

**COMMUNITY
PLAYERS**
of Salisbury

**February
2024**

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

Susan and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentines' Day! I hope that you and your favorite Valentine will be able to spend a romantic evening together (or at least a few moments without the kids).

Our production of *Rumors* is going strong. We had great reviews of our first week-end at WorWic and we are looking forward to two more shows. Friday, February 2 at 7:30 PM and Saturday, February 3 at 2 PM. tickets are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/community-players-of-salisbury1/655f9aa087c4f00e3c51ad57. I am sure that you will enjoy this Neil Simon classic. In 1988, Neil Simon needed to cheer himself up. The solution was to write a comedic farce. The story starts when four couples arrive at a 10th wedding anniversary dinner party at the home of the deputy mayor of NYC only to find the host wounded in bed and the hostess missing. This party has it all - slamming doors, phones and door bells ringing, assumed identities, and gun shots. Just another night in the comedic mind of Neil Simon! This is one of his most celebrated comedies.

I thought you might enjoy a little information on a theatrical superstition. Well-wishers typically say "Break a leg" to actors before they go on stage to perform. A person is never supposed to wish an actor "good luck," but are supposed to say "Break a leg!" Though it may seem strange to do so, many theater folk believe there are mischief-making spirits of the stage who use their magic to force the opposite of what you wish to happen. Another theory comes from the idea that the word leg does not refer to an actor's leg, but to the theatrical curtains that mask the backstage that are known as "legs." "Breaking a leg" means you've crossed from the backstage into the playing area, the ultimate goal of an actor: entering the spotlight.

Tom Robinson, President



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 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.

Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship Application

Name _____
Address _____
Cell phone _____
Email _____
School or home school program _____
Parent's names _____
Parents' Occupation (Please provide information for each parent) _____

1. What is your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined on the FAFSA? _____
2. What college, university or school of higher education do you plan to attend? _____
3. Have you been accepted? _____
4. What is your planned major and minor? _____

Essay Question

How do you plan to incorporate theater or associated theater arts into your college experience?

Please respond with a minimum 100-word response using complete sentences and paragraph format. Responses in bulleted list format or incomplete sentences will not be considered.

Participation Form

Complete the attached form in reference to participation in Community Players of Salisbury productions for applicant and/or applicant's family

Activity List

Attach a current resume that includes community and school activities and work experiences.

Reference Letters - 2 total

A. Attach one current reference letter from an adult, other than your drama teacher/sponsor who can testify to your seriousness of purpose and general moral and civic responsibility (teachers, ministers, local business person, employer, etc.)

B. Attach one letter of recommendation from your drama teacher or a director.

Transcript

Attach an official high school transcript including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores

Due Date - March 12, 2023 (late applications will not be considered)
The completed application and all related materials should be mailed to:

Community Players of Salisbury
c/o Lynne Bratten
303 South Blvd
Salisbury, MD 21801

Scholarship #2

Or sent via email to brattencollege@gmail.com

Participation Form for: _____

Date <i>Example - Fall 2019</i>	Organization <i>Community Players</i>	Production <i>Matilda</i>	Role/job <i>Back stage worker</i>

Rumor has it that our second production of the season, Neil Simon's comedy *Rumors* has moved into Wor-Wic and is ready to entertain audiences in Guerrieri Hall. Director Sherri Hynes is pleased with the cast and crew as they ready themselves for two laughter-filled weekends of fun. Be sure to join us for this hilarious romp through an NYC dinner party!



NEIL SIMON'S
RUMORS



Rumors will be presented at Wor-Wic Community College on Friday January 26 at 7:30, Saturday January 27 at 2 and 7:30, Friday February 2 at 7:30 and Saturday February 3 at 2. Check our website (sbyplayers.org) for ticket sales.



AUDITIONS

Sunday
February 4th
4:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday
February 5th & 6th
7:00 p.m.

At Players 5109 Nutters Cross Rd.
Salisbury, MD

Any Questions? Please ask me!

**Sharon Benchoff – Director –
fresnelop@gmail.com – 410-430-5386**

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
February Birthdays

1. Abraham Lincoln attended this theater located on 10th Street in Washington D.C.
2. This actor received a Tony nomination for *Long Day's Journey into Night*. His best role may have been in the film, *Some Like it Hot*.
3. He may be best known for his one man show, *Mark Twain Tonight!* for which he won a Tony. Other credits include *All the President's Men*, *Lincoln* and *Designing Women*.
4. He was nominated for a Tony for his role in *A Reason in the Sun* and received a Golden Globe for the film.
5. She played Peter Pan in the 1979 Broadway revival. She is associated with several Disney films as well.
6. Best known for her television role in *Cagney & Lacey*, in 1989, she starred in the Broadway revival of *Gypsy* and won the 1990 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical.
7. He played Captain Hook in *Finding Neverland* and was the producer for *The Color Purple*, but he will always be Frasier Crane to his fans.
8. He is finishing his stint as *Sweeney Todd*. In 2016 he played Pierre in *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*.
9. Here is a short list of her Broadway credits – *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Follies* and *Gypsy*.
10. He wrote the novel "Les Misérables". The Broadway production opened March 12, 1987 and ran until May 18, 2003. At the time of its closing, it was the second-longest-running musical in Broadway history.

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 Feb. 7 (7:00 PM) and Mar. 6 (7:00 PM). Join us to see where you can help with the second half of the season!

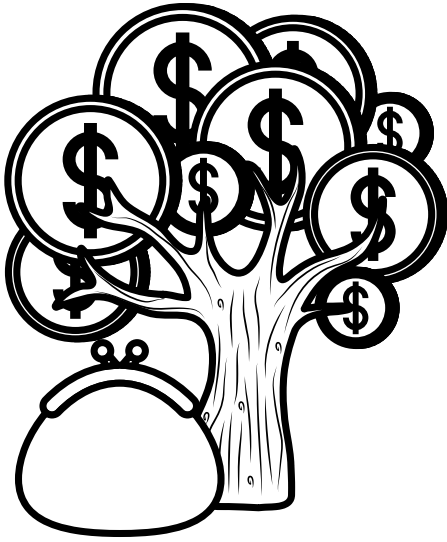


ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Ford's Theater
 2. Jack Lemmon
 3. Hal Holbrook
 4. Sidney Poitier
 5. Sandy Duncan
 6. Tyne Daly
 7. Kelsey Grammer
 8. Josh Groban
 9. Bernadette Peters
 10. Victor Hugo

Fundraising



A fundraising committee meeting was held on January 16 with the focus on 2024 fundraisers. The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of the Arts will be held at the Players Playhouse on March 22-24. Tickets are \$10, cash or check, and available at the door. Other fundraisers include a Comedy Night in April, a Kids' Show in May, a Guest Bartending event in June, a New Directors' One-Act Play Showcase in July, a One-Act Play Festival involving other community theaters in August, an Eastern Shore Heritage show in September, an Edgar Allan Poe show in October, Giving Tuesday in November, and a Christmas show in December. Also discussed was the implementation of a Capital Campaign. If you are interested in being involved with any of these events, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.

New Director Showcase

Have you ever thought that you might like to direct a show? Not really sure if you're ready or not? Would you like to have a mentor to help you through the process? We are planning to host a New Directors/One Act Show Cast at Players in July. Prospective directors will direct a one-act play with the guidance of an experienced director who will act as a mentor. The plan is to choose low budget/no budget plays which can be produced on the same set (with minor cosmetic changes). Audition/rehearsal time and space would have to be shared so scheduling would be a must. If you are interested in directing a one-act or mentoring a new director, please contact Rusty Mumford at popirusty@comcast.net or 410-430-0423. This will be a great way to increase our pool of directors for future seasons.

Three experienced directors have already volunteered to mentor prospective directors. Let's build our showcase.



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
2023-24, 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, Feb. 7 (7:00 PM) and Mar. 6 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

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

Board Members

*Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024
Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026*

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.