

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 7
February, 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 disturbing chiller on Riverwalk's Black Box Stage

Brian Farnham was preparing for a dramatic presentation in a forensics competition a few years back when he discovered playwright Rebecca Gilman's *The Glory of Living*.

He liked it enough to look into her other work, including *Boy Gets Girl*, a chilling meditation on what can go wrong when a relationship takes the leap from interest to obsession.

"I remember having the lights off and having to go turn them on," said Farnham, who directs the show in Riverwalk's Black Box Theatre January 16-19 and 23-26. "Since then I've been working on finding a way to bring it to life."

Boy Gets Girl, written in 2000, introduced the audience to Theresa Bedell (played by Janet Colson), a successful news reporter who agrees to go on a blind date with Tony (Michael Banghart), a friend of a friend. After a couple of dates, she decides they have little in common, but he isn't ready to stop pursuing her.

As he becomes more determined and she becomes more desperate, Theresa's friends and others try to help her deal with the situation as she begins to lose her sense of self, examining key issues along the way.

"It's about how our society has conditioned men and women to behave," Farnham said, "that women should want to be pursued, and men should want to do the pursuing."



Rounding out the cast are Greg Pratt as Howard Siegel, Ben Holzhausen as Mercer Stevens, Sabrina Dahlgren as Harriet, Michele Booher-Purosky as Madeleine Beck, and Bob Purosky as Les Kennkat.

The stage is more involved than some Black Box productions, with sets representing Theresa's home and work as well as a center space and a dais that is close to the audience to help bring them into the action.

A review in *Variety* described *Boy Gets Girl* as "a disturbing chiller about a woman whose life of accomplishment is quickly destroyed by a disturbed admirer ... It certainly will touch a tender nerve in everybody who's ever squirmed through a creepy blind date ... " (*Variety*).")

Farnham said he thinks everyone will be able to relate to the issues that arise throughout the course of the show. "There's sort of a chase in every scene where someone wants something from somebody else," he said. "It's a show that will make you think and look at your actions and the way you view people around you."

Kathleen Lavey

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

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, **AUDI-TIONS 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 February 26 at 6:30; more information at cityofeastlansing.com/allofus or e-mail ecooke@cityofeastlansing.com (performs April 24-May 3, 2020)

■ March 12-15 & April 19-22 - **A HOTEL ON MARVIN GAR-DENS** - comedy - Director: Mary K. Hodges-Nees

👂 **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>

A Holiday Cabaret warms hearts

PHOTO BY KURT WANAMAKER

A lovely display of white-lit trees nestled in fluffy snowbanks with snowflakes projected on the wall greeted the audience as we enjoyed preshow music by John Dale Smith at the keyboard with his accomplices Tim Thelen (drums) and Justin Valla (acoustic bass) to get us in the mood for the refreshing, festive Holiday/Winter smorgasbord of song and dance that was Riverwalk Theatre's *Holiday Cabaret*. It offered a mix of humor and heart that entertained all ages.

Director and music mastermind Meghan Eldred-Woolsey put together an interesting variety of songs — some from musical theatre such as *Mame*, *Frozen*, *Elf the Musical*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Sound of Music* and *White Christmas* — and about half new to me — but all celebrating the holidays and winter. Karyn Perry's dancers demonstrated a very wide variety of dance styles from disco to tap, to modern/dramatic, to Rockette style, with a fun variety of costumes, too.

Among many highlights were Travis



Travis Williams, Adam Woolsey, Larissa Gleason-Clark, Tricia Rogers, Kelley Lofton, Robert Mueller, Erin Biel, Aja Jenks, Kathryn Mulcahy & Bob Purosky

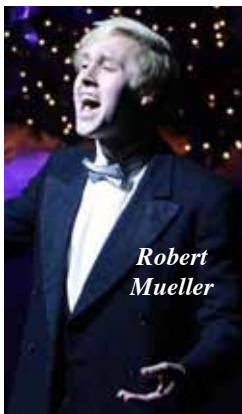
Williams' spirited turn as Olaf the Snowman dreaming of "In Summer." Robert Mueller brought an extra dose of energy to all his songs, including "Try to Remember." (It did mention "December" so it was fair game!)

Songs ranged from the humorous "Nobody Cares about Santa" by all the men, and Adam Woolsey's fun "I'm Spending Hanukkah in Santa Monica" to Tricia Rogers' mournful "Christmas Makes Me Cry" and Kathryn Mulcahy's heartfelt, power-

ful "Christmas Lullaby." Favorites such as "Silver Bells" and "Auld Lang Syne" filled out the bill.

The entire ensemble was packed with talent and featured many "stars" we've seen before on the Riverwalk stage: Erin Biel, Larissa Gleason-Clark, Aja Jenks, Kelley Lofton, Robert Mueller, Kathryn Mulcahy, Bob Purosky, Tricia Rogers, Travis Williams, and Adam Woolsey.

Jane Zussman



Robert Mueller



Kathryn Mulcahy



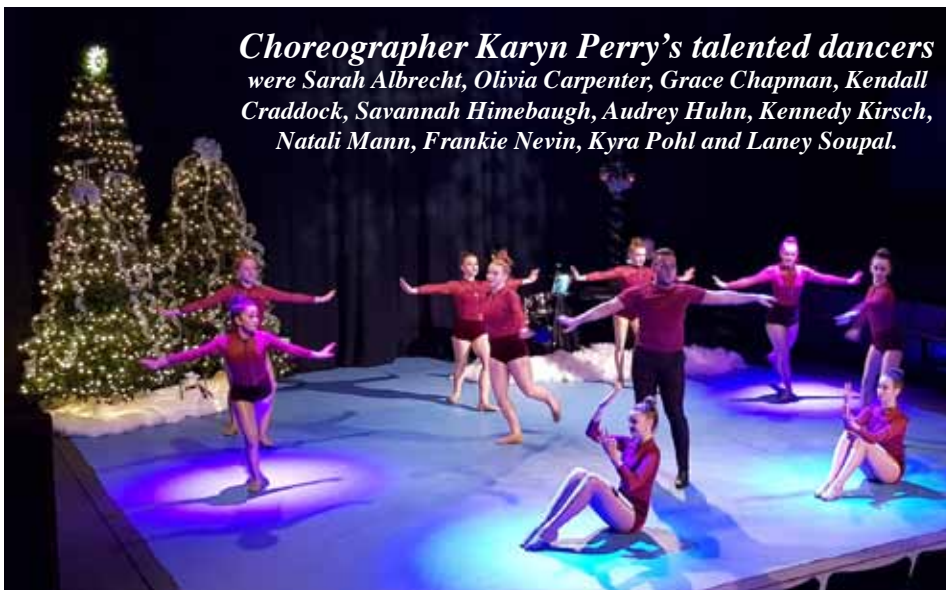
Travis Williams

Adam Woolsey

Riverwalk Partners for Charity

Generous patrons of the Holiday Cabaret brought items to donate for Holy Cross Services to the homeless: travel size toiletry products, period products, diapers etc... and new, packaged socks and underwear — as well as gently used outerwear. Trusty board member and Promotions and Engagement mover and shaker, Kameron Going delivered 520 items — adding up to nearly 88 pounds! — to Holy Cross Services on January 2. Thanks to all who participated!

Choreographer Karyn Perry's talented dancers were Sarah Albrecht, Olivia Carpenter, Grace Chapman, Kendall Craddock, Savannah Himebaugh, Audrey Huhn, Kennedy Kirsch, Natali Mann, Frankie Nevin, Kyra Pohl and Laney Soupal.





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

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.

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

P.O. Box 12249 • Lansing MI 48901

Next to Impression 5,
228 Museum Drive, south off
Michigan Avenue, across from
the Lansing Center

December/January Lobby

Artist: Anita Brett

Anita Brett's earliest work included commissioned watercolor portraits that now span the world. She participates in a number of select art fairs including the Ann Arbor State Street Fair, Saugatuck, Pentwater, Belle Isle and Kalamazoo, as well as being represented in galleries across the state of Michigan.

Anita now works in oils, watercolor and encaustic paintings. She is always willing to learn and try new subject matter and art mediums.

Commissioned portraits of both pets and people available. More information available in the lobby of Riverwalk Theatre.



Enraptured, Enchanted in Michigan by Anita Brett



Regards by Anita Brett

boy gets girl

A DRAMA BY REBECCA GILMAN
DIRECTED BY BRIAN FARNHAM

January 16-26, 2020



f t i p i 517-482-5700

www.RiverwalkTheatre.com

(DART) Black Box Stage

Thursdays: 7 pm

Fridays & Saturdays: 8 pm

Sundays: 2 pm

Tickets can be reserved online or over the phone

Adult: \$12

Military/Senior/Student: \$10

(\$2.00 credit card fee)



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



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