

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 35 • Number 1
August-September, 2023

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 5 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

ADMISSIONS:

Privilege, Power, and the Perils of Hypocrisy

What happens when the values you cherish conflict with wanting to get ahead? This is the question at the center of *Admissions*, Riverwalk Theatre's first show of our 35th season.

Director **Bob Robinson** is a veteran of Riverwalk and Lansing theatre. "When I first saw *Admissions*, I was struck by how powerfully it examined the themes of white privilege, systemic racism, sexism and the use of affirmative action and 'legacy' status in college admissions," Robinson said.

Sherri Rosen-Mason (**Emily Clark**) is head of the admissions department at a New England prep school, fighting to diversify the student body. Alongside her husband, the school's headmaster (**Jeff Kennedy**), they've largely succeeded in bringing a stodgy institution into the twenty-first century. But when their only son (**Heath Sartorius**) sets his sights on an Ivy League university, personal ambition collides with progressive values, with convulsive results. A no-holds-barred look at privilege, power, and the perils of hypocrisy.



*What's on that cellphone?!
Parents Emily Clark and
Jeff Kennedy react to son
Heath Sartorius's news.*

PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

heroes and villains, but when all our characters exist in the moral grey areas, every choice becomes complicated. I hope this show will drive thought and conversation for the audience the way it has for all of us working on it."

Robinson sums up the show this way: "Our veteran cast (also including **Colleen Bethea** and **Jane Zussman**) has worked tirelessly to tell this story and remind us that our society still has deep political and cultural divisions."

Admissions runs September 14-17 and 21-24 on Riverwalk's Black Box stage; general admission. Showtimes: 7 p.m. Thurs., 8 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit riverwalktheatre.com or call our box office at 517-482-5700.

Clark said of the play, "I'm excited to hear the audience reaction to this script. It's going to provide some great 'car ride home' conversation, and I think there will be many different opinions."

"It's odd to have so much fun working on a show with such heavy subject material, but it really has been a joy working with this cast and crew," Kennedy said. "There's a simplicity to

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

 September 14-17 & 21-24
- **ADMISSIONS** by Joshua Harmon, Directed by Bob Robinson - black box


A Sunday & Monday, September 24 & 25 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for CHRISTMAS BELLES** Directed by Kate Dickenson


 October 19-21 & 26-28 - **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW** by Richard O'Brien, Directed by Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman - main stage - **both 8pm & midnight Fri. & Sat.;** **NO Sunday shows**

 November 9-12 & 16-19 - **TRAIL TO OREGON** by Nick & Matt Lang, Brian Holden & Jeff Blim, Directed by Ayden Soupal - black box

A Wed/Thurs., Nov. 29/30 at 7pm - and by appointment - **AUDITIONS for THE EXONERATED** Directed by Alan Greenberg. Contact alanbgreenberg@gmail.com for appointment if you cannot attend Wednesday or Thursday.

 **ALL SHOWS:** 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. (**ROCKY HORROR ONLY:** both 8pm & midnight Fri. & Sat.; no Sundays)

 **PLAYS:** \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military)

 **MUSICALS:** \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 children under 13)

A **AUDITIONS** - more info at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

Susan Smith - Lobby Artist

I love color. I like working with a variety of media, exploring their possibilities, mixing them together and experimenting. Currently, my favorites are alcohol inks. Alcohol inks are an exciting new medium in the art world. The colors are bright, happy, explosive. Several of the alcohol inks on display are coated with Art Resin, which not only protects the work, but adds a stunning 3-D like dimension.

I am not an outdoor painter. I paint from memory, still life's, or photos (usually my husband's). Most of the time I combine several photos to come up with a composition. 90 percent of my creative process takes place right on the paper, canvas, glass, etc., making the original subject only a starting point for the finished work.

With concern over our climate crisis, I often reverse paint on old, discarded windows. The windows look fabulous indoors or out. I seldom discard unused palette paint, instead wipe my brushes on paper bags, eventually a painting appears.

This exhibit is comprised of water colors, acrylics, reverse acrylic painting on glass, mixed-media collage, alcohol inks and mosaic glass. I hope you'll enjoy the art!

Susan Smith

Instagram: artbysusansmith
email: susanpainting@yahoo.com
517-719-6504



Emerging Playwrights' five winning scripts took the Riverwalk Black Box stage August 5 for the first annual Emerging Playwrights Festival. This intriguing array of tales, more dark than light, each displayed fresh writing and acting talent.

This annual play-writing competition is sponsored by Riverwalk Theatre thanks to generous underwriting by Gordon Masters.

Five high school students each received a \$1000 prize for their short scripts: **Sarah Garver**, 11th grade, Mason HS - *Octavia's Bridge*; **Kieran Arnett**, 10th grade, Everett HS - *Choices*; **Molly Weaver**, 12th grade, Holt HS - *Our Fairytale*; **Angel Hobbs**, 9th grade, Everett HS - *The*

Riley Hirai and Rachel Steffens



Most Important Rock/Paper/Scissors Game Ever; **Olivia Quiroga**, 11th grade, Holt HS - *The Grass Was Greener*

Thanks and kudos to directors Tom Ferris and Susan Chmurynsky, and to actors: Adam Carlson, Gordon Clark, Brandon Dinh, Kamara Drane, Riley Hirai, Charles Hoogstraten, Storm Kopitsch, Rebecca Lane, Ashley W. Morris, Laura Nguyen, Ayden Soupal, Rachel Steffens — as well as the behind the scenes crew that helped it

happen: Leon Green, Danny and Carol Ferris, Merialice Jensen and Sandy Norton, with special thanks to Costume Shop ladies Kate Koskinen, Cathy Wotring and Lisa Pappas.

Announcing 2024 Competition

Our Emerging Playwrights competition is open for the 2023–24 school year, challenging high school students (grades 9–12) in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties to write short, one-act plays. There is no entry fee. Judges will select five scripts in May 2024. Again, each winning author will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and have their plays presented at Riverwalk in the summer of 2024. Download rules and application forms at riverwalktheatre.com. Questions? Contact us at EmergingPlaywrights.RWT@gmail.com.



Costume Shop Moving Sale a Huge Success! ...and new HOURS!

THANKS to all of the wonderful volunteers, to the people who donated sale items and to the many shoppers! Costumes flew out the door. Shoppers purchased not one but multiple costumes. Puzzles, games, toys and household items were also big sellers.

Winners of the customer drawing for one costume rental with accessories were Shawna Clements, Brandon Witmer and Melissa Biel. Best wishes to these three and may their costumes be the hit of their events!

The Costume Shop must move by November, 2024. The sale was a good start to fund this move, and plans are already begun

for another sale next year.

We are looking for a building with 3,000 to 5,000 square feet of space which is easily accessible for moving costumes in and out. It must be climate controlled with parking for no less than six vehicles and have



a bathroom. If you are reading this and have any leads or know of someone who may help us locate such a space, please call Riverwalk Theatre, (517) 482-5700, and a member of the Costume Shop Move Committee will contact you.

New Shop Hours:

Adding WEDNESDAYS 1-4 pm to regular hours of Mon. & Fri. 4-6:30.

Stop by the shop 1131 May Street and check out Halloween costumes, Renaissance Fest garb, and more. Come on in and say hi — and have a good time dressing up!

A U D I T I O N S

CHRISTMAS BELLES

Comedy by Jones Hope Wooten • Director: Kate Clark | Stage Manager: Rita Sobish

AUDITIONS: Sun & Mon, Sept. 24 & 25, 2023 at 7pm

Production Dates: Dec. 7-10 & 14-17, 2023

A church Christmas program spins hilariously out of control in this Southern farce about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santa, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator. This hilarious holiday journey through a misadventure-filled Christmas Eve is guaranteed to bring joy to your world!

Cast of Characters and Ages*:

All characters are open to actors of any race/ethnicity.

Frankie Futrelle Dubberly (woman/female-presenting, late 30s-mid 40s): youngest Futrelle sister, weeks overdue with her second set of twins and cranky; has a family secret she's been keeping.

Honey Raye Futrelle (woman/

female-presenting, around 50): oldest Futrelle sister, suffers hot flashes; desperately tries to keep Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas pageant from spiraling into chaos.

Twink Futrelle (woman/female-presenting, early-late 40s): middle Futrelle sister, in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town; getting revenge on her ex is always top of her mind.

Dub Dubberly (man/male-presenting, early 40s-early 50s): Frankie's husband, Santa at the local Super SmartMart, passing a kidney stone.

Gina Jo (G.J.) Dubberly (woman/female-presenting, 20s): Frankie and Dub's daughter, tries to take care of everyone in her family and everything else amid all the chaos; avoiding her boyfriend, Justin.

Justin Waverly (man/male-presenting, 20s-early 30s): interim Pastor at Tabernacle of the Lamb and Rudy the Reindeer at Super SmartMart; G.J.'s boyfriend who wants to propose but can't pin her down.

Miss Geneva Musgrave (woman/female-presenting, 50s-70s): busybody town florist and ousted director of previous 27 pageants who tries to take over the show.

John Curtis Buntner (man/male-presenting, late 30s-early 50s): deputy sheriff tasked with looking after Twink during her community service; makes an appearance as Elvis. (no singing required)

Rhonda Lynn Lampley (woman/female-presenting, 50s): manager of Dairy Dog who recently became close to Frankie, which annoys Honey Raye and Twink; pleasant, cheerful, overly helpful.

Raynerd Chisum (man/male-presenting, any age 18+): part-time employee at Dairy Dog, town simpleton; sincere, sweet, food-motivated, loves his red wagon.

Patsy Price (woman/female-presenting, 40s-50s): classy local society woman; disliked by Futrelles.

*Ages are those of the character and not necessarily the actor who portrays them. Please audition if you are interested in a part(s) or the show itself. Come prepared to read from the script.

We are actively seeking a diverse cast and welcome diversity of all types. If you have questions prior to auditioning or cannot make either date, contact Director Kate Clark. dickinson.katie99@gmail.com

PERUSAL SCRIPTS for all shows are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:00 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

THE EXONERATED

Drama by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen

Directed by Alan Greenberg

Audition Dates: Wed. & Thurs., November 29 & 30 2023 at 7 pm. (or by appt.)

Production Dates: February 15-18 & 22-25

The Exonerated combines first-person narrative with legal records to tell the stories of six wrongfully con-

victed inmates: Delbert Tibbs, Kerry Max Cook, Gary Gauger, David Keaton, Robert Earl Hayes and Sunny Jacobs and their paths to freedom. Their accounts of these freed convicts emphasize their lives after being sentenced to death, including much of the legal proceedings that gained their exoneration.

Delbert - African-American, 60. A seminary dropout, radical and poet. His whole personality is like an old soul song; smooth, mellow and with an underlying rhythm that never lets up. Actors playing Delbert should take care to find his substantial sense of humor

in addition to his obvious depth. **Sunny White** - 50. A bright, Pixie-ish yoga teacher from California. Her lightness and positivity contrast with moments of great depth and clarity.

Robert - African-American, 30s. A former horse groomer from the Deep South; hardened but not lacking a sense of humor. Deep rural Mississippi accent.

Georgia/Female Ensemble #1 - African-American, 30s. Robert's wife, also southern; Opinionated outspoken Female and extremely warm. She and Robert have a lov-

—cont on page 4

MEMBERSHIP

funds at least a quarter of show budgets plus general operating expenses to maintain our building and staff.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR A SECURE FUTURE!

Actor — \$15-24, Ripples, voting on board members and 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

THREE WAYS TO JOIN: go to riverwalktheatre.com

- click "more" then "get involved" to join online — OR phone Mike with your credit card info 517-482-5700 — OR just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

RIVERWALK

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Stracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com) 517-482-5700 or at RiverwalkTheatre.com



P.O. Box 12249
Lansing MI 48901

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

Exonerated cont. from p; 3

ingly contentious relationship. Loves to speak her mind.

Gary White, 45. A Midwestern hippie and an organic farmer. Clearly was in his element in the late 60s and early 70s. He is generally good-natured, friendly, and quite smart.

Kerry White, 45. A 19-year-old trapped in a 45-year-old's body, born and bred in Texas. Kerry was imprisoned for 22 of his 45 years and is eager to rediscover the world. Always wants to make sure he connects with whomever he is talking to. Strong Texas accent.

David - African American, 40. A gentle, sad man, born and raised in northern Florida (otherwise known as southern Alabama). Has a very strong spiritual sense and had aspirations to the ministry before being put on death row at 18. He is continually engaged in a battle between resignation and hope.

Sandra/Sue/Female Ensemble #2 - White, 40. Sandra is married to Kerry. Sweet, nurturing, loves Kerry dearly and has a great sense of humor about

him. She has a strong Texas accent. Sue is married to Gary. Salt of the earth; She is also an organic farmer. She has a strong uppermidwestern accent - think Fargo.

Male Ensemble #1 & #2 - Both white, 35 to 50. Male ensemble one and two play police officers, attorneys, suspects, and other supporting characters. Both actors should be good with dialects and characterization. Both roles require highly versatile commanding actors.

Since the play is based on real life characters, many of whom are still living, there are some, but limited opportunities for non-traditional casting. All actors will be considered.

If you cannot make one of the scheduled audition dates, please e-mail AlanBGreenberg@gmail.com and include your name and phone number. You will be called back to set an audition time.

Come prepared to read from the script. Perusal scripts are available at the Riverwalk Theatre Office Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5:00pm or contact us at: RWT@Riverwalktheatre.com

SEASON TICKETS

\$130 sold ONLY through Sept. 25.

Coupons are interchangeable for same type shows (plays, musicals)

9/14-24 - ADMISSIONS - topical dramedy tackles school diversity. Director: Bob Robinson - black box

10/19-28- THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW musical science-fiction B-movie spoof - Directors: Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman - main stage

11/9-19 - TRAIL TO OREGON - Musical parody of the video game pioneer saga. Director: Ayden Soupal - black box

12/7-17 - CHRISTMAS BELLES - mad-cap Southern farce of a pageant gone awry. Director: Kate Clark - main stage

2/15-25 - THE EXONERATED - Uplifting true stories of death-row inmates. Director: Alan Greenberg - black box

3/14-24 - AMADEUS - a fictional imagining of the Mozart Salieri rivalry - Director: Amy Rickett - main stage

4/11-21 - MOONGLOW - Touching tale of feisty conflict and geriatric love - Director: Emily Clark - black box

5/16-26 - JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH - Family Musical of escape from conniving Aunts aboard a magical Peach with insect friends. Director: Linda Widener - main stage

Available at riverwalktheatre.com or call 517-482-5700

ADMISSIONS
by Joshua Harmon
directed by Bob Robinson

Black Box Stage
general admission seating
reservation ensures admission
517-482-5700

SEPTEMBER 14-17 & 21-24, 2023

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

