

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 32 • Number 1
September, 2020

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 2 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

BROADWAY ON THE GRAND

LIVE 8:30 pm Sept. 12
Riverwalk Parking Lot



Sam Rohloff



Emily Hadick



Sean
Holland
II

Join us for this parking lot popup Saturday, September 12, 8:30 pm—a Riverwalk special event!

We couldn't say no when our friend Sam, asked to put on a show for the Riverwalk community while he's here at home waiting for New York theatres to reopen their doors. With touring credits from *Kinky Boots*, and *West Side Story*, and as a graduate from Oakland University, he's put together a night of show tunes with special guests you won't want to miss.

Performers include Sam, himself, plus Emily Hadick, who has come a long, long way since she played orphan "Pepper" in Riverwalk's 2011 *Annie*. She's performed at Meadowbrook, Encore, The Dio, Exit Left Theatre, The Huron Playhouse... and more.

...and Sean Holland II, a fourth-year MSU award-winning music education/classical voice major who was outstanding as "Seaweed J. Stubbs" in Riverwalk's 2019 *Hairspray* as well as playing the title role in *Orpheus in the Underworld* among other roles at MSU and he has been featured on many recordings.

Performers are supported by Kait Wilson on keyboard and by Riverwalk staff and technicians: Kelly

Jo Garland on sound, Cody Skalmowski and Cambray Sampson on lights, Jeff Magnuson producing, and Tom Ferris and Leroy Cupp on staging and logistics.

There will be no concessions sold and the building (bathrooms) will not be open to the public. We expect the performance to last about an hour. Parking instructions will be emailed to guests upon processing your reservation. We will be parking vehicles along Museum Dr., Michigan Ave., and within our own north lot. The performance will be outside, with numbered areas for you to set up your lawn chairs. You'll reserve a space for up to four people from the same household to sit together in your own portable chairs with six-foot distance from other groups of patrons. This is a live, in-person event; we will *not* be recording/streaming it later.

ONLY 100 audience members are allowed, so make your reservation ASAP. \$20 per person of any age/no discounts. You can reserve online (preferred) or by phoning Mike 517-482-5700. He is at the office Tuesday-Friday 10 am - 2 pm.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- ★ Saturday, September 12, 8:30 pm - **BROADWAY ON THE GRAND** - \$20 all ages; byo lawn chair for parking lot seating. **Reservations required**; arrive early for parking/seating considerations
- ★ Saturday, October 3, 8 pm - **ACT OF MADNESS**, Jane Falion's play about the Bath School Massacre, reimagined for video format

- ★ October/November **TOWARD AN ANTIRACIST TOMORROW**, series of short plays presented in video format



Kait Wilson,
accompanist

To Our Members, Donors, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our Riverwalk Theatre family has worked diligently to keep our organization operating in accordance with health department guidelines that protect the health and safety of our members, volunteers and staff. That has caused us to limit access to our building and essentially stop all production activity.

However, the Riverwalk Board of Directors and other supporters have been working during the past few months planning for an eventual phased reopening that will allow our volunteers and staff to safely return and create the art they love, and allow our community to safely engage in theatre.

Each phase of the reopening will have a timeline and a description of resources and activities designed to stimulate engagement while preserving the physical and mental health of everyone involved. As health conditions improve, larger groups of people will

be able to begin working together to prepare different kinds of productions whether they be virtual, open air, or in an auditorium.

To mitigate risk as much as possible, our phased approach will be modeled after Governor Whitmer's Safe Start Plan and elements of CDC guidelines. Each phase of the reopening will describe how we will implement all mandated health and safety requirements.

As we continue to plan the phased reopening, we need your help.

In the next few weeks, **we will be reaching out to you as a member of our community of actors, technicians, designers, volunteers, audience members and supporters via a set of SURVEYS asking for your input.**

We want to know under what conditions will you feel comfortable and safe re-engaging in theatre activities. We will then use your responses to guide our planning

efforts. Your feedback is important to us and crucial to the success of our planning!

The first surveys will be available in mid-September. **We will be using our website, Facebook page and email to gather information.** Your opinions and feedback will be instrumental in planning a safe, and healthy reopening of Riverwalk Theatre.

Finally, we are very grateful to those of you who continue to submit plays and production ideas to our search committee. Unfortunately, until we have determined how we can safely move forward, we are unable to consider these submissions, and will not be seeking additional ideas at this time. Once we have completed our phased reopening plan, we'll resume accepting submissions. Thank you for your patience.

Thank you for helping us prepare for Act II!

IN the works...

Got Recipes?

We Moms of Quarantine Babies are assembling a **DIGITAL COOKBOOK** (with printing rights) to raise \$\$ and show our love to Riverwalk while we aren't able to be there in person! We have some great ideas for a fun and tasty cookbook. Stay tuned for info about how to snag your copy. We need YOUR help with the content! Submit as many of your food and drink recipes as you'd like! Depending on the number of submissions, we cannot guarantee every recipe will be published.

NEW RECIPE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 8 pm October 1st!

Use the Google Form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSde3cbZXbpxfeoIrf7aaXehGeWGrLibZOUrb0IOYXJZQsr-Q/viewform> (This link is on the "RWT Fam" group Facebook page.)

OR if you have a (neatly) handwritten recipe, you are welcome to snap a picture and send to Tricia Rogers on Facebook or at broadwaybrain13@gmail.com.

Include: your first and last name, your typical role at RWT (actor, director, tech god, backstage ninja, costume legend, etc.) and a texting number for any questions (please specify if texting is not okay.) Include your



dish's name (creative names encouraged!) Number of servings/quantity, ingredients and measurements, the preparation process (be thorough) and any additional comments.

Theresa Dunn

Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow

The Production Committee has identified a series of five short plays by Idris Goodwin designed to spark conversation about race in America. Goodwin says, "...Since racism lives at the intersection of misinformation, ego and unchecked power, the arts must counteract by cultivating personal reflections, learning conversation and compassion..."

These entertaining and thought-provoking scripts are free to perform with the stipulation that they are presented free of charge. Optional donations can be directed to local organizations as well as Riverwalk — but

they are not required. Rico Bruce Wade, Rose Jangmi-Cooper, Janell Hall, and Julian Van Dyke are directing. These plays will be presented virtually, either pre-recorded and posted to our social media, presented through a Zoom room, or launched live on our Facebook. We plan to "air" one performance a week on the five Mondays in November. You may read each script at this link: <http://www.tyausa.org/freeplay/>

An Act of Madness

You may recall director Jane Falion's historic script (written with Jeff Nash) dramatizing the infamous Bath School bombing of 1927. It was a hit at the Renegade Theatre Festival in 2009. That production was notable for its choreographed actors moving as one. Jane is re-imagining this dramatic material in a completely different video format. Join us for this human look into a violent tragedy that happened close to home.

An Act of Madness is scheduled for 8 pm Saturday, October 3. As with the Antiracist plays, this will be presented virtually, either pre-recorded and posted to our social media, presented through a Zoom room, or launched live on our Facebook. There is no admission fee, but donations to Riverwalk will be appreciated.

Farewell, Roy Custer - 1/17/41-8/14/20

Mr. Lloyd Roy “Butch” Custer was born January 17, 1941 in Rock-springs, Texas. He left this earthly life on August 14, 2020 in Lansing, Michigan where he had lived with his partner of 28 years, Robert Waite. His last years were spent working through the challenges associated with Alzheimer’s but he enjoyed his time with Bob and friends.

Roy was a realtor who advertised for many years in Riverwalk programs. He was an active Lansing Area Theatre Guy back in the day.

Roy directed the very first show produced at Riverwalk Theatre in 1989, *Dames at Sea* — and also was part of the infamous *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at the Okemos Barn in 1984. He played Pontius Pilate, heroically staying in character and keeping his cool when a lady from the audience ventured onstage to “save Jesus” from the 40 lashes.

Roy also directed *Man of La Mancha at the Barn* in 1985, and at Riverwalk directed: *It’s a Grand Night of Singing* (1988) played Marryin’ Sam in *Li’l Abner* (1992), Carroll “Toddy” Todd in *Victor/Victoria* (2006). He directed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 2006 and also directed at Lansing Civic Players and Spotlight Theatre.

Roy studied Chemistry at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He helped put himself through college by forming a band that played at local pizza joints in Lubbock, Texas.



He married Sherrie Nunn Midkiff in 1962 and spent most of his professional career in the food industry (Anderson Clayton, Hunt-Wesson Foods, Best Foods, and Wyeth Ayerst.) At Anderson Clayton, his team patented the process of making edible oils and cheese.

For a short time he worked for Orville Redenbacher when Hunt-Wesson Foods bought Orville’s company. Roy was the

National Insurance Director for Hunt-Wesson foods. He was recruited by USAID to go to Pakistan where he headed a team that used \$40 million dollars to build business.

In 1982, Roy moved to Michigan where he worked as the plant manager for Wyeth Labs in Mason.

In 1996, Roy started a new career in real estate. At Briarwood Reality, he was an agent as well as Director of Human Resources. He was the Greater Lansing Association of Realtor’s 1997 rookie of the year and a member of the President’s Million Dollar Month Club and The Circle of Excellence. In 2010 he became President of the Board of GLAR. He retired in 2016 due to failing health.

One of Roy’s lifetime loves was music and musical theater. He learned to play piano as a child and continued playing until 2017. In 1978, Roy turned a closed house of ill repute into a dinner theatre in Kankakee, Illinois. It was named Darling Nell’s, after the famous madame Nellie Clark.

Roy starred and directed in over 100 musicals in community theaters in Texas, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

Roy’s gifts were his laughter and music and he shared them with all. He is survived by his three children; Allison (Riordan) Hartzoge, Aaron (Jessica) Custer and Audra Verastegui, seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; one older brother and two nephews.

With your help, Amazon wants to give Riverwalk Theatre some money.

Earn money for Riverwalk Theatre when you shop at Amazon. For every qualifying purchase you make at Amazon Smile, Amazon will give a portion of your total purchase amount to Riverwalk. It is the same company and your same account. **There is no cost to Riverwalk or to you.** The web site is the same. Once you register, you never need do anything again except shop at smile.amazon.com. Here’s how:

- Go to smile.amazon.com
- Bookmark this site—you must shop at smile.amazon.com to get the donation

to Riverwalk. Shopping at amazon.com will not provide a donation.

- On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. A window will



pop up to ask you what organization you want your donation to go to. No other information is requested. **Be sure to select Community Circle Players, Inc.** which, as you probably know, is Riverwalk Theatre’s official name. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

THAT’S IT. Do your shopping at smile.amazon.com and support Riverwalk Theatre.

Mike says he periodically gets checks from Amazon now. Let’s shop to make those donations larger.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all our 2020-21 Season 32 Members!

Since we are not printing programs, we're using this space to showcase and thank those of you who have demonstrated your faith in our future by donating what you can. Add your name to this important list. Membership Matters!

ANGEL

Mary & Sam Austin
Brian Farnham
Tom & Carol Ferris
Leon Green
Lee Helder
Jack & Marge Hetherington
Doug Kempf
Janet Lockwood
Clarence Weiss
Linda Widener
Mark & Jane Zussman

STAR

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Jeff Magnuson & Amy Rickett
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Gordon & Sheila Taylor

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Paul Wright & Ute von der Heyden

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Carol Bray
Charles Calati
Harlow Claggett & Diane Smith
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Mrs. Robert Curry
Marvin & Peggy Dunn
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Bruce & Joyce Fillmore
Oralya Garza-Ueberroth
Edric & Brandi Haleen
Beth Hubble
Karen & Jerry Jennings
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Darlene Kittle
Judith Labovitz
Cleo-Rae Lavey
Kathy & Bob Lovell
Bernie Lucas
Clare S.Mackey
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Bob Nees & Mary K. Hodges Nees
John Nichols
Irv Nichols
Phyllis Nix
Eileen O'Leary
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Milton & Sue Powell
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Kay Seppala
Lonny & Judy Snow
Daniel Sobish
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Susan & Ron Swenson
Sandra & Bob Thomasson
Bob & Sally Tubbs
Christopher Verhil
Fran Yelon
Liane Zimny

STAGE MANAGER

Donna Aberlich
Colleen Bethea
Jacqueline Borszich
Shannon Bowen
Chance Boyd
Joan Brunger
James B. Brunk III
Doug Carleton
Joe & Connie Conley
Leroy Cupp
Roberta Dugan
Mrs. Jane E. Griffin
Donald & Elizabeth Kaufman
Olivia Letts
Nancy Madtes
Susan Merkle
John Roche
Merry Rosenberg
Taylor Rupp Haslett
Jenna Rutherford
Cambray Sampson
Mary Jane Schuon
Pauline Sondag
Dorothy Stark
Ronald & Agnes Thill
Don West
Pam Ziarnik

TECHNICIAN

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Barb Burns-Briggs
Rita Deibler
Cathy DeRose
Kelly Jo Garland
Gary Gillespie, MD
Kameron & Taren Going
Sarah Hayner
Teresa Lippert
Jeff Litten
Ron McNeill
Lori Reyes
Brett Robertson
Maribeth Robertson
Cody Skalmowski
Ned Verhil
Kay Zakrajsek

ACTOR

Wyatt Anthony
Vanessa Askew
Darlene Berling
Drew Birchmeier
Twyla Birdsong
Chance Boyd
Betsie Branch
Jean Burk
Sherry Cardwell
Caila Conklin
Liz Cooke
Braden Cooley
Anne Cruce
Rachael Cupples
Tim Donal
Adriana Flores
Zachary Freeman
Mandy Fuller
Janell Hall
Christine Hall
Michael Hays
Erin Hoffman
Ann Holt
Kelley Lofton
Marilyn Owens
Kristin Pagels
Luka Skrbinek Pawsek
Gabriel Pitman
Jenny Popovich
Tricia Rogers
Vee Rose
Mike Sobocinski
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Gretchen Trent
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RIVERWALK THEATRE

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P.O. Box 12249
Lansing MI 48901

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

RAISE your membership level for "Act II" of Post-Covid THEATRE

RWT membership runs July - Jun. 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 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:

At riverwalktheatre.com — click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.



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