



COMMUNITY PLAYERS *of Salisbury*

May
2026

Back Stage



Greetings!

As we take a moment to reflect on the past few months at our theatre, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what our community has accomplished together. Our recent production of ***Old Hams*** was a tremendous success, delighting audiences and showcasing the incredible talent, dedication, and spirit that make our theatre so special. From the performers on stage to the many hands working behind the scenes, this production was truly a team effort—and a shining example of what we can achieve together.

Now, we turn our eyes toward June. As our nation prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we are thrilled to bring that story to life on stage with our production of ***1776***. This beloved musical brings history to life with energy, humor, and heart, and we can't wait to share it with you. We invite you to come see the story that led up to that momentous day.

As always, our success depends on the strength of our volunteers. Community theatre thrives because of people like you—individuals willing to lend their time, skills, and enthusiasm. Whether you're interested in working backstage, helping with front-of-house, assisting with set construction, or supporting in other ways, we welcome and need your involvement. If you've been considering getting more involved, now is the perfect time to step forward.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone of our ongoing Capital Campaign. This effort is vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of our theatre. Your support—whether through donations, advocacy, or simply spreading the word—helps us maintain our space, improve our facilities, and continue bringing quality productions to our community for years to come. Donations of any amount are most appreciated and can be easily processed by clicking the "Donate" button on our website, sbyplayers.org

Thank you for being part of our theatre family. Your continued support, passion, and dedication are what make everything we do possible.

Kind Regards,

Darrell Mullins

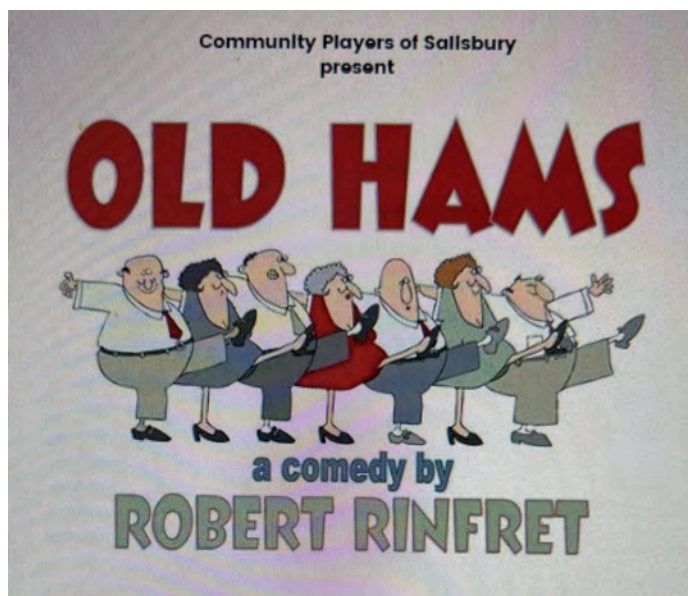
President

Players' next meetings will be **May 6 (6:00 PM) and June 3 (6:00 PM)**. Join us as we continue to work on our 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



Now that **Old Hams** is history, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for helping with the success of this show. Our audience members truly enjoyed the show and, in many cases, could identify with the actors on stage.

However, one disadvantage of casting a show about "senior citizens" is striking the set. In addition to our seniors and cast members, I'd like to give a special round of applause to David Allen, Andre Scholler, Dan O'Hare (who just happened to stop by on his way to the gym), Lester Huss for taking down the walls and family members who helped put things away and clean up . It truly takes a village to put up and take down a show!

Sherri Hynes
Director



Come See How America Declared Independence!

As Benjamin Franklin said to John Adams, "John, really! You talk as if Independence were the rule! It's never been done before!! No colony has ever broken from the parent stem in the history of the world!"

1776 tells the story of the tribulations faced by the patriots to reach the unanimous decision of all 13 colonies to declare the split with England.

1776 is filled with humorous and dramatic scenes and songs, often with dialogue taken directly from letters and diaries. Come with friends and family to see this historic event in our shared history as Americans.

Rated PG



Newsletter Article

2026 Summer Youth Theater Workshops

Registration is now open for our two youth workshops

- July 6-10, students going into grades 9-12
- July 13-17, students going into grades 3-8

The workshops will run from 9:00 am – 3:00pm Monday – Thursday. Friday's workshop will run from 9:00 am – 5:00, with a program for family and friends at 4:00.

Registration cost is \$200/student, with a \$50 discount for current members of Community Players. Scholarship opportunities are available on request.

Registration will be open from April 15 - June 26. Workshop space is limited to 25 participants for 3rd-8th grade and 20 participants for 9th-12 grade. Students will be accepted in the order that forms are received.

Contact YouthWorkshops@SbyPlayers.org with any questions!

Register two ways, using a paper form or online!

- **Mail completed form**, found in this newsletter or on our website, with check made out to Community Players of Salisbury, to:
Community Players Youth Workshop
PO Box 2431
Salisbury MD 21802-2431
- **Register and pay online** using the link found on our website or social media sites:
sbyplayers.org
<https://www.facebook.com/CPOSMD>
<https://www.instagram.com/communityplayerssby>

(Note that square charges additional fees if paying online.)

Registration Form on page 7.





THEATRE TEASERS
Trivia by Sharon Benchhoff
May - Numbers

1. There are 525,600 minutes in "The Season of Love" in this musical.
2. The song "Twenty-One Guns" is from what musical?
3. Liesl is 16 going on 17 in this musical.
4. George Orwell wrote this book which was turned into a play.
5. How many planes landed in Gander, Newfoundland on 9/11/2001?
6. **9 to 5** is a musical with songs and lyrics penned by this talented lady.
7. What musical has the song, "Dance 10, Looks 3"?
8. This musical tells the story of the tribulations faced in declaring independence from England.
9. How many trombones led the big parade in **The Music Man**?
10. What is the number 24601 signifying in **Les Misérables**?

Answers found on page 6

AUDITION NOTICE

Auditions for **America 250: A Birthday Celebration** will be held Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. The show, sponsored by the Wicomico Historical Society in cooperation with Community Players, is a two-act presentation of patriotic speeches, songs, poems, stories and slides which will celebrate America's 250th birthday. Dramatic readers and singers are needed. No memorization will be required. Show dates are June 26 and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. Those auditioning to be a dramatic reader will be asked to read a section from the script provided by the director. Those auditioning to be singers will be asked to sing one of the songs in the show, again provided by the director. For more information contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Community Players will be holding elections at the June meeting.

But before that happens, nominations are now open for the Board of Directors and Officers.

If you want a say in the future of Community Players or know of someone who would be an asset to the organization, please submit the name to me by email by May 6th.

More details are on our website under the Members Page or ask me.

Sharon Benchoff
fresnelop@gmail.com



ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. Rent
2. American Idiot
3. The Sound of Music
4. 1984
5. 38
6. Dolly Parton
7. A Chorus Line
8. 1776
9. 76
10. Jean Valjean's prison number

Answers:

Community Players of Salisbury Youth Workshop 2026 Registration Form

Student's Name _____

Workshop registering for:

Grade Entering (2026-27 School Year):

Grades 3-8 (July 13-17) 9:00am-3:00pm (5:00 on Friday)

Grades 9-12 (July 6-10) 9:00am-3:00pm (5:00 on Friday)

Parent/Guardians' Name(s) _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

T-shirt Size (circle one) Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Any allergies, dietary restrictions, or other medical info staff should be aware of?

Student's Previous Theater Experience

Please Rate the Following

1 = I totally want to do this!

2 = I am willing to try.

3 = Do I have to?

___ Sing with whole group

___ Sing with a few people

___ Sing a solo

___ Act with few or no lines

___ Act in a supporting role

___ Act in a leading role

___ Dance with whole group

___ Dance solo

___ Backstage crew

___ Set Construction

___ Collecting/Making Props

___ Collecting/Making Costumes

Mail completed form, with check made out to Community Players of Salisbury, to:

Community Players Youth Workshop

PO Box 2431

Salisbury MD 21802-2431

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

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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, May 6 (6:00 PM) and June 3 (6:00 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.