

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 5
December, 2017

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

The Emperor's New Clothes Brings Music and Laughter



Emperor Vain Wan is played by Lee Purdy;
Empress Dit Zi Wan is played by Maribeth Robertson
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

We all know the classic tale told in *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Two unscrupulous tailors take advantage of a king whose followers fawn over and flatter him — but fail to inform.

The result quite literally leaves him out in the cold.

Riverwalk Theatre puts the king and his cronies onstage for the holidays in a slapstick musical version of the timeless Hans Christian Andersen story.

The Emperor's New Clothes, by Stan Gill with music by Cindy Bright, takes the Riverwalk main stage Thanksgiving weekend, November 24-26 and continues November 30-December 3.

Lee Helder directs a cast that combines Riverwalk veterans and newbies.

Helder is also costuming the show with outfits from the time period “once upon a time” in a place “west of China, east of everywhere else” — featuring wonderful hats being made by Mary K. Hodges Nees.

“I really love doing children’s theater,” said Helder. “The kids get so involved, especially when we’re doing the chase.”

That’s right. Stan Gill’s shows always include audience participation. That means actors talking directly to kids in seats, or maybe pulling them onstage to help with something; a chase scene around the theater and a sprinkling of sophisticated jokes for the benefit of grownups in the audience.

“As usual, Stan has written lines that adults will think are funny,” she said.

Helder said she has had a few of the songs looping through her head as rehearsals have gone into high gear. Songs are more complex than one might expect for a children’s show.

“We have a quintet,” she said. “And the chorus adds a lot.” James Geer is musical director for the show, also a “character” of sorts, as “The Musician.”

Lee Purdy plays the strutting Emperor and Maribeth Robertson is his wife, the Empress. Fawning courtiers include Sandy Thomasson as the jester, Dan Pappas as the magician and Sarah Schimm as the royal cook.

The scheming tailors are Laura Johnson as smooth-talking Zif and Kelly Jo Garland as her bumbling accomplice, Miggot. The ensemble of ladies-in-waiting and courtiers includes Mara McGill, Ric Sadler, Azzan Aubrey and Pinki Vaishnava.

This show continues the Riverwalk tradition of presenting a children’s show performed by adults opening Thanksgiving weekend. This fun musical will entertain the whole family.

Kathleen Lavey



Tricky Tailors: Kelly Jo Garland (L) is Miggot,
bumbling accomplice to Laura Johnson (R)
as Zif the mastermind

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

A Nov. 16-18, **Bridge to Terabithia AUDITIONS** Thu./Fri. 6:30 pm; Sat. 10 am at Hannah Center. Produced by All-of-us Express; ages 9-18. Info at cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

C November 24-26 & December 1-3 - **THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES** - family musical comedy - Director: Lee Helder

A January 7 and 8, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm, **Lily the Felon's Daughter AUDITIONS** director: Susan Chmurynsky (performs March 15-25, 2018)

C January 18-21 & 25-28 - **BURIED CHILD** Pulitzer winning drama Director: Janet Colson

C February 9-11 & 16-18 - **BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA** - produced by All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

■ February 22-25 & March 1-4 - **WHITE BUFFALO** - intriguing drama - Director: Michael Hays

C March 15-18 & 22-25 - **LILY, THE FELON'S DAUGHTER** - melodrama - Director: Sue Chmurynsky

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

M **MUSICALS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays \$22 (\$20 student/sr./military)

C **CHILDREN'S SHOW:** 7pm Fri.; 2&4:30pm Sat.; 2pm Sundays-\$8 children; \$10 adults age 13+ (general seating)

■ **BLACK BOX SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. • \$12 (\$10 student/senior/military) **Bargain Thursdays: \$10 (\$8)**

A **AUDITIONS** - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

The Home Team Scored

Director Emily English Clark continues to impress, ably assisted by her A.D. Doak Bloss. Wonderful performances came from the entire cast, although I was personally especially fond of Shannon Bowen as the U of M student in the midst of MSU uber-fans.

Gini Larson was terrific as the mother of a diverse family, both warm and feisty. Erik Grill gave a fine performance as the hot-headed eldest son with a skewed memory of his father.

Joe Dickson was solid as the middle son, hopelessly in love with a woman with a huge secret. Erin Hoffman played the only daughter, loving her brothers but more centered and realistic than the boys (an expected fine performance). Heath Sartorius, the baby of the family, gave us a very interesting character with remarkable physicality; he was a pleasure to watch.

Kris Maier's costumes were spot on, as was the set, nicely designed by Leroy Cupp and built by Leroy, Tom Ferris, Leon Green, Bob Nees, Dan Pappas and John Delaney — with help from director Emily — wonderful real-tile floor.

Ted Daniel scored with his lighting design as did Heath and Shannon with the sound design with Cody Skalmowski handling the tech end. Gordon Clark as stage manager and Dan Pappas producing completed the roster.

The Home Team was a warm, funny, sad and — in the end — uplifting play. Kim Carney, a Michigan playwright, rarely disappoints, and the Riverwalk team did her proud.

Jan Lockwood



L to R: Heath Sartorius, Erin Hoffman, Joe Dickson, Gini Larson, Erik Grill, Shannon Bowen (front) displaying their collegiate loyalties via costume.

PHOTO BY

WWW.ARINIKO.COM



“Erin” (Shannon Bowen) delivers a difficult message to her boyfriend’s big brother “Johnny” (Erik Grill)

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

VOLUNTEERS?

Don't look at the people in this pic from Tom Ferris's *Christmas Carol* (2015). Look at the background, the floor. Could you get your paintbrush into something like that?

How about interior design? Can you add the extra touches that make a stage set look lived in?

Riverwalk is looking to add a few painters/scenographers and set dressers to our list of volunteers.

If you've got an interest in working on future productions, let us know via facebook, and/or fill out a volunteer form on our website. Go to Riverwalktheatre.com, pull down the “more” tab and choose “get involved” to find the volunteer form — or just ask Manager Mike for a form next time you're at the theatre. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 am - 5:30 pm. While you're there, check out the ever-changing Lobby Art Gallery!





**Children's Fantasy Produced by
All-of-us Express Children's Theatre
and performed at Riverwalk**
**AUDITIONS for ages 9-18: 6:30 Thursday
& Friday & 10 am Saturday**
Show Dates: Feb. 9-19, 2018
**Auditions are held at Hannah
Community Center,
819 Abbot Road.**

Ages 9-18 welcome for
cast and crew.
**OPTIONAL
AUDITION WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 15;**
 more information at
[cityofeastlansing.com/
allofus](http://cityofeastlansing.com/allofus) OR
 e-mail [ecooke@
cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:ecooke@cityofeastlansing.com)



**Melodrama by Tom
Taggart Directed by
Susan Chmurynsky**
**AUDITIONS: Sunday &
Monday, January 7&8,
2018 at 7 pm.**

*Show Dates:
March 15-25, 2018*

This is the sad but silly story
of Lily Fairweather, pure as the
driven snow, Compton, her hand-
some but weak willed sweetheart
and the villainous Craven Sinclair.
Will true love win or will Lily suc-
cumb to Craven's wicked ways?

Lily Fairweather - Pure as the driven snow. Taken in
as an infant by Betsy and Jonas
Compton - Our hero. Rather weak willed, he is led
astray by the villain.
Betsy Fairweather - Compton's mother. A gentle soul.
Craven Sinclair - A villain right down to his black
mustache.
Jonas - A business man and Compton's father.
Ophelia - An outspoken suffragette.
Lord Monty - He loves Ophelia. Has a cheesy English
accent.
Robyn Steele - Just released from prison he lives up
to his name.
Marie - The French maid. Another cheesy accent.
Mrs. Kingsley - A middle aged Puritan (may double as)
Mrs. Bloodgood - The cruel landlady.

Ages flexible.

**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**

A Member Tale



As a Biochemistry major and a practicing Chemist, I'm used to people being surprised when I tell them how much I love being a member at Riverwalk Theatre. For me, the story of coming to Riverwalk is tied inextricably to my job. Upon graduating in 2012, I moved to the Lansing area without really knowing anyone. I had performed in community theater back home, but hadn't been on stage since before college. I remember reading about auditions for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and telling myself to just go ahead and put myself out there.

I've been in a number of shows at Riverwalk since "Scoundrels", and I'm thrilled to say that I just can't help but keep coming back. As a single young professional living in a new city, it means the world for me to have a theater family.

As a scientist, I love having the ability to embrace my creative side in addition to my analytical side. As a human being, I love coming to Riverwalk and seeing the beauty of a theater that truly is about community.

I have recently joined the Board of Directors at Riverwalk to help the organization continue to grow, and I feel that it's a truly exciting time to be involved. This theater grows and changes daily, but one things always remains the same—the heart. I almost can't imagine my life without it!

Brian Farnham

Why are YOU a member of Riverwalk Theatre?

Share your story on Riverwalk's Facebook page or email to JSZussman@gmail.com.

Riverwalk depends on membership for over a quarter of our revenue. Be a part of the foundation that ensures we will be here for actors, back-stagers and audiences for many years to come.

To become a member for as little as \$15, go to riverwalktheatre.com. Click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail/give a check to Mike at the office. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

If you're already a member, recruit a NEW member today!

RIVERWALK THEATRE

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Administrative VP, Darrin Fowler
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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

P.O. Box 12249 • Lansing MI 48901

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Michigan Avenue, across from
the Lansing Center

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FAMILY MUSICAL COMEDY

by Stan Gill with

Music by Cindy Bright

Director Lee Helder

Music Director James Geer

The Emperor's New Clothes



Opens Thanksgiving
Weekend!

Emperor Vain Wan is obsessed with his wardrobe to the dismay of his court. Along come two tailors — or *are* they? This may not turn out so well! Join our cast of fun, silly characters for laughs and lessons on vanity, hypocrisy, and telling the truth.

November 24-26 & December 1-3, 2017

7 pm Fridays • 2 & 4:30 pm Saturdays • 2 pm Sundays
\$10 adults age 13+ • \$8 children • general seating
RESERVATIONS 482-5700 or RiverwalkTheatre.com
228 Museum Dr., south off Mich. Ave., next to Impression 5



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