

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 2
September, 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

PIPPIN brings Circus Magic

A few things you might not know about *Pippin*:

- It first opened on Broadway in 1972, directed by Bob Fosse. It was successfully revived in 2013.
- The musical tells the story of a young prince who is looking for adventure and satisfaction – and finds it where he least expects it.
- The much-loved musical is coming to Riverwalk Theatre August 29-September 8, directed by Meghan Eldred-Woolsey with musical direction by John Dale Smith and choreography by Amanda Tollstam.

With songs like “Corner of the Sky,” “Magic to Do,” and “Simple Joys,” *Pippin* brings memorable and much-loved music to the stage. The music was written by Stephen Schwartz; the story by Roger O. Hirson, who died this spring at 93. Schwartz has also composed music for *Godspell*, *Wicked* and *The Prince of Egypt*.

Playbill describes *Pippin* as a “dark and groovy coming-of-age musical.” The title character is the son of the Emperor Charlemagne, returning home from college and eager to start his adult life. That, of course, starts with a quest that leads to war, revolution and more.

The Riverwalk cast includes Adam Woolsey as Pippin, Rachael Cupples as the leading player, Drew Doman as Charles, Robert Mueller as Lewis, Tricia Rogers as Fastrada, Oralya Garza as Berthe, Sarah Hayner as Catherine and Camryn Cardwell as Theo.



The Band of Players, lead by Rachael Cupples (front) as Leading Player
PHOTO BY WWW.ARINKO.COM

The band of players is Wyatt Anthony, Erin Biel, Alaina Brenner, Zachary Freeman, Mandy Fuller, Jackson Hall, Kelley Lofton, Alexis Loy-Alberta, Kathryn Mulcahy, Kristin Pagels and Gabriel Pitman.

Director Meghan says, “Although *Pippin* is not a family show (the content is decidedly PG-13), it is about the families we choose. Obviously there is the standard nuclear family that Pippin is able to find with Catherine and Theo, but there is also the much more overlooked and underrated family that the players make of themselves.

“This production is based on the circus theme used in the 2013 revival. The players perform circus tricks ranging from juggling to hula hoop tricks and acrobatics — and we have three aerial silk performers, trained by Deb Keller. The main stage has been transformed into a circus tent and we’re ready to perform some magic!”

Kathleen Lavey

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

- 🎵 Aug. 29-Sept. 1 & September 5-8, **PIPPIN** musical, Director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey
- 👤 October 3-6 & 10-13 **SWEAT** - Pulitzer Prize-Winning drama - Director: George Popovich
- Oct. 24-27 & Oct. 31-Nov. 3 - **A PIECE OF MY HEART** - true drama, Director: Diane Cooke
- 🎵 November 29-December 1 & 5-8 - **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN** - family musical - Director: Jean Burk
- ▲ December 8 and 9, Sun/Mon, 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for A Hotel on Marvin Gardens**, Director: Mary K. Hodges-Nees (performs March 12-22, 2020)
- ▲ December 15 and 16, Sun/Mon, 7 pm, **AUDITIONS for Unnecessary Farce** - Director: Jeff Magnuson (performs February 6-16, 2020)
- ★ December 20-22 - **HOLIDAY CABARET** musical variety - Director: Meghan Eldred-Woolsey
- January 16-19 & 23-26, **BOY GETS GIRL** - sexual politics thriller - Director: Brian Farnham
- 👤 **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)
- **BLACK BOX SHOWS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fridays & Saturdays; 2 pm Sundays \$12 (\$10 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$10/\$8**
- ▲ August 18-19, Sunday and Monday, 7 pm
- ★ **SPECIAL EVENT:** see website
- W **WORKSHOP** - More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

The Stinky Cheese Man Smells Like Fun



L to R: back: Trevor Mims, Vaun Ginzal-Hill, Ryan Dahl; front: Tauren Del Rio, Racheal Wilkes, Jeremiah Davis • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

This fun show was Young Artisan Workshop's sassy answer-back to "normal" fairy tales. It included many favorites, twisted and turned on their heads: Little Red Running Shorts, Cinderumpelstilskin, The Princess and the Bowling Ball, and more. The script is playwright John Glone's creative adaptation of the award-winning children's book by Jon Scieszka.

Leading the pack of 26 young actors between the ages of 8 and 18 is Ryan Dahl as Jack, the Narrator, (and sometimes Tortoise.) His confident, engaging manner, and Giant-coping skills hold the show together as the fairy-tale spoofs run over each other. (The Giant was played with roaring energy by Simon Rebeck, who also served as assistant director, stage manager, and helped director Sadonna with the scenic painting.)

I enjoyed the saucy Foxy Loxy (Carlie

Smith) who proved very capable, taking over some narrating when Jack was indisposed. Camryn Cardwell was an adorable and cheeky frog, very accomplished for 8 years old; we are excited to see he has been cast in the upcoming *Pippin*, continuing his Riverwalk career. Lucy Ackerman was an insistent Chicken Licken; Beatrice Backhaus was a colorful and energetic Stinky Cheese Man.

My 11 and 13 year old guests particularly enjoyed Narrator Jack — and also the frenzied Cow Patty Boy, Trevor Mims. It might have been helpful to instruct younger children on the definition of a cow patty before the show, so they could have anticipated one of the "special effects" later in the show.

Props: "I have to make a *what* fall from the sky?!"

The set was a lovely, old-timey painted proscenium and featured alternating stone/castle/forest scenes on the turn-able periactoids. The costumes were a colorful melange of "people clothes" that suggested the various animal characters in an imaginative way. Foxy Loxy had a feather boa; the Tortoise shell was an umbrella. Good job, Sadonna, Molly Rebeck and Camara Lewis.

Director and All-Purpose Mom of the Workshop, Sadonna Croff, has created a magical community in her eight years of masterminding the Young Artisan Workshop. This free program not only supports the actors but many crew kids learning to build/paint sets, design/run lights, and make props and costumes. "Instructors" helping Sadonna were Tom Ferris on sets and Ted Daniel on lighting.

Jane Zussman



Based on Charles Schultz's Comic Strip "Peanuts" Book, Music and lyrics by Clark M. Gesner

Director — Jean Burk

Music Director — Angie Schwab

AUDITIONS: Sunday & Monday, October 6&7, 2019, at 7 pm.

Show Dates Nov. 22-Dec. 1, 2019

Here is an average day in the life of Charlie Brown. This classic cartoon comes to life with a charming revue of vignettes and songs.

Sally Brown: Charlie Brown's little sister. She is the typical annoying little sister. Friends with Lucy

Gender: Female; Age: Young at heart; Vocal range top: F5, Vocal range bottom: G3

Lucy VanPelt: Very confident, know it all. Friends with Sally. In Love with Schroeder

Gender: Female; Age: Young At Heart; Vocal range top: F5; Vocal range bottom: G3

Snoopy: Charlie Brown's Dog. Very independent.

Gender: Male or female; Age: Young at Heart; Vocal range top: A4; Vocal range bottom: C3

Schroeder: Very passionate about the piano and Beethoven. Loved by Lucy

Gender: male; Age: Young at Heart; Vocal range top: G#4/Ab4; Vocal range bottom: A#2/Bb

Charlie Brown: Your average kid, brother to Sally and focal point of the show.

Gender: male; Age: Young at Heart; Vocal range top: F4; Vocal range bottom: A#2

Linus Van Pelt: Good Friend to Charlie Brown, Loves his blanket

Gender: male; Age: Young at Heart; Vocal range top: E4; Vocal range bottom: A3/Bb2

Ensemble: Varying ages and voice types. Will play characters such as Woodstock and the Little Red Headed Girl.

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 audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html



Lobby Artist – Paula Sage

Our lobby artist Paula Sage lives in Pottsville, Michigan and went to school at LCC and Davenport University here in Lansing.

Paula has been a volunteer as The Membership Art Shows Chairperson from 1997-2007, and volunteers for the Mid-Michigan Art Guild in Lansing as well as the Eaton Art League.

Her list of shows and awards include the Ledges Crafters Lane, Hope Borbas Okemos Library Art Show, Greater Lansing Orchid Society, Mason Art Guild Show, Mid Michigan Art Guild Member Show, Christian Art Juried Show, Art One Studio Group Show, Shiawassee Art Center Group Show, Shiawassee Art Center Juried Art show, and more.

This is Paula's third show at Riverwalk, and we are thrilled to have her back!

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 the 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. 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.

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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 Siracuse (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

Free Techie Workshops

Stay Tuned!

More workshops are coming but we're not exactly sure what and when. Plans are in the works for Makeup and Hair Design... with possible repeats of the successful Set Design/Build, and Lighting Design/Operation. This is all part of our master plan to grow our team of backstage experts to support productions of the future!

If you are interested in learning more about backstage volunteering, email Shannon Bowen at pessimisticallychipper@gmail.com with your name and areas of interest. She's making a list and checking it twice and will notify the naughty and nice (haha) about future plans.

(Free workshops require only that you be a *MEMBER* of Riverwalk (starts at \$15 - www.riverwalktheatre.com - click the "more" tab and scroll to "get involved".)

A Message from Mike

We know many of you have been off to cottages or far flung destinations during the summer, and may have missed last May's membership renewal request, so here's a reminder.

Rising utility and royalty costs continue to make membership contributions all the more important. With your help, we'll continue to offer award-winning productions as a vital part of Lansing's downtown entertainment district well into the future!

THANKS from the heart to those of you who have already sent in your generous donations! As for past members or never-members reading this, we hope to count you all as members soon! (See member levels and online link on page 3. You can also mail a check or phone me with your credit card info, if you prefer.)

Sincerely,

Mike Siracuse

Manager, Riverwalk Theatre



Directed by Meghan Eldred-Woolsey
Music Direction by John Dale Smith
Choreography by Amanda Tollstam

Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by Roger O. Hirson

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

Tickets can be reserved online or over the phone

Adult: \$24

Military/Senior/Student: \$20

(\$2.00 credit card fee)



Box Office: (517)482-5700

www.RiverwalkTheatre.com



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