

February
2025



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



From the desk of the President...

February is known for Valentine's Day and romance, and it is the birth month of famous figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin, and George Washington. It is also the month in which we will be performing *A Few Good Men*, our first main production to be held at our building at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury.

The show focuses on a military lawyer who is tasked with defending two US Marines charged with murdering a fellow Marine and intends to prove they were only following their base commander's orders. Many of you should be familiar with the 1992 movie version, which starred Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore, Kevin Bacon, Kevin Pollak, James Marshall, J. T. Walsh, and Kiefer Sutherland. The movie was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Although we do not hand out awards for our community theater productions, I believe that, if we did, it would receive the highest honors.

I hope you take the opportunity to see the show and experience the renovations we have completed. We are making progress, and we still need your support so that we can continue our mission of bringing quality theater to the Eastern Shore. Please contribute to our Capital Campaign, headed by Kel Nagel.

Wishing you the happiest February.

Matt Bogdan
President





**SPRING
CRAFT AND VENDOR
FAIR**

**CRAFTERS / VENDORS
WANTED!**

Saturday March 29th 10 am to 3 pm
Players Play House -
5109 Nutters Cross Rd, Salisbury

Crafters, Vendors, Chance and Silent Auctions!

For more information or to request an application
please email Wendy Stever
wendystever@gmail.com

**COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury**

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

1. Help is needed with running the 50/50 raffle during the A Few Good Men performances. No experience necessary. Contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 if you would like to help with this fundraiser.

2. Dying for Chocolate, a delicious murder mystery, will be held at Poncho and Lefty's, a Mexican restaurant in West Ocean City, on Sunday, February 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$75 (not including gratuity) per person. This includes a three-course meal, featuring an appetizer, a Surf and Turf main course, and a trio of sweet desserts. Exciting extras include a 50/50 raffle, Mystery Bags, and a prize for the guest who solves the mystery! Join celebrated chocolatier Coco Carmel as she launches her seductive new line, "To Die For." Uncover a delicious plot of rivalry and revenge. All proceeds benefit Community Players and Rackliffe House. For tickets call 443-664-8171.

3. In May the Players will present World War II: A Tribute to the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore at various venues on the Shore. Matt Bogdan is seeking stories of locals who participated in the war so that those stories can be shared with the audience. If you have a relative or friend who participated in WW II and you would like his or her story to be included in the show, contact director and producer Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272. Also, if you would like to sponsor the show or advertise in the program, contact assistant producer Joe Emond at 443-523-6764. The show is made possible by a grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area.

THEATRE TEASERS

Trivia by Sharon Benchoff February - Hearts and Flowers and Love

- 1 "Where is Love" is sung by this Dickens character in this musical.
- 2 What is the name of the mother in *Gypsy*?
- 3 "Whereas other men speak volumes, The man I love is mute." Who is Martha singing about in the musical *1776*?
- 4 Tevye asks, "do you love me?" in what musical?
- 5 Valentine is a character in what Shakespeare play?
- 6 They sing "What I Did for Love" in this musical about dancers.
- 7 What is Roxie's last name in *Chicago*?
- 8 "Seasons of Love" is sung in what musical?
- 9 The song, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" is from this musical inspired by the Disney film.
- 10 The scene is Hazlehurst, Mississippi, where the three Magrath sisters have gathered. Name the play.

2 Answers found on page 5



I HATE HAMLET

Set in John Barrymore's old apartment in New York City – at the time, the author's real-life home – the play follows successful television actor Andrew Rally as he struggles with taking on the dream role of Hamlet, dealing with a girlfriend who is keeping a firm grip on her chastity, and playing host to the ghost of John Barrymore, who, clothed as Hamlet, has come back to earth for the sole purpose of convincing Rally to play the part. Real estate agent Felicia Dantine convinces Rally to stay in the apartment and hold a seance.

Barrymore proves to be very convincing (challenging Andrew to a sword fight in the middle of the New York loft), and Andrew decides to play Hamlet. But when a Hollywood friend shows up offering Andrew a new role in a television pilot, with a potentially large salary and fame, Andrew is forced to choose between Shakespeare, whom his girlfriend loves, or television, where he is loved by millions.

Directed by Darrell Mullins, *I Hate Hamlet* will be produced at Players on Nutters Cross Road. Show dates are:

April 4 & 5 at 7:30 PM
April 6 at 2:00 PM
April 10-12 at 7:30 PM
April 13 at 2:00 PM

Audition dates will be February 10-11 at 7:00 PM at Players on Nutters Cross Road, with callbacks on February 12 if needed. Character descriptions will be included in the February newsletter.

Character Descriptions

Andrew Rally is an actor who studied drama in New York and found stardom in Hollywood playing a young surgeon in the now-canceled tv program, "LA Medical." Before that he was famous for his role in a commercial for a breakfast cereal, "Trailbuster Nuggests." When his show is canceled, he reluctantly agrees to play Hamlet in the esteemed "Shakespeare in the Park" series in New York. While he was confident as a television actor, he is uncertain, even terrified, about playing Hamlet. Adding to his frustrations is that his long-time girlfriend refuses to have sex until she knows that Andrew is her one true love.

Felicia Dantine is Andrew's real estate agent described as having a "carnal passion for New York City apartments." She is also a student of spiritualism and is a talented medium. She has arranged for Andrew to rent the apartment of the late and great John Barrymore. She is convinced that the apartment is perfect given that Andrew will be playing the role that made Barrymore famous. She agrees to hold a seance to summon Barrymore to help Andrew. She thinks she failed to do so but actually did not.

John Barrymore was an acclaimed actor in the early-to-mid 20th century. While he had a variety of stage and film credits, he was perhaps best known for the title role in "Hamlet." He was a heavy drinker and quite the lady's man. In this play, his ghost appears with the help of Andrew's real estate agent/quirky medium. Barrymore appears and tells Andrew that he is here to prepare him for the role of Hamlet and cannot leave until Andrew tackles the role.

Dierdre McDavey is Andrew's long-term girlfriend who refuses to sleep with Andrew until she knows he is "the one." She believes that if Andrew plays Hamlet, he will be one step closer to being her one true love. She is described as being "...irresistibly appealing, a valley girl imagining herself as a Brontee heroine." She is desperate to play Ophelia but ends up being cast as one of Ophelia's handmaids.

Lillian Troy is Andrew's talent agent. She is older, wiser and a chronic smoker. When she comes to Andrew's apartment she claims to have been there in the 1940s when she had an affair with Barrymore. Barrymore is surprised that she can see him. With a bit of prodding, she makes Barrymore remember their affair and as the show ends, they are laughing together and about to rekindle their romance.

Gary Peter Lefkowitz is the ultimate stereotype of the superficial Hollywood writer/producer/ director. For him, it's all about making big bucks. He is one of the few people who can see Barrymore, which is explained by the fact that he is so self-centered, like Barrymore. Gary offers Andrew a chance to star in a new television series as an inner-city teacher by day and a super hero by night. Andrew is tempted by the opportunity but also recognizes that Dierdre is infatuated with the idea of him as Hamlet. In the end, Andrew turns the role down and Gary leaves town with Felicia, who shares his love of money.



When: Friday, January 31st, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 1st, 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 1st, 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 2nd, 2:00 pm
Friday, February 7th, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 8th, 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 8th, 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 9th, 2:00 pm

Where: Players
5109 Nutters Cross Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

For Tickets: <https://our.show/fewgoodmen>
410-546-0099
RESERVED SEATING ONLY

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Oliver
 2. Rose
 3. Thomas Jefferson
 4. Fiddler on the Roof
 5. Two Gentlemen of Verona
 6. A Chorus Line
 7. Hart
 8. Rent
 9. The Lion King
 10. Crimes of the Heart

COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF SALISBURY SCHOLARSHIP

The Community Players of Salisbury, Inc is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in Maryland. In 1937 a group of 26 charter members hoped to bring culture and pure entertainment to the Eastern Shore while providing an outlet for people interested in dramatics. Players was organized under the Recreation Division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in May of 1938.

Each spring Community Players of Salisbury will award grants up to \$500 to two high school seniors from Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County and/or Delmar area public, private or home-schooled programs, depending on suitable applicants and availability of funds.

Students wishing to apply for this scholarship must:

- A. Be a graduating high school senior in a Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County or Delmar public, private or home school program
- B. Have applied for admission to a post-secondary institution
- C. Have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions or be a member of a family that has participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
- D. Financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA will be consideration

The award shall be made under the following specific conditions:

1. Each candidate must submit a completed Community Players of Salisbury scholarship application.
2. The scholarship shall be paid directly to the student and shall be used for payment of normal school expenses such as tuition, school fees, room, board or books.
3. Student or their family must have participated in Community Players of Salisbury productions.
4. Final selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by the Board of Directors of the Community Players of Salisbury.
5. Winner will be announced during the student's senior award program or at a Community Players of Salisbury function or meeting.

Community Players of Salisbury Scholarship Application

Name _____
Address _____
Cell phone _____
Email _____
School or home school program _____
Parent's names _____
Parents' Occupation (Please provide information for each parent)

1. What is your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as determined on the FAFSA? _____
2. What college, university or school of higher education do you plan to attend?

3. Have you been accepted? _____
4. What is your planned major and minor? _____

Essay Question

How do you plan to incorporate theater or associated theater arts into your college experience?

Please respond with a minimum 100-word response using complete sentences and paragraph format. Responses in bulleted list format or incomplete sentences will not be considered.

Participation Form

Complete the attached form in reference to participation in Community Players of Salisbury productions for applicant and/or applicant's family.

Activity List

Attach a current resume that includes community and school activities and work experiences.

Reference Letters – 2 total

- A. Attach one current reference letter from an adult, other than your drama teacher/sponsor who can testify to your seriousness of purpose and general moral and civic responsibility (teachers, ministers, local business person, employer, etc.)
- B. Attach one letter of recommendation from your drama teacher or a director.

Transcript

Attach an official high school transcript including first semester senior year grades and SAT/ACT scores

Due Date – March 15, 2025 (late applications will not be considered)

The completed application and all related materials should be mailed to:

Community Players of Salisbury
c/o Lynne Bratten
303 South Blvd
Salisbury, MD 21801

Or sent via email to brattencollege@gmail.com

Name _____

Date	Organization	Production	Role/Job
<i>Example - Fall 2019</i>	<i>Community Players</i>	<i>Matilda</i>	<i>back stage worker</i>

✓

Community Players of Salisbury
P. O. Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21802

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U. S. POSTAGE PAID
SALISBURY, MD 21801
PERMIT 186

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please consider becoming a member of Community Players. If you are not sure if your dues are paid for the current year, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it does not show 2024-25, your dues are not up-to-date.



Back Stage is funded, in part by a grant from the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (SWAC). Players would like to thank SWAC for their continued support.

Next Meetings - Wednesday, February 5 (6:00 PM) and March 5 (7:00 PM).

Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

President: Matt Bogdan
Vice-President: Darrell Mullins
Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford
Treasurer: Charlie Linton
Immediate Past-President: Tom Robinson

Board Members
Sharon Benchoff, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes - Term Expires 2025
Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2026
David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas - Term Expires 2027

Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds with regards to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical & mental ability, and religious & political beliefs.