

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 32 • Number 3
November, 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

Five Short Plays Toward an Antiracist Tomorrow



Janell Hall



Julian Van Dyke



Rose Jangmi Cooper



Bruce Rico Wade

The five Mondays in November offer a series of short, entertaining and thought-provoking scripts designed to spark conversations about race in America. They are written by award-winning playwright, poet and changemaker, Idris Goodwin and offered free to perform. You can read each script at this link: <http://www.tyausa.org/freeplay/>

The videos will air at 7 pm every Monday, on both Riverwalk's Facebook and YouTube channel and remain there indefinitely. #MATTER will be a Zoom webinar guests can view live (link will be on the website and Facebook.) After the performance it will be available to view as a recorded video like the others.

November 2: NOTHING RHYMES WITH JUNETEENTH, directed by Rico Bruce Wade (for audiences age 9 and up) A child and a parent try to complete a rap for a school presentation.

November 9: BLACK FLAG, directed by Rico Bruce Wade. New dorm-mates are excited to start their freshman year together, until one of them decides to decorate their room with a little piece of "Southern pride."

November 16: ACT FREE, directed by Julian Van Dyke (for audiences age 9 and up) Three kids wrestle with the definition of freedom.

November 23: WATER GUN SONG, directed by Janell Hall (for audiences age 6 and up) A parent tries to find the words to explain to a child why a water gun isn't simply a toy.

November 30: #MATTER, directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper. Former high school friends (played by Ny'keria Blocker and Connor Kelly) debate matters of life and race.



"Theatre is where we see ourselves and wrestle with our beliefs. Through the stories of others we reflect on our own. Since racism lives at the intersection of misinformation, ego and unchecked power, the arts must counteract by cultivating personal reflection, learning, conversation and compassion.

I used to say that I probably won't see an end to racism in my lifetime. However, over these past few weeks, witnessing the power of the people united, in the streets, in the virtual, political, educational, cultural, and corporate arenas, it has reinvigorated me with a heightened urgency. Systemic racism must end now and forever. One way of doing so is talking with our children about it. These five plays are meant to serve as sparks for conversation."

—Idris Goodwin

Director Rose says, "I cannot think of this play without hearing echoes of Langston Hughes' poem *Harlem*, in which Hughes asks, 'What happens to a dream deferred?.../Maybe it just sags like a heavy load/Or does it explode?' There is no question in my mind that the reality of Black lives truly mattering in this country, is that deferred dream that is reaching a boiling point in our present time. I know with a certainty that the future leaders of this country are no longer waiting for us to make up our minds on the subject."

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ Friday, October 30,
8 pm - **E.A. (EATERS ANONYMOUS)** by Janet Colson, directed by Mark Colson - Viewable by Zoom; click the link provided near air time on Riverwalk's Facebook page or Website - riverwalktheatre.com

★ Mondays in November
7 pm - **SHORT PLAYS TOWARD AN ANTI-RACIST TOMORROW:**

7 pm, November 2:
Nothing Rhymes With Juneteenth, directed by Rico Bruce Wade

7 pm, November 9:
Black Flag, directed by Rico Bruce Wade

7 pm, November 16:
Act Free, directed by Julian Van Dyke

7 pm, November 23:
Water Gun Song, directed by Janell Hall

7 pm, November 30:
#MATTER, directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper

★ **RIVERWALK VIRTUAL HOLIDAY CABARET** coming in December, directed by Meghan Woolsey - viewable by link. Patrons will buy a ticket and have a link shared with them. More info to come.

Theatre legend Jan Lockwood reaches milestone birthday!



Jan Lockwood,
then and now



Manager Mike Siracuse is too polite to say which milestone, but remarks, “Those of you who know Jan Lockwood, can imagine the milestone age where 50+ years of performing on our stages, volunteering at the concession stands, preparing newsletters and programs would put this steadfast, dedicated volunteer — at an age that would bring a smile to any legend’s face.”

We can’t compile a complete list of Jan’s theatrical exploits without her help (this is supposed to be a SURPRISE), but we know they date back to the Okemos Barn in the 70s...maybe 60s? Thanks to Mike for gleaning some evidence pix from our Community Circle Players historic scrapbooks.

Matt Ottinger’s WONderful theatre database at lansingtheatre.org lists Jan’s

shows back to *Desk Set* at the Barn in 1985. (If you have any rare, old programs, get in touch with Matt!)

In recent years, Jan has been found working almost every opening night concession stand — and she won a Thespie for her role as “Frances Kittle” in *Scotland Road* in 2018. You may also have seen her memorable performances in *August, Osage County* and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, both in 2013.

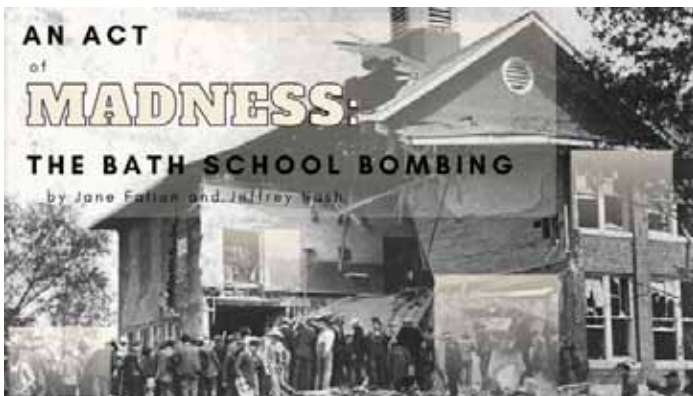
THANK YOU, Jan, for your service and support for over 50 years! Your friends wanted to make an impact in your name and join you in supporting the future of our theatre, especially during this very difficult time with the Covid-19 pandemic. A grand total

of \$1,245.00 has been donated to Riverwalk Theatre in your honor. Your donor friends’ names are listed on page 4.

As with all tribute/memory donations, names will be included here (or on printed programs when we have them again) for a year. If you would like to add a “belated birthday” tribute to Jan, send your check to Riverwalk Theatre, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901 or call Mike at the office, and he can process your payment over the phone with a credit card. Thanks again, Jan!

REVIEW

A Human Look into a Violent Tragedy



An Act of Madness, reimaged for the “virtual” stage of Riverwalk’s Facebook page, gave us a human look into a violent tragedy that happened close to home: the Bath School Bombing of 1927. Thanks to director/author Jane Falion and the cast for

giving us this history lesson and tragic tale of what remains the deadliest school massacre in U.S. history.

The cast (Adam Woolsey, Ben Holzhausen, Mark Bethea, Brian Farnham, Meg Woolsey, and Rachael Raymer) brought suitable gravitas and humanity, painting a picture of the people,

the place, and the devastation.

This was recorded - LIVE. The uniform black backgrounds brought the cast visually together, in their neighboring boxes, and Matt Ottinger’s historic slides added context and

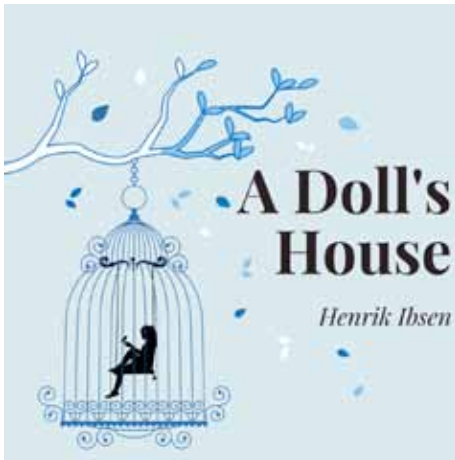
a sense of reality. Matt’s explosive sound effects and touches of music rounded out the production. Thanks to Stage Manager Michele Booher and Technical Advisor Cody Skalmowski for helping make this happen.

If you missed *An Act of Madness*, you can give it a re-play. Go to Riverwalk’s Facebook page and look under the “More” heading for “Videos.” It is 33 minutes and 42 seconds, but the first 8 minutes is “the program” with lists of cast, crew and credits, so you may want to move ahead to minute 8 to get to the real-live-people-talking part.

And don’t forget to donate to Riverwalk if you are so moved. Membership and other donation options are available at Riverwalk’s website <https://www.riverwalktheatre.com/act-ii-campaign.html>

Jane Zussman

AUDITIONS THIS WEEK!



Virtual Auditions for Riverwalk Theatre's Virtual performance of Henrik Ibsen's classic

**AUDITION by Zoom
appointment: October 26-30**

**The show is planned to open,
virtually, in January.**

Auditioners can request an appointment via email or Facebook. **Respond to the Facebook event OR email director Brian Farnham directly at brianfarnham1988@gmail.com** who will schedule a 30-minute appointment (with a Zoom meeting link) for a cold read. No preparation necessary.

As of this time, rehearsals and performances will be virtual. Performances are planned for late January.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen premiered in 1879 is notable for how it deals with the fate of a married woman, who at the time in Norway lacked opportunities in a male-dominated world. It has become a classic feminist script.

ROLES (ages approximate)

NORA HELMER (female, late 20s-mid-40s) The female lead; demure and accommodating to her husband but with a strength and willpower not typically seen in women at the turn of the century. Nora's development as a strong and independent woman drives the plot and meaning of the show. Requires a strong actress who can portray a complex and dynamic leading lady.

TORVALD HELMER (male, late 20s-mid-40s) The male lead; controlling and overconfident, but not a monster. He is the embodiment of the casual misogyny and male privilege typical of the time. It is essential that Torvald be played by an actor capable of both subtlety and charisma.

MR. KROGSTAD (male, late 20s-mid-40s) The primary antagonist; a lawyer and professional associate of Torvald with a

checked past. Krogstad is an amoral and desperate man, but ultimately is self-serving rather than evil. Requires an actor who can portray a villain who also inspires empathy in the audience.

MRS. LINDE (female, late 20s-mid-40s) An old school friend of Nora's who makes a sudden re-entrance into her life. A quiet and unassuming woman, she is nonetheless the embodiment of feminine strength and resolve. Linde drives much of the plot of the show, but does so without being overt. Requires a subtle actress with strength and poise.

DR. RANK (mid-30s - late 50s) The Helmers' closest friend; a man who harbors great love for both Torvald and, more specifically, Nora. He is a kind and jovial man, with an undercurrent of sadness and loneliness that becomes more evident as the show unfolds. Requires a charismatic and deeply relatable actor.

ANNE (early 50s to mid-70s) Governess to both Nora as a child and to Nora's children. A small role – the actress selected for this role will also fulfill multiple other smaller roles throughout the show. Because of this, it is important to have an actress with versatility and the ability to multi-task.

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 audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html

**Janet Colson's New Script
Airs THIS FRIDAY,
October 30, 8pm**

EA (EATERS ANONYMOUS)



*"Every body (two words)
is welcome at this 12-Step meeting
where the only requirement is having a body that needs to be fed.
There are no dues, but there is no promise of recovery, either."*

Familiar actress/director at Riverwalk and on other local stages, Janet Ehrlich Colson last year received her MFA in creative writing from Vermont's Goddard College with a concentration in play writing. Her thesis was *EA (Eaters Anonymous)*. Playwright Janet herself battled an eating disorder but recovered after her children were born.

The full-length show will be directed by Janet's husband, noted actor Mark Colson, and presented as a Zoom webinar October 30, at 8 pm, featuring Christine Fisk, Connor Kelly, Rico Bruce Wade, Sara Frank-Hepfer, Rose Jangmi Cooper, Amy Rickett, Angela Dill, Erica Beck, and Iris Raine Paul.

Join this Zoom webinar via a link on Riverwalk's Facebook page and website. You will not need to join or download Zoom; just click the link. Plan to join five or ten minutes before the 8 pm start time, since audience is limited to 85. **A recording will be available for the rest of the weekend on our website, and YouTube channel.**

Thanks to all our 2020-21 Season 32 Members!

ANGEL

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

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Gordon E. Miracle
Sandy Norton
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Gordon & Sheila Taylor

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Kathy & Bob Lovell
Bernie Lucas
Clare S. Mackey
Gregory Martin
Mary Maurer
Bob & Lisa Mueller
Bob Nees & Mary K. Hodges Nees
John Nichols
Irv Nichols
Phyllis Nix
Eileen O'Leary
Eleanor Omoto
Scott Pohl
Milton & Sue Powell
Greg & Denise Pratt
Alex Quinlan
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Shirley & Steve Robinson
Hope Rollins
Jan Ross
Ruth Sablich
Kay Seppala
Lonny & Judy Snow
Daniel Sobish
Barbara & Geoffrey Stauffer
Susan & Ron Swenson
Sandra & Bob Thomasson
Bob & Sally Tubbs
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Fran Yelon
Liane Zimny

Rita Deibler
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Elizabeth Evangelista
Kelly Jo Garland
Gary Gillespie, MD
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Sarah Hayner
Bill Kennedy
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Charles Miller
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Brett Robertson
Maribeth Robertson
Cody Skalmowski
Dee & Ned Verhil
Kay Zakrajsek

IN MEMORY OF GRETCHEN FERGASON

Jeff & Tina Brenner

IN MEMORY OF GROVENOR "KIP" GRIMES

Rebecca Grimes

IN MEMORY OF BILL HELDER

Nancy Hoagland

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HECKSEL

Rosemarie Bonk

IN MEMORY OF ALAN LABOVITZ

Judith Labovitz

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET INGRAHAM

Ken Beachler

IN HONOR OF JAN LOCKWOOD'S BIRTHDAY

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Leslie Brogan
Mimi Burpee
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Billie & John Harrison
Lee Helder
Audrey Lockwood with Lin Norton, Jenny, Danii, Bethany & Tara Buchanan
Eric Lockwood
Kathy Lockwood & Niel Scott
William Loftus
Bob Mellor & Roger Rowchowiak
Anyssa Marvin
Colleen McNamara
Susan Messe
Sandy Norton
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Jurgen Skoppek
Penny Stump
James Trebilcock
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Jane Wilensky
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Connie & Michael VanDerTuuk
Jane & Mark Zussman

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Darlene Berling
Drew Birchmeier
Twyla Birdsong
Chance Boyd
Betsie Branch
Jean Burk
Sherry Cardwell
Hui Hua Chua
Caila Conklin
Liz Cooke
Braden Cooley
Anne Cruce
Rachael Cupples
Kate Dickenson
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
Diane Sanders
Mike Sobocinski
Leora Stutes
Gretchen Trent
Ruth Tepin
Sandy Vanlancker
Tonya Woodrough

IN MEMORY OF PAUL REEKIE

Brenden Gunnell
Tom Klunzinger
Jane & Mark Zussman

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Darlene Kittle
Judith Labovitz

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com) 517-482-5700 or at RiverwalkTheatre.com



P.O. Box 12249
Lansing MI 48901

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

Without show revenue Riverwalk depends on you for operating expenses to maintain our building and staff. We WILL be back live onstage for "Act II"!

Membership runs July - June. Membership funds at least a quarter of our show budgets as well as general operations.

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

Join or Renew: at riverwalk theatre.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



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