

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 9
April, 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



Riverwalk follows the hilarious hit *Unnecessary Farce* with a necessary comedy satire, which promises more laughs — and a few stabs at the “monopoly” of the rich and powerful.

Four characters spend April Fool’s Day playing Monopoly at the home of K. C., owner of *ME* magazine. She says, “All I want is to run everything and always be right. Now, is that asking too much?” Three of them have played for ten years at the suggestion of the publisher, because “The game was a great way to get to know people as it brings out the worst in everyone!”

Suddenly, there is a knock at the door and a storm-bedraggled girl enters. Rose, a young schoolteacher, has been dumped on this island by a frustrated seducer. It is her presence — and contrast to these terribly affluent and sophisticated New Yorkers — that eventually leads to a showdown.

The discussions of “Passing Go,” “landing on Boardwalk,” etc., delight audiences who know this game by heart and the double meanings of corpo-

rate gamesmanship ring wickedly true, as America’s favorite board game becomes the metaphor for American greed.

Director Mary K says, “Ultimately, I am reminded of the movie, *Mildred Pierce*, which ended with the statement, “Those who live for themselves are left to themselves.”

Candace Filonczuk plays the Monopoly queen K.C., Gordon Clark plays her publisher/lover, Bo, M.D. Nelson is editor Henry who brings along “dingbat” food critic, Erna, played by Madeline Nash. Paige Trott plays Rose, the stranded schoolteacher who changes the game for everyone.

A Hotel on Marvin Gardens is on Riverwalk’s Dart Black Box stage, which features general seating, so get there early for best seats. Reservations (517-482-5700) assure admission in case of a sellout. \$12/\$10 admission, and, as with all nonmusicals, “Bargain Thursdays” are only \$8/\$10.

Jane Zussman



March 7, 7pm THE VOTE free staged reading

...of script by local author Steve Yelon tracing the path of East Lansing pastor Truman Morrison and his wife, Eleanor. In 1954, in a suburb of Chicago, plans to integrate their church were met with opposition. How do powerful religious principals stand up against group pressure fueled by

prejudice and greed? Directed by Jane Falion, it features: *Ken Beachler, Mark Bethea, Shannon Bowen, Ann Carlson, Erin Hoffman, Ben Holzhausen, Matt Ottinger, Greg Pratt, Bob Purosky, Gloria Vivalda Purosky, Travis Williams, Adam Woolsey and Meghan Eldred Woolsey.*

WHAT’S ON AT RIVERWALK

- ★ March 7 - 7pm **THE VOTE** free staged reading
- March 12-15 & April 19-22 - **A HOTEL ON MARVIN GARDENS** - comedy - Director: Mary K. Hodges-Nees
- 📺 April 24-26 - May 1-3 - **THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX** - fantasy adventure produced by All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre
- ▲ April 26-27, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm, **GENERAL AUDITIONS for SHREK** musical comedy (see page 3)
- May 7-10 & 14-17 - **DOUBT, A PARABLE** - Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award Winning Drama - Director: Bob Robinson
- ▲ May 17-18 @ 6:30 pm **Auditions for Young Artisan Workshop** - show title to be announced
- 🎵 June 18-21 & 25-28 - **SHREK, THE MUSICAL**, musical comedy - Director: Linda Widener
- ★ June 27, 1 pm - **Annual MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Learn about RWT business and volunteer opportunities.

🎵 **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**

📺 **CHILDREN’S SHOW:** 7pm Fridays, 3pm Saturdays & Sundays - \$8 children; \$10 adults age 18+ (general seating)

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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com



UNNECESSARY FARCE
frantic
fun!



Above: Leigh Christopher, Steve Neal, Jesse Frawley
Right: Jesse Frawley, Rachel Daugherty, Derek James Elstro

PHOTOS BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

What do two inept cops, a Scottish hitman, his bumbling accomplice, a clueless Mayor, a mousy accountant, and an embezzlement scheme have in common? Nothing but two adjoining hotel rooms featuring a multitude of sturdy doors.

That is what *Unnecessary Farce* is and what great fun it was to watch. Under the more than capable guidance of director Jeff Magnuson, the cast kept the absurdity going at a frenetic pace.

First time Riverwalkers, Steve Neal and Rachel Daugherty, were great as inept Of-

ficers Sheridan and Dwyer, eager to make their first sting operation a success. Mr. Neal also had great chemistry with Leigh Christopher, the accountant he is pursuing romantically (credit Amanda Tollstam for her “intimacy choreography”).

Jesse Frawley was great as Scottish hitman, Todd, with brogue and bagpipes to match. A high point for Ms. Daugherty’s Officer Dwyer was her gift of translating Scottish brogue.

Theatre veterans Doak Bloss and Gini Larson played the somewhat clueless Mayor

moving. Leroy Cupp designed a functional set of two adjoining hotel rooms. Credit also to Leon Green for sound, Diane Cooke for props and Amy Williams and Anne Wilson for set decoration. Scott Pohl was Producer.

Finally, to first time Riverwalk performers Steve Neal, Rachel Daugherty, Leigh Christopher and Derek James Elstro: Welcome and thank you for sharing your talent. I hope your Riverwalk experience was a good one and you will continue to stay involved both on and off-stage.

Justin Banks



Diane Cooke, Bernie Lucas, Liz Cooke, Jessa Bye, Caila Conklin, Cody Skalmowski

Season – Reveal Soirée Success

Feb.
22,
we
rang in
Season
32,
20’s
style!



Board Members Kameron Going, Brian Farnham, Liz Cooke, Sarah Hayner, Jane Zussman, Rita Deibler, Jeff Magnuson, Scott Pohl

Kudos to all for a successful Season Reveal Soiree to announce Season 32. A HUGE thank you to Board Members who worked tirelessly to get it up and running.

It was a great evening! I got so many comments like, “I love that we can get together to play whether there’s a show or not,” and “This makes me love our theater community”. This was well-planned, well executed and from an audience standpoint, it came off great!

Special thanks to Sarah Hayner for leading the “team of three”

with Liz and Diane Cooke, and to Dan Currie for being the perfect emcee! Also Rita Deibler, Taylor Haslett, Jeff Litten, Kameron Going — Scott Pohl and Jeff were great presenters too! Forgive me if I forgot anyone. We also drummed up a bit of business for the Costume Shop, which should help it grow! Great fun working with the Shop folks on my costume. (Too bad my vintage Hollywood-Director-style jodhpurs and riding crop don’t show in this photo.) Awesome 1920’s theme idea!

Brian Farnham



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

A U D I T I O N S

ADULT SHREK and FIONA have been cast:

Katie Huizinga and Austin Elieff

**Auditions for all other roles
March 29 & 30 - 7pm**

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

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.

MANY fun roles available, listed at:

<https://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html>

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

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

Riverwalk Season 2020-21!

July 23-26 - **Young Artisan Workshop** - title to be announced - Auditions Sunday & Monday, May 17-18 @ 6:30 pm - BLACK BOX STAGE

August 27-30 & September 3-6 - **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND**, Musical, Music and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Book by Stephen Floaherty, Director: Janell Hall - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, June 28&29 - @7pm. MAIN STAGE

October 1-4 & 8-11 - **THE REVOLUTIONISTS**, Comedy by Lauren Gunderson, Director: Tom Ferris - Auditions Sunday and Monday, May 17 & 18 @7pm - MAIN STAGE

October 29-November 1 & November 5-8 - **ADMISSIONS**, Drama by Joshua Harmon, Director: Bob Robinson - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, August 30 & 31 @7pm - BLACK BOX

December 3-6 & 10-13 - **NINE**, Musical, Music & Lyrics by Maury Yeston, Adapted from the Italian by Mario Fratti, Based on Fellini's 8 1/2, Director: Kameron Going - Auditions: Friday and Saturday, September 25 & 26 @7pm - MAIN STAGE

December 18-20 - **HOLIDAY CABARET 2020**, music/dance revue with John Dale Smith Trio and Karyn's Dance Place - Directors: Meghan Eldred Woolsey and Michele Booher-Purosky - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, October 11 & 12 - @7pm) - MAIN STAGE

January 14-17 & 21-24 - **DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE**, Dark Comedy by Sarah Ruhl, Director: Dale Wayne Williams - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, November 22&23 @7pm - BLACK BOX STAGE

February 4-7 & 11-14 - **FENCES**, Drama by August Wilson, Director: Vanessa Cunningham Sanders - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, December 6&7 @ 7pm. MAIN STAGE

March 11-14 & 18-21 - **DISENCHANTED**, Adult Musical (not for children) Book, Music, & Lyrics by Dennis T. Giacino, Director: Joanna Poynter - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, January 10&11 @ 7pm - BLACK BOX STAGE

April 16-18 & 23-25 - **All-of-us Express Children's Theatre** - title to be announced - MAIN STAGE

May 6-9 & 13-16, 2021 - **ART**, Comedy by Yasmina Reza, Director: Scott Pohl - Auditions: Sunday and Monday, 2/21&22 @ 7pm - BLACK BOX STAGE

June 3-6 & 10-13 - **SWEENEY TODD**, Musical Thriller, Book by Hugh Wheeler, Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Director: George Popovich - Auditions: Mon & Tues, April 26 & 27 @7pm - MAIN STAGE

**Now's the Time -
3 months FREE!**

RWT membership runs July - June, but join March 1 or after and be counted through 6/30, 2021.

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 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:

Go to riverwalktheatre.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.

RIVERWALK THEATRE

2019-2020 Officers

President, Jeff Magnuson
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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

Prom at the Costume Shop

The Costume Shop Managed by Riverwalk Theatre once again is offering a **discount to High School students for Prom attire** — tuxes and gowns in many sizes and styles perfect for a memorable night out!

The discounted price of *\$35.00 includes:

2 Piece Suit and 5 accessories (shirt, tie, vest, pocket square, suspenders)

OR

Gown and 5 accessories (petticoat, shawl, jewelry @ 2 for 1)

Shoes and hats are an extra charge of \$10.00 each.

*You are responsible for cleaning — or for an additional \$20.00 we will take care of the cleaning

All rentals require a **security deposit of \$100.00** which can be a check or on a credit card that we hold until the return of the rental.

February/March Lobby Artist - DARLENE CRAFTON

A Michigan native and retired social worker, Darlene is a self-taught artist and works in Acrylic Paint and Scratchboard, depicting mainly pets and wildlife. People often mistake her works for oil, as she uses old master techniques of layering lights on darks to achieve a lot of depth in her paintings.

Scratchboard involves multiple layers of scratching and re-inking, and one piece may take hundreds of hours to complete. Each work details individual hairs, each one a separate scratch.



We are located east of N. Pennsylvania Ave. between E. Saginaw and E. Oakland Ave. at...

1131 MAY STREET, LANSING, MI 48906

REGULAR HOURS:
 Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-6 pm
 & Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

Visit RWTCostumeshop.com for more info.



A HOTEL ON MARVIN GARDENS

BY NAGLE JACKSON

March 12-22, 2020

Directed by Mary K. Hodges -Nees



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)



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