

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 4
November, 2017

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

The Home Team - comedy with a dramatic twist

It's fall in Lansing, and Neva Gurley and her four adult children are coming together over a great football divide: the Michigan-Michigan State game.

The kids don't have to travel far: They still live with their widowed mom, even though they're old enough to have moved out long ago.

At least they're rooting for the right side, according to most Lansing folks: "It's a family that just adores Michigan State," said director Emily English Clark. *The Home Team* is featured on Riverwalk's



The Gurley family, L to R: Erik Grill, Heath Sartorius, Gini Larson, Erin Hoffman, Joe Dickson • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

main stage October 19-22 and 26-29.

She was immediately taken by the humor and the characters in Kim Carney's play. The only non-family member in the play is son Wayne's girlfriend, Erin, who arrives in maize-and-blue, ready to root for The Other Team.

Erin's arrival also sets the stage for plenty of humor as well as a more dramatic plot twist during the second act as the family is forced to deal with some outstanding issues.

"It's not just this light-hearted comedy. It becomes pretty serious in the second act," she said. But the situation, the dialogue and the fact that it's a local show – Carney, who now lives in Ann Arbor but grew up in Lansing and graduated from Eastern High School – made it irresistible," Clark said.

Gini Larson plays mom, Neva, with children Johnny, Wayne, Marion and Duke (anyone sensing a western theme here?) played by Erik Grill, Joe Dickson, Erin Hoffman and Heath Sartorius, respectively. Shannon Bowen plays the enemy – er, UM fan – Erin.

Clark and Grill are enjoying a little in-family MSU-UM rivalry themselves. Grill is Clark's son-in-law, and much like the girlfriend in the show, is

the lone UM supporter among a clan of Spartans.

"He is just UM all the way, and he plays the most avid Spartan in 'The Home Team,'" she said.

The Home Team is set in 2002, when Carney wrote it, so sharp-eared Spartan fans will catch references

to a historic team member or two.

There are no scene changes; it's just a two-hour slice of the family's living room life.

"It's got a lot of funny in it, but it's got a lot of drama," Clark said. "I like that it has really, really interesting characters. Each character has a really wonderful arc of development."

Kathleen Lavey

Two Home Team Special Events:

Wednesday, Oct. 18, Special performance of *The Home Team*, including talk-back with author **Kim Carney** and reception to benefit **Resolution Services Center**.

Reception at 5:30 pm before the show; talk-back after.

The Resolution Services Center provides the Restorative Justice program in schools, helping students resolve conflicts and bullying with a trained facilitator.

Tickets \$40: Call (517) 485-7724 9 a.m. to 5 pm weekdays; or online at rscem.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, Special performance of *The Home Team*, to benefit the **Zonta Club of Lansing**. Refreshments and bidding on silent auction items begin at 5:30 pm, performance begins at 7pm.

The Zonta Club of Lansing sponsors fundraisers to support local area charities whose goals are to promote the status of women.

Tickets \$25: Tickets for this special event are available only through the Zonta Club at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zonta-club-of-lansing-presents-the-home-team-oct-25-2017-530pm-tickets-38256725897?aff=efbneb>

Reserve other performances of *The Home Team* as usual www.riverwalktheatre.com or by calling (517) 482-5700.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

🗓️ October 19-22 & 26-29 -
THE HOME TEAM - dramedy,
Director: Emily Clark

★ Nov. 4 - **RIVERWALK SATURDAY NIGHT** - music variety show - Tom Heideman Mary Koenigsnecht and friends (see p. 3) \$10 minimum donation; all proceeds to Riverwalk.

A Nov. 16-18, **Bridge to Terabithia AUDITIONS** Thu./Fri. 6:30 pm; Sat. 10 am at Hannah Center. Produced by All-of-us Express; ages 9-18. Info at cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

A Nov. 19 & 20, Sun & Mon, 7 pm, **Buried Child, AUDITIONS** director: Janet Colson

📅 November 24-26 & December 1-3 - **THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES** - family musical comedy - Director: Lee Helder

A January 7 and 8, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm, **Lily the Felon's Daughter AUDITIONS** director: Susan Chmurynsky (performs March 15-25, 2018)

🗓️ January 18-21 & 25-28 - **BURIED CHILD** Pulitzer winning drama Director: Janet Colson

🗓️ **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)

📅 **CHILDREN'S SHOW:** 7pm Fri.; 2 & 4:30 pm Sat.; 2 pm Sundays - \$8 children; \$10 adults age 13+ (general seating)

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

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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

RWT SATURDAY NIGHT - Folk, Jazz, Classical & Lansing's Poet Laureate!



Mary Koenigsknecht & Tom Heideman



DENNIS HINRICHSEN, our inaugural Lansing Poet Laureate

NOV. 4, 8 PM

Fun variety show! Thanks to the performers' generosity, all proceeds go to Riverwalk!

\$10+ suggested donation at the door; general seating • 517-482-5700

Tom Heideman has once again assembled a new and interesting array of performers — this time with a classical/jazz flair. He and **Mary Koenigsknecht** will perform their acclaimed folk-ish singer/songwriter favorites, with other musicians including classical flute and guitar with **Bryan Guarnuccio** and **Chris Rollins**, plus jazz with the **DJClarinet Combo** featuring Doug Carleton, Duncan Tarr and Nathan Borton.

We'll miss Tom's poet friend David James, but the "poetry slot" will be well filled with **Dennis Hinrichsen**, selected last April as the inaugural Lansing Poet Laureate.

Dennis is a long-time Lansing resident and retired professor of English at LCC. His first year is focussing on Poems of Place. "... These places might be hidden, secret, or even very public, but they define our lives here and are worthy of expression in poetry." lansingpoet.weebly.com

ONE SHOW ONLY - Don't miss it!



Chris Rollins



Bryan Guarnuccio



DJClarinet Combo featuring Doug Carleton, Duncan Tarr and Nathan Borton

REVIEW

Master Harold and the Boys addresses apartheid

There was a moment in *Master Harold and the Boys* that stuck with me. When Master Harold (Hally) learns his alcoholic father is coming home from a hospital against his wishes, the teenager deals with the emotional pain of this reality by reverting to the racist sentiments of his father and the South African apartheid system of the time. And he takes it out especially on Sam and Willie, two African men that work in his parents tea shop. What makes it especially painful is that Sam has pretty much watched over Hally growing up and, in a moment, that relationship is shaken due to Hally's regression into racism.

Ayden Soupal who played Hally, did a fine job balancing his know-it-all attitude with the pain and vulnerability he feels later on. Ndegwa McCloud did a fine job as Sam and really had a presence about him. He was believable in his nurturing of Hally and later in his suppressed rage at him. He was also good in his relationship with Willie, the younger waiter, and nurturing to him, especially in teaching him ballroom dancing. Caleb Liggett, as Willie, provided strong support.

In his program notes, director Gabriel



L to R: Ayden Soupal, Ndegwa McCloud, Caleb Liggett • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Francisco, says the hope of the play is that Sam and Willie can keep Hally from becoming a "prisoner of hatred" and shake off the shackles of apartheid. We as an audience hope that will happen, but as with any good play, we never really know, do we?

Director Francisco was ably assisted by A.D. Danielle Pollock and stage manager Ian Whippe. Nice props were provided by Arlena

Craven. The producer was Diane Cooke.

Even in these modern times, after the demise of apartheid and segregation, racism is still a spectre that lurks quietly beneath the surface. It will require great work and commitment to overcome it. Thanks to all who brought *Master Harold* to the Black Box!

Justin Banks



Auditions for ages 9-18: November 16-18
6:30 Thursday & Friday & 10 am Saturday
Show Dates: Feb. 9-19, 2018

**Auditions are held at Hannah
 Community Center, 819 Abbot Road.**

Produced by All-of-us Express; ages 9-18
 welcome for cast and crew; **OPTIONAL
 AUDITION WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 15;**
 more information at
cityofeastlansing.com/allofus OR
 e-mail ecooke@cityofeastlansing.com

Riverwalk depends on YOUR MEMBERSHIP for over a quarter of our revenue. Be a part of the foundation that supports Riverwalk for the benefit of all theatre lovers!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Our fiscal/membership year runs from July thru June.

Actor — \$15-24, Ripples, voting

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

Go to riverwalk-theatre.com. Click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail/ give a check to Mike at the office. We're 501c3 tax deductible. If you're already a member, recruit a NEW member today!



**Auditions: Sunday & Monday,
 November 12 & 13, 2017 at 7 pm.**
Show Dates: January 18-28, 2018

Cast of Characters:

Described as a "seriocomic tragedy," Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1979. Written forty years ago, its vision of relationships and Americana is timelessly relevant. When grandson Vince returns "home," we discover that his family has been consumed by a disturbing secret from which all must emerge in order to survive. *Buried Child* compels us to examine our own delusions as we try to move beyond a past of nostalgia and regrets.

DODGE, in his seventies

HALIE, Dodge's wife; mid sixties

TILDEN, their oldest son

BRADLEY, their next oldest son, an amputee

VINCE, Tilden's son

SHELLY, Vince's girlfriend

FATHER DEWIS, a Protestant minister

Come prepared 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

Lobby Artists Young-Shill Roberts & Darlene Matthews



Young-Shill Roberts, a member of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild and the Working Women's Artist Group, has studied under

several instructors at LCC. She has displayed works at Delta Township Library, LCC, art galleries in town and the Greater Lansing Area Orchid Show, at which she placed first. Her works are mostly watercolors, but also include etchings, combined etching and watercolor, acrylic and oil. Many works are inspired by the beauty of nature, color and everyday life. Portraits and abstracts are included in her portfolio as well. Youngshill.com • 517-694-7094



Darlene's work is a reflection of and response to her love of color and texture with energy and directness that touches the viewer. She paints both on location and in the studio, utilizing the opaque nature of acrylic and the transparent qualities of watercolor to create contrasts with shapes, textures, and rhythms that translate into exciting motifs.

Darlene has exhibited her work in and won several awards. Her painting are in private collections throughout the US and Europe. Teaching other artists is an important part of her life. Darlene believes passing on her knowledge, techniques and love of art to others is as important as painting itself. To purchase artwork please call 517-897-5518.



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 (jzussman@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

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

Halloween at the Costume Shop



The Costume Shop, managed by Riverwalk, has just what you need to look your best for Parties, Plays, Special Events, HALLOWEEN!

Each rental item is unique, selected and combined for an individual customer. Separate articles start at \$10; complete ensembles at \$45. Stop by for personal service. (517) 484-9199 or email costumes@riverwalktheatre.com



RWTCostumeShop.com

1131 MAY STREET, LANSING, MI 48906

EXTENDED HALLOWEEN HOURS:
 TUE. WED. THUR. 2:00-7:00 & SAT. 10 AM - 2 PM

Visit RWTCostumeshop.com for more info.



228 Museum Dr.
 Lansing MI, 48933

Presents a heartfelt comedy
 by Kim Carney

THE HOME TEAM



Thursdays 7pm
 Fridays/Saturdays 8pm
 Sundays 2pm

Tickets:
 \$10/12 + handling fee

**OCTOBER 19-22
 & 26-29, 2017**

Directed by Emily Clark

For tickets:
 Call 517-482-5700
 Or visit www.RiverwalkTheatre.com



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

