

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 1  
August, 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

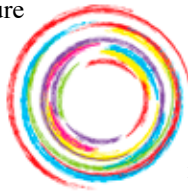
### THE STINKY CHEESEMAN promises family fun!

Have a few laughs and meet the future of Riverwalk Theatre at upcoming performances of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*.

The titular Stinky Cheese Man and a cohort of well-known fairy tale characters — some stepping into other stories — take the Riverwalk main stage July 25-28 as the ninth annual production by Riverwalk's Young Artisan Workshop.

Kids and teens are not only performing, but handling set-building and technical tasks as well, directed by Sadonna White-Croff.

The free workshop gives kids a hands-on chance to experience theater, and also helps them learn to appreciate it. "Riverwalk will still be around years from now because these kids will be our board presidents and our marketing people and people writing grants," she said.



But right now, they're putting on a show, with various tales presented vaudeville style. There's a lot of humor, a little music, and a lot of fun. The show is adapted from the popular book by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith, with music by John Gore.

"It's ridiculous. It's just funny," Croff said. "These are cute, funny, mixed-up, messed-up fairy tales."

They include "Cinderumplestiltskin," in which the crabby little dude who usually helps a miller's daughter spin straw into gold winds up in pre-ball prep with Cinderella, instead.

There's also "The Princess and the Bowling Ball" and "Little Red Running Shorts."

Croff urges people to bring their kids to support other kids and the future of Riverwalk. And also to come for one simple reason: "It's fun."

Kathleen Lavey

### BARNEYS 2019

Season 30 was honored Tuesday, June 25, with a festive Barneys show produced by Brian Farnham and Jean Burk. Matt Ottinger was back by popular demand as our genial and witty host, enhancing the "Riverwalk Family" atmosphere that many cited in their acceptance speeches. Thanks to performers Brian Farnham, Colleen and Chris Bethea, Kelley Lofton, and Jimmy McCormick (accompanied by Angie Schwab on keyboard) who performed entertaining songs foreshadowing our coming season.

**BARNEY WINNERS** are listed first, in **bold**; **NOMINEES** follow. (All averaging over 8 out of 10 in judges' points are nominees.)

**Choreography - Amanda Tollstam: Hairspray;** Fran Ludington: *Jekyll & Hyde*; Amanda Tollstam: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Costume Design - Theresa Dunn: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang;** Ashley Hampton: *Jekyll & Hyde*; Marina White Villannueva: *Jitney*; Amanda McComber: *Elephant Man*; Ashley Hampton: *Hairspray*

**Hair - Lori Bailey-Smith: Hairspray;** Susie Perazza: *Jekyll & Hyde*; Lori Bailey-Smith: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Lighting Design - Ted Daniel: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang;** Ted Daniel: *Noises Off*; James Brunk III: *Hairspray*

**Makeup - Miranda Sue Hartmann: Hairspray;** Laura Croff: *Jekyll & Hyde*

**Musical Direction - Angie Schwab: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang;** John Dale Smith: *Jekyll & Hyde*; Angie Schwab: *Hairspray*

**Properties Design - Jean Burke and Brian Farnham: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang;** Evon Anderson: *Jitney*; Sandy Norton: *The Elephant Man*

**Set Design - Leroy Cupp: Noises Off;** Marlon Torres: *Jitney*; Aja & JJ Jenks: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Set Dressing - Sarah Hayner: Hairspray;** Sadonna Croff: *Noises Off*; Aja & JJ Jenks: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Sound Design - Leon Green: Elephant Man;** Leon Green: *Noises Off*; Joe Lancour & Troy Boyd: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Director - Drama/Comedy - Susan Chmurynsky: These Shining Lives;** Vanessa Cunningham: *Jitney*; Doak Bloss: *The A-Train Plays*

—continued on page 2

### WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

★ Sat., July 13, 1 pm **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

W July 13 - September ? - a series of **RWT TECH WORKSHOPS** on set, lighting, costumes, makeup, hair... (see page 4)

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

★ August 17 - 7pm - **Curtainless Theatre** presents **THE PLAY'S THE THING**, examining marginalized individuals through Shakespeare's texts - free of charge; donations to Riverwalk Theatre accepted

A 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

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

W **WORKSHOP** - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

A August 18-19, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm,

★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website

## HAIRSPRAY

*Hairspray* is a special musical, combining campy nostalgia with social conscience and courage. No wonder it was the biggest seller of Season 30.

Kudos to Sarah Hayner on her first directing project at Riverwalk, pulling together a large cast and crew, not to mention a six piece orchestra under the direction of Angie Constien-Schwab. Choreographer Amanda Tollstein had them dancing up a storm, and costumer Ashley Hampton and Hair Designer Lori Bailey Smith brought the era to life with style.

Many new-to-Riverwalk performers I hope will be back. Kayla Henry had the voice and the moves and the sincerity to nail the role of Tracy, the wannabe dance-show star. Taren Going was delightful as Tracy's bubbling sidekick, Penny. Drew Doman was by turns timid, voluptuous and fabulous as mom Edna. Robert Mueller was the heartthrob with a heart, and a great voice. Sean Holland II was the cool soul brother with all the right moves and an easy charm. Luka

Pawsek was the nerdy but heroic, romantic father, Wilbur. I loved the "villains": stuck up yet still endearing Amber Van Tussle (Taylor Rupp) and her glamorously vicious, scheming mom, Meghan Eldred-Woolsey. Aja Jenks brought a sanctimonious fluster to Penny's mom, Prudy.

Janell Hall's maternal perspective and great gospel pipes enhanced Motormouth Maybelle. Ryan Betts was a petite but spunky Little Inez. Particularly outstanding was Greg Martin (of Baron Bomburst fame) excellent and very different as both Mr. Pinky and the Ultra-Clutch Hairspray guy. Erin Hoffman brought a droll, rude humor to both the Gym Teacher and the Prison Matron. And Alex Quinlan combined smarmy/cheesy with a progressive viewpoint to help counter the fat-shaming, racist villains trying to keep the Corny Collins Dance show white and slim.

Ashley Hampton and crew on costumes



L to R: Sean Holland II, Ryan Betts, Taren Going, Kayla Henry PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

and Lori Bailey-Smith on the all-important hairdos brought the early-60's era to life. The challenging but effective set was designed by Aja Jenks with Bob Nees as Lead Builder. Bernie Lucas led on props, James B. Brunk III designed lights. Thanks to all who helped on costumes, set and more. 74 dedicated and talented people worked on this show.

Jane Zussman

**Featured Actor - Drama/Comedy - Guy Stockard as Doub in *Jitney***; LeKeathon Wilson as Youngblood in *Jitney*; Ndegwa McCloud as Jonathan/John in *The A-Train Plays*

**Featured Actress - Drama/Comedy - Anasti Her as Reiko/Terry/Brianna in *The A-Train Plays***; Erin Hoffman as Poppy Norton-Taylor in *Noises Off*

**Lead Actor - Drama/Comedy - Bruce Wade as Becker in *Jitney***; Guy Thomas as Turnbo in *Jitney*; Heath Sartorius as Roy/Jason/Jesus in *The A-Train Plays*

**Lead Actress - Drama/Comedy - Taylor Rupp as Catherine Donohue in *These Shining Lives***; Nita Haberlein as Dotty Otley in *Noises Off*; Cassie Little as Nina/Nancy/Natalie in *The A-Train Plays*

**Supporting Actor - Drama/Comedy - Kenneth Nelson as Booster in *Jitney***; Jesse Frawley as Skip/Harry/Chuck/Howard in *The A-Train Plays*; Stephen Ledyard as Ross, Bishop Walsham-How, and Snork in *The Elephant Man*

**Supporting Actress - Drama/Comedy - Cassie Little as Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off***; Janell Hall as Rena in *Jitney*; Anna Szabo as Susan/Amber in *The A-Train Plays*

**Director - Musical - Sarah Hayner for *Hairspray***; Tom Ferris for *Jekyll & Hyde*; Brian Farnham for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Featured Actor - Musical - Brian Farnham as Simon Stride in *Jekyll & Hyde***; Greg Martin as Mr. Pinky in *Hairspray*; Luka Pawsek as Wilbur Turnblad in *Hairspray*

**Featured Actress - Musical - Meghan Eldred-Woolsey as Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray***; Danica O'Neill as Guenevere in *Jekyll & Hyde*; Ryan Betts as Lil' Inez in *Hairspray*

**Lead Actor - Musical - Ben Holzhausen as Caractacus Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***; Kameron Going as Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde in *Jekyll & Hyde*; Phineas Reed as Jeremy Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Robert Mueller as Link Larkin in *Hairspray*

**Lead Actress - Musical - Sally Hecksel as Lucy Harris in *Jekyll & Hyde***; Sarah Hayner as Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Isabella Edmonds-Hogan as Jemima Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

**Supporting Actor - Musical - Travis Williams as John Utterson in *Jekyll & Hyde***; Greg Martin as Baron Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Sean Holland II as Seaweed Stubbs in *Hairspray*; Drew Doman as Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*

**Supporting Actress - Musical - Janell Hall as Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray***; Kelly Lofton as Emma Crew in *Jekyll & Hyde*; Laura Croff as Baroness Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; Taylor Rupp as Amber Von Tussle in *Hairspray*

**Ensemble - Musical - *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; *Jekyll & Hyde*; *Hairspray***

**BACKSTAGE BARNEYS recognize an outstanding behind-the-scenes asset:**

- James Brunk - *Jekyll & Hyde*
- Ted Daniel - *These Shining Lives*
- Vanessa Askew - *Jitney*
- The Smiths - *Noises Off*
- Patti Wieber - *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*
- Nick Lemmer - *The A-Train Plays*
- Marcus Fields - *The Elephant Man*
- Anna Szabo - *A Behanding in Spokane*
- Morgan Pohl - *Freud's Last Session*
- Michele Booher-Purosky - *Hairspray*

**HOWARD LANCOUR Newcomer Award**

**Ryan Betts: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***

**BOB GRAS BLACK BOX Award - Mara McGill**

**MARILYN STEEGSTRAYOU TAKE THE CAKE Volunteer Award - Matt Ottinger**

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD Marge Hetherington - for costume shop leadership and philanthropic support**

**MEMBERS' CHOICE for favorite show - *Jekyll & Hyde***



# A U D I T I O N S



*By Lynn Nottage  
Directed by George Popovich*

*Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize*

**AUDITIONS: August 18 and 19, 7 pm**  
**Performances: Oct. 3-6 and 10-13, 2019**

It's 2000/2008 and union blue collar workers in Berks County, Reading, Pennsylvania enjoy a decent middle class life and secure future until management at Olstead's Steel Tubing Plant decides to make some changes including layoffs and the recruitment of Latino workers. Friends become rivals and enemies, loyalties shift and change as the workers are pitted against themselves and their friends. Examines America's aspirations, hopes, dreams and disappointments through the lenses of class, race and politics.

**Evan, Male, 40s. Black / African Descent** - displays a tough, direct, and no-nonsense approach. A career parole officer, he is committed to helping his parolees succeed through a mixture of tough love and challenge He can more than take care of himself.

**Cynthia, Female, 45/53. Black / African Descent** - is a steel worker. Starting at the plant as a teenager, she and Tracey have been best friends, and have given their lives to the line. Focused, ambitious and sturdy, despite the derision of her colleagues, she applies for a promotion and finally escapes the line and becomes a floor manager. Cynthia's loyalty to her colleagues and friends is tested when the closing of the plant is announced.

**Jason, Male, 21/29. White / European Descent** - has the strong build of a young man who went from the gridiron straight to the production line. He has deep working class roots, is proud of his blue collar heritage and still has faith that his life will be spent in the factory. He is youthful, tough, funny and charismatic. In prison he hardens into a white supremacist, his optimism transforming into rage.

**Chris, Male, 21/29. Black / African Descent** - is the son of Cynthia and Brucie. He is Jason's best friend. He is muscular, charismatic, youthful, warm; a steel worker, with aspirations to educate himself and find a life beyond the steel plant. He eventually hardens into a disillusioned ex-con and turns to religion to help him fight his darkness within.

**Stan, Male, 50s. White / European Descent** - is friendly but stern, a former steel worker who was injured at the plant. Stan now tends the bar that the

plant workers frequent. He has watched the lives of his customers play out and is deeply empathetic with their struggles, but his word is the rule of law. It would be a mistake to cross this man.

**Oscar, Male, 22/30. Latino / Hispanic Descent** - is Colombian-American, a busboy at the local bar. He keeps to himself, always conscious that in this community of the disenfranchised and powerless he is at the bottom of the heap. When the steel plant locks out the workers, Oscar is willing to risk everything to cross the picket lines and seize the opportunity to better his life. Although he was born in Berks County, he is still considered an outsider.

**Tracey, Female, 45/53 White / European Descent** - is a steel worker and true company loyalist. She has given her life to the line. She is funny, brassy, bossy, opinionated and fiercely loyal. As her life begins to spiral out of control she can no longer manage the cocktail of disillusionment and anger that simmers below her surface.

**Jessie, Female, 40/49. White / European Descent** - is a steel worker and a former hippie with a warm disposition and easy access to her humor. She drowns her sorrows in booze and is a sloppy drunk whose anger and disappointment with the cards she's been dealt bubble up when she drinks.

**Brucie, Male, 40s. Black / African Descent** - is Chris' father and Cynthia's estranged husband. Handsome, but fading fast, he is a former textile factory worker, now a smooth-talking heroin addict. He was once charismatic, but has fully succumbed to his addiction. He is still capable of being charming, but as his circumstances become increasingly desperate so does his behavior

Come prepared to read from the script.

**UPCOMING AUDITIONS; more info at <https://www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html>**  
Sept. 16, Mon., 7pm, **HOLIDAY CHEER**, song and dance, director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey; music John Dale Smith. (shows Dec. 20-22, 2019)

Oct. 6 and 7, Sun./Mon., 7 pm, **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN**, musical, director: Jean Burk (shows Nov. 29 - Dec. 8, 2019)

Dec. 8 and 9, Sun./Mon., 7 pm, **A HOTEL ON MARVIN GARDENS**, auditions for select roles, director: Mary K. Hodges-Nees (shows Mar. 12-22)

Dec. 15 and 16, Sun./Mon., 7 pm, **UNNECESSARY FARCE**, director: Jeff Magnuson (performs February 6-16, 2020)

**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)**

## Have you EXPIRED?

**RWT membership runs July - June. Pay your dues NOW to be listed in the PIPPIN program!**

Revenue from membership funds at least a quarter of our show budgets as well as general operations. Keep Riverwalk thriving for years to come!

**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

**IT'S EASY TO JOIN OR RENEW:**

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.

## RIVERWALK THEATRE

### 2018-2019 Officers

President, Jeff Magnuson  
Administrative VP, Darrin Fowler  
Production VP, Rita Deibler  
Treasurer, Michele Booher-Purosky  
Secretary, Brian Farnham

### 2018-2019 Board of Directors

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Shannon Bowen     | Scott Pohl      |
| Bernie Campanella | Leo Poroshin    |
| Dee Freeman       | Brett Robertson |
| Leon Green        | Hope Rollins    |
| Sarah Hayner      | Linda Widener   |
| Erik Larson       | Jane Zussman    |
| Scott Mandel      |                 |

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 Syracuse (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

Saturday, June 22, courtesy of MSU's Summer Circle Theatre, a hardy few veterans of Riverwalk's first production, *Dames at Sea* gathered to observe its 30th Anniversary at the SCT performance of *Dames at Sea*.

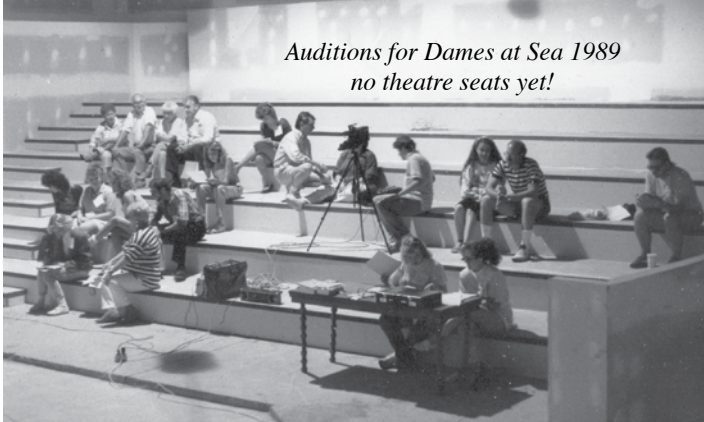
Estina Banks (stage manager), Bruce Bennett (set designer), Tom Klunzinger (Hennessey) and Rick Wendorf (Captain) took the stage before the show at the invitation of SCT Artistic Director Rob Roznowski to share memories of the somewhat-chaotic time leading up to the 1989 opening of the show.

Interior construction had been delayed and so the first performance was pushed back until it had to occur on Sunday, October 22, because realtor Kay Logan had bought out the theater for that date and invited 200 guests. The cast rehearsed in construction dust and workers were laying the actual wood for the stage on the night before the show.

(Rob had previously invited Bruce to design this year's SCT set, perhaps with the hope that Bruce had had 30 years to think about improvements.)

Jeff and Tina (Barnhart) Brenner met on the Riverwalk stage in this production, then married there three years later. Their younger daughter Alaina is now cast in *Pippin* which opens August 29.

## A Riverwalk Milestone



*Auditions for Dames at Sea 1989  
no theatre seats yet!*

Tom Klunzinger noted that the experience was the direct inspiration for his original musical *To Be Announced*, presented at Riverwalk two years later, then revived with six new songs by Todd Heywood's *Sunsets with Shakespeare* in 2005.

Heywood was among the cast members unable to attend, as was Tina, Cindy Lyons Miller, Jeff Richards, Lori Swenson and Jenny Haering; Steve Morrin and Alex Kruzal passed several years ago.

As a cross-cast gift, Klunzinger presented Roznowski with a framed SCT handbill autographed in May in New York by the show's original 1968 star, Bernadette Peters. At the end of the show, the 1989 alums joined the 2019 cast in a rousing reprise of "Good Times Are Here to Stay."

## YOU can be a Techie!

Workshops require only that you be a *MEMBER* of Riverwalk (starts at \$15 - [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com) - click the "more" tab and scroll to "get involved") Here's your chance to learn new skills and maybe get hooked up to work on one of our future shows!

**Pre-register** by emailing Shannon Bowen at [pessimisticallychipper@gmail.com](mailto:pessimisticallychipper@gmail.com) with your name and what workshop(s) you would like to attend. Workshops are at RWT (except costume design.)

**7/13 & ?? - LIGHTING design with Cody Skalmowski** - Basics July 13, 4-6 pm; Advanced in August; stay tuned.

**7/13 & 20 - SET design/build/scenography with Tom Ferris** - July 13 and/or 20, noon-2 pm.

**7/17 - COSTUME design with Kate Koskinen** - July 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm **AT RWT COSTUME SHOP**, 1131 May St.

**7/20 - PROPERTIES design with Diane Cooke and Bernie Lucas** - July 20, 12:30-2 pm

**8/3 - STAGE MANAGEMENT with Rita Deibler** - August 3, 12:30-2 pm

**8/10 - MAKEUP design with Susie Perazza** - August 10, 12:30-2 pm

**9/? HAIR design with Lori Bailey-Smith** - Stay tuned for a date to be determined in September 2019



**Wacky COMEDY with Music by John Glore Directed by Sadonna Croff**



**July 25-28, 2019**

**7 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 4:30 pm Sunday**

**\$8 children; \$10 adults age 13+ (general seating)**

**youngartisanworkshop**



Supported in part by MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • COMMUNITY FOUNDATION • ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

