board Members*

*Sammy Barnes, Cass Dasher, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022*  
*David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023*  
*Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024*

*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.*