

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

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January, 2018

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

Buried Child - a deep dive into the disintegration of the American dream

A dilapidated farm home, a dysfunctional family and a literally buried family secret are at the center of *Buried Child*, Sam Shepard's 1978 drama, a deep dive into the disintegration of the American Dream.

Buried Child, which the New York Times referred to as an "American gothic

masterwork," is reborn this month on Riverwalk Theatre's Main Stage January 18-21 and 25-28.

The action begins when Vince (played by Connor Kelly) brings his girlfriend, Shelly (Iris Raine Paul), home to meet his family at the farm where several generations have lived. They include his grandparents, Halie (Amy Rickett) and Dodge (Michael Hays) who both are ranting alcoholics, and their two sons Tilden, a former football player, (Jeff



L to R: Connor Kelly and Michael Hays

PHOTOS BY WWW.ARINKO.COM

Magnuson) and Bradley (Ben Holzhausen) who has lost a leg to a chain-saw accident. Rounding out the cast is the local minister and family friend, Fr. Dewis (Scott Pohl - a familiar WKAR voice making his stage debut.) The family has lived under a cloud for decades, slowly spiraling away from normal.

Buried Child won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for drama; it was revived on Broadway in 1996, when it received five Tony Award nominations, and again in 2016.

Colson said it has been challenging, as well as invigorating, to direct.

"It's about disillusionment and grief, but it's also about finding a way to move on from the past," she wrote in her director's notes for the show. "The

characters in the play dream of driving away to an unfettered freedom, yet they try to connect with their identities by coming back home to their memories, their family, their secrets."

Shepard, who died in 2017, made an impact on Colson as she read and re-read the script. "I wondered what Sam was thinking, what Sam would do," she wrote. "I'd think I had it figured out, and then find another layer to dig through."







Kathleen Lavey







Ivan Iler's
"Portrait of a Dreamer"

This striking new sculpture points the way to the museums and RIVERWALK! It was funded by a City of Lansing Arts Impact Grant through LEAP and the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. It features a handle to makes the gears turn — and makes it easy to tell folks where to turn south to get to Riverwalk!

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- A** January 7 and 8, Sun. & Mon., 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
-  February 9-11 & 16-18 - **BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA** - produced by All-of-us Express Children's Theatre
-  February 22-25 & March 1-4 - **WHITE BUFFALO** - intriguing drama - Director: Michael Hays
-  March 15-18 & 22-25 - **LILY, THE FELON'S DAUGHTER** - melodrama - Director: Sue Chmurynsky
- A** March 18 and 19, Sun. & Mon., 7 pm, musical **Monty Python's Spamalot AUDITIONS**, director: Jane Fallon; music director: John Dale Smith (shows June 7-17, 2018)
-  April 19-22 & 26-29 - **BUD, NOT BUDDY** - family show - Director: Tom Ferris
-  May 10-13 & 17-20 - **SCOTLAND ROAD** - psychological thriller - Director: Bob Robinson

-  **PAYS:** 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&4:30pm Sat.; 2pm 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

The Emperor's New Clothes a Fashion Statement

It was 19 years ago when Stan Gill's *Emperor's New Clothes* first graced the Riverwalk stage under the direction of BILL Helder (with husband Mark and I as Emperor and Empress) so it was extra fun for me, personally, to see it revived and glamorized under the direction of LEE Helder.

Lee is one of our longtime champions of kids'-shows-performed-by-adults at Riverwalk, having directed and/or performed in several and also having supported Director husband, Bill in several more. Lee is also an artful costumer with many shows to her credit. (Check her out in Matt Ottinger's amazing local theatre database lansingtheater.wikispaces.com).

So it's no surprise that Lee is also responsible for the fabulous, "visible" costumes with the help of another costume veteran, Susan Chmurynsky. The exotic hats were created by yet another costume maven, Mary K. Hodges-Nees who also did scenography on the ornate set "west of China and east of almost everywhere else."

Laura Johnson and Kelly Jo Garland were deviously cute as the tricky Tailors — and it was great to see Kelly's stage debut after her many backstage roles.

Jester Sandy Thomasson was an animated narrator who bubbled with excitement and communicated directly with the kids in the audience. She was aided and abetted by sage and fretful Sorcerer Dan Pappas and trusty Cook Sarah Schimm.

They all joined the nervous empress, Maribeth Robertson, in distraught pretense of admiration when examining the cloth that



L to R: Mara McGill, Maribeth Robertson, Pinki Vaishnava



Lee Purdy and Maribeth Robertson



L to R: Kelly Jo Garland, Laura Johnson

wasn't there. Vain fashionista Emperor Lee Purdy paraded proudly in his underwear. Mara McGill and Pinki Vaishnava as Ladies in Waiting and Azzan Aubrey and Ric Sadler as Courtiers added their own special energies. Kudos especially go to onstage keyboard and gong-master James Geer, who also served as Music Director.

Jane Zussman

PHOTOS BY WWW.ARNIKO.COM

A Member Tale



Riverwalk Theatre has found a very special place in my heart since I was given the opportunity to join the cast of *Grease* in 2016. I was heavily involved in theater, forensics (competitive acting and public speaking), and choir throughout high school, but I wasn't sure I still had it in me ten years later. With the encouragement of friends and family, I decided to put myself out there despite my decade-long hiatus. I found music for a song that only the steering wheel of my car had heard me sing, mustered up the courage to walk through the doors to the audition, and boy, did it pay off! Not only have I been able to contribute to three amazing shows since

then, I've made lifelong connections and friendships. I've gained a theater family, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences. Community theater has given me the opportunity to grow personally and express myself creatively in ways that I never would have in other facets of my life.

I wasn't sure what to expect when I became a member of Riverwalk Theatre, but joining this theater family has surpassed any expectation I may have had. Standing back stage, waiting to walk through the curtain, I am reminded of why I got into theater in the first place. There is something truly amazing that happens on opening night. It's the moment when months of hard work and dedication come together to create something wonderful for the audience. It is truly magical and I feel so lucky to be a part of creating that magic.

Aja Jenks

Why are YOU a member of Riverwalk Theatre?

Share your story on Riverwalk's Facebook page or email to JSZussman@gmail.com.

Riverwalk depends on membership for over a quarter of our revenue. Be a part of the foundation that ensures we will be here for actors, back-stagers and audiences for many years to come.

To become a member for as little as \$15, go to riverwalktheatre.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!

Musical Comedy
Book and Lyrics by Eric Idle
Music by John Du Prez
and Eric Idle



MONTY PYTHON'S
SPAMALOT

Directed by Jane Falion
with Music Direction by
John Dale Smith

**AUDITIONS: Sunday & Monday,
 March 18 & 19, 2018, at 7 pm.**

Shows: June 7-17, 2018

This Tony Award winning musical celebration of inanity was adapted from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Like the film, it is a highly irreverent parody of the Arthurian Legend. Though it differs from the film in many ways, it upholds the artful idiocy of the Python tradition.

The cast requirements below contain suggestions of additional doubling roles for each of the main characters. These doubling suggestions are not written in stone and may change based on the talent at auditions.

KINGARTHUR (Late 30s-60s): The King of England who sets out on a quest to form the Knights of the Round Table and find the Holy Grail. Great Humor. Good singer.

SIR ROBIN (30s-40s): A Knight of the Round Table. Ironically called 'Sir Robin the Brave,' though he couldn't be more cowardly. Joins the Knights for the singing and dancing. Also plays **GUARD 1** and **BROTHER MAYNARD**, a long-winded monk.

SIR LANCELOT (30s-40s): A Knight of the Round Table. He is fearless to a bloody fault but through a twist of fate, does discover his 'softer side.' This actor *must* be great with character voices and accents, as he also plays **THE FRENCH TAUNTER**, an arrogant, condescending, over-the-top Frenchman, the **KNIGHT OF NI**, an absurd, cartoonish leader of a peculiar group of Knights, and **TIM THE ENCHANTER**, a ghostly being with a Scottish accent.

PATSY (30s-40s): King Arthur's horse and servant. Underappreciated but always longing for King Arthur's approval. Good, funny, physical mover with some tap dancing. Also plays **MAYOR**, a jolly red-faced man who advertises the merits of his home town and the drunken, useless **GUARD 2**.

SIR GALAHAD (30s): A Knight of the Round Table. Begins as Dennis, a lower class 'mud gatherer' who becomes Knighted and transforms into the dashing Sir Galahad. Also plays **PRINCE HERBERT'S FATHER**, a wealthy, brutish Yorkshireman man at odds with his sensitive son, **THE BLACK KNIGHT** who is always ready to duel despite multiple injuries. Strong bari-tenor singing required.

SIR BEDEVERE (20s-40s): A Knight of the Round Table. An inept scholar. Also plays **DENNIS GALAHAD'S MOTHER**, a shrill peasant woman, and **CONCORDE**, Sir Lancelot's horse. No solo singing.

THE LADY OF THE LAKE (20s-30s): A Diva. Strong, beautiful, possesses mystical powers. The leading lady of the show. Great singing voice is essential, as she must be able to sing effortlessly in many styles and vocal registers.

THE FOLLOWING ROLES ARE PLAYED BY THE SAME ACTOR (20s-30s): Tenor singing required. Very good mover. **HISTORIAN**: A tweedy academic. **NOT DEAD FRED**: A sickly little fellow who, despite others' beliefs, claims he is "not yet dead." **FRENCH GUARD**: The condemnatory French sidekick to the French Taunter. **MINSTREL**: In Sir Robin's band. **PRINCE HERBERT**: The hopeful and frilly prince who loves to sing and pines for his love atop a tower. **SIR NOT APPEARING** may double as **THE DANCING MONK** A **MALE DANCER** appears as **THE DANCING NUN**

THE VOICE OF GOD may be pre-recorded.

TWO FRENCH GUARDS are two of the **MALE ENSEMBLE**

ROBIN'S MINSTRELS are also **ENSEMBLE: 2 MEN, 1 WOMAN.**

SIR BORS is **MALE ENSEMBLE.**

ENSEMBLE: Six men and six women

CASTING TIPS: Above you can see **THE LADY OF THE LAKE**, her **LAKER GIRLS**, and the five chorus/ensemble numbers that already involve female cast members.

ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE ROLES ABOVE ARE DOUBLING SUGGESTIONS, Jane may cast some separately.

DEAD FOLKS in "Not Yet Dead"

1. THE HISTORIAN
2. THE BLACK KNIGHT
3. THE FRENCH TAUNTERS
4. SIR ROBIN'S MINSTRELS
5. THE KNIGHTS OF NI
6. SIR BORS
7. TIM THE ENCHANTER

Come prepared to read from the script, and sing a song; (accompanist provided).

RIVERWALK THEATRE

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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

Ted Sondag Individual Leadership Award



Congratulations to **Tom Ferris** on winning this award from the Lansing Arts Council! (The awards were created by Craig Mitchell Smith friend of Riverwalk and lobby chandelier artist.) It was a lovely evening at the University Club, December 5. Here's Tom (R) with fellow Past-President and pillar of RWT/CCP, Bill Helder (L) and Riverwalk's current President, Jeff Magnuson, center (photo-bombed by Board Member Scott Pohl, who makes his RWT stage debut in *Buried Child*!)



228 MUSEUM DR
LANSING, MI 48933

PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING DRAMA

BURIED CHILD

BY SAM SHEPARD

DIRECTED BY JANET COLSON

JANUARY 18-21 & 25-28, 2018

FOR TICKETS VISIT:
WWW.RIVERWALKTHEATRE.COM
OR CALL:
517-482-5700

THURSDAYS 7PM
FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS 8PM
SUNDAYS 2PM

\$15 ADULT TICKETS
\$12 SENIOR/STUDENT/MILITARY
\$10/8 THURSDAYS

Buried Child is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



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