

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at
Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 10
Summer, 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's *Young Frankenstein*, 2014

Challenges and Hope

All theatres are struggling to cope and predict when/how we can bring live theatre back to life. Riverwalk's wonderful Season 32 — which seems like it was just announced yesterday — has been released from its announced show dates. Also we'll miss Sadonna Croff's summer Young Artisan Workshop — and, of course, the end of season 31. *Marvin Gardens* got only one performance, *Doubt* and *Shrek* are gone — especially sad since so much work already had been put into them.

So the deck is cleared for us to be flexible and creative, accepting new and revised submissions and figuring out how Riverwalk can have virtual and/or socially-distanced shows as circumstances/regulations allow. (See form, page 2.) Still, until we have documented processes and appropriate supplies, staff and volunteer training, the Riverwalk Theatre buildings will remain closed to anyone who is not essential staff.

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The Good News

Thanks to the tradition of financial prudence set by our Okemos Barn foremother Bee Vary and her protégé and our Riverwalk godfather Bill Helder, we have several months of cash in the bank to continue operating expenses, and we own our building. We have received a PPP grant/loan to keep paying our manager, custodian and Costume Shop employees. There is no doubt that Riverwalk *will* be back.

The Bad News

The downside to owning our building is that we are responsible for its upkeep. We must pay insurance on our building and rent to maintain the Costume Shop. We also need to pay a CPA to close our books for the fiscal year, prepare our tax forms and perform our required annual audit.

Along with the approximately \$15,000 in projected ticket revenue we've lost, we have an upcoming plumbing bill estimated at up to \$60,000. Plumbers' cameras have come to a "dead end" and major digging is required to answer "why the backup?" questions and make the fix.

—Continued on page 2

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ Friday, July 10
deadline to **submit your electronic Board Ballot, including your MEMBERS CHOICE AWARD** for your favorite show of our truncated season. Members got email links — or find link at RiverwalkTheatre.com.

★ Saturday, July 11
at 1 pm **Annual MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - Join our Zoom Webcast via email link sent to members (see p. 3)

★ Tuesday, July 14,
7 pm - **VIRTUAL BARNEY AWARDS**
Join us on this Zoom Webcast! Link will be emailed to everyone. Manager Mike has an email address for, posted on the Riverwalk website and Facebook events

The Bad News - cont. from page 1

One up-side to the pandemic shut-down is that we have time to schedule this project when we are not open for shows.



The good news about the bad news:

Doug Austin, master musician and lawyer was instrumental in donating \$40,000 from the estate of our friend Jim Noble, who passed last September, to substantially help with the sewer project. Jim had long been a Riverwalk supporter and advertiser in our programs. He had a passion for

life. It showed in his career in real estate, his love of singing (occasionally demonstrated on the Riverwalk stage) and his attitude of healing, forgiveness and happiness. He is missed, but his helpful influence will live on via this practical support for our theatre in its time of need.

Act II: YOUR Role

We *will* be back for “Act II” with your help. Our typical membership campaign brings the theater about \$45,000 in necessary revenue. **With this fiscal year’s extra challenges, we have a membership, grant and gift goal of \$150,000.** We have already raised more than \$96,000 from memberships, gifts and grants thus far since April 2020. We hope we can count on you to donate more than you have in the past for this year of

special needs, knowing that Riverwalk is a good investment.

Go to **RiverwalkTheatre.com** for convenient online giving options:

- Raise your Membership category
- Donate directly to the Act II Campaign,
- Buy Gift Certificates for future shows — demonstrating our shared faith that there *will* be future shows!

OR if you’re not an “online” person, you can always mail a check to:

Riverwalk Theatre
P.O. Box 12249
Lansing, MI 48901.

Telling stories, entertaining and connecting people will be more important than ever before when we find it safe to come together again!

What’s Next for Riverwalk Theatre?

We don’t know for sure... but we are getting ready for it! Our Riverwalk Board is meeting monthly via Zoom and members of our Executive Committee are meeting weekly to track changing restrictions/regulations and look for creative ways to keep Riverwalk alive despite our state of uncertainty.

The need for social distancing has pushed our performances into a kind of intermission. The Board and Executive Team have had constructive conversations about how to keep our audiences, volunteers and staff safe while producing high quality theater experiences.

At this time, we’re open to ideas for shows that can be presented online, outdoor and indoor socially distanced to be announced and scheduled over the next 12 months — preferably shows that are either in the public domain, or can be done without royalties in light of production uncertainties.

Do YOU have any new ideas?

We’ve developed a form for requesting consideration of a staged reading, limited production, or special event not considered a full scale production. All amendments to

our current season must be reviewed by the Production Committee and building use approved by the Board of Directors.

Please use the guidelines on this form when telling us about your project:

<https://forms.gle/wrXbBa4BBn-vammko9>

(or find this link on our website.)

- A Staged Reading is a READING of a script — no set, no props, no costumes. Typically performers are seated or standing with music stands for scripts and will often engage the audience in a talk-back following the reading.
- A Limited Production is a performance of a script in which you may include minimalist scenery, props, costumes and blocking etc.
- We are considering cabaret, variety, and concert type performances to be Special Events.
- If your project doesn’t fit any of these categories please indicate “other.”



Custodian/caretaker Adam Carlson is Mr. Clean! Whenever we are allowed to reopen, it will be the CLEANEST Riverwalk Theatre EVER!



Manager Mike Siracuse is still on the job; lots of work to do on getting royalties refunds, dealing with sewer repairs... and more.

Annual Meeting & Barneys Go Virtual

Our Riverwalk ANNUAL MEETING will be: Saturday, July 11 at 1 pm as a Zoom Webcast.

Executive Committee members will make a presentation and members will be able to submit questions in advance via email to annualmeetingquestions@gmail.com. Details will be sent by email and posted to the website in advance of the meeting. Even if you have not used Zoom before, you should be able to get to the meeting by clicking the link in your e-mail.

Members have already received an email link to an **electronic ballot for both board members and the Members Choice Barney Award** for favorite show. There is also a link on the Riverwalk Facebook page. When voting, you will enter your name to assure members vote only once. **Voting is open until Friday, July 10.**

If electronic voting does not work for you, you may mail a paper ballot to the office (P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901,) listing your Board Member choices, and/or

write-in candidates, along with your favorite show for the Members Choice award. **Besure to include your name** so the one-vote-per-member rule can be enforced.

Virtual Barney AWARDS will be Tuesday, July 14 at 7 pm Zoom Webcast LIVE with host Matt Ottinger. The link will be emailed to everyone Manager Mike has an email address for, and also posted on Riverwalk Facebook events and at our website: riverwalktheatre.com.

New Riverwalk Board Candidates



L A U R A C R O F F has been an active in Lansing theatre since 1995, primarily performing with many theatres but also volunteering in other capacities

such as painting sets, props and costuming. She loves the teamwork of theatre. She served on the Lansing Civic Players board near the end of their organization, being part of some tough decisions. She learned a lot, which makes her a better advocate for the arts today. She is eager to “put her money where her mouth is” and be an active advocate helping Riverwalk improve and succeed.



B E R N I E L U C A S has been a longtime volunteer at Riverwalk, mostly backstage, but once ON stage as Nurse Jessye Price in *Miss Evers' Boys* in 2008. She started running lights for

The Wiz in 1998, volunteered for Capitol Area Performers and has since been an active asset to many Riverwalk shows, doing costuming, properties, stage managing, painting, running crew, set dressing, sound tech, and more. Her dependability and dedication to the Riverwalk family make her an ideal candidate for Board service.

CODY SKALMOWSKI has been very active in the Lansing theatre community since moving here from the U. P. in 2016.



He appreciates how Riverwalk welcomed him. Since then, he has found many ways to contribute, inventing innovative sound and lighting for the stage and most recently

contributing to digital theater productions. He has a BA in Information Systems with a minor in Logistics Management from Ashford U. He is Tech Support Analyst with the Michigan Association of School Boards. He has worked with All-of-us Express, Peppermint Creek, and Over the Ledge, but considers Riverwalk his “home.” He has made a career and lifestyle of making tech-life easier for people and plans to channel back to this organization that is dear to him.



K A T E D I C K I N S O N has been appointed to fill a vacated board term. She was active in theatre in the metro Detroit area, including youth theatre programs before

moving to Lansing upon her honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 2018. From a theatre family, she has been well versed in all facets of theatre. Her main passion is performing on stage and playing viola backstage. With her BA in Communications-Mass Media from Albion College, she has a varied career portfolio with CBS Radio, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and was

marketing/publicity intern at Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures in Dublin, Ireland. She’s currently communication manager for he Alzheimer’s Association, working in advertising media relations website maintenance and social media. She prides herself on her work ethic, perseverance and ability to collaborate.

Incumbent Candidates



Michele Booher-Purosky,
Treasurer &
Executive
Committee



Shannon Bowen,
Human Resource
Committee



Brian Farnham
Secretary &
Executive
Committee



Hope Rollins,
Grant Writing

RIVERWALK THEATRE

2019-2020 Officers

President, Jeff Magnuson
Administrative VP, Darrin Fowler
Production VP, Rita Deibler
Treasurer, Michele Booher-Purosky
Secretary, Brian Farnham

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Shannon Bowen	Scott Mandel
Liz Cooke	Scott Pohl
Dan Currie	Leo Poroshin
Kameron Going	Brett Robertson
Leon Green	Hope Rollins
Sarah Hayner	Linda Widener
Erik Larson	Jane Zussman

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

Farewell, Jack Davis

Jack Davis, a long-time Riverwalk friend and supporter, passed away at the end of May. He, and his wife Susan, were in the center section of our auditorium for almost every show since Season 15.

Although he would often arrive late, after the curtain had risen, he was happy to come up the stairs at the back of the audience and be seated on the end of the row so he would not disturb other audience members.

Consistent "Angel" level donors to Riverwalk Theatre, Jack and Susan were also great supporters of many Lansing area arts organizations and civic groups.

We at Riverwalk Theatre are proud to have known Jack and will miss him. We send our condolences to Susan and the Davis family.

We encourage you to join us in sharing your memories of Jack here: <https://www.forever-missed.com/jack-charles-davis/about>

This online memorial is dedicated to Jack Charles Davis. It is a place to celebrate his life by sharing fond memories, photos, music and more.



No Prom this year at the Costume Shop

The Costume Shop Managed by Riverwalk Theatre is joining the rest of us in making the best of the Covid-19 lockdown. Costume Shop Director, Kate Koskinen, and her staff (and RWT custodian, Adam Carlson,) are taking this time to deep clean and organize in hopes of being happily open to the public for Halloween.

**The shop is currently open by appointment
arranged via email only:**

costumes@riverwalktheatre.com

Patrons and staff must wear masks in our building.



**1131 MAY STREET
LANSING, MI 48906**

COSTUMES ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
Email: costumes@riverwalktheatre.com

Visit RWTCostumeshop.com for more info.



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