



APRIL - MAY, 2012

WHERE ARE WE, WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?

First of all, where are we? We are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year. The Playhouse has established itself as a valuable community asset. We are providing superior entertainment while offering opportunities for enhancing local skills both on and off stage. We have gone out into the community to provide high quality entertainment to those who have not had the opportunity to visit our fine theater. We have maintained the assets handed down to us by the many hours of volunteer efforts of those who preceded us. If you are one of those dedicated volunteers, we truly thank you for your many greatly appreciated efforts. If you are a new volunteer, we wish to thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure.

We have a decision to make. Should we remain as we are or seek a larger facility? The existing building might be remodeled to add 15 to 20 seats and provide additional restroom facilities. The building next door is available and might be remodeled to accommodate the spaces we need for rehearsals and business activities.

We might seek out a new building either on our existing property or on properties close by. At the Annual Membership Meeting, posters hung on the walls depicted metal buildings to show what that type of construction might provide. The rendering and floor plans were donated by local architect T. A. Krebs at no cost to the theater. They are only samples of what might be accomplished on our existing property or on properties close to our location.

We should be united in the direction we wish to pursue. If we are to seek help in the form of grants and community support, we need to clarify our dreams of our future here at Lemon Bay Playhouse. There are opportunities for support, but we need to provide a clear picture of our needs. Others are ready to help, but we need to provide a clear and unified vision.

Now is the start of a long journey toward our future. We are soliciting your opinions and need your input for our next Board of Trustees to assist them in making the important decisions they will be facing.

Steve Stump, President

Watch for our 26th Season Ticket Brochure with the 2012-2013 ticket purchase and membership information . They will to be delivered to you in April.

OPENING NIGHT

Are you ready for a challenge? A really big challenge? That's the question the courageous little LBP vanguard faced in September, 1995, very early in Season Nine.

The euphoria of having just closed on the purchase of a new home for the Playhouse was tempered by the daunting reality of what lay ahead. There was still a week and a half to go before the first play of the season, *Breaking Legs*, ended. A quick look at the calendar showed that there would then be just 39 days before the curtain must rise again in the new building for the next scheduled play, *Star on the Door*.

But in order to avoid having to pay another month's rent at 353 W. Dearborn, there were just seven days left to completely move out. That had to be done before any significant action could commence on the new theater.

True to form, a wonderful group of volunteer workers — many of whom had just recently been recruited — energetically set about to carefully dismantle all the lighting and tech equipment, disassemble and remove the lumber and plywood from the stage and seating platforms, pack and cart out all the props, furniture, stage flats and other gear, move the entire costume inventory, truck the refrigerator and kitchen equipment to the new space, bag a huge amount of rubbish, and sweep up. On September 30th the door key was ceremoniously turned over to the landlord.

At last, all hands could now focus on the ultimate task, which was — in short — to build a new theater — and do so in very short order.

At this point something most impressive and inspiring took place. A
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IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD MEETINGS

April 16, 2012 at 4:00 pm

May 21, 2012 at 4:00 pm

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLAYHOUSE UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED!

Changes in meeting dates/times will be posted on the website and sent by email to members, who have an active email address with the playhouse.

IT HAPPENED IN ENGLEWOOD



Pictured from left to right are Mary Lou Ardrey, Bill Rollins, Doreen Barnett, and Vernon David.

At our playhouse on the evening of February 8th at 7:30 pm, a group consisting of Bill Rollins, from our Readers Theater, Vernon David, a founder of our Playhouse, Paul Hyatt, Doreen Barnett, and I assisted in the presentation, *IT HAPPENED IN ENGLEWOOD*. We related the

many unique happenings that make Englewood special. It was LBP's contribution to the Tenth Annual Lemon Bay Fest and the Englewood Cracker Fair celebration. It consisted of an informal discussion about Englewood history, with much audience participation. It covered many topics and included everything from the three cents an acre sale to how Englewood got its name. Discussion included our first residents, The Indians, The Alligator Man, Grove City, the tree house tragedy, hurricanes, Hermitage House, the nude beach, celebrities, The Wild Man and his good pieces, and the casino on the beach. We talked about Englewood being incorporated and the slick banker, Silky, who bankrupted us and unincorporated us. That's why we are not a city, town, or village, or anything - for which we are grateful. All agreed that it means less taxes and less opportunity for corruption. Many other things were mentioned, like the Green Street Church, Elsie Quirk Library, the fish camps, the lemon and pineapple plantations, and the lumber camp. After the program, we invited the audience for a look backstage. Wow, what a response! We took several groups of interested people on a tour. The event was very well received by the surprisingly large audience. All considered, it was a success. *By Mary Lou Ardrey*

GET READY FOR A FIRST-TIME, UNIQUE LOBBY EXHIBIT!



LBP is excited to present a first time, unique exhibit during the production of *The Glass Menagerie*, which runs from May 2nd through May 20th. Gracing our lobby walls will be original jewelry designs presented by the following five local area designers: Dottie Baker (Sarasota), Dana Rudolph (Englewood), Jackie Schwietz (Rotonda), Ann Shaughnessy (Port Charlotte) and Donna Sutton (Englewood). Using various materials such as seed beads, crystals, gemstones, and pearls, just to mention a few, each artist will display six items for sale. You will see light, airy creations,

chunkier, heavier pieces, and everything in between. Also for the first time, one of the designers will be present in the lobby at each performance until after intermission, to answer any questions, or to assist you in trying on any piece available for purchase. We hope you plan on attending a performance of *The Glass Menagerie* and join us for this most special exhibit. *By Ann Shaughnessy*

ANNUAL MEETING VOTING RESULTS

At the annual meeting, the ballots were counted, and the results were reported. The Board of Trustee candidates were both approved, and a picture of the new Board is below. In addition, the changes to the By-laws were accepted. The other ballot item was the property preference order. The property across from the playhouse received the greatest number of votes while the property located next to the Annex came in second. The old Sun building location was a distant third and there was not much interest in the property across from the high school.



Pictured (from left to right) are the Board of Trustees: Steve Stump (President), Mary Lou Ardrey, Doreen Barnett, Rick Moitoza, Marion Barnes (Secretary), Bob La Salle (Treasurer) and Lisa Pindara (Vice-President).

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

By Tennessee Williams

Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. on behalf of The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

Directed by Ron Bupp

May 2 - May 20, 2012

Sponsored by: *La Stanzza*

A drama of great tenderness, charm, and beauty, *THE GLASS MENAGERIE* is one of the most famous plays of the modern theatre. Amanda Wingfield is a faded, tragic remnant of Southern gentility, who lives in poverty in a dingy St. Louis apartment with her son, Tom, and her daughter, Laura. Amanda strives to give meaning and direction to her life and the lives of her children, though her methods are ineffective and irritating. Tom is driven nearly to distraction by his mother's nagging and seeks escape in alcohol and the world of the movies. Laura, who is crippled, lives in her illusions also and is driven more and more into herself until the "gentleman caller" arrives.



During *The Glass Menagerie* rehearsals, the director, Ron Bupp (center) and the performers take a break for a cast photo. The actors (from left to right) are Bill Fisackerly (Jim), Kim Fisackerly (Laura), Rita Corn (Amanda), and Wil Horton (Tom). The production will open on May 2 and run through May 20. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com.

READERS THEATER OUTREACH



The Readers Theater program continues to lengthen its voyage to reach out. Recently, Ann Shaughnessy, Kathy Amelia, and Jack Rabito (pictured from left to right) per-

formed at the Italian American Club (IAC) of Venice. LBP received a generous donation and a wonderful thank you letter from Diane Houston of the IAC. The actors "entertained us with humorous plays that were a delight to the audience. We are proud to contribute to this organization, which provides unique fun-filled theater for local communities. Our Club members truly enjoyed the performances and we support your goals of enhancing live theater." The Readers Theater is making "local" a little more widespread.

You Go, Readers Theater!

CELEBRATIONS

FOUNDERS APPRECIATION



Founders Appreciation Party Candid Shots

On Sunday afternoon, February 12th, an Appreciation Celebration was held for the founders of the Playhouse and donors. This included those who started down in the store front and those who brought us up to our building. There were 36 attending.

Joan Harms and Doreen Barnett greeted, Marion & Ralph Barnes tended the bar. Lora Resignato and daughter Lisa Pindara passed hors d'oeuvres, and photographers snapped pictures. Sue Finucan and Debby Martin got stuck in the kitchen, making all the platters look so pretty, and then they cleaned up. I just floated and saw that it was running smoothly.

Paul Hyatt introduced each of the founders, and they told of their part in the success of our playhouse. Then we all retired to the beautifully decorated Green Room for fabulous desserts and coffee.
By Mary Lou Ardrey

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PARTY



2012 Volunteer Party Candid Shots

Our annual volunteer party was held on February 25th, at the Tringali Center. It was catered by Gary Miller. Gary has catered all of our 18 volunteer parties.

Those involved to make this party a success were Doreen Barnett, Barbara Gilman, Mary Lou Ardrey, Joan Harms, Sue Finucan, Dottie and Bill Hanson, and Dorothy Kleine. The bar was expertly handled by Ralph and Marion Barnes, and the delicious cake was made and decorated by Lisa Pindara. Lisa and her assistant baker, Tomi Walker, also gave us tasty cupcakes.

A very funny skit was performed by Readers Theater members, Charlotte Dobney and Jack Rabito.

Altogether a great time was had by all, and we hope to continue this tradition next year. *By Doreen Barnett*

OPENING NIGHT - (Continued from page 1)

happy swarm of devoted workers buzzed all through the building at 96 W. Dearborn, in shifts from early morning until late at night, tackling this ambitious agenda: Build a 95 seat auditorium, construct and equip a stage, install the lighting system, then outfit a complete tech booth, set up a box office, property department, costume/wardrobe room, kitchen, dressing rooms, and so on. The spectacle of all this frantic but harmonious activity was beautiful to behold.

Oh, and there was one other rather important activity going on amid this organized chaos. As soon as the stage platforms were put in place, rehearsals began for *Star on the Door*. As of that moment there were exactly 19 days left until the initial performance time. Tick, tick, tick.....

While the carpentry gang worked during the daytime, the electrical crew had to work mostly in the evening. This meant that until the lighting installations were finished, the actors had to share the stage with the wiring team — and with their stepladders, boxes of fixtures, strands of loose wire, etc. But watching the consideration and deference that everyone showed to each other as they maneuvered around on that crowded set was a truly heartwarming scene.

Toiling furiously right down to the deadline, everyone braced for the county inspectors to come in, nose around, and render judgment.

Would this new theater — created completely by lovingly donated labor — meet the strict building code rules? Would LBP be given that critical document required for public use of a building, the Certificate of Occupancy?

YES! Every test was PASSED! And with two whole days to spare, before..... OPENING NIGHT! *By Paul Hyatt*

4th in a series celebrating LBP's 25th Anniversary.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS



Ladies, here is your chance to shine!! Lemon Bay Playhouse is holding auditions for an upcoming play, a comedy/drama, based on the author's experience with the death of his sister. *Steel Magnolias* is more than a story of a group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor. It is the story of a circle of friends, whose lives come together there. This play is alternately hilarious and touching — and, in the end, deeply revealing of the strength and purposefulness which underlies the antic banter of its characters. You will laugh and you will cry, but most of all, you will feel the humor and heartbreak of these Steel Magnolias as you watch the realities of their lives unfold.

This play was written by Robert Harling and will be directed by Wil Horton. Auditions will be held at the Lemon Bay Playhouse on Sunday, April 22 & Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The cast for the play includes 6 women of various ages. The show will run from June 27 through July 15, 2012.

BUILDING MANAGER STAFF ADDITION



On March 19th, the Board of Trustees approved the new staff position of Building Manager. This position will be responsible for everything to do with our buildings and grounds. This includes cleaning of both buildings, lawn and grounds maintenance, and looking after the physical plant of both buildings. We have been struggling lately with keeping up with the problems of our aging building as no one was in charge of looking after these problems on a regular basis. This new position has eliminated the necessity of hiring contractors to do our cleaning and lawn maintenance.

We are happy to announce that Mike Hilton has been chosen for this position. You will remember Mike as "Paul" in *Barefoot in the Park*. He has also done some stage managing for us and was a techie and did building maintenance for a theater in his native Michigan. Mike is dedicated and energetic, and we look forward to his continued endeavors on our behalf.
By Bob La Salle



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 25th Season!

2011-2012

LUV by Murray Schisgal
ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR by Alan Ayckbourn
Ken Ludwig's POSTMORTEM
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK by Neil Simon
THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams
STEEL MAGNOLIAS by Robert Harling

August 31– September 18, 2011
October 26 - November 13, 2011
January 4-29, 2012
February 29 - March 25, 2012
May 2-20 2012
June 27-July 15, 2012

Layout: Jim Sciarelllo **Photography:** John Bass Photography **Proofreader:** Ann Hanushek

Contributors: Kathy Amelia, MaryLou Ardrey, Doreen Barnett, Rita Corn, Bob La Salle, Paul Hyatt, Ann Shaughnessy and Steve Stump
Printing and mailing service provided by The Olde Englewood Mailing Co.

LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone 941-475-6756

Visit our website at: www.lemonbayplayhouse.com

"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."