

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 35 • Number 2  
October, 2023

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



### Show...with TWO casts & Midnight Shows!

feature” to see both casts — maybe on the same night? *Rocky Horror* adds midnight shows on Fridays and Saturdays with NO Sunday shows.

**50 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION BAGS will be sold per show** — containing props for audience members to use during the show. No outside props allowed. \$10 per bag. Most items are reusable at subsequent shows if you decide to come back.

**Double Feature Ticket Special!** Buy both a Cast Rocky show and a Cast Horror show, and receive a FREE audience participation bag, while supplies last — only one — so bring it back for your second show! (Tickets must be purchased, not comps.)

Interested in the strange history/traditions of this cult classic stage show and movie? Check Wikipedia or ask weirdo friends in their 50s-60s — but remember, Riverwalk is LIVE so do NOT bring items to throw at the actors, particularly rice, toast, or anything that would create safety and/or clean-up issues for cast and custodians.

Don't miss this wild, dark, campy and hilarious tribute to the science fiction and horror B movies of the 1930s through to the early 1960s. Come along with Brad and Janet, a newly engaged couple as they get caught in a storm and find refuge — and much more — at the home of a mad transvestite scientist, Dr. Frank-N-Furter. **CAUTION - Adult Themes and Language - not suitable for children.**

Co-directors Shannon Bowen and Erin Hoffman are award-winning actor/directors who have long been Lansing favorites. This first-time co-directing takes their collaborative spirit to the next level as they tackle this elaborate project. It features two separate casts in the named roles, with a shared ensemble. Shannon reports, “We have had such a blast being able to balance this enormous project together. We honestly could not have done it without each other.”

Kayla Henry (Trixie, The Usherette) reports: “I got to do the show when I was 19 and to come back to it in a totally different mind space as a 30 year old has been eye opening. Even watching other people experience it for the first time is the best feeling on the face of the Earth.”

According to Simon Rebeck (Phantom): “It’s been amazing doing a show where I can truly be myself. I don’t have to tone myself down.”

**Which actors appear on which dates/times are listed on the Riverwalktheatre.com box office page, so you can select your show based on casts** — or go for the “double



### WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

**October 19-21 & 26-28 - THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** by Richard O'Brien, Directed by Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman - main stage - **both 8pm & midnight Fri. & Sat.; NO Sunday shows**

**November 9-12 & 16-19 - TRAIL TO OREGON** by Nick & Matt Lang, Brian Holden & Jeff Blim, Directed by Ayden Soupal - black box

**Wed/Thurs., Nov. 29/30 at 7pm** - and by appointment - **AUDITIONS for THE EXONERATED** Directed by Alan Greenberg. Contact alanbgreenberg@gmail.com for appointment if you cannot attend Wednesday or Thursday.

**December 7-10 & 14-17 - CHRISTMAS BELLES** by Jones, Hope & Wooten, Directed by Kate Clark - main stage

**Sunday & Monday, January 21 & 22 at 7 pm - AUDITIONS for AMADEUS** Directed by Amy Rickett

**ALL SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. (**ROCKY HORROR ONLY:** both 8pm & midnight Fri. & Sat.; no Sundays)

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

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

**AUDITIONS** - more info at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

# Admissions - smart dramedy provokes debate

Director Bob Robinson and cast have given us a timely dramedy, beautifully acted, with an excellent 2-location set. Kudos to Leroy Cupp and his super crew of Bob Nees, Leon Green and Tom Ferris. The set was well dressed by Ric Sadler. Lighting Design was spot-on thanks to Ted and Tim Daniels, the excellent father and son duo. Sound Design was well done by Leon Green with Benjamin Winnie doing a fine job as Sound Tech. Costumes by Kris Maier, always top-notch. Diane Cooke did her usual good job as Assistant Director/Stage Manager. Sarah Hayner was the producer.

The play is set in New Hampshire at a not-quite-first-tier boarding school where the Admissions Director is busy increasing the student body diversity. Emily Clark gives us a stellar portrayal of Sherri Rosen-Mason, a liberal with conviction and passion. As her support staff, Roberta, Jane Zussman gives us

a character from a different era, who believes in personal qualities over quotas. She lends a natural comedic touch to the play. At one point, greatly frustrated, she exclaims, “All that comes out of your mouth is diversity, diversity; diversity. It’s exhausting!”

But this play isn’t really about diversity or affirmative action. It’s about whiteness — liberal white people who aren’t so liberal when their home turf is challenged. Jeff Kennedy plays the husband and Head of School with a mild bluster and a smug smile, totally supportive of his wife and somewhat befuddled by his son Charlie, a gifted student who has been placed on Yale’s waiting list. Which infuriates him.

Charlie is played by Heath Sartorius who gives a brilliant performance. He has a 15-minute meltdown that deserved a standing ovation on its own.

Interplay between mother and son is splendid.

Colleen Bethea plays the best friend, married to a biracial professor with a son considered black. Her son is Charlie’s best friend — until he is accepted by Yale — no waiting list for him. This leads to a breaking of the mothers’ friendship. Nice work by Ms. Bethea.

Ms. Clark and Mr. Kennedy give us characters who are well meaning but draw a line if personal sacrifices are required. They are ambivalent. As is the play. I hope it provoked numerous conversations on the drive home. Congratulations to all involved.

Jan Lockwood



Emily Clark as mom Sherri, Heath Sartorius as son Charlie, Jeff Kennedy as dad Bill. PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM



Mother and son at odds over what is “right” and what is “fair.” PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM



Employee Roberta (Jane Zussman) has once again failed to include the right number of “people of color” photos in the admissions catalog. PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM



Sherri (Emily Clark) shares wine and friendship with Ginnie (Colleen Bethea) until values and filial allegiances are challenged. PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

# A U D I T I O N S



**Drama by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen**

**Directed by Alan Greenberg**

**Audition Dates: Wed. & Thurs., November 29 & 30 2023 at 7 pm. (or by appt.)**

**Production Dates: February 15-18 & 22-25**

*The Exonerated* combines first-person narrative with legal records to tell the stories of six wrongfully convicted inmates — Delbert Tibbs, Kerry Max Cook, Gary Gauger, David Keaton, Robert Earl Hayes and Sunny Jacobs — and their paths to freedom. The accounts of these freed convicts emphasize their lives after being sentenced to death, including much of the legal proceedings that gained their exoneration.

**Delbert** - African-American, 60. A seminary dropout, radical and poet. His whole personality is like an old soul song; smooth, mellow

and with an underlying rhythm that never lets up. Actors playing Delbert should take care to find his substantial sense of humor in addition to his obvious depth.

**Sunny White** – 50.

A bright, Pixie-ish yoga teacher from California. Her lightness and positivity contrast with moments of great depth and clarity.

**Robert** - African-American, 30s. A former horse groomer from the Deep South; hardened but not lacking a sense of humor. Deep rural Mississippi accent.

**Georgia/Female Ensemble #1** -African-American, 30s. Robert’s wife, also southern; opinionated outspoken female and extremely warm. She and Robert have a lovingly contentious relationship. Loves to speak her mind.

**Gary White**, 45. A Midwestern hippie and an organic farmer. Clearly was in his element in the late 60s and early 70s. He is generally good-natured, friendly, and quite smart.

**Kerry White**, 45. A 19-year-old trapped in a 45-year-old’s body, born and bred in Texas. Kerry was imprisoned for 22 of his 45 years and is eager to rediscover the

world. Always wants to make sure he connects with whomever he is talking to. Strong Texas accent.

**David** - African American, 40. A gentle, sad man, born and raised in northern Florida (otherwise known as southern Alabama). Has a very strong spiritual sense and had aspirations to the ministry before being put on death row at 18. He is continually engaged in a battle between resignation and hope.

**Sandra/Sue/Female Ensemble #2** - White, 40. **Sandra** is married to Kerry. Sweet, nurturing, loves Kerry dearly and has a great sense of humor about him. She has a strong Texas accent. **Sue** is married to Gary. Salt of the earth; She is also an organic farmer. She has a strong upper midwestern accent - think Fargo.

**Male Ensemble #1 & #2** - Both white, 35 to 50. These two play police officers, attorneys, suspects, and other supporting characters. Both actors should be good with dialects and characterization. Both roles require highly versatile, commanding actors.

Since the play is based on real life characters, many of whom are still living, there are some, but limited opportunities for non-traditional casting. All actors will be considered.

**If you cannot make one of the scheduled audition dates, please e-mail AlanBGreenberg@gmail.com and include your name and phone number. You will be called back to set an auditions time.**

## 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.

**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 audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions**



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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Stracuse (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



*By Peter Shaffer,  
 Directed by  
 Amy Rickett*

*Lead roles of Antonio Salieri and Wolfgang Mozart were cast in August.*

**ALL OTHER ROLES**  
**Audition Sunday &  
 Monday, January 21 &  
 January 22, 7 pm**

**Production Dates:**  
**March 14-17 & 21-24,  
 2024**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is a remarkably talented young Viennese composer who unwittingly finds a fierce rival in the disciplined

and determined Antonio Salieri. Resenting Mozart for both his hedonistic lifestyle and his undeniable talent, the highly religious Salieri is gradually consumed by his jealousy and becomes obsessed with Mozart's downfall, leading to a devious scheme that has dire consequences for both men.

**Antonio Salieri** - Jeff Magnuson

**Wolfgang Mozart** - Lewis C. Elson

**Contanze Weber**, wife of Mozart  
 - Female 25-30 years old

**Joseph II, Emperor of Austria** - Male  
 30-45 years old

**Count Johann Killan von Strack** - Male  
 40-70 years old

**Count Franz Orsini-Rosenberg** - Male  
 65+ years old

**Baron Gottfried van Swieten** - Male  
 45+years old

**TWO "Venticelli" "Little Winds"**  
 purveyors of information, gossip and rumor - can be Male or Female

**Major Domo** - Male

### NON-SPEAKING ROLES:

**Salieri's Valet** - Male

**Salieri's Cook** - Male

**Teresa Salieri** - wife of Salieri, Female  
**Katherine Cavalieri** - Salieri's pupil,  
 Female

**Giuseppe Bonno** - Male

**Gallery** - Citizens of Vienna

This play is OPEN to Non-Traditional casting. Non-traditional casting "is defined as the casting of ethnic minority actors in roles where race, ethnicity, or gender is not germane".

Come prepared to read from the script. Perusal scripts are available at the

Riverwalk Theatre Office Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5:00pm or contact us at: RWT@Riverwalktheatre.com



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