

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 35 • Number 7
March, 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

Moonglow to light up Black Box

*It must have been
moonglow
Way up in the blue
It must have been
moonglow
That led me straight
to you.*

This 1933 jazz standard, performed and recorded by many through the 40s and 50s, evokes the memory of a past era that dances us into Kim Carney's surreal and touching script where elders drift in and out of memory and present-day reality.

There's humor and relatable real-life frustrations and the challenges of getting an uncooperative mother with dementia into nursing home care — paired with surreal phantoms of mom's youthful self, and her youthful sailor paramour — her husband? Or an earlier version of Joe, a new friend also living at the nursing home?

Director Emily Clark has long been a fan of playwright Kim Carney, having directed her script *The Home Team* at Riverwalk in 2017 which won Best Play Thespian award and many Barneys. This script promises another captivating theatrical experience.

Emily says, "I've always been drawn to plays that don't go where you think they'll go.... Kim Carney has a great ability to find humor in things that are generally not thought of as funny. It has a lot of heart."

Involved in theatre since the age of 14, Emily loves to perform, but prefers directing. She has also directed shows at Starlight Dinner Theatre, Peppermint Creek Theatre, Over the Ledge, and Mason High School.

Emily is proud of her crew, "My directing team are all people I have worked with before because they are all perfect at what they do! I have tasked Ted Daniel to do the lights. He's trying very hard to accommodate my wishes which may be impossible." Ted is now challenged to bring Emily's vision to life in this story where lighting defines and blurs the lines



Storm Hawthorne
& Connor Kelly

PHOTO BY
ARINIKO.COM

between time and memory.

Emily is also proud of her cast of veteran actors, Barb Stauffer and Doak Bloss are the elders, Maxine and Joe. Erin Hoffman and Frank Boston are their adult children coping with them — assisted by Filonna Thomas as an administrator at the nursing home. Storm Hawthorne and Connor Kelly are the remembered youthful versions of Maxine and Joe.

Emily reports, "The interesting part is that there are two characters that are elderly and two characters that are the young "memories" of the older two. Doak Bloss and Connor Kelly are essentially playing the same person at very different times in his life. They've been having a wonderful time watching each other to pick up mannerisms from each of them to make us believe that the young man grew up to be the old man." A similar process is going on with Storm and Barb.

Moonglow opens in Riverwalk's Black Box stage on April 11. General Admission tickets assure admission in case of a sellout in this smaller venue. Get there early for best seats. Make plans to attend today. Bring an elderly parent... or an adult child you're hoping won't put you in a nursing home! *Moonglow* promises to be a heart-opening experience for both generations.

Jane Zussman

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

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

🎵 May 16-19 & 23-26 - **JAMES
& THE GIANT PEACH**, Music/
lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin
Paul, book by Timothy Allen
McDonald, Directed by Linda
Widener **NOTE: Thu-Fri-Sat
7pm; 2 pm Sun.** - main stage

★ June 21, Friday, 9am-8pm
**HUGE INDOOR RUMMAGE
SALE** - Start sorting through
your STUFF to donate! (See
page 3)

★ June 22, Saturday, 1pm
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

★ June 26, Wednesday, 6pm
ANNUAL BARNEY AWARDS
reception and awards show

🕒 **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

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

Amadeus Amazing



Lewis C. Elson's Mozart annoys Jeff Magnuson's Salieri - PHOTO BY ARINIKO.COM

Every scene, script, and line Jeff Magnuson has memorized and performed from his very first play to this theatric moment has crescendoed into this immaculate performance of Antonio Salieri, the tragically flawed lead, in Riverwalk's *Amadeus*.

This isn't a sycophantic statement from an admirer but from an artist who has photographed astounding performances from hundreds of actors in over fifty-two Riverwalk Theatre productions since 2016.

Jeff performed an almost constant stream of dialogue for the entirety of the play, pausing only long enough to allow the other veteran actors their opportunity to perform their hearts out.

Although Jeff's performance was a true marathon, there were other runners in the race. I've come to really enjoy the breadth of acting skill Lewis C. Elson brings to his parts; from aloof neighbor in *Bell, Book and Candle* to bawdy Frank-N-Furter in *Rocky Horror*; I was greatly anticipating this performance as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Of course, he did not disappoint.

And neither did the delightful Taylor Haslett as the sweet and naïve Constance

Weber. The three strong leads brought charisma, stamina, and elaborate facial expressions to communicate their characters' moods and attitudes.

With nineteen cast members, it would be impossible to give total credit to all involved, but other standouts were: Laura Croff and Lauren Spadafora as "The 'Little Winds', purveyors of gossip" flitting in and out at the most opportune moments — as well as Joe Clark, Bob Purosky, Eric Vincent, and Aaron Wittbrodt as the aristocrats of the era, who helped create a strong backbone for the plotline.

In addition to the actors, the costumes reigned. (Kris Maier and crew) Without such detailed outfits, from lacy sleeves to brass buttons,

this period piece would have fallen flat. There are some amazingly talented creators in our community and they came through for this production.

There are a lot of details in this production and I hope each audience member took the time to really appreciate all that went into this massive production. Once again Riverwalk Theatre, through the patiently talented direction of Amy Rickett, brought the best together to perform, entertain, and enrich the Greater Lansing Community.

Ariniko O'Meara



Taylor Haslett frolics with Lewis Elson's Mozart -

PHOTO BY ARINIKO.COM



**Special
Peach
shows
for great
causes!**

Riverwalk's upcoming family musical offers performances in support of two great causes:

RIF - MAY 19

Lansing Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) has worked in the Lansing School District since 1975, providing nearly three million books of their choice to generations of Lansing students. RIF serves students in all grades and is entirely community-funded.

RIF show Sunday, May 19 at 2pm - Tickets for that performance only will be available by contacting the RIF office, 517-755-4966. Payments by cash or check only (made out to Lansing School District RIF). Each child 18 and under in the audience will be able to choose a RIF book to take home. **Child 12 and under \$5; adult \$10.**

CASA - MAY 22

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate providing volunteer advocacy within the court system and the community on behalf of children in the foster care system who have experienced abuse and neglect, serving every child, regardless of race, background, or identity, because every child deserves a safe, supportive, and permanent home where they can thrive.

CASA show Wed., May 22 at 7pm

Two ticket types:

- 1. General Admission: Adult \$30, Child \$15**
- 2. VIP Tickets:** Limited to 47 tickets and includes a **5:30 pm VIP reception** with peach beverages. **Adult \$50, Child \$20**

CASA is also offering all 247 tickets to children they work with (and their families) free of charge for a private show — and is happily taking support/donations on the event page where you can buy tickets for yourself for May 22, as well as donating tickets for a CASA child (\$15) or a family (\$75) to see the private show.

For more info and to purchase CASA performance tickets, go to:

<https://casaforkidsinc.networkforgood.com/events/67483-james-and-the-giant-peach-fundraiser-for-kids>

REGULAR RWT PERFORMANCES

James & the Giant Peach - May 16-26

7pm Thu/Fri/Sat; 2pm Sun;

Adults \$24; Senior/Student \$20;

Child 12 & under \$12

www.riverwalktheatre.com

517-482-5700

A U D I T I O N S



ANGELS IN AMERICA: Millennium Approaches by Tony Kushner directed by Bob Robinson

AUDITIONS 7 pm, Sun/Mon,
June 16, 17 • **SHOWS:** August 15-25

Angels in America is centered around a gay man who is abandoned by his lover after he contracts the AIDS virus. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award and Drama Desk Award, the play is an examination of AIDS and homosexuality in 1980s America. It bluntly and graphically deals with racism, religion, Jews, WASPS and Reagan era politics, switching between reality and fantasy. The New York Times described it as "A vast miraculous play...provocative, witty and deeply upsetting...."

Roy M. Cohn, 45-55. A successful New York attorney and unofficial power broker. Former assistant to Senator Joseph McCarthy during his investigation of suspected communists.

Joseph Pitt, 30-35. Chief Clerk for a Federal Court of Appeals judge.

Harper Pitt, 25-35. Joe's wife, agoraphobic with a mild Valium addiction, not always living in "reality."

Louis Ironside, 30. A word processor working for the Court of Appeals.

Prior Walter, 30, Louis's boyfriend.

Hannah Pitt, 55-60. Joe's mother, a Mormon living in Salt Lake City.

Belize, 30-35, African American. A former drag queen and Prior's former lover

The Angel. She is an angel. The actor cast as The Angel must be prepared for a certain degree of "physical" activity.

The actors cast in the above roles will also play the following characters:

Rabbi Isidor Chemelwitz, an Orthodox Jewish rabbi.
Mr. Lies, Harper's imaginary friend.

The Man in the Park.

Henry, Roy's doctor.

Emily, a nurse.

Martin Heller, a Reagan Administration Justice Department hack.

Sister Stella Chapter, a Salt Lake City real-estate salesperson.

Prior I, ghost of a dead Prior Walter, a thirteenth century medieval English farmer.

Prior II, ghost of a dead Prior Walter, a seventeenth sophisticated Londoner.

An Eskimo

A Homeless Woman

Ethel Rosenberg, a woman convicted of espionage, executed in 1953.

Those who audition should come prepared to read from the script. Perusal scripts are available from the Riverwalk office. *NOTE: this play contains very graphic language, brief male nudity and sexual situations. If you are uncomfortable with adult language and depictions of sexual acts, please do not audition. If you are not otherwise familiar with this play, the director strongly urges you to read the script before auditioning.*

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

Time to Declutter! Bring donations beginning May 29!

This sale may seem far off, but we all know how fast time goes! The Huge Costume Shop Sale will be June 21 from 9 AM to 8 PM at Riverwalk Theatre.

Have you started to collect your **household items, tools, toys, games, puzzles and other miscellany** to donate to the sale?

As you declutter for spring. Let us help you dispose of unwanted, useful items that will be treasured by someone else. Any clean items in good repair will be accepted — *except electronics and clothing*. (Costumes from the shop will be on sale — but we are not accepting clothing from donors.)

Donations will be accepted at the theatre Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning May 29, continuing June 5 and June 12.

If you cannot come on a Wednesday, text Sandy at 517-256-4550 to make arrangements to bring them at another time.



HUGE COSTUME SHOP SALE will be held **Friday, June 21 from 9AM to 8PM inside the 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

2023-2024 Officers

President.....Brian Farnham
 Admin. VP Kate Clark
 Production VPShannon Bowen
 Treasurer Michele Booher-Purosky
 Secretary..... Elisha Smith

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Frank Boston	Scott Mandel
Laura Clark-Roumpz	Lauren Mudry
Darrin Fowler	Scott Pohl
Leon Green	Ayden Soupal
Alan Greenberg	Julian Van Dyke
Bernie Lucas	Rick Wendorf
Amanda Macomber	Linda Widener
	Aaron Wittbrodt
	Liane Zimny

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

Announcing Riverwalk's 2024-25 Season



ANGELS IN AMERICA: Millennium Approaches

Pulitzer-Prize-winning examination of AIDS in the 1980s by Tony Kushner;
 directed by Bob Robinson
 • August 15-18 & 22-25, 2024



PICKLEBALL

comedy by Jeff Daniels;
 directed by Amy Jo Brown
 • September 26-29 & Oct. 3-6, 2024



URINETOWN

hilariously dark musical by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis;
 directed by Brian Farnham,
 music directed by Angie Schwab
 • November 7-10 & 14-17, 2024



Lustful Youth

comedy farce by Mike Eserkalm;
 directed by Kait Wilson
 • January 9-12 & 16-19, 2024



FIRST DATE

- musical comedy by Austin Winsberg with music and lyrics by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner;
 directed by Crystal Carlson,
 music directed by Angie Schwab
 • February 13-16 & 20-23, 2025



The Importance of Being Earnest

classic comedy by Oscar Wilde;
 directed by Bob Purosky
 • March 13-16 & 20-23, 2025



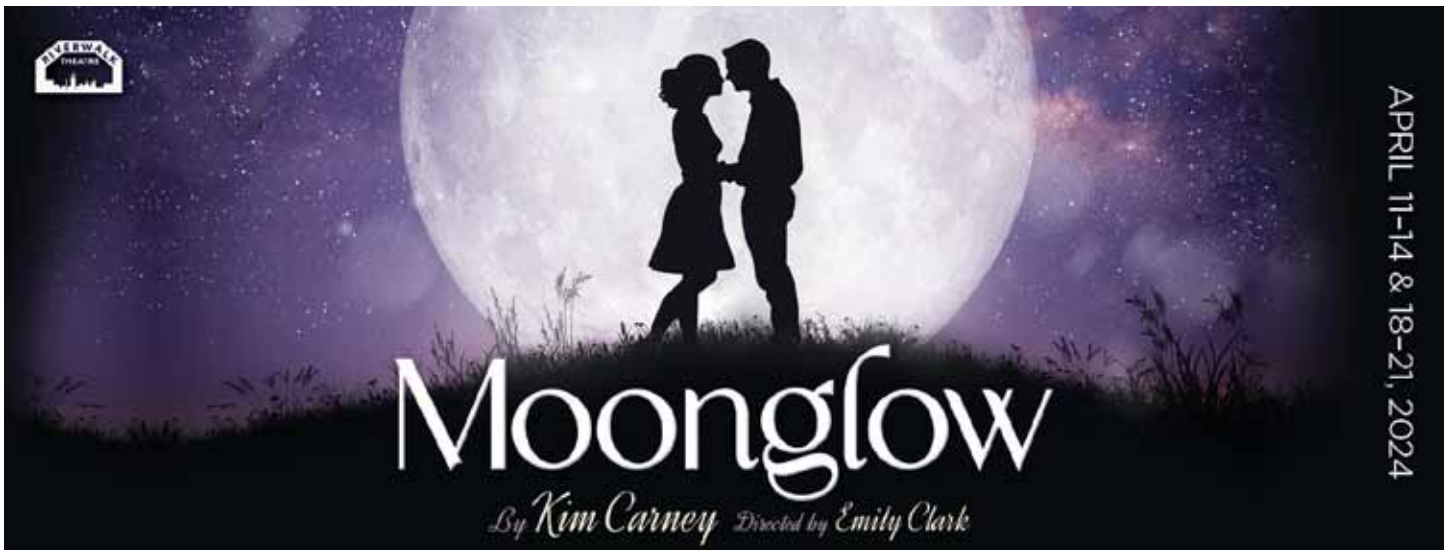
How I Learned to Drive

by Paula Vogel;
 directed by Diane Cooke
 • April 3-6 & 10-13, 2025



THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

cartoonish romp by Kyle Jarrow and Tina Landau; directed by Kate Dickinson Clark, music directed by Alan Sloan
 • May 29-June 1 & June 5-8 (includes Saturday matinees and evenings; 10 shows total)



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

