

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 6
January, 2020

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 5:30 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com



A Holiday Cabaret

Many of the talented stars of last year's Holiday Cabaret are back for this year's musical revue (but not the guy hidden by this panel).

Larissa Gleason-Clark, Kelley Lofton, Travis Williams, Adam Woolsey, Brian Farnham, & Bob Purosky

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Here's the festive, fun event you've been looking for: a cabaret revue that mixes soloists, chorus and dance numbers that will entertain the whole family.

Riverwalk favorites new to the Cabaret are Erin Biel, Aja Jenks, Robert Mueller, Kathryn Mulcahy and Tricia Rogers. They will join last year's Cabaret stars Larissa Gleason-Clark, Kelley Lofton, Travis Williams, Adam Woolsey, Brian Farnham, and Bob Purosky. We can happily hope this Riverwalk Holiday Cabaret is a "tradition," now in its second year, under the masterful direction of Meghan Eldred-Woolsey.

Meghan knows her music, and has put together an entertaining program that includes some holiday surprises. She is in her thirteenth year of teaching choir at DeWitt High School where she directs seven choirs and the high school musicals. Meghan has a BFA in Music Education and an MA in Choral Conducting from MSU and is the Artistic Director for Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, as well as being the 2017 recipient of the Greg Rueter Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre Education.

You will enjoy familiar favorites such as Silver

Bells, and "We Need a Little Christmas" from *Mame* plus songs in the style of Bette Midler and Sarah Barielles, plus a couple tunes from *Frozen* — and dance numbers by Karyn Perry's troupe ranging from *Disco Christmas* to *Auld Lang Syne*.

Only ONE WEEKEND December 20-22 for this show (7pm Fri & Sat; 3pm Sun.); all tickets are \$15 - online www.riverwalktheatre.com or call 517-482-5700; tickets at the door, while they last.

In our version of a "Giving Tree" in our lobby a couple of elves created a "Giving Fireplace" decorated with paper "wish stockings" requesting needed items for Holy Cross Services to give to homeless and at-risk people. Charlie Brown attendees took a stocking with a "wish" item on it, to bring back to the lobby collection bin when they attend the Cabaret — or any time during business hours 10 am- 5:30 pm. Even if you did not pick a stocking-wish, we invite you to bring travel size toiletry products, period products, diapers etc... and new, packaged socks and underwear — as well as gently used outerwear, such as coats, hats, scarves and mittens. Jane Zussman

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ December 20-22 - **HOLIDAY CABARET** musical variety - Director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey

A EARLY AUDITIONS for ADULT SHREK and FIONA ONLY Saturday, **JANUARY 11**, 9:30 am to noon, and Sunday, **JANUARY 12**, 2 pm to 4 pm (Other roles will be cast after the March 29 & 30 auditions.)

■ January 16-19 & 23-26, **BOY GETS GIRL** - sexual politics thriller - Director: Brian Farnham

👉 February 6-9 & 13-16 - **UNNECESSARY FARCE** - comedy/farce - Director: Jeff Magnuson

A February 27 and 28, Thursday and Friday, 6:30-8:30, **AUDITIONS for The Fantastic Mr. Fox**, at Hannah Community Center. Produced by All-of-us Express; ages 9-18 are welcome for cast and crew; optional Audition Workshop Feb. 26 at 6:30; more information at cityofeastlansing.com/allofus or e-mail ecooke@cityofeastlansing.com (performs April 24-May 3, 2020)

👉 **PLAYS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**

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

■ **BLACK BOX SHOWS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fridays & Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays \$12 (\$10 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**

A AUDITIONS - more info at <https://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html>

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** 7pm Fri/Sat; 3pm Sun. \$15 all ages.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown: a show for all ages



L to R: Christopher Verhil, Robert Mueller, Taren Going, Tricia Rogers, Brian Farhnam, Braden Cooley • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

It was nostalgia for those of us who remember the original Peanuts Era — fresh and fun and philosophical for those not familiar with Charles Schultz's characters and humorously downtrodden outlook — and also colorful and fun to hold the interest of youngish kids. I saw preschoolers excited to meet the characters in the lobby afterward.

Director Bob Purosky artfully assembled an all-star cast led by the soulful Brian Farnham as the endearingly depressed but hopeful Charlie Brown. Tricia Rogers was an enthusiastically “crabby” (shall we say assertive?) Lucy Van Pelt. Taren Going was a true charmer as Sally, embracing her various “new philosophies” and joining Snoopy (Christopher Verhil) in a spirited rabbit hunt. Christopher celebrated his inner canine with impish abandon as Snoopy. Robert Mueller was excellent as the “serious musician” (and a big fan Beethoven as well as Robin Hood.) And Braden Cooley encompassed the spectrum from sweet, blanket-addicted brother to intellectual philosopher and master of the book report.

The script is episodic, a collection of

comic strips — but what the show lacked in plot, it made up for by building a sense of community/family that loves each other despite the disappointments and confusions of childhood/life. “Happiness is those who sing with you.”

The music was well done with keyboardist Jeff English (the true Schroeder!) leading four other musicians (hiding in the backstage orchestra loft: Polly Bashore on percussion, Will Cicola on woodwinds, Tamara Hicks-Syron on violin, and Don Sare on Electric Bass) and excellent voices in the cast.

The set was versatile and fun, with comic-strip-style scenography by Eric Chatfield and Travis Williams — and childlike projections drawn by July George Purosky that added fun backdrops and dimensions. There were some surprises in this show: a Wizard-of-Oz-worthy transformation from grayscale to color, and a dancing blanket come to life. (Pretty sure it was Snoopy in there.) Choreographer Amanda Tollstam captured the mood/character of this show with imaginative, child-like and dog-like dances that lifted the songs to a higher level.

NOTE ALSO that there were TWO community/charitable projects associated with this show:

The Linus Project provides homemade blankets to comfort children who are ill or traumatized or otherwise in need — plus the opportunity to be a “blanketeer” creator of such blankets. There was a \$5-per-chance raffle for a special quilt and opportunities to donate money or blanketeer-ing skills. www.projectlinus.org

Holy Cross Homeless Services is a charity right down the street in need of stocking stuffers for the homeless. Their requests for travel-size toiletries, diapers, new socks/undergarments, and gently used coats/hats/gloves were posted on cute little “stockings” displayed on the lobby fireplace. holycrossservices.org

Charlie Brown patrons were encouraged to take a stocking, and bring that item to the donation box when they attend the Riverwalk Holiday Cabaret December 20-22 — or any time during Riverwalk office hours, 10-5:30 Tuesday-Friday.

Jane Zussman

With your help, Amazon wants to give Riverwalk Theatre some money. Earn cash for Riverwalk Theatre when you shop at Amazon. For every qualifying purchase you make at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate a portion of your total purchase amount to Riverwalk. It is the same company and your same account. There is no cost to Riverwalk or to you. The website is the same. Once you register, you never need do anything again except shop at smile.amazon.com. Here's how:

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- **THAT'S IT.** Keep shopping at smile.amazon.com. and supporting Riverwalk Theatre.

Mike says the Amazon donations are small but growing. Let's give them a boost with Holiday Shopping!

THANK YOU!



A U D I T I O N S

SUPER EARLY AUDITIONS for ADULT SHREK and FIONA ONLY

***Saturday, January 11, 9:30 am to noon, and Sunday,
January 12, 2 pm to 4 pm***

***All other roles will be cast after general auditions
March 29 & 30 - 7pm***

Production Dates: June 18-21 & 25-28, 2020

Musical based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig, Music by Jeanine Tesori, Book & Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Linda Widener

Music Director – James Geer

**Choreographers – Fran Ludington,
Maribeth Robinson**

An unlikely hero finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand...and his name is Shrek.

Shrek - (Adult) Male, High Baritone/Tenor (Scottish accent)

Fiona - (Adult) Female, Alto/Soprano with big high belt

Donkey - Male, High Baritone/Tenor, very talkative

Lord Farquaad - Male, High Baritone, (British accent)

Dragon - Female, Alto with Big Belt

FAIRY-TALE CREATURES

Pinocchio - Male/Female Male, with good falsetto or Soprano/Alto

White Rabbit - Male/Female, Alto/Baritone

Fairy Godmother - Female, Alto/Soprano

Peter Pan - Male/Female, Alto with Big Belt

Sugar Plum Fairy - Female, Alto with high belt

Mama Bear - Female, Alto/Soprano

Papa Bear - Male, Baritone

Baby Bear - Male/Female, Alto/Soprano

Gingy/Gingerbread Man - Male/Female, Alto with big/high belt

Elf - Female, Alto/Soprano

Ugly Duckling - (Comedic) Male/Female, Alto/Soprano

Big Bad Wolf - (Comedic) Male, Bass/Baritone and strong dancer

Three Pigs - (Comedic German), Male/Female, Tenor/Baritone (sing in harmony and dance)

Humpty Dumpty - (Comedic), Male/Female, Alto/Soprano and strong tap/jazz dancer

Wicked Witch - (Comedic), Female, Alto/Soprano

Tweedle Dee - Female, Alto with high belt

Mad Hatter - Male/Female, Alto/Soprano/Baritone

CAMEO ROLES & ENSEMBLE (*doubled roles)

*Young Shrek (8-11) - Male/Female

*Mama Ogre - Female, Soprano/Alto

*Papa Ogre - Male, Tenor/Baritone

*Guard, Male/Female - Acting role

*King Harold (Fiona's dad) - Male, Baritone

*Queen Lillian (Fiona's mom) - Female, Alto with high belt

*Three Blind Mice, Male/Female - Alto/Soprano (sing in harmony and dance)

*Young Fiona (8-11) - Female, Alto/Soprano

*Teen Fiona (13-18) - Female, Alto/Soprano with big high belt

*Captain of the Guard - Male, Acting role

*Thelonius - Male, Acting role

*Pied Piper - Male, Acting role

*Bishop, Male - Acting role

*Sign Bearer - Male/Female, Acting role

*Grumpy Dwarf - Male/Female, Acting role

*Happy People/Mob - Male and Female All Voice Types/ Dancing

*Farquaad's Guards, Male and Female Acting/Singing role

*Head Duloc Performer, Male/Female, Acting/Solo role

*Duloc Performers, Male and Female, Singers/Dancers

*Forest Creatures - Male and Female, Acting/Dancing roles

*Knights: backup singers (4) - Male/Female, Baritone/Tenor, Dancing

*Rat Tappers - Male/Female, (Good tap dancers)

***Various Ensemble Roles**, Male and Female, All Voice Types

Bluebird (voice) - Female, Soprano

Greeter - Male/Female

Please prepare an audition piece in a similar musical style. Be prepared to learn a dance combination and to read from the script.

Have you EXPIRED?

RWT membership runs July - June.

Revenue from membership funds at least a quarter of our show budgets as well as general operations. Keep Riverwalk thriving for years to come!

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

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

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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 the-atre seat

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

IT'S EASY TO JOIN OR RENEW:

Go to riverwalk-theatre.com. Click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail/give 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 - 5:30 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalktheatre.com) office hours: Tuesdays thru Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Reservations and info at: 517-482-5700 or RiverwalkTheatre.com



Riverwalk Theatre

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Rotary Main Stage

For Tickets: www.RiverwalkTheatre.com
 or (517)482-5700
 All tickets \$15

December 20-22, 2019
 7 pm Friday & Saturday
 3 pm Sunday

The
 John Dale
 Smith
 Trio

Karyn's
 Dance
 Place

A Holiday Cabaret

Directed by
 Meghan Eldred-Woolsey



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