

# Ripples

## from the Community Circle Players at Riverwalk Theatre

Season 31 • Number 11

Fall, 2020

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](mailto:RWT@riverwalktheatre.com) • web site: [RiverwalkTheatre.com](http://RiverwalkTheatre.com)

### We're still here...

Okay, so shows came to a screeching halt on Friday the 13th (3/13/20). Coincidence?

But I'm still here, (in the office each Tuesday through Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm, and sometimes longer) manning the continuing business of the theater: Paying our telephone, gas, electric and insurance bills, and answering your phone calls, paying our monthly and quarterly tax bills and reports, updating our files, processing our donations and making bank deposits,

processing the payroll every two weeks for myself and three part-time employees (custodian and costume shop) updating our e-mail address books, and patron database, sorting and processing mail, and keeping up with our e-mails.

It's been VERY DIFFERENT without shows to sell, too! Fewer calls lead to a more focused way of getting things done, and even though I'm working shorter days, I am accomplishing so much!

We applied for and received a federal grant to subsidize our payroll for two months. We repaired over 20 seats in the main audi-



torium, cleaned the place from top to bottom, and kept the lawn trimmed and flower beds looking pristine, and got rid of a nasty wasp problem at our front entrance. I keep our board informed weekly with revenue and expense reports, grant projects, sewer repair updates, year-end audit transition report, and info on just about anything that happens around here that needs to be noted.

But, I miss our friends and family that used to be regular visitors here. They are now working feverishly to come up with some creative ideas to keep you engaged until this pandemic mess is over. We want you back!

That is why we continue to appreciate

your donations to keep us going with our Act II Fundraiser/Membership Drive to make sure we are still here, better than ever, once we get an "all clear" and start producing shows as we have since 1958.

We have a long, strong history, and with your help it won't end with locking up the building, shutting down our utilities, and closing all accounts that keep us connected to the public. **Visit our website [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com) to donate what you can (or mail a**

**check to P.O. Box 12249, Lansing, 48901) Any amount will help!**

I wrote this article for you who are wondering, "What could Mike possibly do to keep busy if we don't even have performances going on?" Now you know!

I've been here in the Riverwalk office since February, 1996, and have seen many changes over the years. This latest one with Covid 19 is the biggest. We have never been hit with more difficult challenges than right now. Keep us alive to preserve our favorite place to play! We will see you all in person on the other side of this!

*Manager Mike Siracuse*



## Virtual Barney Awards

Our Covid-truncated Season 31 was honored Tuesday, July 14, with a Zoom Webinar/Facebook Live Barneys show. Host Matt Ottinger was back by popular demand, coping with technical glitches and contributing interesting Thespie/Barney award statistics from his fascinating database. (Check it out at [lansingtheatre.org](http://lansingtheatre.org).)

Prerecorded musical numbers and gracious and imaginative nominee announcements spiced up the show. (Thanks to Kate Dickinson and Joe Clark, Sabrina Dahlgren, Bernie Lucas, Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Adriana Flores, Linda Widener, Janell Hall.) A two-act

mini play, *Screen, Touch, Cut* by Isaac Gomez was performed by Erin Hoffman and Shannon Bowen. **You can watch the entire Barney Awards video on the Riverwalk Facebook page** (as well as a few after-the-fact acceptance speeches.)

Impressive musical numbers included: *No One is Alone* by Stephen Sondheim, from *Into the Woods* sung by Kelley Lofton, Kameron Going, Robert Mueller, and Taren Going; *Something's Coming* by Bernstein and Sondheim, from *Sondheim on Sondheim* sung

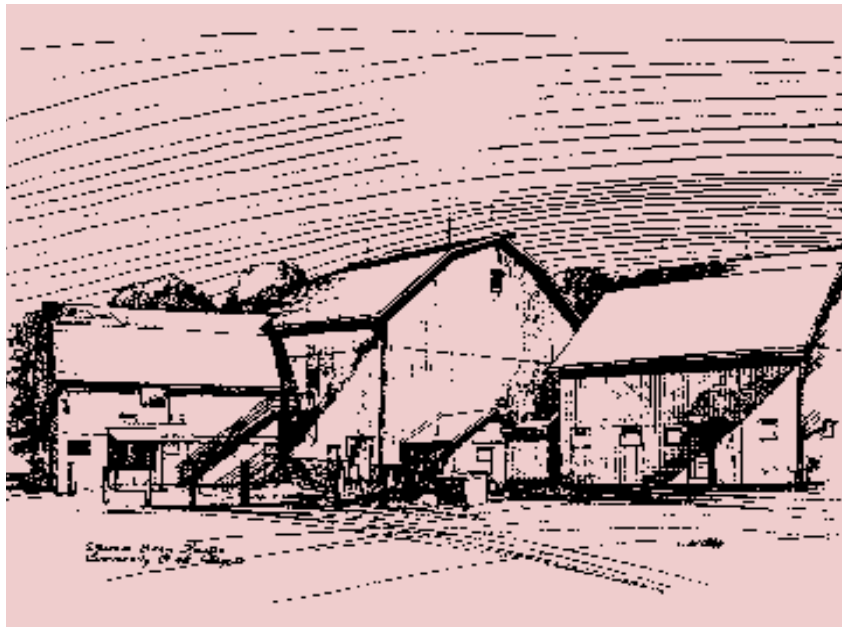
—Continued on page 2

*Barneys cont. from p. 1*

by Adam Woolsey, Rachael Cupples, Travis Williams and Meghan Eldred-Woolsey; *Make Them Hear You* by Flaherty and Ahrens, from *Ragtime* sung by Sean Holland with a dance by Amanda Tollstam. All numbers featured John Dale Smith on piano. Wish we could have all been at Riverwalk to share the major applause they deserved!

**BARNEY WINNERS** are listed first, in **bold**; **NOMINEES** follow.

All those averaging over 8 out of 10 in judges' points qualify as nominees.



*Barney Awards are named for the Okemos Barn Theatre, former home of the Community Circle Players, now at Riverwalk Theatre*

**Featured Actress - Drama/Comedy - Gini Larson** as **Mary Meekly** in *Unnecessary Farce*; Michele Booher-Purosky as Madeline Beck in *Boy Gets Girl*

**Featured Actress - Musical - Orayla Garza** as **Berthe** in *Pippin*

**Featured Actor - Drama/Comedy - Michael Banghart** as **Tony** in *Boy Gets Girl*; Bob Purosky as Les Kennkat in *Boy Gets Girl*; Jesse Frawley as Todd in *Unnecessary Farce*

**Featured Actor - Musical - Robert Mueller** as **Lewis** in *Pippin*; Camryn Cardwell as Theo in *Pippin*

**Costume Design - Kristine Maier and Chris Kennedy:** *Pippin*; Kristine Maier: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Kristine Maier: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Lighting Design - James Brunk III:** *Pippin*; Chelsea Witgen: *Sweat*; Richard Chapman: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Hair Design - Lori Bailey-Smith:** *Pippin*; Rachel O. Kay: *Sweat*; Lori Bailey-Smith: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Makeup Design - Laura Croff:** *Pippin*; Rachel O. Kay: *Sweat*

**Supporting Actress - Drama/Comedy - Leigh Christopher** as **Karen Brown** in *Unnecessary Farce*; Sabrina Dahlgren as Harriet in *Boy Gets Girl*

**Supporting Actress - Musical - Tricia Rogers** as **Fastrada** in *Pippin*; Sarah Hayner as Catherine in *Pippin*

**Supporting Actor - Drama/Comedy - Derek James Elstro** as **Agent Frank** in *Unnecessary Farce*; Greg Pratt as Howard Siegel in *Boy Gets Girl*

**Supporting Actor - Musical - Christopher Verhil** as **Snoopy** in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Robert Mueller as Schroeder in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Choreography - Amanda Tollstam:** *Pippin*; Amanda Tollstam: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Musical Direction - John Dale Smith:** *Pippin*; Jeff English: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Director - Musical - Meghan Eldred-Woolsey:** *Pippin*; Bob Purosky: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Director - Drama/Comedy - Brian Farnham:** *Boy Get Girl*; Diane Cooke: *A Piece of My Heart*; Jeff Magnuson: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Set Design - Aja Jenks:** *Pippin*; Emily Willemese: *Sweat*

**Sound Design - Leon Green:** *Pippin*; Leon Green: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Leon Green: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Properties Design - Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Gloria Vivalda Purosky:** *Pippin*; Jean Burke, Gloria Vivalda Purosky: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Diane Cooke: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Set Dressing - Eric Chatfield:** *Pippin*; Lori Snow, Amy Williams, Anne Wilson: *Unnecessary Farce*

**Lead Actor - Musical - Adam Woolsey** as **Pippin** in *Pippin*; Brian Farnham as *Charlie Brown* in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Lead Actor - Drama/Comedy - Ben Holzhausen** as **Mercer Stevens** in *Boy Gets Girl*; Connor Kelly as Jason in *Sweat*

**Lead Actress - Musical - Rachel Cupples** as **The Leading Player** in *Pippin*; Tricia Rogers as Lucy Van Pelt in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

**Lead Actress - Drama/Comedy - Janet Colson** as **Theresa Bedell** in *Boy Gets Girl*; Rachel Daugherty as Billie Dwyer in *Unnecessary Farce*

#### **BACKSTAGE BARNEYS**

*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* - Michele Booher-Purosky

*A Hotel on Marvin Gardens* - Stephanie Jerrick

*Sweat* - Jenni Popovich

*Pippin* - Michele Booher-Purosky

*Boy Gets Girl* - Patti Wieber

*Unnecessary Farce* - Kris Maier

*A Piece of My Heart* - Bernie Lucas

**Ensemble - Musical - The Band of Players - Pippin**

**Howard Lancour Newcomer Award - Camryn Cardwell** (Theo in *Pippin* - also in chorus of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*)

**Marilyn Steegstra You-Take-the-Cake Volunteer award - Bill and Judie Woodland** (retiring from 25 years of ushering)

**Bob Gras Black Box Award - Cody Skalmowski** (learned the Black Box light grid; facilitated general theatre computer tech)

**President's Award - Shannon Bowen and Sarah Hayner**, co-chairs of the Human Resources Committee - instrumental in developing non-bullying/harassment bylaws/procedures

And — this year only, we hope: **The "All Work and No Play" Award to the cast and crew of A Hotel on Marvin Gardens** which only got ONE performance.

**Members Choice favorite show - Pippin**

Here's hoping we can do this LIVE next summer, and that we'll have at least as much "season" to celebrate!



# Sewer Repair Success!



Longtime building steward and scene shop boss Leroy Cupp and I watched the whole process and are very happy with Riverwalk's recent sewer repair. Now we only have to deal with that pesky little Covid problem to be ready to open back up to the public!

On July 23 they began digging up Museum Drive over the city main sewer line. About ten feet down they uncovered the steam line. Digging three feet further they uncovered the city main.

The good news is that there was no water in the hole! They cut a hole in the main and cemented a new pipe in place, then backfilled with stone and sand, and added a 6-foot pipe to connect the line coming out of Riverwalk. The line that was collapsed was capped and the trench filled.

The crew also removed the manhole cover of the abandoned drain and found it to be unsafe and near collapse. The city sent a team to confirm, and delivered a new covering for the abandoned manhole and cemented that in place.

Soon the pits were filled in and readied for paving. Monday the 27th presented a little delay waiting to cut the cement for the sidewalk to fit the city request. The saw arrived about 2:45 and

made cuts and they started setting forms.

The crew finished the concrete sidewalk and curb and prepared the site for paving. While waiting for the asphalt, they removed all of the debris and cleaned up the site, and later completed the paving. The barriers stayed in place for at least one more day to allow full curing of the concrete and sealing of the asphalt.

So by the time you get this *Ripples*, we will be once again "flushed with pride" and confident of no



sewer backups. Thanks for all donations invested in this project!

Thanks also to Dave Frook (Frook Plumbing), Matt Childers (MCS Excavating), Robs Jr. & Sr. and Ryan (Hallenbeck Construction) for their work on this project. Leroy and I appreciate their communication and sharing of information throughout the process.

*Tom Ferris*

**RAISE** your membership level for "Act II" of Post-Covid THEATRE

**RWT membership runs July - Jun.** 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-atre 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 [riverwalk-theatre.com](http://riverwalk-theatre.com). Click "more" then "get involved" to join online. Or just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

## RIVERWALK THEATRE

### 2019-2020 Officers

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

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Laura Croff	Scott Pohl
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Kameron Going	Cody Skalmowski
Leon Green	Linda Widener
Sarah Hayner	Jane Zussman

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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



## Theatre Babies

Ultimate “Theatre Mom” and super costumer Kris Maier has tallied up a growing generation of theatre babies new on the scene or waiting in the wings:

Tricia Rogers (*Pippin, You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*) gave birth to Riley Jane May 23.

Aja Jenks (*Catch Me If You Can, Spamalat, Hairspray*) gave birth to Stella Marie June 6.

Theresa Dunn (Costumer- *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*) gave birth to Elizabeth Alexandra June 7.

Rachel Kay (Costumer-*Sweat*) gave birth to Whitney Brynn July 12.

Sarah Hayner (*Pippin, Hairspray, She Loves Me, Wonder of the World*) is due later this summer.

Shannon Bonney

Broadwell (*Thunderhoof and the Prince, Jack and the Beanstalk*) is due in August.

Chelsea Hagger Higbee (*Sleeping Beauty, Puss in Boots*) is due with twins in September.

Ashley Ault Smith (*Thunderhoof and the Prince, Sleeping Beauty*) is due November 11.

Angela Wright House (*Cinderella*) is due around Thanksgiving.

Alexsandria Clift (*Follies, Rent*) is due in December.

Ben (and Nicole) Holzhausen (*Boy Gets Girl, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Spamalat* and more) are due December/January.

Kyle (and Kayla) Harwood (*Sleeping Beauty, Hairspray, She Loves Me*) are due January 5.



Riley Jane

## The Costume Shop Hoping for Halloween

Costume Shop Director, Kate Koskinen, and her staff and RWT custodian, Adam Carlson, are taking this time to deep clean and organize in hopes of being happily open to the public for Halloween.

**The shop is currently open  
by appointment arranged  
via email only: costumes@  
riverwalktheatre.com**

**Patrons and staff must wear masks.**

**1131 MAY STREET  
LANSING, MI 48906**

COSTUMES ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT  
Email: costumes@riverwalktheatre.com

Visit [RWTCostumeshop.com](http://RWTCostumeshop.com) for more info.



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