

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 32 • Number 2
October, 2020

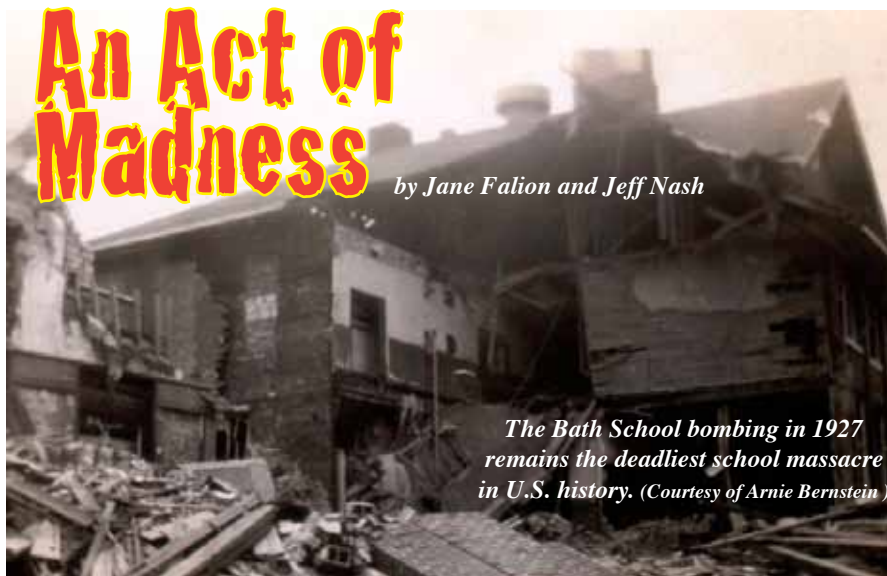
228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 2 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

You may recall director Jane Falion's historic script (written with Jeff Nash) dramatizing the infamous Bath School bombing of 1927. It was a hit at the Renegade Theatre Festival in 2009. That production was notable for its choreographed actors moving as one. Jane is re-imagining this dramatic material in a completely different video format. Join us for this human look into a violent tragedy that happened close to home.

Though not from Michigan, Jane became fascinated with historical accounts of this disaster and was inspired to create this theatrical piece, first for a forensics competition, and then expanded for the Renegade Theatre Festival, evolving into the current version. Her research included visits to the Bath School Museum in the Bath Middle School, newspaper reports from the time and Grant Parker's book, *May Day* and M.J. Elsworth's book, *The Bath School Disaster*. For more background, check out the September 23 *City Pulse* in the "A&C" section online at LansingCityPulse.com.

An Act of Madness

by Jane Falion and Jeff Nash



The Bath School bombing in 1927 remains the deadliest school massacre in U.S. history. (Courtesy of Arnie Bernstein)

The cast of this virtual version includes Adam Woolsey, Ben Holzhausen, Mark Bethea, Brian Farnham, Meg Woolsey, and Rachael Raymer — with Stage Manager Michele Booher and Technical advisor, Cody Skalmowski - with Sound by Matt Ottinger

An Act of Madness airs at 8 pm Saturday, October 3 on Facebook Live. Just go to the Riverwalk Facebook page at showtime. A recording will be available under "videos" on the Facebook page. There will be no charge to view, but those wishing to donate to the Act 2 Campaign may do so at the Riverwalk website.

EA (Eaters Anonymous) Janet Colson's New Script Airst Friday, October 30

Familiar actress/director at Riverwalk and other local stages, Janet Ehrlich Colson, last year received her MFA in creative writing from Vermont's Goddard College with a concentration in playwriting. Her thesis was *EA (Eaters Anonymous)* a full-length script that promises, "Every body (two words) is welcome at this 12-Step meeting where the only requirement is having a body that needs to be fed. There are no dues, but there is no promise of recovery, either."

An informative, entertaining article about Janet by David Winkelstern in the *City Pulse* archive reviews Janet's resume and explains that Janet herself battled an eating disorder but recovered after her children were born.

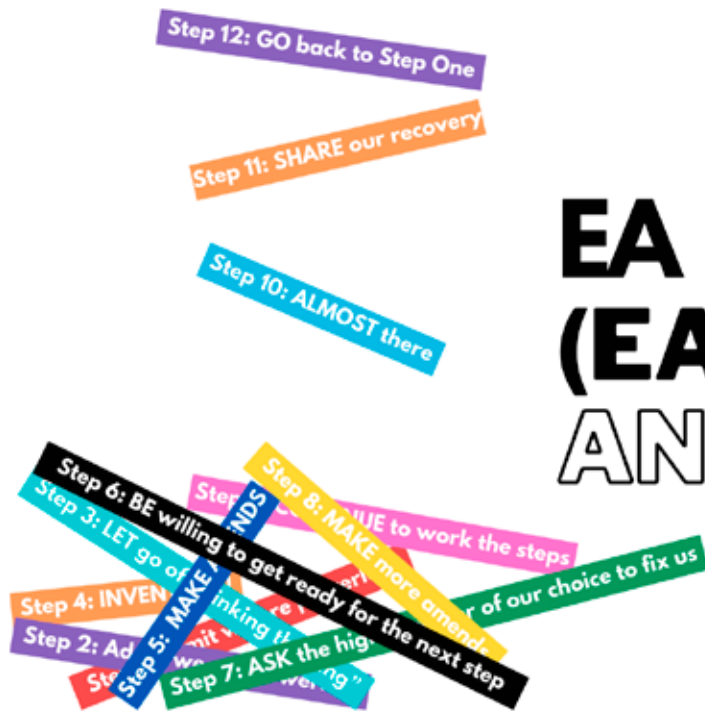


Janet Colson

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- ★ Saturday, October 3, 8 pm - **AN ACT OF MADNESS**, Jane Falion's play about the Bath School Massacre, reimagined for video format, **viewable on Facebook Live**.
- ★ Friday, October 30, 8 pm - **E.A. (EATERS ANONYMOUS)** by Janet Colson, directed by Mark Colson - Every body (two words) is welcome at this 12-Step meeting where the only requirement is having a body that needs to be fed. There are no dues, but there is no promise of recovery, either. **Viewable by Zoom**; click the link provided nearer air time on Riverwalk's Facebook page or Website - riverwalktheatre.com

- ★ Mondays, November 2, 9, 26, 23, & 30, 7 pm - **TOWARD AN ANTIRACIST TOMORROW**, series of short, entertaining, thought-provoking plays by Idris Goodwin, **Viewable by Zoom**; click the link provided nearer air time on Riverwalk's Facebook page or Website - riverwalktheatre.com



EA (EATERS ANONYMOUS)

**A virtual staged reading written by
Janet Colson, directed by Mark Colson
8pm, Friday, October 30**

EA (Eaters Anonymous) will be directed by Janet’s husband, noted actor Mark Colson, on October 30, at 8 pm as a Riverwalk virtual staged reading, presented with the help of Production Manager Rita Deibler and emcee Jeff Magnuson. The cast includes Christine Fisk, Connor Kelly, Rico Bruce Wade, Sara Frank-Hepfer, Rose Jangmi Cooper, Amy Rickett, Angela Dill, Erica Beck, Iris Raine Paul.

This will be presented as a Zoom webinar that you can join via a link to be provided on Riverwalk’s Facebook page and website. You will not need to join or download Zoom; just

click the link. If you already have Zoom installed, you will be prompted to open your Zoom app on your computer or phone. If you don’t have it already installed, you can simply choose to view the “meeting” through your web browser.

Be sure to join five or ten minutes *before* the 8pm start time, since we will be limited to 85 audience members. Viewing will be on a first-come-first-served basis. But don’t despair if we fill up the 85 slots and you can’t join. A recording of the presentation will be available for the rest of the weekend on our website, and YouTube channel.

We hope you enjoy this show! If so, please consider donating to our Act 2 Campaign via links to our website.



The September 12 parking lot show **Broadway on the Grand** was moved to the lucky 13th due to iffy weather. Kudos to Manager Mike Siracuse and his crew who communicated with all ticket holders about the postponement and handled ticket sales/seating-area chalking to smoothly navigate the previously uncharted waters of Outdoor Show Land. Applause also to Kait Wilson on keyboard, Kelly Jo Garland on sound, Cody Skalmowski and Cambray Sampson on lights, Jeff Magnuson producing, Tom Ferris

and Leroy Cupp on staging and logistics with help from Amy Rickett and Adam Carlson.

Sam Rohloff wowed us with his professional Broadway musical theatre chops singing a full program of show tunes and regaling us with anecdotes of his theatrical background and career. Cruise-ship theatre closure has Sam home in the Lansing area on hiatus with mom Amy Rickett and stepdad, our own President Jeff Magnuson. This concert not only gave him a rare-these-days opportunity to strut his stuff — but also raised

\$1,800 for Riverwalk Theatre.

Sam created an impressive show, all by himself — but I would have liked to have seen more from his also stellar “costars” Emily Hadick, and Sean Holland II who joined Sam for only a few duets and solo songs.

I wish we’d known how long this shut-down would last back in May and could have scheduled more summer parking lot shows. It’s getting a bit too chilly to do more now. Let’s HOPE we’re back in the theatre before outdoor show weather returns next spring!

Jane Zussman

IN the works...

Toward an Anti-racist Tomorrow

The Production Committee has identified a series of five short plays by Idris Goodwin designed to spark conversation about race in America. Goodwin says, “...*Since racism lives at the intersection of misinformation, ego and unchecked power, the arts must counteract by cultivating personal reflections, learning conversation and compassion...*”

These entertaining and thought-provoking scripts are free to perform with the stipulation that they are presented free of charge. READ each script at this link: <http://www.tyausa.org/freeplay/> Optional donations can be directed to local organizations as well as Riverwalk — but they are not required. Rico Bruce Wade, Rose Jangmi-Cooper, Janell Hall, and Julian Van Dyke are directing. These plays will be presented virtually, either pre-recorded and posted to our social media, presented through a Zoom room, or launched live on our Facebook. We plan to “air” one performance a week on the five Mondays in November.

A Doll's House Directed by Brian Farnham

Many thanks to the all-purpose Brian Farnham, actor, director, Board Secretary



and more, who is meeting the challenge of directing a real “community theatre” play, complete with auditions, to be rehearsed virtually and recorded — maybe even with all the actors in the same room?! Depending on current governmental mandates and considering actors health/safety.

Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House* is a classic, “in the public domain” so we don’t have to pay royalties in these cash-strapped times. It’s about folks that are not getting along all that well, so would lend itself to the separate-box virtual performance space, if necessary.

There’s been new interest in this original play, since a sequel was created in 2017 on Broadway: *A Doll’s House, Part 2* which picks up after Ibsen’s 1879 *A Doll’s House* concludes.

We hope to present this play at the end of January. Watch our Facebook page and

website for news about when/how to audition.

Virtual Holiday Cabaret Coming

We are pleased to have the multi-talented Meghan Woolsey at the helm of our holiday variety show, this time virtual, but promising to be as festive and family friendly as ever. Stay tuned

for time and virtual delivery method.

Now. Here. This. - musical

Noted director and performer Kelly Stuible has been approved to direct a virtual performance of this interesting new musical, with the artistic help of Nicole Elizabeth Martin and Veronica Gracia Wing. The show features flexible casting and follows the evolution and adventures of a group of friends journeying through time — from the present to the past and back again. They share their stories about friendship, hoarding, hiding, laughing, living, dying and middle school in an attempt to step directly into that elusive “present moment”: the *Now. Here. This.*

Plans are underway to present this, virtually in February or March. Stay tuned for audition/performance info on Facebook or Website.

Virtual shopping to benefit Riverwalk — at no cost to you!

Earn money for Riverwalk Theatre when you shop at Amazon. For every qualifying purchase you make at Amazon Smile, Amazon will give 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 web site is the same. Once you register, you never need do anything again except shop at smile.amazon.com. Here’s how:

- Go to smile.amazon.com
- Bookmark this site — you must shop at smile.amazon.com to get the donation

to Riverwalk. Shopping at amazon.com will not provide a donation.

- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. A window will



pop up to ask you what organization you want your donation to go to. No other information is requested. **Be sure to select Community Circle Players, Inc.** which, as you probably know, is Riverwalk Theatre’s official name. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

THAT’S IT. Do your shopping at smile.amazon.com and support Riverwalk Theatre.

Mike says he periodically gets checks from Amazon now. Let’s shop to make those donations larger. THANK YOU!

Thanks to all our 2020-21 Season 32 Members!

Since we are not printing programs, we're using this space to showcase and thank those of you who have demonstrated your faith in our future by donating what you can. YOU belong on this list. Membership Matters!

ANGEL

Mary & Sam Austin
Brian Farnham
Tom & Carol Ferris
Leon Green
Lee Helder
Jack & Marge Hetherington
Doug Kempf
Janet Lockwood
Ric Sadler
Clarence Weiss
Linda Widener
Mark & Jane Zussman

STAR

Kathy Booth
Facebook Fundraising
Betty Francis
Jeff Magnuson & Amy Rickett
Scott Mandel
Karen McGowan
Bob Mellor & Roger Rowchowiak
Gordon E. Miracle
Sandy Norton
Roert & Janice Skabic
Gordon & Sheila Taylor

PRODUCER

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Rebecca & Paul Kennedy
Cynthia Kruska
Gini Larson
Bob & Kathy Lovell
Dave & Fran Ludington
Robert & Shelagh Miller
Michele Booher-Purosky & Bob Purosky
John Putnam
Bonnie & Dick Radway
Schor Lansing Fund
Gordon & Connie Swix
Anthony Sump
Robert & Joan Trezise
Richard Weingartner
Carolyn White
Paul Wright & Ute von der Heyden

DIRECTOR

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Bonnie Allmen
Robert & Clare Banks
Tim Beam
Margaret Bossenbery
Carol Bray
Charles Calati
Harlow Claggett & Diane Smith
Nancy Colflesh
The Cooke Family
Mrs. Robert Curry
Marvin & Peggy Dunn
Katheryn Elliott
Gwen Erickson
Bruce & Joyce Fillmore
Oralya Garza-Ueberroth
Edric & Brandi Haleen
Beth Hubble
Karen & Jerry Jennings
Mary Elaine Kiener
Darlene Kittle
Judith Labovitz

Cleo-Rae Lavey
Kathy & Bob Lovell
Bernie Lucas
Clare S. Mackey
Gregory Martin
Mary Maurer
Bob & Lisa Mueller
Bob Nees & Mary K. Hodges Nees
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Irv Nichols
Phyllis Nix
Eileen O'Leary
Scott Pohl
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Shirley & Steve Robinson
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Jan Ross
Ruth Sablich
Kay Seppala
Lonny & Judy Snow
Daniel Sobish
Barbara & Geoffrey Stauffer
Susan & Ron Swenson
Sandra & Bob Thomasson
Bob & Sally Tubbs
Christopher Verhil
Fran Yelon
Liane Zimny

STAGE MANAGER

Donna Aberlich
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Jacqueline Borszich
Shannon Bowen
Chance Boyd
Joan Brunger
James B. Brunk III
Doug Carleton
Joe & Connie Conley
Leroy Cupp
Roberta Dugan
Mrs. Jane E. Griffin
Donald & Elizabeth Kaufman
Olivia Letts
Nancy Madtes
Susan Merkle
Merry Rosenberg
Taylor Rupp Haslett
Jenna Rutherford
Cambray Sampson
Mary Jane Schuon
Pauline Sondag
Dorothy Stark
Ronald & Agnes Thill
Don West
Pam Ziarnik

TECHNICIAN

Mary Avery
Barb Burns-Briggs
Rita Deibler
Cathy DeRose
Kelly Jo Garland
Gary Gillespie, MD
Kameron & Taren Going
Sarah Hayner
Teresa Lippert
Jeff Litten
Ron McNeill
Lori Reyes
Brett Robertson
Maribeth Robertson
Cody Skalmowski
Ned Verhil
Kay Zakrajsek

ACTOR

Wyatt Anthony
Vanessa Askew
Darlene Berling
Drew Birchmeier
Twyla Birdsong
Chance Boyd
Betsie Branch
Jean Burk
Sherry Cardwell
Hui Hua Chua
Caila Conklin
Liz Cooke
Braden Cooley
Anne Cruce
Rachael Cupples
Tim Donal
Adriana Flores
Zachary Freeman
Mandy Fuller
Janell Hall
Christine Hall
Michael Hays
Erin Hoffman
Ann Holt
Kelley Lofton
Marilyn Owens
Kristin Pagels
Luka Skrbinek Pawsek
Gabriel Pitman
Jenny Popovich
Tricia Rogers
Vee Rose
Mike Sobocinski
Leora Stutes
Gretchen Trent
Ruth Tepin
Sandy Vanlancker

RAISE your membership level for "Act II" of Post-Covid THEATRE

RWT membership runs July - Jun. 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

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

IT'S EASY TO JOIN OR RENEW:

At riverwalktheatre.com — click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

RIVERWALK THEATRE

2020-2021 Officers

President, Jeff Magnuson
Administrative VP, Darrin Fowler
Production VP, Rita Deibler
Treasurer, Michele Booher-Purosky
Secretary, Brian Farnham

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Dan Currie	Brett Robertson
Kate Dickinson	Hope Rollins
Kameron Going	Cody Skalmowski
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Sarah Hayner	Jane Zussman

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) Info at: 517-482-5700 or 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



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