

# Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at

# Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 11

June, 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

## Scotland Road Tells Titanic Tale

When a woman in 1912-era clothing is discovered – alive – on an iceberg, a mystery is born.

Is she really from the era of the Titanic, believed to be invincible yet sunk on its maiden voyage?

Or is something else going on?

“This is set in 1992; has she lived for 80 years alone in the North Atlantic? That’s the journey that we take in the play,” said Bob Robinson, who directs *Scotland Road* in Riverwalk Theatre’s Black Box May 10-13 and 17-20. The psychological drama was written by Jeffrey Hatcher.

Robinson reported that veteran Riverwalk director, Jane Falion, suggested this script for him to direct and he found it intriguing.

“She was absolutely right,” he said. “The thing about *Scotland Road* is that it has many possible interpretations. I hope it will cause the audience to

talk and debate what really happened.”

The original cast list has four onstage characters, John, Halbrech, The Woman, and Frances Kittle.

Robinson has expanded the cast to six to include two additional characters, Dane and Kaspar.

“There are two individuals referred to that you never see,” he said. “I thought it would be a good thing to actually include them in the cast.”

Cassie Little plays the mysterious woman, while Gini Larson is Dr. Halbrech. Jeff Magnuson plays John, Janet Lockwood is Frances Kittle, Mark Polzin plays Dane and Steven

Wulfekuhler plays Kaspar.

“I’m having fun with the cast and enjoying working on this,” Robinson said. “It’s a great play for actors.”

Kathleen Lavey



Clockwise from left: Cassie Little, Gini Larson, Jeff Magnuson, Mark Polzin; center: Jan Lockwood

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINKO.COM

## WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

■ 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.

★ June 23, Saturday 1pm **ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

★ June 26, Tuesday 6pm reception 7pm show for **BARNEY AWARDS**

A July 8 & 9 - 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

## MEMBERS

...provide over a quarter of all revenue for shows and general operations! *Your membership is your vote to keep Riverwalk sustainable and available to actors and audiences for years to come!*

Join or renew today — at the level that fits your budget — and you belong through June 30, 2019!

It's easy to join online at:

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

## Bud, Not Buddy

I must thank Tom Ferris for bringing *Bud, Not Buddy* to the Riverwalk. It was delightful to see so many young Black children, particularly boys, on the stage. Whenever there are children on stage there are families coming to the theatre to support them.

Carrying the show on his little shoulders was Kavares Lockett-Brown as Bud, not Buddy. He did a fantastic job! His character had personality plus! There was no way we couldn't root for him and some of his childish logic. His counterpart was his older version played by Chance Boyd. When the spotlight (run by Ric Sadler) went on him, his deep voice gave us more insight into Bud, while the Buds shared one of hundreds of rules. The audience began to giggle in anticipation of another "Rule for Having a Funner Life."

I most enjoyed the scenes Kavares played with the adult males. He really seemed to connect with them. The band members quickly took him under their wings giving him advice on how to approach his father. Guy Thomas as Herman E. Calloway convincingly resisted Bud's charm.

It was hard for me to keep up with the multitude of boys from the orphanage. Though I can't connect names with roles, they did a fine job creating the chaos, camaraderie, and competition that existed in that environment. Some of the adult males in the cast (Danny Ferris, Lee Purdy, Ralph Sims, Eric Smith, Julian VanDyke) played everything from an old shed, to a vampire bat, a swarm of hornets, and a grove of maple trees. Merialice Jensen with running crew of Jelani Milam and cast members kept the scene changes quick.

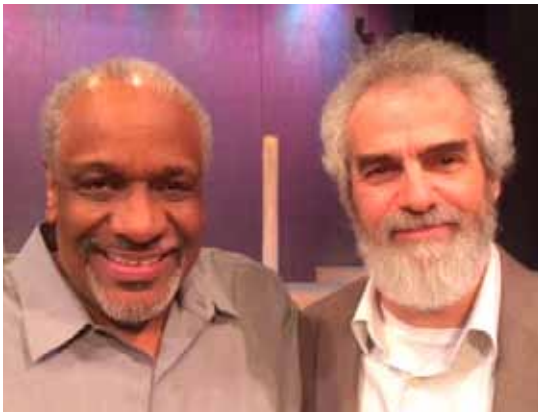
The female cast members: Roshawndra Thomas, Kamara Kahlil, Janell Hall, and Nyla Crawford, held their own; playing multiple roles and providing some much needed tenderness, and a little romance, in Bud's harsh male environment.

I had never heard of the book. What I appreciated most was the history that was an integral part of the story. The information was subtle, but stuck with me. The next

Ripples 6/18— Page 2



*Book Author, Christopher Paul Curtis joined the cast for a talkback after the April 20 performance. Cast and audience alike were charmed and grateful for his insights.*



*Book author, Christopher Paul Curtis (L) with director, Tom Ferris*

day I researched one of the events "mentioned" in the play – the Ford Massacre. Actually, there were no lines in the play about the Ford Massacre. The projected items, by Matt Ottinger, helped to tell the story. With one quick image of a flyer, I was intrigued.

Since Bud's father was in a band, music coordinator, Amel Eiland had blues, jazz, and even a brief polka playing. The life of the band was historically educational. We learned that Dirty Deed (Lee Purdy), the only white member of the band, served as the "face" of the band. He bought property in his name since Blacks at that time could not, and booked gigs for the band with white audiences (hence the polkas).

The set, constructed by Bob Nees and Leroy Cupp, was stark – representing the times and conditions of the day. The props, designed by Carol Ferris, made the set flexible and believable. I was impressed with the settlement camp that included campfires and clotheslines. Hearing crickets chirping added to the realism thanks to sound designer, Leon Green. Ashley Hampton's costume design brought the look of the time to life. The hats

really set the tone. With such a large cast to dress, I'm sure Theresa Dunn's help was invaluable. Hair styling by Michelle Lowdon included a wig for Herman E. Calloway (Guy Thomas) in his youth.

*Bernie Lucas*



*Kavares Lockett-Brown shines in title role*  
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM





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  
Music Direction by Katherine Wilson*

*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](mailto: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-Floury	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 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



# 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!**

May 17 *Scotland Road*

June 14 *Spamalot* (musical)

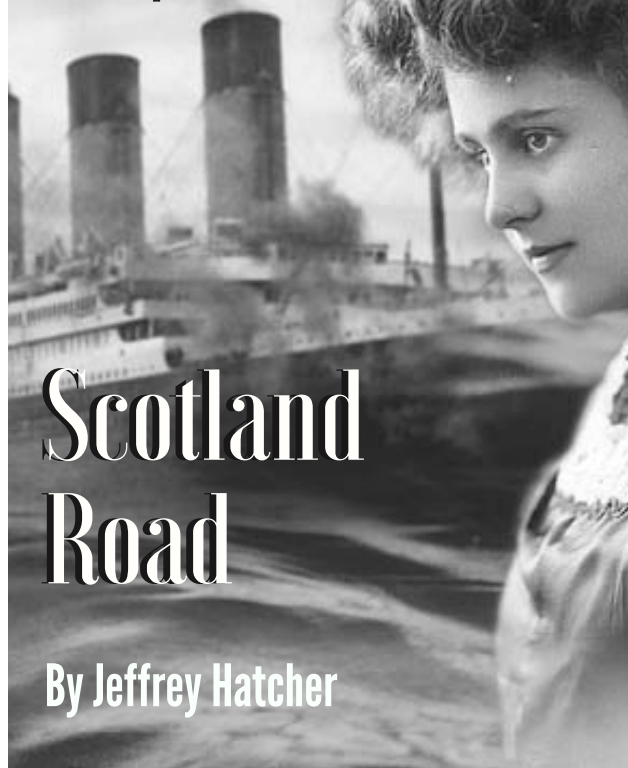


A BLACK BOX



PRODUCTION

A woman in 19th century clothing is found floating on an iceberg, her story has "titanic" implications.



# Scotland Road

By Jeffrey Hatcher

**May 10-13 & 17-20, 2018**

Directed by Bob Robinson

THURSDAYS 7PM

FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS 8PM

SUNDAY 2PM

BARGAIN THURSDAYS: \$10/\$8

ADULT: \$12

SENIOR/STUDENT/MILITARY: \$10

FOR TICKETS: 517-482-5700



*Don't forget to join us May 17 at 6pm for the PSST!*

*Scotland Road* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



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

