

October
2024



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

Busy, busy, busy. The Community Players are very busy. Rehearsals are underway for *Guys and Dolls*. Construction of the set and other production elements are taking place for this classic musical. Auditions are being held for a murder mystery and actors are busy rehearsing the fourth annual show featuring the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Plans are being made for a kick-off dinner. The building committee is working with architects to create a professional theater at our building on Nutters Cross Road. Chairs, risers, and sound and lighting equipment have been purchased as part of that creation.

We were established in 1937, and here we are, 87 years later, moving forward, presenting quality productions with an all-volunteer membership. We have patrons who consistently support us. We have a strong board of directors which keeps Players moving in the right direction. We have 20 committee chairs who report to the board every month. We have businesses and citizens throughout the community helping us, many of whom donated to our purchase of chairs. We have the support of the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Worcester County Arts Council, the Coastal Association of Realtors, and Beach to Bay Heritage Area, all providing grants to help us grow.

It is truly a group effort, a community effort, and I am very grateful for all who are involved in making the Community Players a great community theater.

Matt Bogdan

President

BACK STAGE SUBMISSIONS

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 **October 2 (6:30 PM)** and **November 6 (7:00 PM)**. Join us as we begin work on our new season!

Guys & Dolls Updated Cast Announced

Director Sherri Hynes is pleased to announce the updated cast of this season's Fall musical, *Guys & Dolls*:

Mission Band —
Arvide — Ken Johnson
Sarah — Shelbie Thompson
Agatha — Bobbie Calloway
Martha — Lillian Hoffman
Mary — Kristen Shockley
The General — Susan Upton

Hot Box —
Adelaide — Devin La Femina
Mimi — Erin Bradley
Hot Box dancers - Maddie Shockley, Kate Bubas, Skye Osbourne, Rachel Lynch, Emma Limbeck, Orli Ospital, Kim Cuesta

Gamblers —
Nicely Nicely — Lester Huss
Benny Southstreet — Andy Nyland
Rusty Charlie — Kyle Hayes
Nathan Detroit — David Ospital
Sky Masterson — Joshua Smith
Harry the Horse — Steve Culver
Big Jule — Rusty Mumford
Liver Lips — Owen Shockley
Angie the Ox — Darrell Mullins
Society Max — Zach Werner
Other Gamblers — Gavin Causey, Konnor Stever, Diego Padilla, Alex Tingle, Caden Vanhoy, Wethny Antoine

Lt Brannigan — Sammy Barnes

Ensemble — Emelia McGrew, Emily Skorobatsch, Kauriee Wood, Summer Friel, Skye Mumford





Auditions for *A Few Good Men* will be held at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 10 at 4 p.m., November 11 at 7 p.m. and November 12 at 7 p.m. Show dates are in late January 2025 and early February 2025. Aaron Sorkin's groundbreaking debut tells the story of a group of military lawyers assigned to defend two Marines in Guantanamo Bay. During the course of the trial, they uncover a high-level conspiracy designed to eliminate weaker soldiers in the name of patriotism. The show is rated PG. Pete Cuesta is the director.

The Community Players' Hospitality Committee
would like to invite you to the

Annual Kick Off Celebration

This year, we will have a

Covered Dish Dinner

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Meet & Greet at 5 PM

Dinner at 6 PM

Players will supply fried chicken and ham, rolls, paper goods, ice, etc. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish (salad, vegetable, casserole, or dessert) to share.

BYOB--alcoholic and/or non-alcoholic

To help offset the cost of the chicken, ham and other supplies,
we are asking for a donation of

\$5.00 per person.

Kids, 16 and younger, eat free.

In order to know how many to expect and what covered dishes will be shared, please make reservations by Saturday, October 12, 2024 by contacting Hospitality Chair Rusty Mumford at 410-430-0423 or popirusty@comcast.net. Rusty will need to know your name, the number of family members attending the Kick Off, and the covered dish you are bringing to share. Come join the fun and learn what the new season will bring! After dinner, join us around the firepit for conversation, toasted marshmallows, S'mores, and who knows what fun! There may even be time for karaoke!

Membership Application

(Valid September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025)



Check one:

- \$2,000 and Up : LEGACY CLUB PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 8 season tickets
- \$1,500 - \$1,999 : ANGEL PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 6 season tickets
- \$1,000 - \$1499 : BENEFACTOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 5 season tickets
- \$750 - \$999 : GUARDIAN CLUB PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 4 season tickets
- \$500 - \$749 : SPONSOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 3 season tickets
- \$250 - \$499 : DONOR PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 2 season tickets
- \$125 - \$249 : FRIEND PATRON MEMBERSHIP**
You will receive 1 season ticket
- \$50 : FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**
One household - up to 2 adults and all children who are under the age of eighteen (18) or twenty-two (22) if a fulltime student or on active duty in the military
- \$25 : INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP ****
An individual who is eighteen (18) years old or older
- \$10 : STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ****
An individual who is under the age of twenty-two (22) and is a fulltime student

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.

#1 First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Patron or Family Membership ONLY			
Adult #2 First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone:		E-mail Address:	
Children: First Name(s):	Last Name(s):		Age(s)

** Any individual who has never been a member of CPOS is eligible for a FREE membership for this season. If you wish to to waive the fee (\$25 or \$10) please initial here _____

Remit Form and Payment to: **Community Players PO Box 2431 Salisbury, MD 21802**

Questions? E-mail us at: membership@cposmd.com

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff

Spooky October

1. If you say his name three times in a row, this trickster and mischievous spirit will appear.
2. Do you believe in witches? This Arthur Miller play explores the hysteria.
3. Based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story, this musical examines the two sides of man.
4. Only Mel Brooks could turn a scary "It's alive, It's alive" creature into a comedy musical.
5. Charles Condomine is haunted by the ghost of his first wife, in this comedy.
6. She's an outcast who's bullied at school, but she's got a special power, and she's not afraid to use it.
7. *The Mousetrap* and *Then There Were None* were written by this icon of mystery.
8. This masked figure lurks in the catacombs in this Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.
9. Sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck in a storm, enter the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter in this musical.
10. Well, the witches were not completely wrong when they said he could not be killed by anyone born of woman.

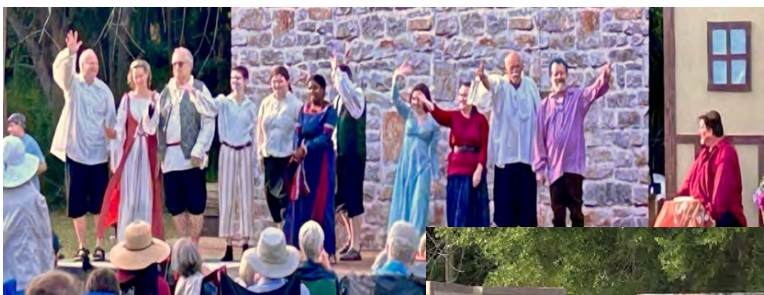
Answers found on page 6



Hey, we all need a good laugh, and we have the perfect way for you to have a fun experience with the whole family. After a jubilant performance at Rackliffe House, Players bring the two hilarious parodies of William Shakespeare's plays to Nutters Cross Rd.

Para-Cles (Pericles) features kings, princesses, pirates, warriors and lots of action.

Shakespeare's Shorts covers 21 of Shakespeare's plays in 30 minutes. Yep, 21 plays.



Fast and furious with lots of laughs, even the tragedies.

Rated G Tickets available at the door



Murder Mystery Auditions

Are you interested in performing at a dinner theater murder mystery? Players is seeking three adult males and 3 adult females to perform *Dying for Chocolate: A Delicious Mystery* on November 16 from 6-8 p.m. as a fundraiser for the Human Society to be held near Bordeleau Winery in Eden, MD. Auditions will be held October 3 at 7 p.m. at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road. If you would like to see a script ahead of the auditions, contact Matt Bogdan, director of the show, at oceancityhappyme@aol.com or 443-235-3272.



It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Auditions

Auditions for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* will be held at the Players' building on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 13 at 7 p.m. and November 14 at 7 p.m. Show dates are December 20 at 7:30 p.m., December 21 at 7:30 p.m. and December 22 at 2 p.m. This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble of 15 men and 10 women, as well as children, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds. The show is rated G. Matt Bogdan is the director.



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Beetlejuice
 2. The Crucible
 3. Jekyll & Hyde
 4. Young Frankenstein
 5. Blithe Spirit
 6. Carrie
 7. Agatha Christie
 8. Phantom of the Opera
 9. Rocky Horror Picture Show
 10. Macbeth

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts* were performed at Rackliffe House in Berlin, MD on September 14. Thanks to Sharon Benchoff, director, and the cast and crew who had a great time bringing this show to an entertained audience. The show will be presented again at the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. and November 23 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults; \$5 children. Pay at the door, cash or check.
2. *Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Terror* will be presented at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, DE on October 18 at 7 p.m. the old Snow Hill Firehouse in Snow Hill, MD on October 19 at 7 p.m., and Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, MD on October 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets at each venue are \$10. Pay at the door, cash or check. For reservations, call 443-235-3272. The show will also be presented at the Players Playhouse in Nutters Cross Road Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.
3. Our last Trivia Night for the year was held September 27. Thanks go to Sharon Benchoff and her crew for holding the event, and thanks to those who participated. Lots of fun!
4. We are seeking volunteers to help with the 50/50 raffle at the *Guys and Dolls* shows in early November. We are also seeking a fundraising coordinator for Giving Tuesday, which will be held December 3. If interested, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272.



GRANTS UPDATE

1. The Worcester County Arts Council granted the Players \$500 to help with the production of *Para-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts*. They also granted the Players \$500 to help with the production of *Edgar Allan Poe: Master of Terror*. Players is grateful for their support.
2. The Board of Directors of the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council recently authorized the awarding of a Community Arts Development Operating Grant to Community Players of Salisbury for general operations in the following amount: \$2167. Players is grateful for their support.

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

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*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
2024-25, your dues
are not up-to-date.*



Back Stage is funded, in part by a grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC). Players would like to thank SWAC for their continued support.

Next Meetings - Wednesday, October 2 (6:30 PM) and November 6 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

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

Board Members

*Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027*

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.