

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 29 • Number 1
August, 2017

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

Coraline: the Musical Brings a New Dimension

You'd think poor Coraline deserves a break. She has already been through a big change, moving with her very busy parents to a new home.

But the curious child finds a doorway to another dimension and must summon all her bravery and ingenuity to save herself, her parents and others from a frightening world filled with people who have button eyes and empty souls.

Coraline: the Musical will be presented July 20-23 by Riverwalk Theatre's Young Artisan workshop. Kids and teens have been busy rehearsing, creating costumes and pulling together technical aspects of the show, said Sadonna Croff, who directs both *Coraline* and the annual workshop.

"The only thing the kids did not do is build the set," Croff said.

The musical was written in 2009 by Stephin Merritt and David Greenspan, based on the novella by



Playing the title role, Kinza Parker opens a door to a new dimension in *Coraline: the Musical*. PHOTO BY WWW.ARNIKO.COM

well-known fantasy and horror author Neil Gaiman. The music is an important tool in demonstrating the differences between Coraline's home and the universe beyond the door, Croff said.

"It's not your typical musical," she said. "Some songs just end abruptly. We actually — instead of a piano — have a toy piano because it sounds off-chord."

Music director is Angie Schwab.

"There are creepy aspects to this. Characters will look creepy," Croff said. "There are the others from the other side and they all have the button eyes." The show may be a little scary to very young children.

Sadonna reported that 30-plus students in the cast and crew are working hard to create the parallel universes onstage.

"They chose to spend their summer doing this," she said. "Come see it to support our kids and let them know that we appreciate their hard work."

Kathleen Lavey

Summer Lobby Artists

Rosemarie Turke's desire to express herself through art emerged in her childhood during the war in Germany. Observing and drawing alongside her artist uncle, she discovered deep contentment and learned to use color as an emotional expression in the midst of bleakness. In the art



of Chinese brush-painting she appreciates how the simplicity of each brush stroke expresses the beauty and essence of a subject.

Sue Powell enjoys travel and has been intrigued by unusual scenes inspiring her to paint landscapes. Living in Japan for a year, she studied Oriental brush painting (sumi-e) and flower arranging (ikebana). It was an eye-opening challenge to paint and to arrange flowers with new styles and techniques. Her goal is to express the beauty she has found in Michigan and other parts of the world.



WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

July 20-23 - CORALINE, family musical presented by Riverwalk's Young Artisan Workshop, directed by Sadonna Croff

August 6 & 7, Sunday & Monday, 7 pm, AUDITIONS for THE HOME TEAM, dramedy, director: Emily Clark (performs Oct. 19-29, 2017)

August 17-19 - BOISE, IDAHO - Director Ann Carlson, performs at **The Renegade Theatre Festival** in Old Town, times and location at www.renegadetheatrefestival.org

Sept. 10 and 11, Sun & Mon, 7 pm, ADULT AUDITIONS for BUD, NOT BUDDY, family show, (mostly African American roles) director: Tom Ferris (performs April 10-29)

September 14-17 & 21-24, SHE LOVES ME - musical comedy - Director: Meghan Eldred

September 28-October 1 & Oct. 5-8, MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS - apartheid drama - Director: Gabriel Francisco

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)

CHILDREN'S SHOW: Thur./Fri./Sat. at 7 pm; Sun. at 4:30 pm \$8 children; \$10 adults age 13+ (general seating)

BLACK BOX SHOWS: 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. • \$12 (\$10 student/senior/military) Bargain Thursdays: \$10 (\$8)

AUDITIONS - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

SPECIAL EVENT: see website

June 27 Barneys Shine In “The Room Where It Happens”

Matt Ottinger once again charmed us all as Host Extraordinaire for the Season 28 Barneys, featuring clever show-related quips, and fun costumes. Director Jane Falion and music director John Dale Smith put together an ambitious program with two songs from *Hamilton*, as well as two from next season’s musicals, *She Loves Me* and *Spamalot*. Thanks to talented performers Brian Farnham, Meghan Eldred, Adam Woolsey, Ben Holzhausen, Isaac Orr, Jordan Taylor and Travis Williams: with Dr. Jonathan Smith (drums) and Justin Valla (bass) backing John Dale on keyboard.

The Barneys were moved to a Tuesday to accommodate schedule conflicts with the usual Saturday. This may become our new tradition. Thanks Kris Maier, Diane Cooke and the Riverwalk Board for the yummy pre-show reception.

Here are the winners, in **bold**, followed by nominees (rated 8 or above) by judges Miranda Sue Hartmann: chair, Rich Weingartner, Ralph Sims, Diane Gardin, Bob Purosky, William Kennedy, Joel Wilkins, Cassie Little, and Ian Griffin.

BACKSTAGE BARNEYS: • *Grease:* Michele Booher-Purosky • *Burn This:* Greg Pratt • *Are You Being Served:* Tom Ferris • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* all cast and crew recognized; no award given • *The Hemingway Play:* Ted Daniel • *Superior Donuts:* Marcus Fields • *Red:* no award given • *Wonder of the World:* Kelly Jo Garland • *Fool for Love:* LeRoy Cupp • *Catch Me If You Can:* Michele Booher-Purosky

CHOREOGRAPHY: *Catch Me If You Can:* **Karyn Perry** • *Grease:* Josh Dravenstatt & Kaley Mae Rahl

COSTUME DESIGN: *Catch Me If You Can:* **Kris Maier** • *Grease:* Chanae Houska • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Katy Kettles, Edric Haleen & Bruce Bennett • *Wonder of the World:* Anna Maier & Kris Maier

HAIR: *Catch Me If You Can:* **Rebecca Street** • *Grease:* Rebecca Street • *The Hemingway Play:* Daniel Moore

LIGHTING DESIGN: *Grease:* **Ted Daniel** • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Tom Ferris • *Superior Donuts:* Richard Chapman & Cambray Sampson • *Wonder of the World:* Ted Daniel

MAKEUP: *Wonder of the World:* **Andi Walker** • *Are You Being Served:* Daniel Moore • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Bruce Bennett & Nicole Craven

MUSICAL DIRECTION: *Grease:* **John Dale Smith & Kelly Stuitable-Clark** • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Edric Haleen • *Catch Me If You Can:* John Dale Smith

PROPERTIES DESIGN: *Grease:* **Miranda Sue Hartmann** • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Sharon Straubel • *The Hemingway Play:* Melody Teodoro-Kurtis & Ray Kurtis • *Superior Donuts:* Sharon Straubel • *Wonder of the World:* Diane Cooke, Melody Stratton & Mara McGill

SCENOGRAPHER: *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* **Bruce Bennett** • *Grease:* Julia Purosky

• *Are You Being Served:* Justin E. Brewer
• *Superior Donuts:* Mark Mandenberg • *Wonder of the World:* Mary K. Hodges-Nees

SET DESIGN: *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* **Edric Haleen** • *Grease:* Eric Chatfield & Tom Ferris • *The Hemingway Play:* Leroy Cupp • *Superior Donuts:* Leroy Cupp • *Wonder of the World:* Bob Nees

SET DRESSING: *Grease:* **Miranda Sue Hartmann** • *The Hemingway Play:* Melody Teodoro-Kurtis & Ray Kurtis • *Wonder of the World:* Diane Cooke, Melody Stratton & Mara McGill

SOUND DESIGN: *Wonder of the World:* **Leon Green** • *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* Bill Bartelson • *Superior Donuts:* Kelly Jo Garland

DIRECTOR - CHILDREN’S SHOW: *The Princess Who Saved Herself:* **Edric Haleen**

FEATURED ACTOR - CHILDREN’S SHOW: *The Princess Who Saved Herself,* as **Troubadour: Alex Forger** • as Prince Philip: Anderson Stevens

LEAD ACTRESS - CHILDREN’S SHOW: *The Princess Who Saved Herself,* as **Zoe: Isabella Grace Olivo**

SUPPORTING ACTOR - CHILDREN’S SHOW: *The Princess Who Saved Herself,* as **King/Dragon: Lee Purdy** • as Alan/Abe: Ric Sadler

SUPPORTING ACTRESS - CHILDREN’S SHOW: *The Princess Who Saved Herself,* as **Lana/Bea: Sandy Thomasson** • as Queen/Witch: Nicole Craven

DIRECTOR - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Red:* **Rita Deibler** • *Burn This:* Michael Hays • *The Hemingway Play:* Bob Robinson • *Superior Donuts:* Amy Rickett & Marcus Fields • *Wonder of the World:* Shannon Bowen & Liz Cooke

FEATURED ACTOR - DRAMA/COMEDY: *The Hemingway Play,* as **Papa: Michael Hays** • *Superior Donuts,* as Kevin: Jeff Magnuson • *Wonder of the World,* as Glen: Mark Zussman

FEATURED ACTRESS - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Wonder of the World,* as **Barbara/Pilot/Waitress/Janie: Laura Croff** • *The Hemingway Play,* as Louisa: Gloria Vivalda • *Wonder of the World,* as Karla: Sue Chmurynsky

LEAD ACTOR - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Superior Donuts,* as **Arthur: James Houska** • *The Hemingway Play,* as Ernest: Joseph Dickson • *Superior Donuts,* as Franco: Daniel Bonner • *Red,* as Mark Rothko: Michael Hays • *Red,* as Ken: Brennan Hattaway

LEAD ACTRESS - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Wonder of the World,* as **Cass: Sarah Hayner** • *Burn This,* as Anna: Carissa Zielinski • *The Hemingway Play,* as Glynis: Anna Szabo

SUPPORTING ACTOR - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Burn This,* as **Pale: Michael Banghart** • *Burn This,* as Larry: Zach Riley • *Superior Donuts,* as Max: Doak Bloss • *Wonder of the World,* as Captain Mike: Joseph Dickson

SUPPORTING ACTRESS - DRAMA/COMEDY: *Wonder of the World,* as **Lois: Erin Hoffman** • *The Hemingway Play,* as Dana: Sally Hecksel • *Superior Donuts,* as Lady: Eve Davidson

DIRECTOR - MUSICAL: *Grease:* **Eric Chatfield**

• *Catch Me If You Can:* Jane Falion
FEATURED ACTOR - MUSICAL: *Catch Me If You Can,* as **Roger Strong: Ben Holzhausen** • *Grease,* as Vince Fontaine/Radio Announcer: Bob Purosky

FEATURED ACTRESS - MUSICAL: *Grease,* as **Miss Lynch: Laura Croff** • *Catch Me If You Can,* as Carol Strong: Laura Croff

LEAD ACTOR - MUSICAL: *Catch Me If You Can,* as **Frank Abagnale, Jr.: Brian Farnham** • *Grease,* as Danny Zuko: Brian Farnham • *Grease,* as Kenickie: Austin Elieff

LEAD ACTRESS - MUSICAL: *Grease,* as **Betty Rizzo: Meghan Eldred** • *Grease,* as Sandy Dumbrowski: Christine Landers • *Catch Me If You Can,* as Brenda Strong: Taylor Rupp

SUPPORTING ACTOR - MUSICAL: *Catch Me If You Can,* as **Carl Hanratty: Adam Woolsey** • *Grease,* as Doody: Isaac Orr • *Catch Me If You Can,* as Frank Abagnale Sr.: Bob Purosky

SUPPORTING ACTRESS - MUSICAL: *Catch Me If You Can,* as **Paula: Meghan Eldred** • *Grease,* as Jan: Rachel Raymer • *Grease,* as Marty: Brittany Chapa

BOB GRAS BLACK BOX AWARD: **Michael Hays**
YOU TAKE THE CAKE VOLUNTEER AWARD: **Ted Daniel**

HOWARD LANCOUR NEWCOMER AWARD: *The Hemingway Play,* as **Wemedge: Jared Ross**

PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Retiring from the Board: **Diane Cooke, Leroy Cupp & Michael Schacherbauer**

PRESIDENT’S AWARD: **Janet Lockwood**, longtime chair of the Season Selection Committee

MEMBER’S CHOICE AWARD: show voted favorite by Riverwalk members: *Catch Me If You Can*

Riverwalk Mourns

The night before the Barneys, Riverwalk — and the planet — lost one of its most beloved, helpful, talented, capable people to cancer. **Mark Mandenberg** was an active volunteer mostly behind the scenes. A Barney Award winner



as “Jacob Marley” in *A Christmas Carol*, Mark also performed in *Young Frankenstein*, *White Christmas*, *Shot in the Dark*, *Conspiracy*, *The Ritz*, *The Full Monty*, *Fortinbras* and *Bremen Town Musicians*. He was honored with the Marilyn Steegstra “You Take the Cake” Volunteer Award at the 2016 Barney Award celebration last June for helping the theatre in countless ways. Matt Ottinger’s wonderful database (lansingtheater.wikispaces.com) lists Mark as serving on the production team on over 70 shows since 2000, designing painting and helping construct sets, including some impressive full-back-wall scenes. Mark’s dear wife Joni is planning a celebration of Mark’s life to be held later this summer.



Dramedy by Kim Carney, Directed by Emily Clark
AUDITIONS: Sun & Mon, August 6 & 7, 7 pm
Shows: Oct. 19-29, 2017

It's the most important day of the year for the Gurley family – the Spartans and Wolverines face off! This year, however, their annual TV football ritual is interrupted by a mysterious woman who turns their world upside down. A hilarious and touching look at one family's efforts to transcend the past and embrace the future.

NEVA: Woman in her late 50s
 JOHNNY: 33, Oldest of Neva's grown "children"
 WAYNE: 31, Second oldest son
 MARION: 29, Neva's only daughter
 DUKE: 27, The youngest of the four
 ERIN: 27, The girlfriend of Wayne.

Auditioners are encouraged to read the script in advance and be prepared to read from it. (Note that the script includes adult language and topics.)

Mostly African Americans needed for BUD, NOT BUDDY
AUDITIONS: Sun/Mon, Sept. 9 & 10 at 7 pm - Roles listed at RiverwalkTheatre.com

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

REVIEW

Catch Me If You Can Catches Praise and Awards

Jane Falion brought her well-recognized directing talent back to Riverwalk's main stage in June, with award-winning results. *Catch Me If You Can* garnered six Thespies in the *Lansing State Journal* for best musical, best director, and best actor (Brian Farnham), best supporting actor (Adam Woolsey), with additional awards for Karyn Perry's choreography, Kris Maier's costumes, and Rebecca Street's hair design. The show cleaned up at the Barneys as well. (See page 2.)

The Terrance McNally musical, based on the film starring Leonardo DiCaprio, follows the exploits of Frank Abagnale, Jr., con artist, master impersonator and check forger. Frank's odyssey proves all the more interesting because the story is true. While still a high school student, he successfully impersonated a substitute teacher. After running away from home, Frank posed as a Pan Am pilot and later transformed into an emergency room doctor, all the while passing bad checks so impressively forged that they drew the attention, and grudging admiration of the FBI agent Carl Hanratty (Adam Woolsey). Frank was eventually caught, and went on to his own second act as an FBI forgery investigator.

Brian Farnham pulled us along on Frank's adventures, using his strong voice and charming con-man swagger to full effect. He was thoroughly convincing as a son heartbroken by his parents' breakup and looking for emotional connection with hardworking nurse Brenda, played by sweet songstress Taylor Rupp. Brian gave us a glimpse of Frank's isolation and vulnerability in his scenes with Adam Woolsey, who, as Hanratty, the FBI man, shares the young conman's struggle with loneliness.

Adam, one of the area's most versatile performers, morphed - with a little help from a fabulous mustache - into Hanratty, hard-nosed and dogged in his pursuit of Frank. An accomplished song and dance man, Adam put his voice on show-stopping display in the first act with "The Man Inside the Clues." He was equally impressive while backed by the male ensemble throughout the beautifully choreographed "Don't Break the Rules." Hanratty's detective trio, played with bumbling charm by Isaac Orr, Austin Elieff and Zachary Riley, kept the crowd laughing.

Bob Purosky and Meghan Eldred played Frank's parents,

whose bitter and broken marriage so profoundly shaped their son's future. Their duet in the second act, "Don't Be a Stranger," was a highlight. Laura Croff took on two roles, first in her hilarious pre-show intro as a Pan Am stewardess and later as Carol, Brenda's sexy, southern mother. Ben Holzhausen, was excellent as Brenda's larger-than-life daddy.

The ensemble, schooled to perfection by choreographer Karyn Perry and music director John Dale Smith, kept the show racing along. The chorus included Jeremy Leonard, Aja Jenks, Christine Ciucanu, Sarah Hayner, Kelley Lofton, Kristin Pagels, Nicole Ryan, Jenna Wojdula, Drew Birchner, Timothy Lawrence and Alex Quinlan. John Dale and his versatile seven-piece band, neatly hidden away at the top of the two-level set, kept up the energy.

Scene changes were short and sweet thanks to an experienced running crew made up of Fran Ludington, Jan Ross, Cody Skalmowski, Jordan Taylor, Gloria Vivalda and Travis Williams.

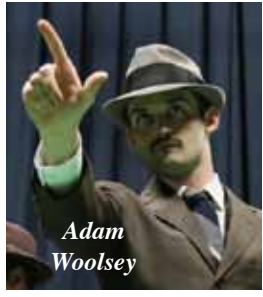


The musical was produced by Jeff Magnuson. Michele-Booher Purosky kept the show on track, pulling double duty as assistant director and stage manager. Assisting Kris Maier with her award-winning costume designs were Anna Maier, Ashley Hampton, Chanae Houska, Joanna Klepal and Mary K. Hodges-Nees. Lori Bailey-Smith handled hair design duties during a portion of the run.

Jane Falion designed the set, built by Larry Savoie, with the help of Leroy Cupp, Dan DeYonke and Bob Nees. Jules Purosky was the scenographer. Jane Falion gets credit for properties design, with the help of Gloria Vivalda and Christine Kennedy.

Matt Ottinger, Riverwalk's talented media consultant, provided projections. James B. Brunk, III designed lights, assisted by technician Nathaniel Rutkowski. The sound engineer was Troy Boyd, assisted by Kurt Wanamaker.

Carol Ferris



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Revenue from membership funds at least a quarter of our show budgets as well as general operations. Keep Riverwalk thriving for years to come! Please join at whatever level you can afford:

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 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!



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Next to Impression 5,
228 Museum Drive, south off
Michigan Avenue, across from
the Lansing Center

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Directed by
Sadonna Croff
with Music
Director
Angie
Schwab



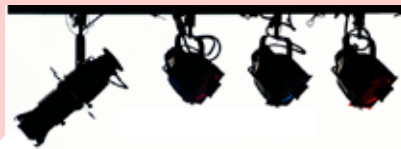
Adapted
by Stephin
Merritt and
David Greenspan
from the novel by
Neil Gaiman

Coraline discovers a mysterious parallel world that seems to offer all she wants. As it becomes increasingly unsettling, she must learn the true meaning of bravery to save her parents and herself
(Note: May be scary to very young children.)

generously supported by:



7 pm Thursday/Friday/Saturday; 4:30 pm Sunday
\$10 adults age 13+ • \$8 children
228 Museum Dr., south off Mich. Ave., next to Impression 5



Tech Workshops only \$16

Riverwalk is offering Sound and Lighting Workshops: One series is for Youth (Ages 12 -18) The second series is for Adults (Ages 16 - 107.)

Learn basic design and operation of our sound and/or lighting equipment. These workshops will help you to increase your skills to be able to work behind the scenes on future productions. (Minimum five / maximum twelve participants.)

Beginning Youth Sound Workshops, Sat., July 22 - 9:30 - Noon;
Sat., Oct. 28 - 9:30 - Noon

Beginning Adult Sound Workshops; Sat., July 22 - 1:30 - 4:30;
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Advanced Youth Lighting Workshops, Sat., Aug. 19 - 9:30 - Noon;
Sat., Jan. 6 - 9:30 - Noon

Advanced Adult Lighting Workshops - Sat., Aug. 19 - 1:30 - 4:30

(Must complete beginning series or have previous experience running sound or lights to enroll for Advanced Workshops.) Workshops will be led by a person who has experience designing sound or lights for theatre. Fee: \$16 - Workshop participants will receive materials and an "Actor" membership at Riverwalk Theatre. (Fees payable on the day of the workshop.)

More details at
www.riverwalktheatre.com/workshops



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