

# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

March 1, 2010 - February 28, 2011

## LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE



96 West Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223  
(941) 475-6756  
[www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com)

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

“It is the mission of Lemon Bay Playhouse to enrich Englewood and surrounding communities through theatrical productions, volunteer opportunities, education and training in the performing arts, and to provide a venue for other cultural activities.”

## ***VISION STATEMENT***

The Lemon Bay Playhouse will become the recognized community destination for arts activities serving as a learning space to harness local talent and extend community cultural awareness through the performing arts.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Sherie Ragan**  
**President, Board of Trustees**  
**Lemon Bay Playhouse**

Two words describe the last year at Lemon Bay Playhouse: “unexpected changes.” During my term as President, I never would have imagined that I would be faced with so many twists and turns. As I assumed my position, I had to step into the ongoing negotiations with the county for the land purchase and continue plans for the proposed Playhouse. I learned much and asked many questions in the process. The Board changed. Two members left and two were accepted to fill those vacancies. The Capital Campaign continued with special gatherings and many meetings took place with potential donors. Jim and Ann Hanushek, both experienced and loyal staff members, resigned. One Board member returned to claim his seat which became another issue to handle and I was forced to become better acquainted with *Roberts Rules of Order* and the Florida statutes. New staff members were hired. Due to the overwhelming concern about the drain on Playhouse finances, the Capital Campaign and its operational costs was first put on hold and then ended. Through all of the discussions with Playhouse members, media coverage (some supportive and some misleading), additional Board meetings, more resignations and new Board members, thankfully the activities of the Playhouse continued. Needed business was handled, auditions were held, shows were successful and wonderfully received by audiences, the by-laws were revised, arrangements for the Annex were made and Playhouse staff welcomed the much-needed expansion. Yes, it has been quite a year.

# REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Maggie Deitsch

This past year has brought many changes to the playhouse. With the many role changes and since I assumed this position in September of 2010 I will endeavor to report as much as I can for the entire year.

## STAFFING:

The year began with 5 part time staff members: Jim Hanushek, Managing Director; Ann Hanushek, Business Manager; Ron Bupp, Artistic Manager; Maggie Deitsch, Production Manager and Dennis Celorie, Development Director. There are currently four part-time staff members: Maggie Deitsch, Managing Director; Darlene Benson, Business Manager; Rita Corn, Artistic Manager and Ann Hanushek, Production Manager.

## OPERATIONS:

The current board has voted to not have an increase in ticket prices for the 2011-2012 season. Some 'Showcase Productions' were not as well received as hoped. *Dominic* and *Marc & Rio* were cancelled due to low ticket sales vs. high contract fees, *Hank Woji* and *Tony St. Tone* were very low ticket sales but both on a percentage contract, while the others did well. Therefore the number of events and the payment to entertainers was re-evaluated. It is *anticipated* that there will be no more than 6 'Showcase Productions' and all entertainers will be contracted on a percentage basis only. This area is still under discussion among the management team.

## FINANCE:

Please refer to financial reports from Bob LaSalle for information regarding this area.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Readers Theatre has continued its Outreach Program to various groups.

LBP hosted the TerraNichole Academy Of The Arts for their spring program. "TerraNichol Academy Of The Arts is a developmental early childhood program using an integrated curriculum of visual arts, music, movement, dramatic activities as a base for meaningful experiential and creative learning."

LBP also hosted a performance by Carson Kreitzer, Playwright in conjunction with The Hermitage Artist Retreat.

## PROMOTION OF THE THEATRE: (in addition to the usual web listings, flyers and brochures)

Relationships with the local newspapers are being restored and will hopefully result in more coverage of LBP. We participated in Pioneer Days and the Englewood/Cape Haze Expo 2011. Kaleidoscope was canceled this year and we are no longer a recipient of Wine Walk sponsored by Vino Loco. We will be participating in the Lifestyles After 50 Expo in Venice this month and the Lemon Bay Fest in 2012.

## THE GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- To continue to seek areas we can reduce expenditures.

- To attract more volunteers in critical areas where we currently have a shortage.

- To ensure that the current volunteers are aware of how valuable they are to the day to day operations of the playhouse.

- To streamline procedures that can be done by volunteers and provide training to do so.

- To create a "How To Do It" binder that can be utilized by anyone as needed.

- To track how patrons 'heard about the show' to determine advertising effectiveness in various areas.

- To raise the donation amounts to the theatre through word of mouth, internet and print and grants.

# **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER**

**Darlene Benson**

## **SEASON TICKETS:**

For the 2010-2011 season, our Season Ticket date entry volunteer processed 896 season tickets, 5 tickets over last season.

## **BOX OFFICE:**

Our box office volunteers continue to do a great job greeting the public and trying to get patrons the best seats possible for any given performance. We will soon miss some of the volunteers who go back to where they call home leaving us with a limited supply of people who are available all year.

Our credit card sales in the box office and online greatly outdistance the cash and check sales. The growing number of patrons buying tickets online from their personal computers can be seen as they hand in the printed receipts rather than the regular printed tickets from our card stock.

## **DATABASE MAINTENANCE:**

Two databases have been maintained and thank-you letters have been sent to all members and donors. After each audition, actor audition and performance data has been entered into the Access database and audition forms are filed. Anyone turning in a sheet indicating interest in being a volunteer is entered into both databases and the type of work preferred is indicated.

## **SUPPLIES:**

Supplies have been purchased to keep the Playhouse running smoothly. This includes office supplies, refreshments for intermissions, kitchen supplies, water for cast members and basic restroom and building maintenance items. Making the Playhouse a friendly welcoming place for all is one of our main goals.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Scripts are available for reading onsite or by signing out on the script sign-out sheet. The outdoor marquee is updated as we move from performance to performance.

**REPORT OF THE PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
**Production Report for March 1, 2010 - February 28, 2011**  
**Ann Hanushek**

During this time period, Lemon Bay Playhouse produced 6 regular season plays. Below is each title with the corresponding percentage of seats filled by paying patrons and persons with passes or complimentary tickets.

**The Mouse Trap** = 97.8% for 18 performances  
**Enchanted April** = 99.5% for 16 performances  
**Painting Churches** = 87.4% for 15 performances  
**Trying** = 77.3% for 15 performances  
**Chapter Two** = 94.2% for 16 performances  
**Catch Me If You Can** = 97.6% for 17 performances

A cast party was held at the end of each play. This nice culmination of each play is greatly appreciated by the cast and crew, who volunteered so much of their time to produce each outstanding production. The party theme is usually associated with something occurring in the play. Mary Lou Ardrey is currently in charge of the cast parties.

The Showcase Series of guest appearances shows the following percentage of seats filled. It is possible to have more than 100% of the seats filled, when someone doesn't show up and the ticket is resold as a standby ticket.

**Shorts Aloud** (LBP Readers Theater) = 101%  
**Scott Blum Jazz Trio** = 70.1%  
**Melanie Massell** = 50.5%  
**George Carroll Big Band** = 51.5%  
**Nichols Blues Band** = 52.6%  
**Hank Woji** = 34.7%  
**Tony Saint Tone** = 7.3%  
**Uptown Express** = 100%  
**Dominic** = Cancelled  
**The Diva and the Italian Guy** = 77.3% for 2 performances  
**Walker and Wolfe** = 92.6% for 2 performances  
**Frank Pisani** = 64.7% for 2 performances  
**Tim Allan** = 84.7% for 2 performances

# **REPORT OF THE ARTISTIC MANAGER**

Rita Corn

## **PLAY SELECTION:**

This committee continues to function well under the Chairmanship of Rosie Tremo. In selecting plays for the 2011-2012 season they read twenty plays in order to make their six selections. Their selection for the 2011-2012 season is as follows; *Luv*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Postmortem*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Glass Menagerie*, and *Steel Magnolias*.

## **DIRECTORS SELECTION:**

All directors selected for the 2010-2011 season have performed their jobs in an acceptable manner. One contracted director had to cancel and was easily replaced by the artistic manager without an interruption to the schedule. The stipend for directors has been reduced back to \$500 for the new season with the stipend for stage managers reduced to \$200. Directors for the 2011-2012 season have been contracted. Four are returning and two directors will be new to LBP as far as directing at our theatre but with excellent resumes in theatre directing, acting etc. Our directors for 2011-2012 season are ; Becky Moran, Robert La Salle, Dale Moore, Marion Barnes, Ron Bupp and Wil Horton.

## **READERS THEATRE:**

This program under the leadership of Ann Shaughnessy, Kathy Amelia & Jack Rabito has experienced significant improvements And is very well attended by both new and experienced actors . In addition they have a very successful outreach program giving 17 performances with donations of \$590 for the Lemon Bay Playhouse and will be performing for our Annual Meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **SHOWCASE PRODUCTIONS:**

Our series was not as successful as planned with not enough interest in off season. Next season we plan less performances in the off season and more during the season when more patrons are interested in entertainment between performances.

## **EDUCATION:**

Interest in adult acting was down this season with not enough people to sign up for the course. Hopefully we can solve this for next season. Our plans for a children's theatre workshop were ended when we were told all the restrictions on the instructor at the last minute. We hope to solve this problem also hopefully by this summer.

## **AUDITIONS:**

Casting for some shows still remains a problem due to the age demographics of our talent pool. However our open auditions have been very successful by bringing in new talent and making the directors aware of the talent in our area. We plan to continue this for next season.

# REPORT OF THE SET CONSTRUCTION CHAIRPERSON

**Jim Suchomel**

It was another beautiful year for the set builders. We started out with *The Mousetrap*, whose set was very different from most sets. The whole back wall was at different angles and had steps to some offstage rooms, but Director Richard Blanchard liked it.

The next play, *Enchanted April*, was almost as complicated, with all walls at an angle, plus a raised platform going to French doors, and columns with a roof over the porch. Hinged flats were used to separate the stage into different houses and then folded back to create a courtyard scene. Director Dale Moore was very happy with the way it turned out.

The set for *Painting Churches* was easier. It had a café door as well as a raised platform with stairs and a banister leading to an upper room. Director Mary Lou Ardrey found this set great to work with.

The next play, *Trying*, directed by Richard Blanchard, was one of the easy sets. It had 2 doors a window, and paneled walls. The only items that took lots of thinking were the two stoves, which had to look like old metal gas heaters, with the controls located near the bottom. They were on opposite sides of the stage.

The set for *Chapter Two* really had us thinking because it had two different apartments with 3 doors, an archway, and a window with an outdoor scene. The set had to accommodate 2 sofas, several chairs, bookcases, tables, and a bar. Director Rita Corn did a beautiful job moving her actors around this set.

The set for *Catch Me If You Can*, directed by Steve Credeur, ended up differently from the original plan. It started out with 4 doors, a fireplace, a raised platform with a railing, a bar, and 3 benches. Mr. Credeur found that he had to get rid of the benches, and move the bar off the platform in order to accommodate the furniture and allow free movement of the actors.

I have enjoyed doing LBP's set designs for ten years. The reason I like it so much is getting to work with the many volunteers I have had over the years. Some are seasonal and can only work on one or two sets a year, but there are 5 to 8 volunteers, who work on most of the sets. Many of these experienced volunteers just look at my plans and start working. Some even make suggestions of better ways to do something. My thanks go out to all my loyal volunteers.

## SET DÉCOR

We have had a variety of volunteers doing set décor over this fiscal year. Bev and Jim Berkshire decorated the set for "*The Mouse Trap*", our first set with falling snow. Wanda Molloy decorated a variety of scenes for "*Enchanted April*". Maggie Deitsch and Mike Gilbert did "*Painting Churches*". Maggie and Randy Deitsch and Bob La Salle decorated the "*Trying*" set. Mary Ellen Seyle and Wanda Molloy did the set for "*Chapter Two*". Maggie and Randy Deitsch and Doreen Pearn did the set décor for "*Catch Me If You Can*". Audience members felt that all of our set décor volunteers did an outstanding job. Wanda Molloy definitely gets the "Wow!" award for the audience reaction when the curtain opened on the beautiful courtyard scene for Act 2 of "*Enchanted April*". Maggie Deitsch gets the "long lasting" award for painting floorboards that have appeared in 4 plays. Thanks to our wonderful set décor volunteers.

## **REPORT OF THE WARDROBE CHAIRPERSON**

**Pat Saracco**

We costumed thirty-two actors for six plays. There have been some significant changes. After clearing out the old wardrobe room and thinning out our stock, we then moved everything to the LBP Annex building. My thanks go to Maggie and Randy Deitsch for all of their help last summer and fall with all the moving and sorting and also putting together the newly purchased clothes racks.

I now have two committee members, Marilyn Tonissen and Donna Walters. We have had other people apply, but hours and distance have been a problem. I am grateful to all the actors, directors, and stage managers who go the extra mile to make my job easier.

## **THE SAGA OF THE 2011 BALLOTS**

**by Maggie Deitsch, Managing Director**

### **The premise was:**

1. Ballots would be printed by Olde Englewood Mailing Co., Inc on special bamboo paper with sequential numbering and raised imprint to prevent any potential coping of ballots.
2. Notice of Annual Meeting details, letter from the Board, bylaw revision notice, info on candidates, and the ballots would be delivered by 10 a.m. February 28, 2011.
3. Packets containing all in item 2 plus return envelopes would be compiled for mailing from 10 a.m. to 12 noon by Darlene Benson, Business Manager and Maggie Deitsch, Managing Director with Paul Hyatt monitoring.
4. Envelopes would then be tape sealed and address labels of members randomly applied so that no one knew which ballot number went to which member.

### **The reality was: Day 1**

1. All of the printing went fine and was delivered at 9:30 am.
2. Darlene called with the bad news that she was in Port Charlotte and was waiting for a locksmith to come and get her keys out of her car. More bad news followed, she had received a call from the scheduled box office volunteer that he/she was sick and wouldn't be able to come in. No problem! Paul Hyatt agreed to help compile the packets. Of course while we were doing this people kept coming to the theatre and calling for tickets for Dearly Departed (which was sold out!). Paul was a real trooper and just kept going while I fielded the calls and visitors.
3. Darlene made it by 11:15 and took over the box office duties along while Paul and I finished the packets. By 11:30 a.m. all 200 packets were stuffed, taped and ready to be labeled, we thought! No return envelopes were included in the packets! No envelopes to use at the theatre and no more tape left. I took off to Dollar General to get tape & envelopes while Paul heroically slit all 200 packets open again.
4. Since Paul needed to leave by noon, Steve DeDominici & Richard Blanchard had both stopped by the theatre on other business and were immediately recruited to begin stamping the return envelopes with the LBP address stamp and the 'seal ballot before mailing' stamp. Of course after 5 of them the LBP stamp literally fell apart. Meanwhile, Darlene tried to print out the member labels and her 3 month old printer broke down. (Not to worry it was replaced 3 days later under warranty at no charge to the theatre.)
5. Darlene sent the address file via email to my laptop so I could print them on the annex printer. Of course there is a 'but', it couldn't be that simple. But, the layout didn't match up so scratch that idea! I did however manage to print LBP return address labels. During this time everyone is waiting... and waiting... and waiting. After returning to the main building with labels in hand, Richard & Steve take care of stamping & labeling the return envelopes while Paul inserts them in the packets & I re-tape them all. Mission accomplished but Paul now *has* to leave.

6. Now it is around 1 p.m. and I put on the few member labels that were usable while Steve & Richard start hand addressing the rest and then I help them. Darlene is still holding down the fort of course and joins us later in the afternoon to finish up.
7. On to 5:30 p.m. All packets are stuffed (with everything), sealed, addressed and the membership list has been checked twice to make sure all members have a packet. Now I have to clean up and 'pull' the packets for the members whose memberships expire between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> to be held by Darlene until they renew (all were previously notified this would be done). By 6:00 Bob LaSalle comes in, surprised this is all still going on and offers to do the intro that night. Think I'd turn him down at that point? No way!!! Off the ballots go with me for protection and to be mailed first thing in the morning because of course the post office is closed by now.

## Day 2

8. I wake up wiped out from Day 1 and it never even crosses my mind that I have to go to the post office until Randy decides we need to go out to eat about 1 p.m. and we get in the truck. "Oh no! I forgot I had to mail these! We have to go to the post office right now!" Now an important fact most of you won't be aware of, we just moved to Port Charlotte a month ago. Also, the man of infinite patience with my theatre hours hurt his back 2 weeks prior on the golf course (yes, he finished the tournament) and could not lift anything heavy. Trust me a box of 190+ packets definitely qualifies as 'heavy'. Randy: "Where is the post office?" Maggie: "I saw postal trucks over on 41 – about 5 miles north?" Randy: "Okay, let's go".
9. Turned out *that* was the old North Port post office and we got directions to go 2 more miles north. Found that one, carried in 'the box' and as I am waiting in line I see a sign that says 'no debt/credit cards accepted'. I then ask the clerk "where is the *real* post office?" "Go south on 41, turn left at McDonalds, right on Price Blvd and it's across from City Hall". Off we go again. We found McDonalds, we found Price Blvd, and we turned right. The only problem was we never saw the post office OR City Hall and ended up on Veteran's Hwy in Port Charlotte. Once more we asked for directions and finally found the Port Charlotte Post Office which I then realized I had seen once before – 50 miles after we left our house. Yes, Randy was ready to shoot me at that point! (NOTE: driving time of learning our new area was not charged to the theatre).
10. Pretty simple now, carry the box of packets in, pay for the postage and send them on their way, right? NOT! After waiting in line for 15 min (with the heavy box) because of course the P.O. is packed, I finally make it to the counter. I take out a packet and tell the clerk I have about 190+ of these to send. She says "122, I can do 261's" and walks away. I am clueless until she comes back with a pile of stamps. "You don't have a machine to run these through? I have to put a stamp on each one?" Her reply, "No we don't and you have to put 2 stamps on each one."
11. Out to the lobby, flag down Randy to tell him what's going on and proceed to spend 45 min stamping the packets. FINALLY, 3 hours later the packets are in the hands of the United States Post Office.

**During the 11 steps of the saga I can assure that: ballots could not be reproduced to 'load' votes, no one but Paul and I handled anything 'inside' the packets, no one knows who got which numbered ballot, ballots were in my position or secured in my truck so no 'tampering' could be done and without the help of Steve & Richard they would not have been mailed within the '3 week prior to the Annual Meeting' date requirement.**