

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 30 • Number 10

May, 2019

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

### Celebrate 30th Anniversaries with The Wizard of Oz



L to R: Gary Mitchell as The Tin Man, Hallie Ackerman as Dorothy, Brennan McKone as the Scarecrow and Dale Wayne Williams as the Cowardly Lion

There truly is no place like home as Riverwalk and All-of-us-Express Children's Theatre present *The Wizard of Oz*. This joint production celebrates the 30th anniversary of both theatre organizations. The entire family will be captivated as they travel down the yellow brick road and beyond with Dorothy (Hallie Ackerman) and her friends the Scarecrow (Brennan McKone), Tin Man (Gary Mitchell), and Cowardly Lion (Dale Wayne Williams) to see the Wizard (Rocky Heuft/Chance Boyd). This lavish production features special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs.

While remaining true to the well-known story and familiar characters of the 1939 MGM film, director Tom Ferris, music director James Geer and choreographer Fran Ludington and the entire creative team bring new ideas to the classic movie. This magical production will surprise and delight all ages as the cast sings and dances from Kansas to Oz and home again.

This not only marks the 30th anniversary of both Riverwalk Theatre and All-of-us-Express Children's Theatre but also the 80th anniversary of the MGM film. The joint production highlights both theatre companies' common goal of providing opportunities for community members, young and old alike, to be involved in creating and enjoying live theatre.

Introduce your children to the kind of magic only found in the Land of Oz. This family-friendly show features classic songs like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" from the original movie score. A special school performance will be held on May 2.

*Wizard of Oz* runs April 26-May 5, 7 pm Fridays, 2 and 7 pm Saturdays and 3 pm Sundays at **Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Adults age 18 and up \$12; \$10 children. Tickets at [www.showtix4u.com/events/wizard](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/wizard) or by calling 333-2580 ext. 0

Gary Mitchell

### WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

**C** April 26 - May 5 - 7 pm Fri.; 2 & 7 pm Sat.; 3pm Sundays - **THE WIZARD OF OZ** - Director: Tom Ferris; Music: James Geer; with All-of-us Express Children's Theatre; **performed at E.L. Hannah Community Center 819 Abbot Rd.**

**■** May 9-12 & 16-19 - **FREUD'S LAST SESSION** - intriguing debate with C.S. Lewis - Director: Rob Roznowski

**A** May 19-20 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales** - ages 10-18, actors and crew volunteers, as part of the **Young Artisan Workshop** Director: Sadonna Croff

**♪** June 6-9 & 13-16 - **HAIRSPRAY**, musical comedy - Director: Sarah Hayner; Music: Angie Schwab

**★** Saturday, June 22, 1 pm **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**★** Tuesday, June 25, 7 pm **ANNUAL BARNEY AWARDS** with show and reception

**C** **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)

**C** **FAMILY SHOW:** adults \$12 age 18+, children \$10; for tickets, call (517) 333-2580, ext. 0 or go to [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) Tickets \$10/12, call (517) 333-2580, ext. 0 or at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com)

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

**A** **AUDITIONS** - More info at [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)

**★** **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

## Behanding Offends and Amazes

This is the kind of unusual, brave show Riverwalk's Black Box was made for. It's an absurd, "adult language" laced script that offended some and captivated others with its dark humor.

Experienced actor and recent Black Box director (*The A-Train Plays*) Doak Bloss was one of those captivated, as he reported on Facebook:

"...A *Behanding in Spokane* is certainly the best piece of theatre I've seen in a long while. I can't remember a play where I found it so impossible to disengage, even for a few seconds. Heath's direction is clearly the reason the pacing and energy of the show is so high; but he also has four splendid actors to carry it off. I've worked with two of the actors before on stage — Ndegwa McCloud and John Lerma — and this is the best work I've ever seen either of them do. I'm so proud of the young actors/directors emerging in our community. It makes me want to live as long as possible just to see what they come up with next."

*Behanding* is a dark comedy — teeming with F-words and N-words — sure to turn some audience members off — but completely "natural" to the confused/insane/trapped low-lives populating this seedy hotel room.

John Lerma plays Charmichael, a haunted, unpredictable, sadistic stranger looking to buy his long-ago-severed hand from drug-dealer and girlfriend Toby and

Marilyn (Ndegwa McCloud and Rebecca MacCreery) with the non-assistance of Mervyn (Hunter Folleth) the nosy "receptionist guy."

Christopher Walken was nominated for a Tony playing Charmichael on Broadway. He remarked, "You don't have to know what an actor is talking about; you just have to know that HE knows." Lerma brought his own version of "Walken-esque" strangeness, and was scary enough, as he toyed with his scam-hand-selling prey.

Playwright Martin McDonagh has been praised for his other scripts such *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and *The Pillowman* — but may not have as firm a grip on the American psyche. Some critics have found the racist insults by Charmichael (and his mother, by phone) to be offensive, and accused author McDonagh of presenting a racist stereotype in the Toby character.

That said, Ndegwa offered — in my opinion — the most convincing and impassioned performance in this show, ranging from desperation to tears to placating pleas and girlfriend exasperation. Rebecca was both annoying and charming — and Hunter was weirdly cute and inscrutable, with an adorably



Ndegwa McCloud and  
Rebecca MacCreery

PHOTO BY

WWW.ARNIKO.COM

strange affection for monkeys — and unrealized heroic aspirations.

As the script progresses, the absurdity blooms and provokes laughter; it is "F-ing funny" to quote the director's note. I applaud Heath Sartorius in his directorial debut, and bid him a reluctant farewell as he moves to New York. Heath has worked on over 50 shows in the past 13 years in the Mid-Michigan area and will be sorely missed.

Jane Zussman



Marge Hetherington has retired from The Costume Shop managed by Riverwalk Theatre after many years of service. Marge

was very instrumental in starting and managing the costume shop. Not only did she assist in finding a location for the costume shop but she then also helped to prepare the costumes in the old location, move the costumes, and organize the cos-

## Marge Hetherington Retires from The Costume Shop

tumes in the new location. From that time, she managed the shop using her skills not only as manager but also working alongside the staff in all of the day-to-day duties.

Marge is also extensively involved with Riverwalk Theatre. She was a board member from 2002 through 2013; she produced many shows, particularly complex musicals; she worked with her husband, Jack, while designing and running production lighting; and she worked as an usher and concession worker. In fact, the concession stand is dedicated to Marge and Jack, thanks to their donations during our renovations.

Tom Ferris recalls, "Marge told me that she and Jack went to see a play at LCP years ago and saw a note in the program asking for volunteers to work in the theatre. That's how

they got started. They have been volunteering ever since, primarily at Riverwalk, and have been married for 57 years. She said working in the theatre together has been their 'marriage enhancement activity.'"

Marge has been an excellent ambassador to the community promoting the costume shop and Riverwalk Theatre. Her many generous contributions to the costume shop and the theatre are greatly appreciated. Marge assures us that we will still see her around the theatre.

Good luck to you Marge! Thanks for all you have done for the costume shop and for Riverwalk Theatre.

Sandy  
Norton



## Farewell Sharon Straubel • 3/7/43 - 4/1/19



At Riverwalk Theatre Sharon found not only a post-retirement “career” but also her longtime significant other, Leroy Cupp, our scene-shop manager. Leroy was by her side when she died at home of pancreatic cancer April 1.

Riverwalk has been blessed with Sharon’s backstage help and positive energy since 2000, when her

friend Janet Walker brought her in to help backstage. Since then, she worked on over 80 shows, mostly stage managing and also working on props. She served as Warehouse Coordinator, keeping track of furniture and set pieces and won six Backstage Barney awards.

Sharon was planning to work on our recent show, *The Elephant Man*, but her failing health took her off the team. She was proud to know that Director Amy Rickett dedicated the show to her. Even as her health failed, Sharon exhibited much joy and gratitude for the cards, gifts, visits and expressions of appreciation that came her way in response to her diagnosis. We will all remember her positive energy and “gift of chat” that connected her to so many people.

Here are a few quotes from the many social media expressions of sympathy:

**Rita Deibler:** Backstage is a bit darker today as we mourn the loss of our dear friend Sharon Straubel. A familiar face in the wings as a props master, stage hand, and manager for countless productions. This particular social media manager and frequent partner backstage with Sharon will miss her words of encouragement and stifled laughter behind the curtains. A tremendous loss for Lansing Theatre.

**James Houska:** Sharon was warm, caring, always willing to help or offer support to others, interested involved...happy. Always happy and optimistic. When she told me about her diagnosis, she said “Well, you know, it doesn’t sound real good, but I’m hopeful.” I count myself truly blessed to have met this remarkable and wonderful soul.

**Leo Poroshin:** There was a reason why I nominated Sharon for the backstage Barney award. Her experience and calm demeanor were vital in helping me to bring the show together....Her experience and human presence are irreplaceable.

**Sandra Thomasson:** If heaven has a props department, I know who is volunteering to manage it! We will miss you Sharon.

**Gary Mitchell:** Sharon set a standard for excellence and professionalism when it came to stage managing. She was wonderful and I will miss her.

**Gordon Clark:** Sharon was my first friend when I joined the theatre community. Such a sweet, sweet person to all she met.

**Bruce Bennett:** So easy to work with and such a good person. I will miss her. I can hear her voice in my head right now, pointing the way to a prop in the prop room. Wonderful lady.

**Jeff Magnuson:** A lovely lady. Such a loss to so many. Donations can be made in Sharon’s memory to the American Cancer Society or Riverwalk Theatre. Riverwalk Theatre donors will be listed under Sharon’s name in main-stage programs for a year.

RWT, P.O. Box 12249,  
Lansing, MI 48901-



**Each Riverwalk MEMBER is a part of the FOUNDATION** that supports Riverwalk for the benefit of all theatre lovers! Revenue from membership funds at least a quarter of our show budgets as well as general operations. Keep Riverwalk thriving for years to come! The Membership fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30:

**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

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, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We’re 501c3 tax deductible.



### Janet M. Halfmann-Erickson Lobby Artist

I am a multi-dimensional artist.

My life-long pursuit has been one of knowledge and skill in the field of Fine Art. Having limited resources, I managed to develop a foundation of skill to build upon.

I am not limited by style, and my subjects are wide ranging, as are the mediums I use to express them.

My Art is a reflection of who I am and how I see life.

I currently teach Art classes in my home studio in Williamston.

I offer special thanks to the Riverwalk Theatre for allowing me to exhibit my work.

(517) 655-3062 [mrs.janet.erickson@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.janet.erickson@gmail.com)

## 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

# Prom at the Costume Shop



The Costume Shop Managed by Riverwalk Theatre once again is offering a **discount to High School students for Prom attire** — tuxes and gowns in many sizes and styles perfect for a memorable night out!

### The discounted price of **\*\$35.00** includes:

2 Piece Suit and 5 accessories (shirt, tie, vest, pocket square, suspenders)

OR

Gown and 5 accessories (petticoat, shawl, jewelry @ 2 for 1)

Shoes and hats are an extra charge of \$10.00 each.

\*You are responsible for cleaning — or for an additional \$20.00 we will take care of the cleaning

All rentals require a **security deposit of \$100.00** which can be a check or on a credit card that we hold until the return of the rental.

For over 60 years, under the guidance of the Lansing Civic Players and their volunteers, The Costume Shop has costumes from almost every era. Now managed by Riverwalk Theatre, we continue to support the arts in Mid-Michigan by providing costumes to schools, theatres, non-profit organizations and the public at affordable prices. We are a greener alternative to low cost on-line purchases and 100% of your rental fees support this unique community asset.

We are located east of N. Pennsylvania Ave. between E. Saginaw and E. Oakland Ave. at...

**1131 MAY STREET, LANSING, MI 48906**

REGULAR HOURS:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-6 pm  
& Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

Visit [RWTCostumeshop.com](http://RWTCostumeshop.com) for more info.

Joint production of  
**RIVERWALK THEATRE**  
30 Years in Lansing!  
**Children's Theatre**  
All of us Express

## Performing at HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER

# THE WIZARD OF OZ

April 26 & May 3  
7pm

April 27 & May 4  
2pm & 7pm

April 28 & May 5  
3pm

adults \$12 age 18+, children \$10  
tickets, call (517) 333-2580, ext. 0  
or go to [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com)



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