

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at
Riverwalk Theatre

Season 34 • Number 6
March, 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



These 'Boots' Were Made for Watching Broadway hit 'Kinky Boots' comes to Riverwalk's Main Stage

The power of community and coming together will be on full display next week when *Kinky Boots*, the hit musical by Harvey Fierstein and Cyndi Lauper, comes to the Main Stage at Riverwalk Theatre.

Director Kelly Stuibie-Clark, active in Lansing theatre for over 15 years, was deliberate in choosing this musical as her return to live theater post-COVID.

"The energy, joy and fun that this show brings to audiences is unmatched," she said. "I just felt like now was the time to take on this massive show as we come back after the pandemic and share in the community of Riverwalk."

Kinky Boots follows Charlie Price (Zach Husak), a young man from Northern England who takes over a struggling family shoemaking business after the death of his father. In his attempts to save the shoe factory, he discovers an unlikely hero in a drag performer named Lola (Jordan Taylor).

"The experience has been challenging, with ups and downs," Taylor said, but "this role means the world to me because I have the opportunity to reach and inform the audience to be themselves without any hesitation."

Elaina Coscarella plays Lauren, a shoe factory worker who helps Charlie along the way. She says the show has "a message everyone can relate to and one that should be embraced now more than ever. I'm proud to be helping spread love and positivity through theater and hope our



Zach Husak and Elaina Coscarella • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM



Jordan Taylor looks on as Zach Husak works on his Kinky Boot design • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

audience leaves feeling free to just be."

Stuibie-Clark sums it up this way: "Kinky Boots

is an uplifting, joyous tribute to the strength of community as well as being true to yourself. Full of catchy music, energetic dancing, and characters you won't soon forget, this is a show not to be missed!"

Kinky Boots will run March 2-5 and 9-12. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit riverwalk-theatre.com.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

🎵 March 2-12 - **KINKY BOOTS**
 - Musical by Harvey Fierstein, Music by Cyndi Lauper, Directed by Kelly Stuibie Clark - Main Stage

👥 April 13-23 - **STEELE MAGNOLIAS** - Drama by Robert Harling, Directed by Meg Woolsey - Black Box Stage

🎵 May 4-14 - **PETER AND THE STARCATCHER** - Musical Comedy by Roger Rees & Alex Timbers Written by Rick Elice with Music by Wayne Barker, Directed by Brian Farnham - Main Stage

★ Wednesday, June 28, 7 pm - **BARNEY AWARDS Celebration** awards, entertainment, refreshments.

👥 Sept. 14-17 & 21-24, 2023 **ADMISSIONS** by Joshua Harmon, Directed by Bob Robinson

👥 **PLAYS:** (both black-box & main stage) 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$12/\$10**

🎵 **MUSICALS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays - \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 age 12 & under)

A AUDITIONS - more info at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

Misery Creeps Out Sellout Crowds

We enjoyed a “miserable” night at Riverwalk, as Ayden Soupal’s directorial debut presented *MISERY*, adapted by William Goldman from the popular Stephen King novel on Riverwalk’s black box stage.

Director Ayden wisely chose not to have an intermission in order to maintain the momentum of escalating desperation (so audiences enjoyed the rare privilege of bringing refreshments into the theatre).

Romance novelist Paul Sheldon, rescued from a car crash by his “number one fan,” Annie Wilkes, convalesces in her secluded home, Annie reads his latest book and is enraged to discover he has killed off her favorite character, Misery Chastain.

Annie forces Paul to write a new Misery novel, and he realizes she has no intention of letting him go anywhere. The irate Annie has Paul writing as if his life depends on it, and it does.

Holly Sleight-Engler played Annie first bubbling with fan-girl energy and motherly nursing services. But the vinegar under the

sweetness soon bubbled up into a simmering menace.

Scott’s desperation built throughout the play. He was particularly convincing portraying the physical pain of his character. I found myself wincing as he made his struggling way to the keyhole of the door between the rooms.

Jules Overfelt was charmingly folksy as the sheriff we hope will save the day, but... no. This role offered a dash of humor and hope, a welcome eye from the outside word that added tension and possibilities to the plot.

Kudos to fight choreographer Dale Wayne Williams and intimacy coordinator Amanda Tollstam for engineering some violent moments, while assuring the actors survived for subsequent performances!

The set was a practical, two-room scene that worked well for the must-lock door between rooms. I would have liked to have seen more “decor” reflecting Annie’s unique character.

Thanks to the entire Misery team for brining this show to life:

Taylor Smith, assistant director; Vanessa Mazhangara, stage manager; Heath Sartorius, producer and sound design; Amy Jo Brown, lighting design; Amanda Macomber, costumes; Michelle and Tracy Smith, props and running crew; Derek Soupal and Leroy Cupp, set design; set construction and painting Derek and Kat Soupal, Leroy Cupp, Leon Green, Tom Ferris, Alan Greenberg, and Bob Nees.

Jane Zussman



Holly Sleight-Engler as Annie Wilkes →

← Scott Pohl as Paul Sheldon

PHOTOS BY WWW.ARNIKO.COM



L to R: Jules Overfelt, Holly Sleight-Engler, Scott Pohl

Cast Lists for Upcoming Shows



Drama by Robert Harling
Directed by Meg Woolsey
April 13-16 & 20-23, 2023
Black Box Stage

CAST LIST

Truvy Jones – Laura J. Croff
 Annelle Dupuy-Desoto – Caila Conklin
 Clairee Belcher – Gloria Vivalda
 Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie – Taylor Haslett
 M'Lynn Eatenton – Gini Larson
 Ouiser Boudreaux – Amy Rickett



Musical by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers
Written by Rick Elice with Music by Wayne Barker
Directed by Brian Farnham
May 4-7 & 11-14, 2023

Main Stage

CAST LIST

Peter – Mathieu Wiesner
 Molly Aster – Ava Taube
 Black Stache – Joe Dickson
 Smee – Jillian Stauffer
 Mrs. Bumbrake – Luka Pawsek
 Lord Leonard Aster – Frank Boston
 Prentiss – Lyla Pople
 Ted – Daniel Beaver

Storyteller's
 Ensemble: Emily Brannam, Joe Clark, Chris Didur, Mehreen Jamil, Sarah Lehman, Nick Lemmer, Evelyn Malfait, Anthony Mandalari, Quincy McCabe, Michael Palmer, Leonard Poole, Lainie Plunkett, Bob Purosky, Alex Yun

Lansing Women Artists Collective - Lobby Art for March - May



L to R: Lisa Wilson, Cindy Mielock, Nanette Mathe, Hedda Doyle, Dorothy Engelman, Lezlee Worthington, Sue Wittick and Lisabeth Curnow

Missing members: Christine Beals, Janet MacFarlane, Steph Hogan and Maureen Ryan

Lansing Women Artists Collective was formed in late 2022 by a small group of local women artists. We are focused not only on creating our own visual art but in supporting each other in celebrating our art. One of our goals is to exhibit our work in local galleries,

theaters, libraries, and businesses to make it more accessible to the public for viewing and purchase. Each member has unique and interesting pieces and works in varying media including watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, fiber and photography. Our

members include formally trained full time artists as well as those who have recently discovered or had the time to thoroughly explore their artistic skills. We are thrilled to be featured at Riverwalk Theatre.

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

Exec Committee Update

Season Selection Musings

This past Tuesday, Riverwalk announced its lineup for our 35th Season (for anyone keeping up, that's our Jade Anniversary!). I am proud to have served on the Season Selection Committee for more than five years alongside some of the best committed collaborators. The efforts of the committee are no small feat: crafting an exciting and engaging season year after year that will attract audiences and volunteers alike. And there's no shortage of reading involved!

The past two years of selection process have had their challenges — the continuation of the pandemic, determining how to safely bring volunteers back with shows that will allow them to tell stories and celebrate their respective crafts with our community. Additionally, we as a theatre community have seen a decline in audiences returning to our theatres, certainly an impact from the pandemic as well.

We've also faced interesting challenges, such as publishing companies limiting rights availability. This has been one of the unexpected and disappointing parts of our process. None of us on the committee particularly likes saying



no to a show proposal, and having to say no because we cannot secure rights is probably the biggest let-down. Last season alone, we were denied rights for three shows due to restrictions. This year, we found several shows early in our process with rights restrictions. However, this does allow us to have some long term plans to lean on for these titles.

We're so very excited about the slate of shows next season. There's truly something for everyone, encompassing opportunities for volunteers on-stage and backstage alike (personally, the costume options alone make me giddy!).

*Shannon Bowen
 Riverwalk Production VP*

Season 35 • 2023-24

ADMISSIONS by Joshua Harmon, Directed by Bob Robinson; Sept. 14-17 & 21-24, 2023

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW by Richard O'Brien, Directed by Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman; Oct. 19-21 & 26-28, 2023

TRAIL TO OREGON by Nick & Matt Lang, Brian Holden & Jeff Blim, Directed by Ayden Soupal; Nov. 9-12 & 16-19, 2023

CHRISTMAS BELLES by Jones, Hope & Wooten, Directed by Kate Clark; Dec. 7-10 & 14-17, 2023

THE EXONERATED by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Directed by Alan Greenberg; Feb. 15-18 & 22-25, 2024

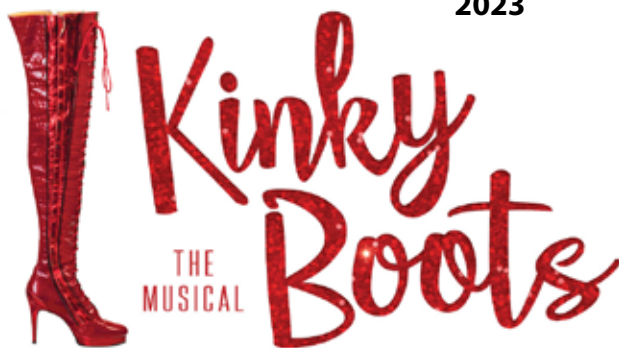
AMADEUS by Peter Shaffer, Directed by Amy Rickett; March 14-17 & 21-24, 2024

MOONGLOW by Kim Carney, Directed by Emily Clark; April 11-14 & 18-21, 2024

SHREK, THE MUSICAL Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book & Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, Directed by Linda Widener; May 16-19 & 23-26, 2024

Audition information, season tickets, updates and more will be posted at www.riverwalktheatre.com. **To volunteer backstage**, in a technical role (lights, sound, etc.), at our scene shop, or some other support capacity, please contact the director of the show that interests you or email Sarah Hayner (skhayner7@gmail.com) **To assist with front-of-house duties** (ushering, concessions, theatre upkeep, etc.), contact Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com • 517-482-5700)

March 2-5 & 9-12,
 2023



NOTE:
 Thursday 7pm shows **ONLY**
 are sold at half capacity for
 socially distanced seating,
 with masks required
 for the audience.

Tickets are going fast!
 call or go online today to
 reserve your seats!

517-482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

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

