

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 8  
March, 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](mailto:RWT@riverwalktheatre.com) • web site: [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)

## WHITE BUFFALO *What does it mean to you?*

When a white buffalo is born on a Wisconsin farm, it seems to farm owner Carol Gelling like an oddity and little more.

That is until word gets out about the unique animal.

In Native American teachings, the arrival of a white buffalo signals a new era of harmony and abundance.

But in *White Buffalo* by Don Zolidis, which takes the stage in the Riverwalk Black Box Theatre February 22-25 and March 1-4, Carol finds her farm is a focus for both curiosity seekers and the faithful, as she is pulled in two directions concerning the white calf's fate and the possibility of mending a rift in her own family.

Director Michael Hays said he loves the script, first produced in 2012 at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea.

"My gut reaction is that just about every time I read it, I cry," he said. "I like the piece because it has that much emotion in it."

But there's more.

"Probably one of the greatest attractions is not only the Native American element, but the fact that it's a really neat dichotomy between the macrocosm and the microcosm of life," he said.

"This buffalo gets born on the farm, and at first it's just really cool, you know, nice," he said. "Next thing you know, a Native American shows up at the door and explains that it's a huge prophecy that covers many, many tribes and many, many segments of the Native American culture.

"So now it's a worldly event, it's a big, big event, and the phone never stops ringing."

John Two Rivers (Boris Nikolovski) stays on at the farm to help Carol (Emily Clark) and her daughter, Abby, (Cassie Little) with security surrounding the buffalo, while visitor Anderson Wilkes (Jeff Boerger) offers her \$2 million for it. Amid the chaos, Carol's estranged husband, Mike, (Doak Bloss) returns.

A four-person chorus switches off in a variety of roles throughout the show. It includes Tim Perry, Colleen Bethea, Savannah Cardwell and Jacob Menefee.

"Everything changes with the appearance of the long-lost husband and father in the story," Hays said. "Now we find out the microcosm; it's all about this family and the events that have caused them to have a

rift, so now it becomes a very small world on stage."

Hays recruited Eva Menefee, a faculty advisor at Lansing Community College, and Victoria Voges, educational director at Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos, to help make sure cast and crew stays true to the Native American cultural aspects of the play. A blessing was performed for cast and crew that included burning sage.

Besides being entertaining, Hays said he hopes the show serves as a reminder of Native American history.

"It's not a beautiful chapter, how we treated Native Americans throughout the years," he said. "If we can bring exposure to those events, it's educating people."

But he also likes the transcendent message: "I hope people might see that it does apply to today's world, that we need a return to unity and brotherhood and peace," he said.

*Kathleen Lavey*



*Doak Bloss and Emily Clark*  
PHOTO BY [WWW.ARINIKO.COM](http://WWW.ARINIKO.COM)

## WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- February 22-25 & March 1-4 - **WHITE BUFFALO** - intriguing drama - Director: Michael Hays
- ★ March 1 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *White Buffalo* at 7.
- 👉 March 15-18 & 22-25 - **LILY, THE FELON'S DAUGHTER** melodrama - Director: Sue Chmurynsky
- ▲ March 18 & 19, Sun. & Mon., 7 pm, musical **Spamalot AUDITIONS**, director: Jane Falion; Music Director John Dale Smith (shows June 7-17, 2018)
- ★ March 22 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Lily the Felon's Daughter* at 7.
- 👉 April 19-22 & 26-29 - **BUD, NOT BUDDY** - family show - Director: Tom Ferris
- ★ April 26 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Bud, Not Buddy* at 7.
- May 10-13 & 17-20 - **SCOTLAND ROAD** - psychological thriller - Director: Bob Robinson
- ★ May 17 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Scotland Road* at 7.
- 👉 **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)
- **BLACK BOX SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. • \$12 (\$10 student/sr./military)  
**Bargain Thursdays: \$10 (\$8)**
- ▲ **AUDITIONS** - More info at [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)
- ★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

## Bridge Celebrates the Power of Friendship

A talented, dedicated cast and crew brought Katherine Paterson’s young-adult novel to life on the Riverwalk stage. I had not previously read the *The Bridge to Terabithia* (but now I’d like to!) It was a sensitive and sometimes funny story about the social challenges of being a 5th grader and the power of friendship.

Director Shannon Bowen brought her love of the book into the production; her touch was evident in the attitudes, gestures and characterizations. AND it was a musical!

Kudos to music directors Sarah Hayner and Isaac Orr. (I was not able to see who was at the piano, and it was not specified in the program, but whoever was at the keyboard, the accompaniment was very good, as was the transitional music between scenes. The versatile set shifted

between home, school, and the swinging-rope leap to the magical land of Terabithia. (Set crew head Emily Miller-Purrenhage)

Gabriel D’Valentine and Penelope Joy charmed us all as the alienated boy and the outsider new girl — both with lovely soprano voices. Olivia Sokol was adorably little-sister bratty as May Belle. Katherine Hawthorne and Aidan Crumpton were Jesse’s pragmatic parents, facing their own challenges, one of whom was older sister Brenda (Sara Downs) a demanding teen.

Caitlyn Shaw stood out as the bully, Janice, bringing not only humor and a target for revenge, but also unexpected pathos. Mia Colony was the benevolent teacher, also an accomplished musician, playing guitar and leading an animated and distinctive group of students: Henry Nawyn-Hellinga, Bri Vanzwoll, Lucia



*Gabriel D’Valentine and Penelope Joy*

Frost, Madeline Shangeraw, Raphael Gold and Preston Delacruz.

This full length show dealt with complicated emotions, not ideal for preschool/younger elementary audiences. My 9 and 12 year old companions approved and became more involved and less fidgety as the story wound on — a good sign.

*Jane Zussman*

### WANTED: Costume Shop Associate to help Manager Kate

Are you an enthusiastic friendly person that wants to have fun being creative to fill our part-time Costume Assistant position? Must have some experience assisting persons to choose appropriate attire for a specific role or costume effect.

10 hours/week - \$9:50/hr (17 hours/week during October)

Business Hours are 3-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10-2 on Saturdays. (Additional days and hours are may be required during the Halloween Season.) Mending ability a plus.

If you have questions contact Kate Koskinen at 517-484-9199.

Complete the job application at our website ([www.rwtcostumeshop.com/employment.html](http://www.rwtcostumeshop.com/employment.html)) and send to:

Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive  
PO Box 12249  
Lansing, MI 48901  
E-mail:  
RWT@riverwalktheatre.com

## Native American Artists Decorate the Lobby for White Buffalo



*Robin Menefee, Executive Director of the Native American Arts and Crafts Council*

February 1 to March 29, our lobby art gallery display features art by Jolene M. Quinlan — along with other Native American artists, Rex Johnson and Wahbahnung Qwe, whose work was submitted by Robin Menefee, Executive Director of the Native American Arts and Crafts Council, whose mission is to promote Michigan



*Jolene M. Quinlan*  
(parking)

Woodland Indian Cultural arts. Currently, they are sponsor to the 16th annual Riverbank Traditional Pow Wow at Riverfront Park on June 2-3, 2018. (Free admission and free



*Wahbahnung Qwe*



*Rex Johnson*

Jolene M. Quinlan is a lifelong artist with a 1982 BFA from MSU. Other jobs that support her art have included working for the State of Michigan Department of Military Affairs; she presently works for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe as an Administrative Assistant. Jolene lives in Mt. Pleasant, MI, with her two children and six cats.

She created designs for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe including posters, banners, clothing, logos, learning materials and advertisements for the schools and the Ziibiwing Cultural Society. She also worked with a writer, Pat Wilson to create a booklet entitled *Tricked on the Trail* that taught the proper use of tobacco. This evolved into several more booklets, posters and several publications for health awareness in general.

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



**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 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.**

*Specific role descriptions can be found at [www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html)*

**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](mailto:rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com)**

## A Member Tale



“It all starts pretty innocently.”

That’s the way I describe my answer to the question posed to me recently as I served as an Usher at a recent performance at Riverwalk Theater, “Why did you join Riverwalk Theatre?”

I didn’t hesitate to answer; the reasons were so numerous.

I have always loved the theatre. I did my thing in high school with the lead in my Senior Class play and followed that with two years of being on stage in college but then military service, marriage, working and raising a family took the lead.

About 20 years ago, as my career started winding down, the “theatre bug” resurfaced and I dove in with a full head of steam. No more on stage, mind you, but just about everywhere else, and now, 30 years later and fully retired, being a community theatre volunteer has taken hold.

I asked the questioner, “What do you think you could do for Riverwalk Theatre?” He didn’t answer right away and then said, “I never really gave it any thought but I

would like to know what’s available.”

“Well, I said there are plenty of opportunities at Riverwalk Theatre.” Then I reminded myself of my ‘innocent’ statement. So, I rattled off a list of the obvious ones – on the actual day of the performance, you could Usher prior to a performance and help attendees find their seats; you could help sell tickets in the Box Office; you could work the concession stand during intermissions.

I moved on to, “Are you handy with a hammer and saw; can you build things?” I continued. I told him that we can always use help building the sets on the stage where the performance is held. We also need volunteers to help in painting the sets.

My five minutes was up; the play was about to start. I didn’t get a chance to tell him about working backstage during a play, helping with props and costumes. He asked, “Where can I find out more?”

I said, “Call Mike our Theatre Manager at 517-482-5700 between 10 and 5 pm on Tuesday through Friday. Tell him that Bernie said to call.”

That’s how I first got “hooked on Riverwalk.” I called Mike and... you know the rest!

*Bernie Campanella*

### Why are YOU a member of Riverwalk Theatre?

Share your story on the Riverwalk Facebook page and you can also email it to: [JSZussman@gmail.com](mailto:JSZussman@gmail.com) to get it printed in *Ripples*. (Send a photo, too! ... or I can steal one from Facebook.)

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.

- 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 [riverwalktheatre.com](http://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!**

## RIVERWALK THEATRE

### 2017-2018 Officers

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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

# PSST!

Are you 55 or older?  
 Riverwalk  
 has a new  
 event  
 for  
 you!



### P.S.S.T. stands for Preshow Senior Second Thursdays.

Meet new old friends at this fun reception/party/backstage peek 6 pm before the second Thursday performance of every RWT adult show.

Free reception at 6 pm (the show, optional, starts at 7; buy your bargain show ticket for only \$8 - \$20 for musicals.) Mix and mingle (with refreshments) on the opposite stage from where the night's show will perform (Black Box/Main Stage.) We'll check out the set-in-progress and get some news about the following show as well as the one we're about to see. Membership and volunteer sign up will be available — **plus a members-only drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to Riverwalk!**

March 1 *White Buffalo*

March 22 *Lily the Felon's Daughter*

April 26 *Bud, Not Buddy*

May 17 *Scotland Road*

June 14 *Spamalot* (musical)



# WHITE BUFFALO



Written by  
 Don Zolidis

Directed by  
 Michael Hays

TICKETS: \$12/\$10

BARGAIN THURSDAY: \$10/\$8

THURSDAYS 7PM

FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS 8PM

SUNDAYS 2PM

February 22-25 & March 1-4, 2018

White Buffalo is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, INC.



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