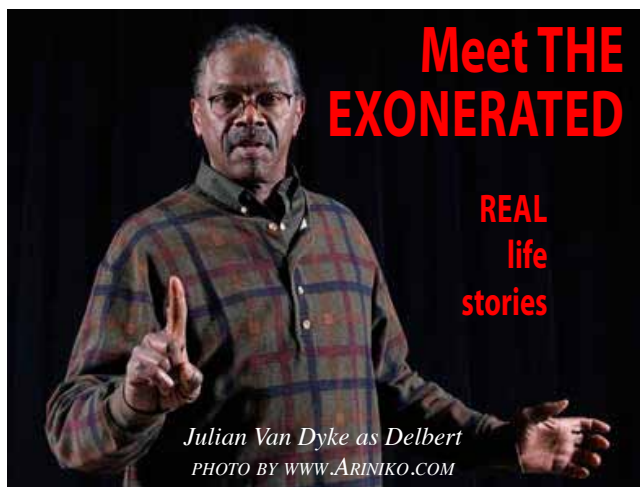


# Ripples

# from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 35 • Number 5  
January/February, 2024

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 5 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com



This show is not “based” on real-life stories. These are real-life stories — put together from first-person interviews and public transcripts. Although written 20 years ago, it is even more relevant today as more wrongful convictions are being overturned.

Alan Greenberg is making his directorial debut with this production, but he has been active in all other aspects of community theater for over 30 years, mostly in Midland. At Riverwalk he is one of the newest members of the Board of Directors — and also played “Serge” in *Art* and “Dr. Scott” in *Rocky Horror* and designed lights for *A Year with Frog and Toad*.

Alan is thrilled with his cast:

“Local artist Julian Van Dyke, as Delbert, provides the thematic glue that holds the stories together and his sonorous voice, good nature, and fluid physicality will make the audience laugh and cry while creating a central framework that makes the play easy to follow. The ensemble is pivotal in a show like this, and veteran actors Quinn Kelly, Zach Huson and Filonna Thomas are joined by Jessica Bibbee (in her acting debut) to seamlessly fill dozens of roles that add depth and insight into the stories of the named characters.”

In a show with a diverse cast, like *The Exonerated*, a diverse technical team is critical. Vanessa Mazhangara, the standout lead in 2022’s *Fabulation*, or the *Re-Education of Undine*

is Stage Manager and making her debut as Assistant Director. Alan notes, “Her insight, organization, and actor’s instincts are a huge influence on the show.”

Joe Dickson, one of Lansing’s leading actors and tech designers, and professional DJ Kelly Garland are designing lights and sounds.

Maureen Sawdon and Morgan Pohl are coordinating props and costumes to help drive the stories forward and establish the characters, while at the same time fitting the minimalist style of the production and being able to be switched out while the actors are still on stage.

After the show, Riverwalk will be collecting donations for The Culture Project to assist exonerated prisoners get re-established in the community after release.

There will also be **TALKBACKS** after both Saturday performances to provide an opportunity for discussion with the cast, director, and experts from Cooley Law School.

2/17: Marla Mitchell-Cichon, Counsel to the Cooley Law School Innocence Project and Cooley Distinguished Professor Emeritus

2/24: Tracey Brame, Director of the Cooley Law School Innocence Project and Cooley Associate Dean of Experiential and Practice Preparation

No special ticket required to attend talkbacks — purchase tickets to any performance at our website, 517-482-5700, or email [rwt@riverwalktheatre.com](mailto:rwt@riverwalktheatre.com).

**WARNING:** This play may not be suitable for all audiences since it contains mature themes and profanity, as well as flashing/strobe lights and gunshot sound effects.



## WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

**A** Sat/Sun, February 10-11 at 4pm **AUDITIONS** for **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH** - James and Ladhord Only - Directed by Linda Widener

February 15-18 & 22-25 - **THE EXONERATED** by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Directed by Alan Greenberg - black box

**A** Sun/Mon, February 18 & 19 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS** for **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH** - all other roles - Directed by Linda Widener (see p. 4)

**A** Sunday & Monday, February 25 & 26 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS** for **MOONGLOW** Directed by Emily Clark (see p. 4)

March 14-17 & 21-24 - **AMADEUS** by Peter Shaffer, Directed by Amy Rickett - main stage

April 11-14 & 18-21 - **MOONGLOW** by Kim Carney, Director Emily Clark - black box

May 16-19 & 23-26 - **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH**, Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book & Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, Directed by Linda Widener **NOTE: Thu-Fri-Sat 7pm; 2 pm Sun.** - main stage

**SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. (Peach only: 7pm & 2 pm Sun.)

**PLAYS:** \$15 adult \$12 sr/student/military

**MUSICALS:** \$24 adult \$20 sr/student/military \$12 children under 13

**A** **AUDITIONS** - more info at [riverwalktheatre.com/auditions](http://riverwalktheatre.com/auditions)

# Xmas Belles Ring in Holly-Dazed Laughter

Those out for laughs this past Christmas season got what they ordered at Riverwalk with *Christmas Belles*. It was a southern fried fruitcake of nuts and jokes and some weird unidentifiable candied fruit. This Jones Hope Wooten script was a crowd pleaser in their inimitable, folksy style. <http://www.joneshopewooten.com/about.htm>

Director Kate Clark led a motley assortment of wacky characters through a Christmas pageant gone awry, plagued with rivalries, pregnancy, kidney stones, misdirected pills and more. As they say, “hilarity ensued” with an underpinning of sisterhood and love and Christmas spirit.

Debbie Lundeen convincingly endured a later-in-life pregnancy as she supported her kidney-stone-plagued Santa husband, Charles Hoogstraten. It was fun to see both Morgan Pohl and Linda Widener step out

from their usual backstage roles, Morgan as Debbie’s sweet adult daughter (and Virgin Mary) and Linda as the ambitious and frequently frustrated new pageant director “trying to bail out the Titanic with a thimble,” often at odds with pushy, shrill, previous director, Teresa Hurd.

Revengeful jail-bird Holly Kay-Cannon and her guard (and more) Jerome Kluck were an unlikely but fun couple. Kelly Jo Garland was a worthy “secret” addition to the Futrelle sisterhood. Rich Kopitsch was particularly charming as reverend Waverly, Santa’s helper, and the frustrated suitor of Virgin Mary Morgan. Julie Franklin was the snooty one you love to hate, with a fun comeuppance — and Tim Edinger was

adorable with his ubiquitous wagon and love of Christmas.

Kudos to the entire crew, costumer Kris Maier, assisted by Diane Cooke and Bernie Lucas; set designer Bob Nees, with construction help from Leroy Cupp, Tom Ferris, Leon Green and Alan Greenberg, with scenography by Elisha Smith, assisted by Emma Heedum and Michelle Smith. Tom Ferris designed lights which were operated by Danny Ferris, Reid Hoogstraten and Tim Lewis. Kayla Henry did makeup and hair design, and I particularly enjoyed Leon Green’s sound design of fun holiday songs.

Jane Zussman

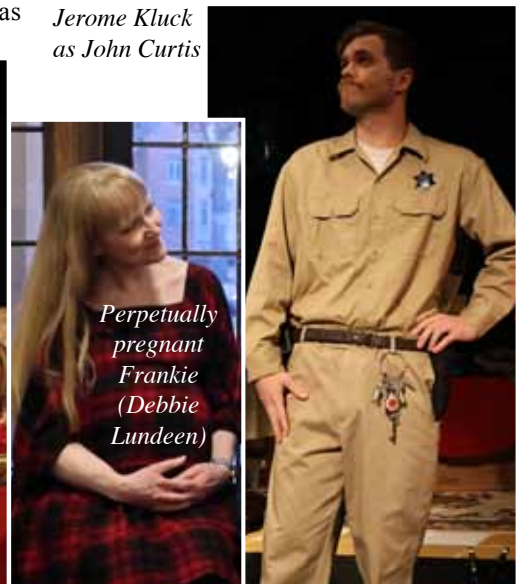
Jerome Kluck as John Curtis



Honey Raye (Linda Widener) copes with Twink (Holly Kay-Cannon)



Rhonda Lynn (Kelly Jo Garland) does the heavy lifting



Perpetually pregnant Frankie (Debbie Lundeen)

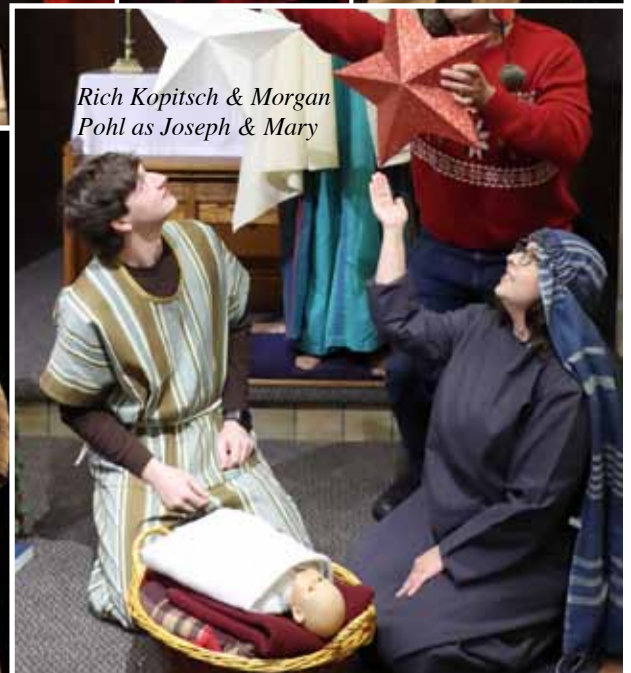


Charles Hoogstraten

PHOTOS BY WWW.ARINKO.COM



Unlike most people, Patsy (Julie Price) is not charmed by Ranerd (Tim Edinger)



Rich Kopitsch & Morgan Pohl as Joseph & Mary



# Scene Shop Makeover

What a crazy few days! Riverwalk has a committee we call "IPF" (stands for Infrastructure, Planning, and Facilities). My dear friend Elisha Smith and I are leading this committee, and we spent two days in December renovating our paint shop.

Here are a few fun facts:

- 46 hours of work (23 hours x 2 people)
- 88 cans of paint thrown away
- 26 cans of spray paint thrown away
- new paint trays, liners, rollers, roller handles, drop cloths, rags, extenders, and mixing containers
- all is sorted, labeled, and in most cases put in a new bin
- huge improvement to aesthetics
- new system and policies for best practices are in the works

THIS is what your Riverwalk Board can do for you! We get so caught up in the day to day grind that sometimes we forget about all the projects that can make our spaces shine! *If you're interested in joining this committee, we need people with a love for this kind of stuff!* Riverwalk is a TRUE community theatre — and it takes a village. Come join us!

Huge thanks to my partner in crime, Elisha, for the hours of work, late nights, back pain, food, diet cokes, and laughter. Not only was it productive, it was so much fun!

*RWT President, Brian Farnham*



*Brian's Partner in Crime and Grime, (and RWT Secretary) Elisha Smith celebrates the dumpster offerings.*

## Before



## After



## MEMBERSHIP

**funds at least a quarter of show budgets plus general operating expenses to maintain our building and staff.**

**WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR A SECURE FUTURE!**

**Actor** — \$15-24, Ripples, voting on board members and Members Choice favorite show award.

**Technician** — \$25-49, Ripples, voting, program listing

**Stage Manager** — \$50-99, Ripples, voting, program listing, and one comp ticket

**Director** — \$100-249, Ripples, voting, program listing, two comp tickets

**Producer** — \$250-499, Ripples, voting, program listing, four comp tickets

**Star** — \$500-999, Ripples, voting, program listing, six comps, name on theatre seat

**Angel** — \$1000+, Ripples, voting, program listing, 12 comp tickets, name on a theatre seat and on the donor board in the lobby

**THREE WAYS TO JOIN:** go to **riverwalktheatre.com**

- click "more" then "get involved" to join online — OR phone Mike with your credit card info 517-482-5700 — OR just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

# RIVERWALK

## 2022-2023 Officers

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com) 517-482-5700 or at RiverwalkTheatre.com



P.O. Box 12249  
 Lansing MI 48901

Next to Impression 5,  
 228 Museum Drive, south  
 off Michigan Avenue,  
 across from the  
 Lansing Center

# A U D I T I O N S

## James & the Giant Peach

*Book – Timothy Allen McDonald, Music and Lyrics – Benj Pasek & Justin Paul Based on book by Roald Dahl*  
**Director: Linda L. Widener; Music Director Kate Clark**  
**Choreographer: Fran Ludington**

**AUDITIONS: *James and Ladahlord Only* - Sat. & Sun., February 10 & 11, 2024 at 4 pm.**

***All roles EXCEPT James/Ladahlord* - Sun & Mon, Feb. 18 and 19 @ 7 pm. • Shows: May 16-26, 2024**

Casting will be gender blind; every role is open to all auditioners. However, per licensing agreements, all roles must be portrayed as the gender they are written. English accents preferable especially for James, Spiker and Sponge (give it a try!) All roles available to all races/ethnicities

**Prepare 16-32 bars of a song in the style of (but not from) the show that best shows off your personality and vocal range. Bring sheet music or a backing track. A speaker will be provided.**

**James** (M, age 8-11, Tenor, Treble/Boy Vocal range: top G5, bottom G3)  
 A lonely boy who feels he belongs nowhere after losing his parents in a freak accident; becomes resourceful and innovative — a good friend.

**Ladahlord** (M, age 25-55, Tenor, Baritone/Bass Bb2-A4) A strange, magical storyteller. Often appears, in disguise, to help push the action forward.

**Other role descriptions and further info at [riverwalktheatre.com/auditions](http://riverwalktheatre.com/auditions)**

**PERUSAL SCRIPTS for all shows are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:00 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: [rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com](mailto:rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com) audition forms are available online at [www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions)**

## MOONGLOW

*Drama by Kim Carney*  
**Directed by Emily Clark**

**Audition Dates: Sun. & Mon., Feb. 25 & 26 at 7 pm • Shows: April 11-14 & 18-21, 2024**

Maxine, a feisty, bitter Alzheimer's victim, doesn't want to move into a nursing facility. But when she meets Joe, a widower who shares her love for dance, her outlook begins to change.

### Characters:

The Girl — Late teens, early 20's  
 Diane — Late 40's or 50's  
 Benita — 30's or 40's  
 Maxine — 70's or 80's  
 Joe — 70's or 80's  
 Greg — 40's or 50's  
 The Sailor — 20's

**Anyone auditioning for the Girl, Maxine, Joe or the Sailor will need to learn a small dance routine. Come prepared to read from the script.**

**The Exonerated**  
 by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen  
 Directed by Alan Greenberg  
**FEBRUARY 15-18 & 22-25, 2024**

Supported in part by MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • COMMUNITY FOUNDATION • ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING

