

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 30 • Number 12

July, 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

### Hairspray - a Musical Comedy with a Conscience

Chubby and optimistic, Tracy Turnblad dreams of dancing on the The Corny Collins Show. So does her friend, Penny, despite the fact that the segregated program only allows African-American kids to dance once a month.

Their quest to make it on the show – and break some racial barriers as they go – drives the exuberant plot of *Hairspray*, which takes the Riverwalk stage June 6-9 and 13-16.

Sarah Hayner directs the musical comedy by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, with musical direction by Angie Schwab.

The show is Hayner's first as a Riverwalk director, and she can't wait to see it come together.

"I have loved this show for years. I love the high energy, I loved that there was a female lead," she said.

"And also in the midst of the big dance numbers and the big catchy songs, it has an important message still relevant today."

About half of the cast members are Riverwalk newcomers, Hayner said. The entire cast is having fun getting ready for their performances.

"It's an amazing group of people," Hayner said. "Just some incredible people that I am so thankful are part of the show and part of our Riverwalk family."

Kayla Henry plays Tracy, while Taren Going is her friend, Penny Pingleton. Alex Quinlan is show host Corny Collins, and Robert Mueller is teen dance star Link Larkin. Drew Doman plays Tracy's mother, Edna, and Luka Pawsek is her father, Wilbur.



Taren Going and Sean Holland II as Penny and Seaweed • PHOTO BY WWW.ARNIKO.COM

Meghan Eldred-Woolsey and Taylor Rupp play the scheming mother and daughter, Velma and Amber Von Tussle.

Sean Holland II is Seaweed Stubbs, who gives Tracy the dance moves she needs to impress, and Ryan Betts is his sister, Little Inez, and Janell Hall is their mother, radio personality Motormouth Maybelle.

The cast also includes Aja Jenks, Greg Martin, Erin Hoffman, Twyla Birdsong, Ny'kieria Blocker, Jordan Taylor, Karrington Kelsey, Caleb Liggett, Jordan Taylor, Kammie Timmer, Drew Birchmeier, Caila Conklin, Joe Gill, Jackson Hall, Timothy Lawrence, Alexis Loy-Alberta, Kristen Pagels and Aurelie Wolf.

The setting for the show will be faithful to

the 1960s and also the main character, Hayner said.

"There are a lot of bright colors; a lot of funky shapes and angles in terms of set," she said. "There's a lot of realism but also a lot of abstract mixed in together that reflects who Tracy is. She's very real and down-to-earth, but she's also a dreamer and she strives for a goal that is kind of out of the ordinary."

Overall, *Hairspray* does have a message, Hayner said. But it's also just a whole lot of fun.

"There's a lot of humor in this show, there are a lot of endearing characters," Hayner said. "But I think audiences are going to come away with a lot more. I hope it will cause people to think."

Kathleen Lavey

### WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

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

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

August 18-19, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for SWEAT**, drama, director: George Popovich (performs October 3-13, 2019)

August 29-September 1 & September 5-8, **PIPPIN** musical, Director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey

October 3-6 & 10-13 **SWEAT** - Pulitzer Prize-Winning drama - Director: George Popovich

**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**

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

**SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

## FREUD'S LAST SESSION: a joust, a debate, a dance

As World War II rages in the background, theology and ideologies rage in two men who debate all of the elements that make us human. Humans continue to debate God or no God, pain and punishment, doubt and faith. As long as the struggle continues within us and we remain humans without clear answers, as long as we continue to muddle through life hoping there will be resolution, or are willing to make it up as we go, the script remains relevant. This is a thought provoking script. A joust, a debate, a dance where you are at first on one side, then you recognize your partner is actually leading.

While the story slowly opens, it quickly begins to simmer and then comes to a boil, rising with the passion of differing views, then resting again into the compassion and respect these two men have for each other. Building new ideas and compromises for each other, building...relationship.

Mike Hays (Sigmund Freud) was so believable it made me wonder who the portrait of the man on the program was. His portrayal was strong, consistent and drew you into the story. It is a point of interest for audience members to be able to watch a character "working it out" with their facial expressions, then smoothly having the dialogue confirm



*Brian De Vries as C.S. Lewis; Michael Hays as Sigmund Freud • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM*

that the person you are watching, is who you think he is. We got to know Freud, and we got to like him.

Brian De Vries (C.S. Lewis), what can I say? I guess you can go home again. Brian took the stage like a welcome breeze that swelled and receded as he kept time with the sometimes frustrating Freud. Brian returns to the stage after an eight-year absence. We have missed a lot in that time! Thank you for returning Brian, we hope to see more from you.

The two were paired well, matching each other in intensity, pace, emotion and engaging in a tug-of-war that was expertly choreographed by director Rob Roznowski. When I see Rob's name attached to any production, I have no fear of whether or not I will like it, I know that I'm going to leave the theatre with some gem in my pocket that

I didn't have when I walked in. This show was no different.

Josiah Masvero (production designer) put us in the room. The way I would have imagined it, every small touch adding a necessary reminder of the period, of the status, creating a comfortable picture of Freud's study. I may have to hire him to design the layout for my house!

The sound design by Beth Lake (purchased from Dramatists Play Service) was excellent in content, but unfortunately very difficult for us to hear. There seems to be some problem with the level, which I sincerely hope is resolved, as this technology was the weakest point of the show. I couldn't help but feel I was missing some significant points because of what I could not hear.

Morgan Pohl (stage manager) kept the show running smoothly and got us started on time.

Sounds small - but it's important and respectful to the audience - I appreciated it. I had the benefit of arriving early and watched Morgan doing all of the little preparatory things that a good stage manager does - though it might not be her job - and nobody in the audience really knows the extent of her efforts. Good job Morgan, great way to steward the show.

Morgan's dedication should not be a surprise to anyone though, she's had an experienced teacher. Scott Pohl acted as producer for this selection, and looked the part of a proud father, not just because of Morgan, but you could tell that he was proud of the show itself. And he should be - they all should be. It was a good show that I may need to see again, if only to try to decide which side of the arguments I'm really on.

*Oralya Garza*



# A U D I T I O N S

**Director** *Meghan Eldred-Woolsey*  
**Assistant Director**  
*Michele Booher-Purosky*  
**Music Director** - *John Dale Smith*  
**Choreographer** - *Amanda Tollstam*  
**AUDITIONS:**

**Mon.- Tues., June 17 & 18 @ 7pm**

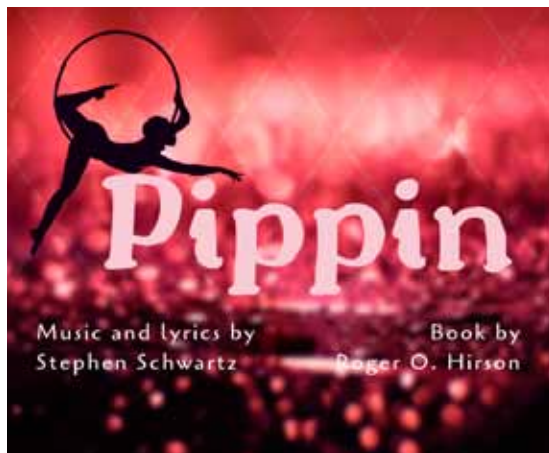
**Show Dates:** 8/29-9/1 & 9/5-9/8, 2019

With an infectiously unforgettable score from the composer of *Wicked* and *Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz's *Pippin* is the story of one young man's journey to be extraordinary. Heir to the Frankish throne, the young prince Pippin is in search of the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. He seeks it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh and the intrigues of political power. In the end, though, Pippin finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but rather in the unextraordinary moments that happen every day.

**Leading Player:** The ultimate 'ring leader.' Masterfully charming and manipulative, the Leading Player is a chameleon of sorts. Guides Pippin through his own story and tries to intervene at the end. Excellent dancer. Obsessed with putting on a great show for the audience.

Gender: any; Vocal range: Db3-Ab4

**Pippin:** Our story's young and confused protagonist. He is longing to find his purpose in life. Naive, innocent, and discontent. Eventually finds love, and meaning in life, with Catherine and Theo. Gender: male; Age: 20 to 30  
 Vocal range: G2-Ab4



**Charles:** Pippin's demanding father. As the King of the Holy Roman Empire, Charlemagne is more comfortable wielding a sword than breaking bread. He wears his years with great pride.

Gender: male; Age: 50 to 60

Vocal range: G2-E4

**Lewis:** Pippin's half-brother.

Gender: male; Age: 20-30

**Fastrada:** Pippin's conniving stepmother.

A seductress, who is no stranger to deceit and betrayal, she is both sexy and smart. Skilled at using her sexual appeal to benefit herself and her son Lewis.

Gender: female; Age: 35 to 50

Vocal range: A3-F5

**Berthe:** Pippin's saucy grandmother. A brassy broad full of wisdom, grace, and sass. She tries to help Pippin and encourages him to live his life to the fullest.

Gender: female; Age: 60-70

Vocal range: E3-C5

**Catherine:** A widow and mother. She is a beautiful and a hopeless romantic, who possesses graceful elegance. Encounters Pippin at his lowest point and eventually falls in love with him.

Gender: female; Age: 25 to 35

Vocal range: F#3-Db5

**Theo:** Catherine's son.

Gender: male; Age: 6 to 10

**Ensemble:** Charlemagne's Army, Monks, Nobility, Peasants, The Players

Please prepare an audition piece in a similar musical style. Be prepared to learn a dance combination and to read from the script.

**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) audition forms are available online at [www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html)**

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.

## Farewell Mary Volakakis



Mary was a backstage stalwart specializing in assistant-directing and props at both Riverwalk and LCP. She wrote creative reviews for *Ripples*, and was one of our generous "Women on the Go"

donors, and thus has her name on one of the stalls in our enlarged lobby ladies room. She had a long career with the State of Michigan and earned an associate's degree from LCC, then transferred to MSU, and, in 1981, received her BA in Philosophy. She traveled the world, appreciated opera, and was a member of a writing club. Mary's warmth, caring, love of life and droll sense of humor will be missed by her many friends.

## 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

## Mark your Calendars for Riverwalk's Season-End Events!

★ Saturday, June 22, 1 pm

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

★ Tuesday, June 25, 7 pm

**ANNUAL BARNEY AWARDS**

with show and reception

Here's where you can learn about the inner workings of your favorite theatre and voice your opinions/suggestions — and learn how to get involved by joining the Board or Committees.

We invite all members to join us at this meeting! (This is also an opportunity to turn in your Board Ballot and your vote for the annual **Member's Choice Award** for members' favorite show, to be announced at the Barney Awards Celebration.



Everybody's favorite chemist/secretary/actor/singer/dancer/director Brian Farnham is stirring up the ingredients for some fun show tunes to spice up the award presentations.

And everybody's favorite emcee/game show host/videographer Matt Ottinger will be hosting. And wine! And snacks! Free of charge! ALL participants in Riverwalks Season 30 are encouraged to attend. See you there!



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



Tickets:  
 Adult: \$24  
 Military/Senior/Student: \$20  
 Children 12 and under: \$12  
 Reserve tickets:  
[www.RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://www.RiverwalkTheatre.com)  
 or 517-482-5700

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