

April
2025



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury

Back Stage



**From the desk
of the President...**

April! The traditional etymology of the word is from the verb *aperire*, which means "to open", an allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to open. Also opening in April is *I Hate Hamlet*, this wonderful comedy directed by Darrell Mullins.

So, the basic gist of the play is that Andrew Rally, a TV actor of some renown, has agreed to play Hamlet in a production of *Hamlet* in Shakespeare in the Park. He moves to New York, and his real estate broker hooks him up with an apartment that used to belong to the great actor John Barrymore, who was a great Hamlet in his day. Barrymore comes back from the grave, so to speak, to visit Andrew and to help guide him through this process. And of course, when you've got a ghost of a famous, egotistical, drunken actor living in your apartment that only you can see, hilarity is going to ensue!

I Hate Hamlet is the second main stage production to be held at Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. Please consider supporting our theater by coming to the show or making a donation.

Also mark your calendars for the May production of *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*. Using narration, dramatic monologues, slides, and music, the show brings to the stage a powerful production honoring those of the Shore who sacrificed, who answered their country's call, and whose glorious deeds will not be dimmed.

Have a very happy April!

Matt Bogdan

President

Players' next meetings will be **April 9 (7:00 PM) and May 7 (7:00 PM)**. **Please note the date change in April.** This is so that we do not conflict with rehearsals for *I Hate Hamlet*.

BACK STAGE SUBMISSIONS

Articles, photos, etc. for publication in Back Stage should be emailed to me (popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15th of each month. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!

Rusty Mumford
Corresponding Secretary

~~*I Hate*~~
HAMLET

I HATE HAMLET



I Hate Hamlet tells the story of a famous TV star, Andrew Rally, who's show has been cancelled so he reluctantly agrees to appear in *Hamlet* in the renowned Shakespeare in the Park series in New York City. His real estate agent, who also happens to be a medium, has managed to lease the apartment which once belonged to legendary actor, John Barrymore, whose performance in *Hamlet* is considered a classic. After a séance and other comic shenanigans, Barrymore appears and offers to coach Andrew on how to best play *Hamlet*. Andrew is petrified to play the role and wants to decline the role but his girlfriend, resolved to maintain her virginity until she is sure that Andrew is "the one," swoons at the thought of her boyfriend playing the role. Enter Andrew's talent agent, who once had an affair with Barrymore and the stage is set for non-stop laughs. Andrew decides to accept the role as well as Barrymore's guidance. When a Hollywood friend and producer, however, shows up with a lucrative TV offer, Andrew must decide between Shakespeare, who his girlfriend adores, or the TV offer that comes with serious money.

CAST

Felicia Dantine - Lillian Hoffman
John Barrymore - Ryan T. Bass
Andrew Rally - Damion Sykes
Deidre McDavey - Charlie Szentesi-Thomas
Lillian Troy - Capri Harrison
Gary-Peter-Lefkowitz - Mark Decker

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

WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore

WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore is a production about the men and women who served our country here and abroad during the largest and deadliest conflict in human history. Using narration, dramatic monologues, slides, and music, Matt Bogdan, director and producer of the show, brings to the stage a powerful production honoring those of the Shore who sacrificed, who answered their country's call, and whose glorious deeds will not be dimmed.

Venues, dates, and times are as follows:

Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury, Friday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion at 30880 West Post Office Road in Princess Anne, Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m.

American Legion at 29511 Canvasback Drive in Easton, Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m.

American Legion at 2308 Philadelphia Avenue in Ocean City, Saturday, May 24, at 2 p.m.

American Legion 1109 American Legion Road in Salisbury, Sunday, May 25, at 2 p.m.

VFW at 115 Sandy Hill Road in Cambridge, Monday, May 26, at 2 p.m.

Admission is free. Donations are accepted. The show is sponsored by Beach to Bay Heritage Area. Seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.



Cast List

(May 16-18)

Frank Armstead

Holly Bruce

Jason Bruce

Joe Emond

Ben Hamilton

Adrienne Kadushin

Lew Kadushin

Rusty Mumford

Maria White

Carole Willette

Cast List

(May 24-26)

Frank Armstead

Billy Conry

Judy Hearn

Bob Herbertson

Andrew Irvin

Darshan Jothivel

Kurt Ludwick

Madeline Shockley

Allison Tucker

Maria White





Auditions for *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be held Tuesday April 15 and Wednesday April 16 at 7pm, at the Community Players theater, 5109 Nutters Cross Road. Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Callbacks, if necessary, will be held on Thursday April 17.

We encourage adults of a diverse range of ages, ethnicities, and gender presentations to try out! (Sorry, there are no children's roles in this show.) If you want to audition but cannot attend the dates above, or if you are interested in joining the tech crew for the show, contact the director Cass Dasher at dashercm@gmail.com.

More information about the play, including performance dates and character descriptions, can be found on our website.

Save
the
Date

Save the dates! Community Players is pleased to announce the dates for the Summer Children's Theatre Workshops.

In response to requests, we are planning a two-week series this summer and the dates are:

Week I - For Students rising to Grades 3 through 8 - July 14-18

Week II - **NEW THIS YEAR** - For rising to Grades 9 through 12 - July 21-25

Plans are in progress. Keep watching this newsletter and our website for further information. Registration will open on May 1 and close on June 30 (or when the workshops fill).





THEATRE TEASERS
Trivia by Sharon Benchoff
A is for April

1. She is the recipient of six Tony awards and is currently starring in *Gypsy* on Broadway.
2. What is the name of the devil in the musical *Damn Yankees*?
3. She wrote the plays *The Mousetrap* and *The Hollow*.
4. She is Elsa's sister in *Frozen*.
5. He is the lawyer with unflagging principles in the play *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
6. What is the last name of Gomez and Morticia?
7. He is the witty man-about-town in Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
8. He starred in *Love Letters* on Broadway, but is best known as Hawkeye in M*A*S*H.
9. He co-wrote *American Idiot* for Broadway and portrayed St. Jimmy for several weeks.
10. This character is Maria's friend and confidante in *West Side Story*.

Answers found on page 6





FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A Spring Craft and Vendor Fair was held Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road. Many thanks go to Wendy Stever, Konner Stever, and Shelbie Thompson for coordinating the fundraiser. Thanks also to those who volunteered. More information about this fundraiser will be provided in the May newsletter.

50/50 raffles will be held at the I Hate Hamlet performances in April. If you would like to help with the raffles, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com.

WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore will be presented in May at various venues on the Shore.

If you would like to help with the Capital Campaign, please contact Kel Nagel at kelnagel@yahoo.com.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:



- Answers:
1. Audra McDonald
 2. Applegate
 3. Agatha Christie
 4. Anna
 5. Atticus Finch
 6. Addams
 7. Algeron
 8. Alan Alda
 9. Billie Joe Armstrong
 10. Anita



Your opinion and experience can make an impact on the future of Community Players. It is time to begin to think about who a terrific addition to the Board of Directors would be. If you believe you would contribute to the decision-making process or know someone who would be an asset to Players, then let me know. I am accepting nominations for Board Members and Officers.

Board Members serve a three-year term and are expected to attend the meetings and contribute to discussions and decisions that affect Players, including voting on the season of shows. Officers serve a one-year term.

The VP will automatically serve as President after their one-year term.

Nominations are accepted through the close of the May board meeting. Those nominated must be a paid member of Players. Elections take place in June and the terms begin in July.

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.

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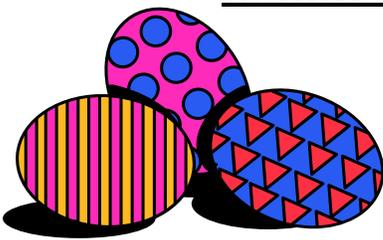
Please consider becoming a member of Community Players. If you are not sure if your dues are paid for the current year, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it does not show 2024-25, your dues are not up-to-date.



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, April 9 (7:00 PM) and May 7 (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

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