

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 12

July, 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

At last, the ultimate silliness of *Monty Python's Spamalot* graces — and disgraces — the Riverwalk stage with song and dance and hilarity.

This Tony Award-winning 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 King Arthur legend. Though it differs from the movie in many ways, it upholds the artful idiocy of the Python tradition.

This formidable production was heroically rescued by director Bob Purosky when health issues prevented the original director, Jane Falion, from taking the helm. Hers are notoriously big shoes to fill, but Bob mustered the courage to lead this production with the trusted assistance of the original production crew: Stage Manager, Michele Booher-Purosky; Music Director, John Dale Smith; Choreographer, Karyn Perry; and Costumer, Kristine Maier.

Bob was also blessed with Lansing's musical comedy royalty flocking to auditions. King Arthur is played by Ben Holzhausen, Sir Robin is Isaac



From the top: Jeff Kennedy, Zach Riley, Boris Nikolovski, Ben Holzhausen, Brian Farnham, Isaac Orr

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

Orr, Sir Lancelot is Zach Riley, Patsy is Boris Nikolovski, Sir Galahad is Brian Farnham, and Sir Bedevere is Jeff Kennedy. Most of these play multiple alternate roles, as well.

Two newcomers to the Riverwalk stage are Will Harrison and Kathryn Mulcahy. Will plays multiple roles, most notably, Prince Herbert — as well as the Historian, Not Dead Fred, a French guard, and lead Minstrel. Kathryn (who recently impressed audiences as “Grace” in Blue Light Players’ *Annie*) plays the Lady of the Lake, a diva worthy of the over-the-top wackiness of this delightful show.

The rest of what will feel like a “cast of thousands” includes Aja Jenks, Kelley Lofton, Kristin Pagels, Taylor Rupp, Nicole Ryan, Amanda Tollstam, Drew Birchmeier, Tim Edinger, Timothy Lawrence, Zach Whitlock, Dale Wayne Williams, and Travis Williams.

Make your reservations today. This blockbuster is likely to have some sold out shows.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- 🎵 June 7-10 & 14-17 - **MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT**, musical - Director: Bob Purosky
- ★ June 14 - 6 pm - **PSST** Pre-show Senior Second Thursday gathering for age 55+ followed by *Spamalot* at 7.
- ★ June 23, Saturday 1pm **ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**
- ★ June 26, Tuesday 6pm reception 7pm show for **BARNEY AWARDS**
- 🎵 July 8 & 9 - 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for JEKYLL & HYDE** - musical directed by Tom Ferris
- 📅 July 26-29 - Thur./Fri./Sat. 7 pm; Sun. at 4:30 pm **THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RODENTS** - musical comedy by Young Artisan Workshop, Director: Sadonna Croff
- 🎵 September 6-9 & 13-16, **JEKYLL & HYDE** - musical drama - Director: Tom Ferris
- 🎭 September 27-30 & October 4-7 **THESE SHINING LIVES** - historic drama - Director: Susan Chmurynsky

🎭 **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)**

📅 **CHILDREN'S SHOW:** 7pm Thur-Fri-Sat; 4:30 pm Sundays - \$8 children; \$10 adults age 13+ (general seating)

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

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

MEMBERS

...provide over a quarter of all revenue for shows and general operations! *Your membership is your vote to keep Riverwalk sustainable and available to actors and audiences for years to come!*

Join or renew today — at the level that fits your budget — and you belong through June 30, 2019!

It's easy to join online at:

www.riverwalktheatre.com/get-involved.html

Scotland Road offers mysterious food for thought

Some plays don't give us all the answers. The best of these gives the audience something to think about. Jeffrey Hatcher's *Scotland Road* was that type of play. Yes, the premise is interesting: proving a woman found on an iceberg in the North Atlantic is really a survivor of the Titanic. The play takes many twists and turns so that by the end of it, you're not sure what to believe.

As with prior productions, director Bob Robinson's penchant for good casting showed here. Jeff Magnuson balanced a strong dominating performance with vulnerability. Cassie Little began her role in a nonverbal way but as she came out of her shell, showed great vocal range and power.

Gini Larson's Doctor was very professional but as we got to know this strange woman, we felt moments of empathy from her. Janet Lockwood was great as Frances Kittle, the last Titanic survivor. And Mark Polzin and Steven Wulfekuhler did very well as the duo of deaf-mute orderlies (bravo to sign language coach SaDonna Croff).

Mr. Robinson was well supported in his vision by co-set designer Leroy Cupp with a functional set. John Delaney was the Sce-



Cassie Little and Jeff Magnuson share an intense moment. PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

nographer. Effective use of multi-media was provided with great effect by Matt Ottinger (projection Design), Ted Daniel (lighting design), and Ric Sadler (lighting/sound board operator). All production aspects were

well coordinated by veteran stage manager Sharon Straubel. In all, this was a fine Black Box production serving up plenty of food for thought.

Justin Banks



In Memoriam: Michael Schacherbauer

Sadly, Michael's body was not as indomitable as his creative, enthusiastic spirit. This actor/director/teacher/traveler and celebrator of life made his final exit too soon, Friday, May 4, while on vacation in Tennessee with life partner Don Savolainen.

Michael was a lifelong theatre devotee, gaining countless kudos in Columbus, Ohio, theatre before moving to the Lansing area with Don - and gracing Riverwalk Theatre with his talents, acting, directing, on the Riverwalk board and serving as our representative at Community Theatre Association of Michigan (CTAM). He is well remembered locally for his acting in *August*, *Osage County*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Lyons*, and directing *Leaving Iowa* and *Beyond Therapy*.

Donations in memory of Michael may be sent to Riverwalk Theatre (p.o. Box 12249 Lansing 48901)—and/or to the Cancer Society, the Kidney Foundation or Ohio Community Theatre Association in care of the funeral home: fergusonfuneralhomeinc.com.

Riverwalk Season 30

-  July 26-29 - **THE AMAZING MAURICE AND HIS EDUCATED RODENTS** - musical comedy by Young Artisan Workshop, Director: Sadonna Croff
-  September 6-9 & 13-16, **JEKYLL & HYDE** - musical drama - Director: Tom Ferris
-  September 27-30 & October 4-7 - **THESE SHINING LIVES** - historic drama - Director: Susan Chmurynsky
-  October 18-21 & 25-28 - **JITNEY** - African American drama, Director: Vanessa Cunningham Sanders
-  November 29-December 2 & 6-9 - **NOISES OFF** - comedy farce - Director: Michael Hays
-  January 24-27 & January 31-February 3, **CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG** - family musical comedy - Director: Brian Farnham
-  February 14-17 & 21-24 - **THE A-TRAIN PLAYS** - comedy collection - 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
-  April 26 - May 5 - **THE WIZARD OF OZ** - cast with adults and children; produced in partnership with All-of-us Express Children's Theatre - performs at Hannah Community Center.
-  May 9-12 & 16-19 - **FREUD'S LAST SESSION** - intriguing debate with C.S. Lewis - Director: Rob Roznowski
-  June 6-9 & 13-16 - **HAIRSPRAY**, musical comedy - Director: Sarah Hayner

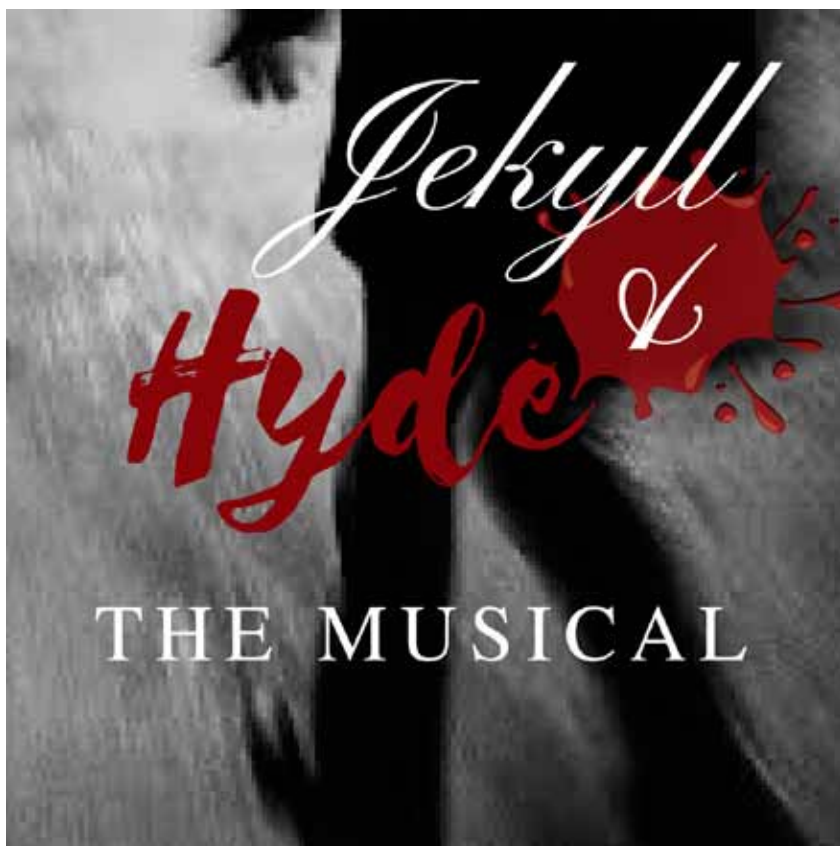
This season we will offer both "Classic Season Ticket" including the six Main Stage shows, but also an "All-Access Season Ticket" which will include the four Black Box Stage shows as well. Prices are pending due to considerations related to a NEW TICKETING SYSTEM, which promises to let you choose your seats online. Stay Tuned!

 PLAYS

 MUSICALS

 BLACK BOX

 CHILDREN'S



Conceived for the stage by
Steve Cuden & Frank Wildhorn

Book & Lyrics by
Leslie Bricusse,
Music by
Frank Wildhorn

Directed by
Tom Ferris

Music Director –
John Dale Smith

NEW DATES *Auditions:*
Sun & Mon, July 8-9,
7 pm.

Shows: September
6-16, 2018

Based on Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic thriller, *Jekyll & Hyde* is the gripping tale of a brilliant mind gone horrifically awry, set to a powerful pop-rock score by Frank Wildhorn with book and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. In an attempt to cure his ailing father’s mental illness by separating “good” from “evil” in the human personality, talented physician Dr. Jekyll inadvertently creates an alternate personality of pure evil, dubbed Mr. Hyde, who wreaks murderous havoc on the city of London.

Dr. Henry Jekyll/Edward Hyde. Baritone/Tenor

Emma Carew - Jekyll’s fiancée. Soprano

Lucy Harris - The main attraction at “The Red Rat”. Mezzo-Soprano

John Utterson - Jekyll’s lawyer and friend. Baritone/Tenor

Sir Danvers Carew - Emma’s father and Chairman of the Board of Governors. Baritone

Simon Stride - Secretary of the Board and Jekyll’s rival for Emma’s affections. Baritone

Lord Savage - Member of the Board. Tenor

Bishop of Basingstoke - A hypocritical man of the

cloth, member of the Board. Baritone/Tenor

Lady Beaconsfield - The only female member of the Board. Mezzo-Soprano

Sir Archibald Proops - Member of the Board. Baritone

General Lord Glossop - Pompous retired army man, member of the Board. Baritone/Bass

Spider - A pimp and proprietor of “The Red Rat”. Baritone

Nellie - An attendant of “The Red Rat”. Mezzo-Soprano

Guinevere - The German manageress of “The Red Rat.”

Poole - Jekyll’s loyal manservant.

8 Person Ensemble (4 Men, 4 Women) People of London

Please prepare an audition piece in a similar musical style.

Be prepared to learn a dance combination and to read from the script.

Each Riverwalk MEMBER is a part of the foundation that supports Riverwalk for the benefit of all theatre lovers!

Our fiscal/member-ship year runs from July thru June. JOIN NOW AND YOU BELONG THROUGH JUNE 2019!

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. We’re 501c3 tax deductible. If you’re already a member, recruit a NEW member today!

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

RIVERWALK THEATRE

2017-2018 Officers

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 Production VP, Rita Deibler
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 Secretary, Jane Shipley Zussman

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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
 an event for you!

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

Meet new old friends at this fun reception/party/backstage peek at 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 TWO FREE PASSES to a Riverwalk show!**

June 14 *Spamalot* (musical)

RIVERWALK THEATRE

TICKETS:
WWW.RIVERWALKTHEATRE.COM

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

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

Directed by
Bob Purosky

Music Direction by
John Dale Smith

Choreographed by
Karyn Perry

Generously Underwritten by
ROTARY CLUB of LANSING

JUNE 7-10 & 14-17 2018

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

Tickets:

Adult \$22

Military/Senior/Student \$20

**PSST: Pre-show senior second Thursday mixer
 June 14, 6pm**

Spamalot is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. (866) 378-9758 www.theatricalrights.com



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