



COMMUNITY PLAYERS *of Salisbury*

September
2025

Back Stage



Hello Everyone

While most of us see September as the beginning of Fall, for us here at Community Players, it's a time to gear up for our upcoming main stage season. As of this writing, Director Sherri Trader-Hynes is holding auditions for our November production of **Annie**. It will no doubt be a stellar production that the entire family can enjoy.

I want to congratulate Director Rusty Mumford and the cast/crew of the recent production of a Broadway Jukebox Musical Revue featuring our favorite juke box memories that have ended up on the Broadway stage.

I also want to remind all members of Community Players that we seek, and very much welcome, your participation in the happenings at Community Players. There are number of committees that could use help and I invite you to reach out to me at dgmullins58@mail.com if you want to know more. You can also help with set construction which we usually do on Saturdays. All skill levels are welcome; there's plenty to do that does not require technical expertise. Finally, if you don't want to be on stage but want to be part of a production, we always need help on stage crew, props and costumes. Hope you'll consider getting involved.

So enjoy the last days of summer and get ready for another standout season here at Community

Kind Regards,

Darrell Mullins

President

Players' next meetings will be **September 3 (7:00 PM) and October 1 (6:30 PM)**. Please note the time change so that we don't conflict with **Annie** rehearsals. Join us as we begin planning for next season.

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

GRANTS UPDATE

The Maryland State Arts Council is granting Players \$9,489 for fiscal year 2026. We sincerely appreciate their support.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Broadway Jukebox Music Revue was held in August 15-17 at Players' Theater. The revue raised \$1760. Thank you to all who participated, as well as Rusty Mumford, who directed the revue.

A Craft and Vendor Event will be held Saturday, October 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be craft artists, book authors, direct sales, vendors, a food truck, children's activities, silent and ticket auctions, and more. If you are interested in having a booth at this event or have any questions or concerns, contact Wendy Stever at 443-365-1225 or wendysteвер@gmail.com.



**Remember to STOP
when the lights are
flashing!! Our kids are
precious to us all!**



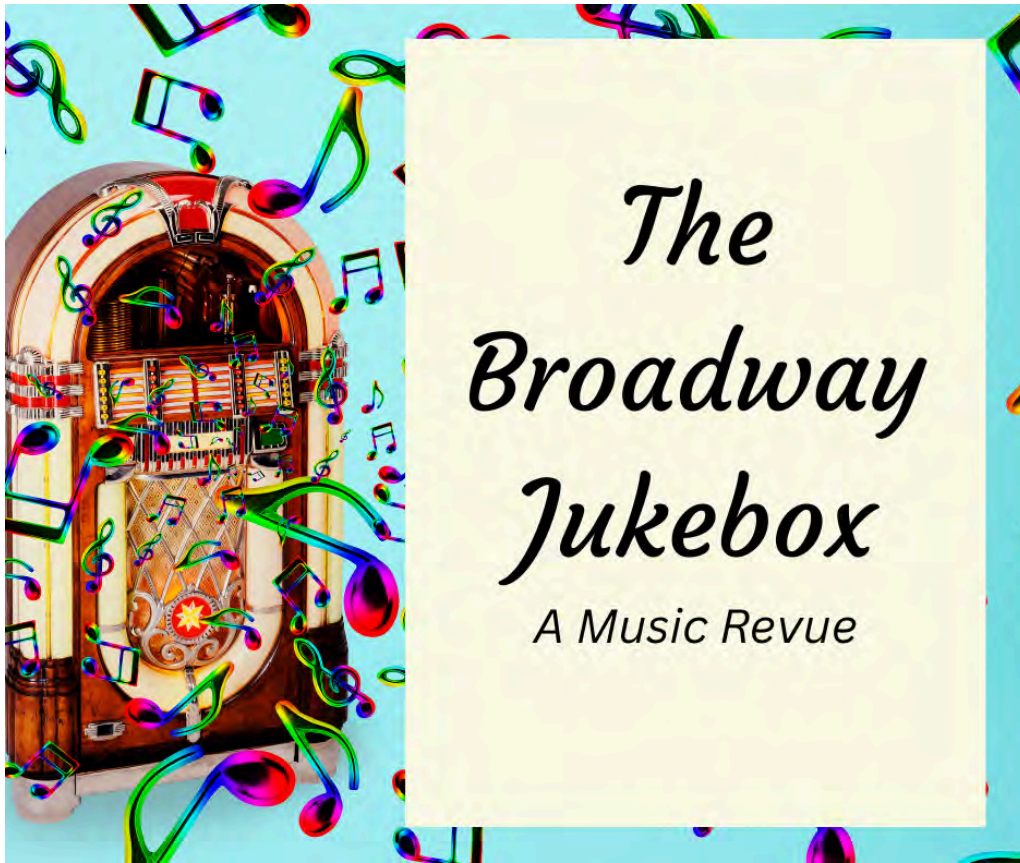
ANNIE

Auditions for **Annie** were held at Players' Theater on 8/23 through 8/26. Callbacks were then held on 8/27. The number of talented people who auditioned for the show made for very difficult decisions for director Sherri Hynes and her staff. Casting decisions will be announced on our website (sbyplayers.org) in the very near future. Rehearsals are scheduled to begin at the beginning of September.

Technical work has already begun on the show. If you would like to get involved with **Annie**, please contact director Sherri Hynes at sherri.hynes@yahoo.com



Lynne Bratten, Community Players' Board member and retired educator, presented 200 certificates to Debbie Bounds, the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Director of Finance, for inclusion in the 2025 New Educator Welcome Bags. Each certificate is for two tickets to see the Community Players fall musical, **Annie**, in November at Wicomico High School. Special thanks to the Board for approving this project and to Rusty Mumford for designing and preparing the certificates.

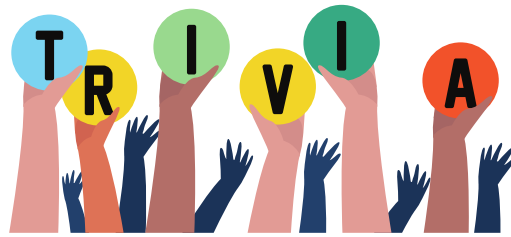


Thanks to the members of the ensemble who sang as part of the Broadway Jukebox Music Revue:

Adithya Bhaskaran
Erin Bradley
Bobbie Calloway
Allie Donovan
Patrick Dougherty
Ben Hamilton
Rebekah McKelvey
Rusty Mumford
Kate Pfeiffer
Kristin Shockley
Madelyn Shockley
Owen Shockley
Susan Upton
Alicia Zahn

We had as much fun performing as the audiences had watching (and singing along). Our revue raised \$1760 for the Players' Building Fund. Thanks again to everyone involved in bringing this show to the stage!

BACK TO SCHOOL



THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchhoff

September - Name the role

1. Audra McDonald is playing the role of this mother in *Gypsy* on Broadway.
2. Julie Andrews played the Cockney flower girl in *My Fair Lady*.
3. He “just can’t wait to be king” in *The Lion King*.
4. He is the narrator in *Our Town*.
5. The first wife of king Henry VIII in *Six*.
6. She marries Marius in *Les Misérables*.
7. They sing the song “Summer Lovin” in *Grease*.
8. He is Harvey the invisible rabbit’s best friend.
9. Barbra Streisand and now Lea Michele played this *Funny Girl*.
10. This is the name of the family in the play *You Can’t Take it with You*.

Answers found on page 6

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination

What is it? An annual award to a member of Community Players for years and degree of service.

Criteria for Consideration:

1. At least 60 years of age and/or posthumous
2. At least 25 years of service (service as defined below)
 - a. Service: Something other than just showing up: (2 of 3)
 - A1 - acting
 - A2 - directing/stage crew/tech
 - A3 - administrative - board, committee, something!
 - b. Special circumstances: on case by case basis (sudden death / missed the timeline by a narrow margin but is felt deserving by board vote / someone who gets to Broadway)
3. Posthumous - a second award given the following evening to a past member who is gone. Consideration must be evaluated by the committee but after 2 years of waiting.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION VIA EMAIL TO:
Sharon Benchhoff at fresnelop@gmail.com
By September 30, 2025

Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Submission Slip

What is it?

An annual award to a member of Community Players for years and degree of service.

Criteria for Consideration:

1. At least 60 years of age and/or posthumous
2. At least 25 years of service (service as defined below)
 - a. Service: Something other than just showing up: (2 of 3)
 - A1 - acting
 - A2 - directing/stage crew/tech
 - A3 - administrative - board, committee, something!
 - b. Special circumstances: on case by case basis (sudden death / missed the timeline by a narrow margin but is felt deserving by board vote / someone who gets to Broadway)
3. Posthumous - a second award given the following evening to a past member who is gone. Consideration must be evaluated by the committee but after 2 years of waiting.

Your Nomination:

Living Recipient (Two Nominations Max)
Posthumous Recipient (Two Nominations Max)

Are you a member of Community Players in good standing? Y / N (Circle One)

What are your reasons for nominating this person(s)?

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



1. Mama Rose
2. Eliza Doolittle
3. Simba
4. Stage Manager
5. Catherine of Aragon
6. Cosette
7. Danny and Sandy
8. Elwood P. Dowd
9. Fanny Brice
10. Sycamore

Answers:

Membership Application

(Valid September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026)



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 full-time 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 full-time 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.

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

#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)

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

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

Payment Due Only: \$Finance: _____ Mailing: _____ Membership: _____

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 2025-26, 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, September 3 (7:00 PM) and October 1 (6:30 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

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

Board Members

Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027
Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2028

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.