

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 10

May, 2018

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

BUD, Not Buddy

The year is 1932, when the Great Depression gripped Michigan and the nation. Buddy is a 10-year-old orphan in Flint with a personal code and a personal quest.

The book *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis is read by schoolkids statewide, and now it unfolds in a new dimension: onstage at Riverwalk Theatre from April 19-22 and 26-29, with a visit from Curtis and a talkback on April 20. *Bud, Not Buddy* was adapted for the stage by Reginald Andrew Jackson.

"It's a story of Michigan, and it's a story that's studied in our schools; I was looking for the opportunity to take something the local schools have in their curriculum and try to bring it to life," said Tom Ferris, who directs. "The playwright has done a marvelous job of capturing the essence of the book and also giving some flexibility to the staging that allows me to build in some history, build in music, build in all kinds of things."

Buddy has only a few things left to him by his mother: a bag of stones, a blanket, a photo and fliers for shows by a jazz band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. Finding the Devastators in Grand Rapids becomes Buddy's quest. Along the way he lives by his code: "Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself."

The cast includes KaVares Luckett-Brown, Nyla Crawford, Eric Jones, Amani Wheeler, James McCurtis III, Bryan Sanders, Jervon Milam, Ellison Hall, Kemar Williams, Julian VanDyke, Eric Smith, Janell Hall, Roshawndra SaClara Thomas, Kamara Kahlil, Ralph Sims, Lee Purdy, Danny Ferris, Chance Boyd, Guy Thomas and Drew Dungey.

Ten of them are kids, ranging in age from 8 to 15 and recruited by Ferris with auditions at Lansing's Pleasant View magnet school for the arts as well as the Shabazz Academy charter school.

"Previous renditions of this play have used adults to play the kids, but that just didn't ring true to me," Ferris said. "This is by far one of the youngest groups I've worked with."

Buddy's character is both simple and complex.

"Buddy is older than his years, but he's also just a 10-year-old boy," Ferris said. "The way the author has crafted this story, you see both of those in this young man, and you keep pulling for him."

Author Christopher Paul Curtis, who won the prestigious Newbery Award for *Bud, Not Buddy*, will appear at an April 20 Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) fund-raiser. Tickets are \$20 for all ages for this April 20 show only.

Kathleen Lavey



KaVares Luckett-Brown (*Bud*),
Chance Boyd (*Old Bud*)
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

MEMBERS

...provide over a quarter of all revenue for shows and general operations! **Join or renew today and you belong through June 30, 2019!**

Join online at:

[www.riverwalktheatre.com/
get-involved.html](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/get-involved.html)



CONGRATULATIONS

to Riverwalk President, Jeff Magnuson, who takes time off from theatre to do this *other* job managing the Henry Center for Executive Development, where has received MSU's very prestigious Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award!

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

April 19-22 & 26-29 - **BUD, NOT BUDDY** - family show - Director: Tom Ferris

★ April 26 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Bud, Not Buddy* at 7.

■ May 10-13 & 17-20 - **SCOTLAND ROAD** - psychological thriller - Director: Bob Robinson

★ May 17 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Scotland Road* at 7.

A May 20-21 - 6:30 pm - **AUDITIONS for The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents** - Young Artisan Workshop ages 10-18 - directed by Sadonna Croff

June 7-10 & 14-17 - **MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT**, musical - Director: Bob Purosky

★ June 14 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Spamalot* at 7.

A July 1 & 2 - 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for Jekyll & Hyde** - musical directed by Tom Ferris

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

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

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

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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

Lily the Felon's Daughter Tips Its Hat to Melodrama



L to R: Charles Sartorius, Cody Skalmowski, Erin Barger, Tom Klunzinger, Monica Holland • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

I hope those of you who have never seen a melodrama, seldom done these days, took yourselves to Riverwalk Theatre to fill that gap in your theater history. Director Sue Chmurynsky and her talented cast put together a delightful production of *Lily, the Felon's Daughter*.

The night I saw it, from curtain speech to curtain call, there was no question everyone was having a great time. Booing, hissing, a few amusing suggestions from audience members, dramatic music and an odd chase scene all contributed to the merry mayhem.

The costuming (Kris Maier with help from Ashley Hampton) was spot on, the set (Bob Nees and helpers Leon Green and Leroy Cupp with Scenography by Mike Lolich), ditto. This writer worked Concessions at intermission but I understand the set

change was a clever sell-off of household goods (staged and directed by Carol Ferris who also did Set Dressing.)

Properties were handled by Sharon Straubel and Althea Phillips. Ted Daniel lit the lovely home with Linda Widener as Lighting Tech. Leon Green also did the Sound and Rebecca Street did her usual fine job with Hair. The busy Running Crew: Jan Anderson, Carol Ferris, Kelly Jo Garland, Mike Lolich, Sandy Norton and Ric Sadler. Anna Maier ably assistant directed and stage managed.

All of the actors were entertaining and engaging with my favorites being Jim Coyer as the villain Craven Sinclair (boo!) and Cody Skalmowski as Lord Monty (Raw-ther!) Joe Clark as Compton Fairweather, the sort-of-romantic lead, was most invested in the melodramatic acting style and reminded me

of a young Gene Wilder, and Monica Holland as Lily was charming.

Not to be overlooked: Jan Ross and Charles Sartorius as Lily's adoptive parents, Erin Barger as her friend and the object of Lord Monty's affections, Tom Klunzinger as a less than stellar birth father with a penchant for stuffed animals, Candace Myers as a burgled shop owner, Anasti Her as the French maid and Jackie Payne as a mean landlady. It was especially enjoyable seeing so many new-to-Riverwalk-stage actors.

Melodramas are an art form originating in the 18th century, reaching their height of popularity in the mid to late 1800s. Done well, they are terrific fun — short on plot perhaps but long on eccentric characters. *Lily* was precisely that.

Jan Lockwood

LOBBY ARTISTS for April and May

Eaton Art League is a group of about thirty diverse artists near Charlotte, MI. They meet regularly and exhibit at the Charlotte Community Library and Charlotte Municipal Building, with an annual exhibition/art sale/bake sale/silent auction during the city's Frontier Days celebration in September and one or two workshops scheduled each year.



Born and raised in Michigan's rural thumb, **Carol Callihan** loves nature and farmland. Self-taught, her specialties are oil, graphite pencil, and calligraphy. A longstanding member, she is Secretary/Cotreasurer/Exhibit Chairman of the League.



David "Bodie" Carrigan has an Assoc. Degree in Commercial Art, and has done murals on vehicles and walls, paintings on canvas, and more. He prefers acrylic and specializes in wildlife, fantasy, Native American, and western themes, striving to tell stories to inform, educate, and inspire.



Jill Marie Cortright is President of the League. Her work runs the gamut from nature to animals, people, floral, architecture, in just about any medium. She is now depicting personal memories of the past for which no photographs exist.



Darlene Crafton works in acrylic paint and "scratch-board," a long, painstaking process with multiple layers of scratching and re-inking on a clay-covered board coated with India ink. A finished work details individual hairs, each a separate scratch. She leads demos and workshops on her techniques.



Judy Debolt recently moved from a remote area of Eaton County which she loved for its natural beauty. Nature inspires her art and she tries to convey the emotion of each animal or scene in a realistic but not photographic style.



youngartisanworkshop

THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RODENTS

A U D I T I O N S

*Adapted by Matthew Holmes
from the best-selling novel
by Sir Terry Pratchett
Directed by Sadonna Croff*

*Auditions for youth age 10-18:
Sun. & Mon., May 20 & 21, 6:30 pm.
Shows: July 26-29, (4 days only!)*

Maurice is an amazing cat. He can think, he can talk...and he has an amazing scam going with his gang of intelligent rats and one stupid-looking kid. When they arrive in Bad Blintz, all is not as it should be. What are those resident rat-catchers up to?

Malicia Grim: The precocious daughter of the Mayor. Malicia is a storyteller and a bit of a fantasist, but not easily fooled. She has a substantial acting role, joins in many of the songs and is the overall narrator.

Maurice: A scruffy, streetwise street cat, who has magically learned to speak and think incredible thoughts. He likes to look after number one, and delights in tricking the humans out of money. Ultimately, Maurice saves the day. He has quite a physical part, joins in many of the songs and has a substantial number of lines.

The Kid: A teenage orphan who was raised by the musicians' guild and now follows Maurice and the rats, playing his pipe. As long as he can keep playing music, he's happy. He has a substantial number of lines, plenty of singing opportunities and an optional solo rap.

The Clan Rats: The rats who used to live on the rubbish dump near the Wizards' Unseen University and have been magically transformed into thinking, speaking rodents.

Dangerous Beans: An incredibly clever rat with pink eyes – and poor eyesight. He dreams of a better life for the Clan Rats, and is not fooled by Maurice's streetwise guile. He has a moderate speaking part and a small, optional solo singing part.

Peaches: A thoughtful young female rat who stands up for and protects Dangerous Beans. She has a moderate speaking part.

Darktan: The practical-minded second-in-command, who is the head of the trap disposal squad – a role which he takes seriously to protect the Clan. He leads the rats against the Rat King after the death of Hamnpork. He has a substantial speaking part and an optional singing solo.

Sardines: A dancing rat with comic timing. Originally raised in the theatre, this rat is a born performer. Sardines has a moderate speaking role with plenty of opportunity for dance routines, especially tap.

Hamnpork: The head rat who is getting on in years. He is a traditionalist who finds the Clan's transformation difficult. He is often gruff and speaks his mind. A moderate speaking part with a death scene.

Nourishing: A young rat who becomes a sort of apprentice to Darktan. She is eager to please and new to the trap disposal squad. A small speaking role with some funny lines.

Bitesize: A young rat with a talent for widdling! Just one line – but it's a good one!

The Keekees: "Keekee" is the name the Clan Rats give to the ordinary rats (the unintelligent rats who can't speak.) It refers to the squeaking noise they make. The Keekees have been caged by the Rat Catchers and the evil Rat King intends to use them as his minions. Four or more children are required for Keekees. They can join in the chorus for all songs, since they sit in front of the stage area. They have small "squeaking" parts and a little acting.

Ron & Bill, Rat Catchers: These are two swaggering villains who are secretly lining their own pockets by stealing food from the town and rat coursing. They revel in their villainy and are suspicious when the Kid and Maurice show up in town. They are larger than life characters who have

moderate speaking parts throughout and their own song.

Mayor: The Mayor of Bad Blintz is a bumbling, slightly incompetent official. He is deeply worried by the apparent rat problem that has beset the town. He is Malicia's father. A small speaking part.

Rat Piper: An arrogant, aloof professional who trades on his reputation to charge exorbitant fees to pipe rats away. He meets his match in the town of Bad Blintz and doesn't like being outshone by the Kid. A small speaking part in the final scene.

Townfolk: There are several small but loud speaking parts and chorus opportunities for the townfolk of Bad Blintz: (Newspaper Seller, Town Crier, Market Seller, Towns-men 1,2 & 3, and Watchmen 1 & 2).

The Bone Rat: No Terry Pratchett production would be complete without a part for Death! A small, quirky walk-on part to usher Hamnpork into the afterlife.

There are numerous chorus parts for additional Clan Rats who work in platoons according to their skills (widdling, squeaking/gnawing and trap disposal). All the rats have lots of opportunities to sing. There are also several with speaking parts.

Important Information:

For the audition, children will read from the script and be taught a song. Please do NOT prepare a song for the audition.

A parent or guardian must be present at 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

RIVERWALK THEATRE

2017-2018 Officers

President, Jeff Magnuson
 Administrative VP, Darrin Fowler
 Production VP, Rita Deibler
 Treasurer, Michele Booher-Purosky
 Secretary, Jane Shipley Zussman

2017-2018 Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Bernie Campanella | Scott Mandel |
| Brian Farnham | Mara McGill |
| Dee Freeman | Scott Pohl |
| Gary Mitchell | Leo Poroshin |
| Ian Griffin | Hope Rollins |
| Dianne M. Hicks-Flourry | Linda Widener |
| Erik Larson | Tristyn Wright |

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 Syracuse (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



PSST!

Are you 55 or older?
 Riverwalk has
 an event for you!

**P.S.S.T. stands for
 Preshow Senior
 Second Thursdays.**

Meet new old friends at this fun reception/party/backstage peek at 6 pm before the second Thursday performance of every RWT adult show.

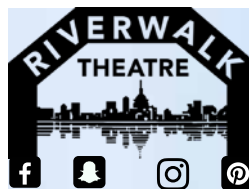
Free reception at 6 pm (the show, optional, starts at 7; buy your bargain show ticket for only \$8 - \$20 for musicals.) Mix and mingle (with refreshments) on the opposite stage from where the night's show will perform (Black Box/Main Stage.)

We'll check out the set-in-progress and get some news about the following show as well as the one we're about to see. Membership and volunteer sign up will be available — **plus a members-only drawing for TWO FREE PASSES to a Riverwalk show!**

April 26 *Bud, Not Buddy*

May 17 *Scotland Road*

June 14 *Spamalot* (musical)



228 MUSEUM DRIVE
 LANSING, MI 48933
 517-482-5700

WWW.RIVERWALKTHEATRE.COM

Book by
 Christopher Paul Curtis

Adapted for the stage by
 Reginald Andre Jackson

Directed by
 Tom Ferris

BUD, Not Buddy

April 19-22 & 26-29, 2018

THURSDAYS 7PM (BARGAIN TICKET!)

FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS 8PM

SUNDAY 2PM

ADULT \$15

MILITARY/SENIOR/STUDENT \$12

BARGAIN THURSDAYS \$10/\$8



Author
 Christopher Paul Curtis,
 who won the prestigious
 Newbery Award for *Bud,
 Not Buddy*, will appear
 at an April 20
 Reading Is Fundamental
 (RIF) fund-raiser.
 Tickets are \$20 for all ages
 for this April 20 show only.

Produced by special arrangement with
 THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois



Supported in part by MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS-NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS-INGHAM COUNTY HOTEL/MOTEL TAX GRANT through the ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING

