



December  
2024

COMMUNITY  
PLAYERS  
*of Salisbury*

# Back Stage



## From the desk of the President...

It's happening! We are transforming our building at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury into a theater, the Players Playhouse. Risers are in place, chairs have been bought, and a stage has been built. Sound, lighting, and other aspects of the theater are being worked on.

To see our progress, come see *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* on December 20-22. Tickets are \$10 (cash or check) and available at the door. Seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.

To help us offset the costs of the transformation of our building, please consider making a donation on Giving Tuesday, December 3. Details of this fundraising event are inside this newsletter.

The production of *A Few Good Men* is underway. Pete Cuesta, director, has selected a talented cast and top-notch production staff. Show dates are January 31-February 9. Tickets will be available at [sbyplayers.org](http://sbyplayers.org). If you would like to help with the production, contact Kim Cuesta, producer, at [heycue1@icloud.com](mailto:heycue1@icloud.com).

Wishing all of you the happiest of holidays.

*Matt Bogdan*

President



Players' next meetings will be **December 4 (6:00 PM)** and **January 8 (6:00 PM)**. Please note the earlier start time. This is so that we do not conflict with rehearsals for *A Few Good Men*.



The Community Players of Salisbury will present *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Adapted by Joe Landry, the stage play is based on the short story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern and follows quite closely Frank Capra's film classic.

At the time of the film's initial release, it was popular for films to be adapted and performed live on the radio in front of a studio audience. This adaptation is set at a live radio broadcast in the late 1940s.

The show is set in a New York City radio station. Performers will bring over 40 characters to life as the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds on Christmas Eve.

"The story is a classic," said Matt Bogdan, director. "Its message is timeless."

*t's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* will be performed at the Players Playhouse at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury on December 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and December 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door (cash or check). Seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.

Announcer: Carole Willette  
Mary Hatch: Judy Hearn  
Rose Bailey: Kate Bubas  
Harry Bailey/Sam Wainwright: Andrew Brown  
Cowger/Peter Bailey/Martini: Mark Decker  
Bert/Dr. Campbell: Sean Irwin  
Violet Bick: Heather Oland  
Potter: Lew Kadushin  
Uncle Billy/Mr. Welch: Joe Emond  
Patricia: Ellie Morris  
Zuzu: Nia Bubas  
Clarence: Bob Herbertson  
Joseph/Nick: Kel Nagel

George Bailey: Mike Murphy  
Ernie/Schultz: Brent Wright  
Matilda: Lisa Shahan  
Ruth Dakin Bailey: Taylor Stauffer  
Mrs. Hatch/Sadie Vance: Debby Nagel  
Edwina/Bridge Keeper: Holly Bruce  
Charlotte: Elliot Larsen  
Mrs. Thompson: Adrienne Kadushin  
The Teller: Grace Morris  
Janie: Lily Bruce  
Tommy: Nathaniel Morris  
Binky/Cop/Sheriff/Old Man Collins:  
Matt Bogdan

## 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



Giving Tuesday brings charities, families, businesses, and people from around the shore together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity. Giving Tuesday is an online giving event that provides nonprofits the opportunity to inspire the community. Visit the one-stop donation shop online and give to your favorite area nonprofits in one convenient place, all while keeping your charitable donations local!

**COMMUNITY PLAYERS**  
*of Salisbury*



SAVE THE DATE!  
Dec. 3rd for 24 hours  
starting at midnight



DONATE!  
Get online and make a  
donation on Dec. 3rd!



GET SOCIAL!  
Show the world the Shore  
Gives More on social media!

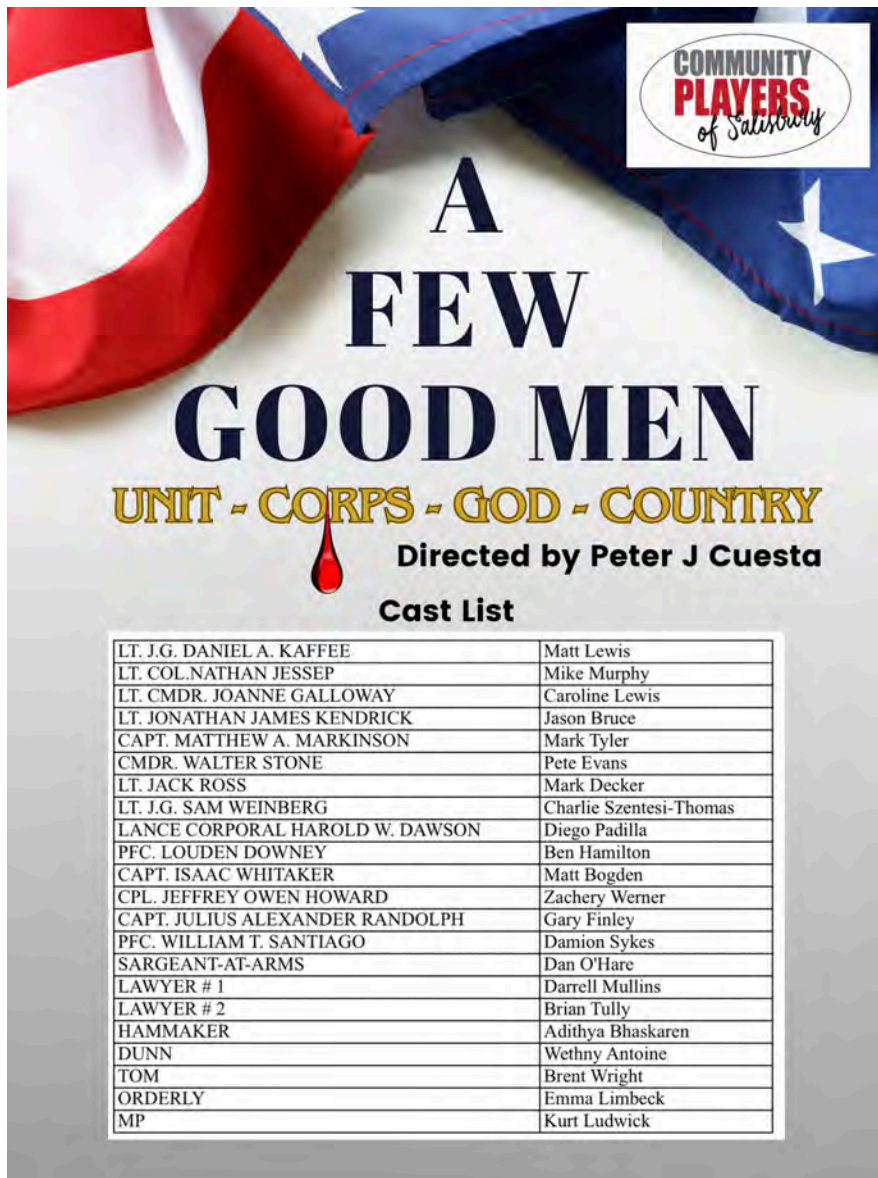
[www.shoregivesmore.org/organization/SBYplayers](http://www.shoregivesmore.org/organization/SBYplayers)

**TUESDAY DEC. 3 | SHOREGIVESMORE.ORG**



***"If you do not feel comfortable in donating on line, someone will be at Community Players at 5109 Nutters Cross Rd. on December 3rd from 10:00 until 4:00 to assist you or enter the information for you."***





## A Few Good Men by Aaron Sorkin

In this military courtroom drama, Navy lawyer Lt. j.g. Daniel Kaffee is assigned to defend two Marines, Pfc. Louden Downey and Lance Cpl. Harold Dawson, who are accused of the murder of fellow Marine Pfc. William Santiago at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GITMO). Kaffee generally plea bargains for his clients rather than bring them to trial, which is probably why he was assigned this potentially embarrassing case, but Lt. Commander Joanne Galloway makes it her business to assist Kaffee because she is convinced that there's more to the matter than they've been led to believe. Under questioning, Downey and Dawson reveal that Santiago died in the midst of a hazing ritual known as "Code Red" after he threatened to inform higher authorities that

Dawson opened fire on a Cuban watchtower. They also state that the "Code Red" was performed under the orders of Lt. Jonathan Kendrick. Kendrick's superior, tough-as-nails Col. Nathan Jessup, denies any knowledge of the order to torture Santiago, but Galloway believes that Jessup is really at the center of the incident and its cover-up. With the help of crucial evidence from former GITMO Executive Officer, Cpt. Matthew Markinson, Kaffee and his team (Galloway and Lt j.g. Sam Weinberg) manage to weed out the truth. Kaffee makes a valiant effort to defend his clients and, in so doing, puts the military mentality and the Marine code of honor on trial.



## **THEATRE TEASERS**

### **Trivia by Sharon Benchoff**

#### **December - Tis the Season**

1 Terrence Mann, Tony Randall and Hal Linden all played this character in *A Christmas Carol*.

2 "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" is from what musical?

3 Sheridan Whiteside comes to dinner and ends up staying through Christmas in this play.

4 This play began as a film and includes a Red Ryder Range BB gun and a leg shaped lamp.

5 "Now is the winter of our discontent" is a famous line from what Shakespeare play?

6 Annie is invited to whose mansion for Christmas?

7 The music from *White Christmas* was written by this prolific composer.

8 This play features the characters Doris and Susan Walker and R.H. Macy.

9 Clarence Oddbody, an Angel Second Class earns his wings in this play.

10 *A Tuna Christmas* takes place where?

Wishing you a joyous, peaceful and wonderous holiday season.

*Sharon*

Answers found on page 6



### **Production Committee**

#### **2025-2026 Season**

The Production Committee is accepting nominations for committee membership. Membership is limited to 9 people, including the committee chair. That, and maintaining a balance between performance and technical expertise, will determine who is selected to participate.


The committee is also seeking suggestions for shows to be considered for the 2025-2026. Submitting a show does not require that you commit to directing.


The deadline for membership nominations and show suggestions is December 31, 2024. All nominations and suggestions should be submitted to chairman Darrell Mullins at [dgmullins@salisbury.edu](mailto:dgmullins@salisbury.edu).

Community Players of Salisbury



 New York Bus Trip to See Gypsy with Audra McDonald!

Date: January 4, 2025


 7:00 AM - Departure


-  **Departure Location:** Community Players of Salisbury, 5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury, MD


 11:45 AM – Approximate Arrival in New York City


-  Welcome to NYC! You'll have about 2 hours of free time before the show.
-  Lunch/Explore Theatre District On Your Own


 2:00 PM - Gypsy Show Time!


- **Seating:** Enjoy your **Front Mezzanine** seats with an amazing view!  The show should end around **4:30-5:00 PM**.

 5:00 PM - Post-Show Dinner On Your Own

 6:30 PM - Head to the bus pick-up location for a comfy ride back. Relax and enjoy some rest!

 7:00 PM – Depart NYC

 11:45 PM – Approximate Arrival Home

 Price: \$284

NOTES:

- You have the option to choose a different seat type. The total cost will depend on the type of seat you prefer.
- You can also choose a "bus only" option for a cost of \$106 if you prefer to see a different show.
- The bus cost is based on filling the bus to capacity (56). If we do not have enough people interested, the bus cost will increase. There is an option to book a smaller bus (capacity 23) but that would increase the ticket/bus cost to \$386 or bus only cost to \$207.

Reserve your spot by December 1, 2024. Contact Darrell Mullins at 443-235-7219 or via email at [dgmullins58@gmail.com](mailto:dgmullins58@gmail.com). A non-refundable deposit of \$106 will be required.



## ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

- Answers:
1. Ebenezer Scrooge
  2. Meet Me in St. Louis
  3. The Man Who Came To Dinner
  4. A Christmas Story
  5. Richard III
  6. Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks
  7. Irving Berlin
  8. Miracle On 34th Street
  9. It's A Wonderful Life
  10. Tuna, Texas (the third smallest town in Texas)

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. A 50/50 raffle was held at the production of *Guys and Dolls* in early November, raising approximately \$900. Thanks to those who helped with this fundraiser.
2. The production of *Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror* raised \$1000 this year, with performances at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, the old Snow Hill Firehouse, and the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road. Thanks to the cast and crew for their time and effort and talent.
3. *Dying for Chocolate*, a murder mystery, was performed at the home of the owners of Bordeleau Winery in November and raised \$300. Thanks to Bordeleau Winery and those who participated in the murder mystery.
4. *Para-Cles* and *Shakespeare's Shorts* was held November 22-23 at the Players Playhouse. Profits will be reported in the January 2025 newsletter. Thanks to the cast and crew for their time and effort and talent.
5. Our next fundraiser is Giving Tuesday on December 3. Please consider donating on that day. Visit the Shore Gives More website and locate Community Players, where you will find our history, our mission statement, pictures and videos of past productions, and a list of needs and wants and related costs.
6. *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* will be held December 20-22 at the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road. Tickets are \$10 at the door (cash or check). Seating is limited. For reservations call Matt Bogdan, director, at 443-235-3272.
7. The fundraising committee met on November 18 and discussed fundraisers for 2025. These include 50/50 raffles at the productions of our main shows,, a Murder Mystery, a Craft Fair, the production of *WWII: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore* (directed by Matt Bogdan), Guest Bartending, a Musical Revue, the production of *The Lighter Side of Aging* (directed by Ann Northam), the Poe show (our fifth annual production), Giving Tuesday, *A Gift to Remember* (directed by Pete Cuesta), and Trivia Nights.
8. The next fundraising committee meeting will be held January 13, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Players. All members of Players are welcome to attend.

As a member of Community Players, you have the privilege of borrowing costume items from the wardrobe department after meeting with Lynne Bratten or Jenny Tusing. A meeting can be scheduled by contacting them at 443-880-3543 via text, call or email at [brattencollege@gmail.com](mailto:brattencollege@gmail.com). Some items are fragile, unique, or irreplaceable and may be excluded from the loan offer.

At the time of borrowing items, you will be asked to sign the loan contract listing guidelines for caring for your borrowed items:

1. No painting, cutting, tearing, or otherwise defacing of costume items.
2. All items will be appropriately laundered or dry cleaned before returned.
3. Costumes will be returned to the collection at a mutually agreeable time. The borrower will help return collection items to their homes.

These policies are in place to ensure the integrity of our entire collection. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in forfeiture of future borrowing privileges.



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

**NONPROFIT ORG.**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SALISBURY, MD 21801**  
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**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 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, December 4 (6:00 PM) and January 8 (6:00 PM).**

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

*President: Matt Bogdan*  
*Vice-President: Darrell Mullins*  
*Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher*  
*Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford*  
*Treasurer: Charlie Linton*  
*Immediate Past-President: Tom Robinson*

*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.*