

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 30 • Number 11

June, 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

FREUD'S LAST SESSION Debates God Versus Science

Imagine two of the 20th century's top thinkers in one room. That's the premise behind *Freud's Last Session*, which takes the stage in Riverwalk's Black Box theatre May 9-12 and 16-19.

The Freud of the title is renowned psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud; his guest is C.S. Lewis, whose writings on Christianity are still widely read, along with his children's series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Playwright Mark St. Germain creates conversations that look deep into each man's philosophy.

"I always liked this show because it falls into my area of interest in psychology and acting," said Rob Roznowski, who directs. "It has a great debate at its core with two great minds arguing on opposite sides that really hits at major life questions. The play is really a debate between the pragmatic Sigmund Freud and the dogmatic C.S. Lewis."

Michael Hays plays Freud; Brian de Vries takes the role of Lewis. Roznowski said they are a joy to work with.

"Rehearsals are literally the three of us breaking down the dense questions and compelling answers that force us to look at our own belief systems,"



Michael Hays as Sigmund Freud debates Brian DeVries as C.S. Lewis

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

stakes incredibly high and the need for the answer even more compelling. Freud's oral cancer also raises the dramatic stakes of the piece as well."

The play is not just for philosophers and theologians, Roznowski said.

"It is for anyone wishing to have a thoughtful evening of theatre that is sure to spark a discussion on the way home and beyond," he said. "The play's goal is to 'solve' the issue of why C.S. Lewis, a devout atheist, could convert later in life to a highly religious person. If that intrigues you, come to the Black Box!"

he said. "The actors' research into their respective characters has made this process one of learning for all involved."

The characters resonate as they wrestle with difficult questions in the God-vs.-science debate that arise in each generation. One of the things Roznowski said he likes is its balanced approach.

"This show gives equal respect to both sides of the debate and that is a rarity," he said. "I think the backdrop of World War II makes the

Kathleen Lavey

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

■ 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, as part of the **Young Artisan Workshop** Director: Sadonna Croff

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

A June 19 & 20, 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for Pippin**, musical, Director: Meghan Eldred Woolsey

★ Sat., June 22, 1 pm **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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

📅 July 25-28 - **THE STINKY CHEESE MAN AND OTHER FAIRLY STUPID TALES** - Young Artisan Workshop production with youth actors/crew - Director: Sadonna Croff

🎭 **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)

📅 **FAMILY SHOW:** adults \$12 age 13+, children \$10

■ **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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

Wizard of Oz Hits Rainbow Heights



The Wizard of Oz was indeed a Wizard of a Wiz — great fun for the entire family — and an impressive partnership between two theatres, each celebrating its 30th anniversary: Riverwalk Theatre and All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre.

The entire ensemble of adults and kids did a great job delivering this favorite fable. Standouts were Logan Moon as the Emerald City Guard; Brennan McKone as a very animated, unwittingly brainy Scarecrow; Gary Mitchell as the tender-hearted Tin Man; Dale Wayne channeling a touch of Burt Lahr as the reluctantly courageous Cowardly Lion; Rocky Heuft as Professor Marvel/Wizard delivering likable con-man befuddled wisdom; and Kat Koehn as the gleefully evil Wicked Witch of the West.

But the real star was Hallie Ackerman as Dorothy. Her earnest presence, deft dog management, lovely singing, spirited dancing, consistent energy and pace tied the show together.

The true Wizard of this production was Tom Ferris, director and jack of all trades, set, sound, scenography... and managing a huge cast of 36 kids, 16 adults and one dog. It’s a wonderfully diverse conglomeration of all ages, sharing this classic with the audience.

Kudos to choreographer Fran Ludington for imaginative but simple, effective choreography, that suited the skills of some very new dancers as well as the more experienced. Music director James Geer had them all singing their hearts out to the prerecorded music.

The All-of-us Express Guilds put many kids to work on costumes, props,

scenery, sound, and lighting. Lighting was dramatic, led by crew head Cody Skalmowski. Costumes were plentiful and imaginative, led by Nina Crumpton and Kris Maier. Amelia Rogocka led the makeup team.

The Ferris-designed set was based on many movable pieces, built in the Riverwalk Scene Shop and transported to Hannah Center with the help of College Hunks Hauling Junk. (Not to imply this set was “junk”; CHHJ haul all sorts of wonderful as well as terrible things.) The set was well juggled by backstage crew and fulfilled the demands of the show in colorful, creative and expedient ways.

Kudos to the uplifting team spirit that made this immense “cast-of-thousands” production fly. Every role was a gem, however small. Sandy Thomasson was an exasperated but endearing Aunt Em, with the gruff but lovable Uncle Henry (Lee Purdy) by her side. Jan Ross, Malachi Cates and Liam Vanderheide were a fun trio of farmhands as Hunk, Hickory and Zeke. Joanna Klepal was suitably self-righteous and villainous as dog-napper Miss Gulch. Fiona Breen was benevolent and dazzling as Glinda in a knockout dress from The Costume Shop that I would rent in a minute if I had a prom to go to. Chance Boyd’s thundering tones gave a suitably scary voice to Oz the Great and Powerful. Anna Maier’s dog, Penny, was an adorable Toto, with her stuffed stunt-double taking over in a few

of the more demanding scenes.

Many groups of actors filled the stage with fantastic creatures/effects: The Cyclone, Munchkins, Glinda Bubble, Ruby Slippers, Yellow Brick Road, Crows, Trees, Poppies, Snow, Emerald City workers and citizens, Flying Monkeys, Winkies, and Crystal Ball.

These roles were played in overlapping ways by: Kenadi Blake, Re’zon Bodiford, Mykenzie Charbonneau, Diane Cooke, Harmony Cosner-Almanza, Zoe Cosner-Almanza, Lorelei Becketl, Goergia Davis, Preston Delacruz, Emma Elias, Danny Ferris, Parker Gibbs, Darian Giddens Marie Adelle Grosso, Hazel Hatfield, Katherine Hawthorne, Amelia Hixon, Monica Holland, Laura Johnson, Penelope Joy, Desten Knox, Dakota Kruse, Annie Larzelere, Ani Meghea, Jackie Payne, Lucy Prush, Isabella Richardson, Marcus Ringlever, Emily Shaul, Taylor Stallings, Zoey Stallings, Aubrie Thelen, Joseph Treadwell, Christine Troy, Liam Vanderhelde, Justin Washington, Lilla Wilkinson, and Nolla Williams.

Crew guilds included: Annabel Becker, Ethan Beczkiewicz, Pearl Biber, Alanna Biddington, Aidan Crumpton, Craig Darnell, McKhail Day, Ryan Demuth, Jill Dymond, Ben Dymond, Michaela Enger, Luke Fochtman, Elena Forman, Addison Gates, Joel Gates, Ruby Hatfield, Lulu Hatfield, Elliott Hoagland, Josiah Knox, Maddie Lefevre, Raygan McCardel, Keirse McDaniel, Maia Meghea, Frances Melinn, Noah Moore, Abby Murray, Josie Shangraw, Maddie Shangraw, Kate Stacey, Molly Tait, Audrey Tieman, Tori Unruh, Addy Vanderbur, Bri Vanzwoll, Marisabel Venegas, Maria Venegas, Blake Weill, Graci Weissling, Lucas Whitlock, Aislinn Wilcox, Ben Winnie, Danielle Woodrough, and Ali Wyble.

Jane Zussman



A U D I T I O N S

**Directed by
Sadonna Croff
as part of the
YOUNG ARTISAN
WORKSHOP**

**Auditions:
Sunday & Monday
May 19-20 - 6:30 pm**

*Show dates:
July 25-28, 2020*



We all know fairy tales. Stories full of wonder, magic and enchantment with a “happily ever after” fairy tale ending.

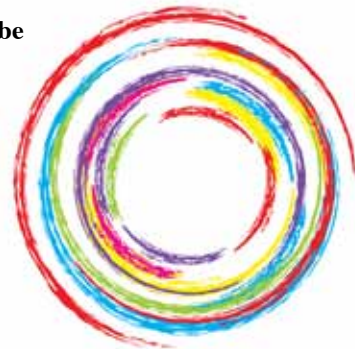
The Stinky Cheese Man isn’t one of those fairy tales. Instead, it’s full of fairly stupid tales.

Join Jack, the narrator, and a slew of wacky characters as they tell ridiculous stories including “The Princess and the Bowling Ball,” “Little Red Running Shorts,” “Cinderumpelstiltskin” and, of course, “The Stinky Cheese Man.” But along the way, Jack will have to deal with a couple of chickens who never know when to enter, a few unexpected songs—and a giant.

Children ages 10-18 years of age need to come prepared to read from the script, sing a bit and dance a little.

Do NOT prepare a solo for auditions as the children will be singing in a group a song that will be taught to them at the audition. This show is not a full musical, but there are some songs to sing and have fun with.

A parent or guardian must be present at auditions



youngartisanworkshop

Cast of Characters

(there may be some double casting)

Jack, the narrator	Cruel Neighbors
Red Hen	The Stinky Cheese Man
Cow Patty Boy	Cow
Surgeon General	Fox
Legal Guy	Frog
Chicken Licken	Little Red Running Shorts
Ducky Lucky	Wolf
Goosey Loosey	Gian
Foxy Loxy	Cinderella
Prince	The Stepmother
Queen	The Stepsisters
King	Rumpelstiltskin
Princess 1 and 2	Tortoise
The Ugly Duckling	Rabbit
	Owl
	Little
	Old Man
	Little Old Lady

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 riverwalk-theatre.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.

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, MI 48901. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalktheatre.com) office hours: Tuesdays thru Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Reservations and info at: 517-482-5700 or RiverwalkTheatre.com



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.

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FREUD'S LAST SESSION

by Mark St. Germain

May 9-19, 2019

Directed by
Rob Roznowski



Thursdays: 7pm
 Fri/Saturdays: 8pm
 Sundays: 2pm

Tickets:

Adult: \$12
 Military/Senior/Student: \$10

Reserve tickets:
www.RiverwalkTheatre.com
 or 517-482-5700



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