

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 5
December, 2019

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



You're a Good Man, CHARLIE BROWN

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

You may THINK you've seen *Charlie Brown* before, but rumors and official sources agree, this production has upped the ante with a stellar cast, and offers "some surprises" not seen before.

Also, note that this will be the 1998 Broadway Revival version, which substitutes the charming role of "Sally," Charlie Brown's younger sister, in place of the lesser known "Patty" in the original 1967 version.

Brian Farnham, well remembered from *Spamalot*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Grease*, and more, plays the title role of "Charlie Brown," a far cry from cool dude "Danny Zuko." (He further demonstrates the breadth of his range by directing a dark, black box drama *Boy Gets Girl* in January.)

Kristin Chenoweth played "Sally" on Broadway and Taren Going (who was the adorable "Penny" in Riverwalk's *Grease*) is prepared to channel her own Sally-energy on the Riverwalk stage.

Indomitable "Lucy" is played by Tricia Rogers, who was the also-indomitable "Fastrada" in *Pippin*. Christopher Verhil, outstanding as the "Other Mother" in *Coraline*, will be outstanding on four paws as "Snoopy." Robert Mueller (show-off "Lewis" in *Pippin* and dreamboat "Link" in *Grease*) will be Lucy's heartthrob "Schroeder." Braden Cooley, who was a member of the *Chitty Chitty* ensemble, will wrap his

blanket around our hearts as "Linus."

Director, Bob Purosky, notes that the revised version keeps much of the original beloved script, while not only adding "Sally" but also updating and expanding the music. Bob has brought back to Riverwalk noted accompanist and music director, Jeff English, after a decade's absence. (Jeff played "Harold Nichols" in both productions of the very popular *The Full Monty* in 2007 and 2008.) He has been busy making music at Ruhala Center and MSU in the time between.

Charlie Brown is a show for all ages. There is a reason "Classic Peanuts" still runs in our newspapers. Charles Schultz's sense of humor and insight into the human condition is universal. While this is not a "kids' show" per se, it will entertain school age children as well as moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Make *Charlie Brown* a Family Holiday Excursion for your Thanksgiving weekend.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown opens on the Friday after Thanksgiving at 8 pm and **adds a 2 pm show Saturday, November 30**, in addition to the usual 8 pm Saturday show and the usual 2 pm Sunday matinee. December 5-8 is back to the regular schedule: 7 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday/Saturday and 2 pm Sunday. Reserve seats online or call the box office at 517-482-5700.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- 🎵 November 29-December 1 & 5-8 - **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN** - family musical - Director: Bob Purosky
- 🎭 December 8 and 9, Sun/Mon, 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for A Hotel on Marvin Gardens**, Director: Mary K. Hodges-Nees (performs March 12-22, 2020)
- 🎭 December 15 and 16, Sun/Mon, 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for Unnecessary Farce** - Director: Jeff Magnuson (performs February 6-16, 2020)
- ★ December 20-22 - **HOLIDAY CABARET** musical variety - Director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey
- 🎭 **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

🎭 **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 - **no Thanksgiving show; added 2pm show Sat. Nov. 30 only** \$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**

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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website for further info

A Piece of My Heart: an impactful evening of theatre



L to R: Kelly Jo Garland, Brie Roper, Caila Conklin, Jessa Bye

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

When director Diane Cooke's curtain speech contained trigger warnings and had me swallowing a tearful lump in my throat, I knew I was in for an impactful evening of theatre. The cast and production team of Riverwalk Theatre's *A Piece of My Heart* delivered on that promise.

Shirley Lauro's two-act play is a no-holds-barred account of true Vietnam war stories, told by six women who served; four nurses, one intelligence officer, and one country-western singer booked to entertain the troops. Tom Ferris' set design, Kris Maier's costumes and set dressing by Liz Cooke, though simple, provided an effective backdrop of military green and khaki. Shannon Bowen's sound design and projections by Matt Ottinger cleverly served to amplify time and place as needed. The pre-show music was filled with popular songs that I, having been born years after the fall of Saigon, had been quick to forget were associated with the war.

Working together as a seamless ensemble, the cast of Kelly Jo Garland, Caila Conklin, Anasti Her, Jessa Bye, Brie Roper, and Ann

Glenn Carlson played their own specific roles, as well as, various supporting roles for each woman's story. What emerged were heartbreaking and gut-wrenching tales of heinous working conditions, the struggle for gender equity, and the camaraderie built from the shared experience of the battles fought outside of the combat zone. Each storyline was punctuated by Conklin's beautiful singing in her role as troop entertainment.

The cast also included a versatile Tyler Frease in the aptly named role of "All American Men" popping in and out of the production playing wounded soldiers, love interests, fathers, and a bemusing revolving door of the entire hierarchy of military command.

The second act deposited the women back on American soil only to be subjected to yet another round of atrocities at the hands of their fellow Americans, yet they persisted. *A Piece of My Heart* was filled with poignant moments of insight about the women who served and survived, despite not being trained combat soldiers. Kudos to director Diane



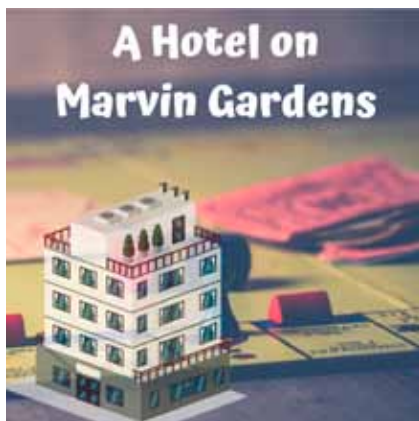
L to R: Ann Glenn Carlson, Jessa Bye

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Cooke and Riverwalk for embracing the role of theatre as storyteller and time capsule. The stories are not easy, but they need to be told so that we may never forget.

Abbie Tykocki

A U D I T I O N S



Comedy
by
Nagle
Jackson
Directed
by
Mary K.
Hodges-
Nees

AUDITIONS: Sun/Mon, Dec. 8-9, 7 pm.
Shows: March 12-15 & 19-22 - Black Box

All I want is to run everything and always be right; now is that so much to ask?" Thus speaks K.C., the no-nonsense editor of ME magazine, a popular rag dedicated to the upwardly mobile. K.C. lives by herself, the only occupant of an island off the Connecticut coast, On April Fool's Day, three friends gather for their annual Monopoly game. One guest is new, and doesn't know K.C.'s elaborate "rules" for behavior. As if that doesn't cause enough problems, a young woman appears at the door, dumped off on the island after rejecting her date's advances on his boat.

K.C. – (pronounced "Casey") magazine editor. Handsome woman in her 40's.

BO – real name Robert, K.C.'s publisher. Late 40's hale and hearty.*

ERNA – Magazine's Food Critic & new player this year. Attractive in an eccentric way.*

HENRY – assistant editor, whom K.C. plans to fire. Late 30's insecure and bookish.*

ROSE – stranded school teacher. Very pretty, late 20's or early 30's

*These roles Mary K. plans to precast, but she will audition for them if people she asks are not able to do the show. Black Box shows have traditionally been precast, with a few exceptions. Next season, Riverwalk policy changes to include auditions for all Black Box shows



Comedy
by
Paul
Slade
Smith
Directed
by
Jeff
Magnu-
son

AUDITIONS: Sun/Mon, Dec. 15-16, 7 pm.
Shows: February 6-9 & 13-16 - Main Stage

Two cops. Three crooks. Eight Doors. Go!

In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor meets with his female accountant, while in the room next-door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape...Why does the accountant keep taking off her clothes?

Eric Sheridan, Male

Billie Dwyer, Female

Karen Brown, Female

Mayor Meekly, Male, 50s-70s

Agent Frank, Male

Todd, Male-Speaks with a pronounced Scottish Accent

Mary Meekly, Female, 50s-70s

Anyone cast in the show must be off-book by the second week of rehearsal. All ages, races and ethnicities will be considered. Mayor and Mary Meekly will be in their 50's-70's. The script calls for Eric and Karen to spend extended time onstage in their underwear. Eric, Billie, Karen, Agent Frank and Todd will be learning, rehearsing and performing choreographed action, including falls. Anyone auditioning for the role of Todd must review the script prior to auditions and come prepared to read the Scottish accent as written in the script.

Rehearsals will vary on Tuesdays-Sundays with some Saturday/Sunday rehearsals.

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

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 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.



NOTE: General Shrek auditions have moved!
Now: March 29 & 30

PLUS we have **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 the March 29 & 30 auditions.)

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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Riverwalk Theatre

P.O. Box 12249 • Lansing MI 48901

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Get ready for the Holly Daze with Riverwalk!

GIFT CERTIFICATES can be purchased in any dollar amount and used like cash toward the purchase of show tickets. Change will be given in certificate value, rather than in cash. (Pay for a \$15 ticket with a \$20 gift certificate and get a \$5 certificate in change.) Order early online and they will be mailed to you: www.riverwalktheatre.com/season-tickets--gift-certificates.html — or stop by the box office (hours vary near Christmas.) Gift Certificates will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis. As always, seats can't be guaranteed without advance reservations.



Plan now to attend

Holiday Cabaret

— a festive revue of song and dance the whole family will love!
 December 20-22 all tickets \$15
 7 pm Fri/Sat; 3 pm Sun



Directed by Bob Purosky
 Music Direction by Jeff English
 Choreography by Amanda Tollstam

Based on the comic strip *Peanuts*
 by Charles M. Schulz
 Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 8, 2019



YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Friday 11/29: 8pm
 Saturday 11/30: 2pm & 8pm
 Sunday 12/1: 2pm
 Thursday 12/5: 7pm
 Friday and Saturday 12/6 & 7: 8pm
 Sunday 12/8: 2pm

Tickets can be reserved online or over the phone

Adult: \$24 Child: \$12
 Military/Senior/Student: \$20
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