

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 30 • Number 5  
December, 2018

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

### NOISES OFF promises fun-filled farce

Let's face it: Many theater fans have a soft spot for a play within a play.

Especially if it's a fun-filled, door-slamming, drawers-dropping farce like *Noises Off*. Michael Frayn's perennial comedy takes the Riverwalk stage November 29-December 2 and December 6-9, directed by Michael Hays.

"I love this show because it's often called 'the funniest play ever written,'" Hays said.

"It is an incredibly challenging show for every single person involved in its production, with (hopefully) rib-splitting laughter."

According to theater lore, Frayn got the idea for the show while sitting backstage during a production of *The Two of Us* in 1970, a comedy he had written for Lynn Redgrave.

He liked that perspective and developed a one-act play called *Exits* in 1977, which was expanded into *Noises Off* in 1982.

In Riverwalk's latest version, Dave Dunckel plays



David Bilbey as Garry Lajeune who plays Roger Tramplemain and Cassie Little as Brooke Ashton who plays Vicki in the show within the show.

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Lloyd Dallas, the director of a sex farce called *Nothing On*. It stars Dotty Otley, (Nita Haberlein) an aging TV star, as well as the much younger Garry Lejeune (David Bilbey), whom she is dating. There's also actress Brooke Ashton, (Cassie Little) who is always losing her contact lenses; Frederick Fellowes (Greg Pratt), Belinda Blair (Maureen Sawdon) and Selsdon Mowbray, a famed old actor with a drinking problem (John Liskey). Erin Hoffman is Poppy Norton Taylor, assistant stage manager and understudy; Gabe Weeks plays Tim Allgood, the stage manager.

The set — featuring both front and backstage views — is much more than a simple backdrop.

"While there's enough to make the audience really care about the characters, the main star of the whole show might very well be the set, which has to completely spin around twice!!!" Hays said.

Kathleen Lavey

### WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

Nov. 29-Dec. 2 & Dec. 6-9 - **NOISES OFF** - comedy farce  
Director: Michael Hays

December 6 & 7 - Thur. & Fri., 6:30 pm at **Hannah Center AUDITIONS for The Wizard of Oz**, musical collaboration with All-of-us Express Children's theatre; ages 9 through adults welcome - Director: Tom Ferris

December 16 & 17 - Sun. & Mon., 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for The Elephant Man**, powerful drama - Director: Amy Rickett

December 21-23 - 7pm Fri/Sat - 3pm Sunday - **RIVERWALK HOLIDAY CABARET** - one weekend only - \$15 all seats

January 24-27 & Jan. 31-Feb. 3, **CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG** - family musical comedy - Director: Brian Farnham

February 14-17 & 21-24 - **THE A-TRAIN PLAYS** - exploring connection - Director: Doak Bloss

March 14-17 & 21-24 - **THE ELEPHANT MAN** - powerful drama - Director: Amy Rickett

March 28-31 & April 4-7 - **A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE** - black comedy - Director: Heath Sartorius

**PLAYS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**

**MUSICALS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 age 12 & under)

**BLACK BOX SHOWS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fridays & Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays \$12 (\$10 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**

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

**SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

**RWT Holiday Cabaret!**  
directed by Meghan Eldred-Woolsey  
featuring The John Dale Smith Trio  
and Karyn's Dance Place

December 21-23  
7 pm Fri/Sat • 3 pm Sunday  
\$15 all seats

### Cast of Stars!

Laura Croff  
Brian Farnum  
Larissa Gleason-Clark  
Ben Holzhausen  
Kelley Lofton  
Bob Purosky  
Racheal Raymer  
Maggie Smith  
Travis Williams  
Adam Woolsey

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

THANK YOU!

### REVIEW

## Jitney - a powerful production

"It was easy for the world to ignore August Wilson. He was the guy in the corner of a bar or cafe, with an open notebook and an open ear." This is a quote from a review by Mike Hughes of a PBS documentary about the life of August Wilson, the 20th Century's comprehensive chronicler of African-American life.

Director Vanessa Sanders successfully brought to Riverwalk *Jitney*, the third of his ten decade-by-decade "Pittsburgh Cycle" plays. The ensemble cast of eight men and one woman captured the authentic-sounding interplay between the drivers of a low cost car service, or "jitney," facing the threat of urban renewal in 1977.

All of the characters delivered distinct personalities, most impressively Bruce Wade as the founder/manager of this under-the-radar business, Guy Thomas as the trouble-making comic relief, and Chance Boyd as a lovable drunk. Lekeathon Wilson, Guy Stockard, Marcus Turner, Ralph Sims and Ken Nelson were all believable, along with Janell Hall as a long-suffering girlfriend.

The cast was ably backed-up by producer Bernie Lucas, stage manager Claudia Allen, property mistress Evon Anderson, costumer Marina White-Villanueva, sound designer Ann Glenn Carlson, light designer Nick Eaton, music designer OraLee Cunningham, with set design and construction of a realistic bare-bones office by Bob Nees and Marlon Torres.

Mark Zussman

*Guy Thomas (L)  
plays checkers with  
Lekeathon Wilson*

*(below)  
Bruce Wade stands by,  
confronted by his son  
played by Ken Nelson*



*L to R, below: Janell Hall, Bruce Wade,  
Lekeathon Wilson*



PHOTOS BY WWW.ARNIKO.COM

# A U D I T I O N S

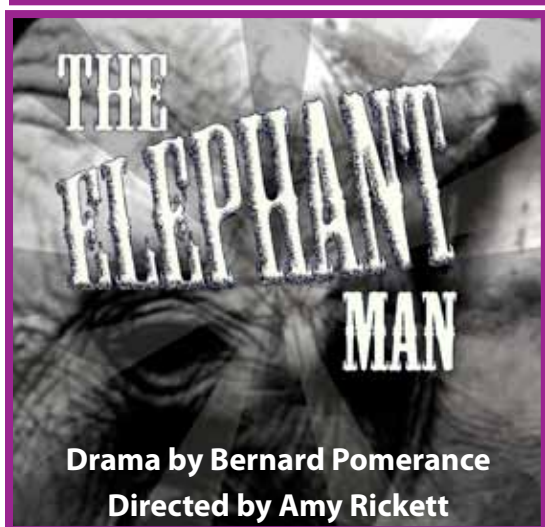
Directed by Tom Ferris • Choreographer - Fran Ludington • Music Director - James Geer



**AUDITIONS Dec. 6 & 7 - 6:30 pm at Hannah Community Center**

Celebrate the 30th anniversaries of both Riverwalk and All-of-us Express Children's Theatre with this family favorite! A cast of both adults and children will bring the classic story to life. Auditioners will sing, dance and read from the script. **Auditions (and shows) are held AT THE HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER.**

**OPTIONAL AUDITION WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH** December 5 - 6:30 pm is a 2-hour class teaching what it's like to audition for an All-of-us Express show. Please call to sign up in advance; enrollment limited! (517) 333-2580, ext. 0. Cost \$5/members and \$10/non-members of AECT.



**Drama by Bernard Pomerance  
Directed by Amy Rickett**

**AUDITIONS: Sun/Mon, Dec. 16-17, 7 pm  
Production Dates: March 14 - 24, 2019  
7 PLAYERS; 5/M & 2/F (multiple roles)**

The director is looking for a diverse cast. All ages and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to audition. Female and male characters (Except Merrick and Treves) will be double cast. Everyone must have a British accent.

**Auditions: December 6 & 7, 6:30-8:30  
Callbacks: December 8, 10am-12pm  
First Read: December 19 - 6:30  
Rehearsals begin in February 2019  
Production Dates: April 26-28, May 3-5**

*Wizard of Oz* is a family musical by L. Frank Baum with Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, based on the classic motion picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

**Cast of Characters: A = More likely Adult;  
Y = More Likely Youth; A/Y = Adult or Youth**

Dorothy Gale (Y)	Adler, City Fathers, Tough
Aunt Em (A)	Guys, Braggart, School
Uncle Henry (A)	Teachers, Tots
Hunk, a farmhand (A/Y)	Crows (Y)
Hickory, a farmhand (A/Y)	Trees (A/Y)
Zeke - a farmhand (A/Y)	Emerald City (A/Y) -
Miss Almira Gulch (A)	Guard, Beauticians,
Prof. Chester Marvel (A)	Manicurists, Polishers,
Glinda (Y)	Other Ozians
Wicked Witch of West (A)	Wizard of Oz (A)
Scarecrow (Y)	Winkie General, Winkies
Tinman (A)	(A/Y)
Lion (A)	Nikko - Commander of the
Munchkins (Y) Mayor,	Flying Monkeys, Flying
Coroner, Barrister, Fid-	Monkeys (A/Y)

**PERUSAL SCRIPTS** for *Wizard of Oz* can be checked out at the E. L. Hannah Community Center front desk. \$10 deposit is required and script must be returned no later than December 7. Deposits become the property of the City of East Lansing after that date.

**Frederick Treves:** a surgeon and teacher  
**Garr Gomm:** administrator of the London Hospital  
**Ross:** Manager of the Elephant Man  
**John Merrick:** The Elephant Man. Actor cannot have any history of back trouble. This role requires sustaining a physical posture that may not be natural. Actors are advised to consult a physician about the problems of sustaining any unnatural or twisted position.  
**Pinheads:** 2 women freaks with pointed heads  
**Belgian Policemen**  
**London Policeman**  
**Man at a fairground in Brussels**  
**Conductor of Ostend-London boat train**  
**Bishop Walsham How**  
**Porter at the London Hospital**  
**Snork, also a porter**  
**Mrs. Kendal, Duchess, Countess, Princess Alexandra, Lord John, and Nurse, Miss Sandwich**  
**CELLIST** needed to play music that is part of the show  
*Come prepared to read from the script.*

**PERUSAL SCRIPTS** for *Elephant Man* 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) • audition forms are available at [www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.htm](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.htm)

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**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

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## Riverwalk Theatre

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**NOISES OFF**

NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 9, 2018

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL HAYS

Produced by special arrangement with  
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WRITTEN BY MICHAEL FRAYN

**RIVERWALK THEATRE**

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