



APRIL-MAY, 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past month has seen some changes to our facilities. The biggest is the new curtain. After the conclusion of "The Last Romance", Jim Sciarrello and I hung the curtains and installed the new valance over the stage. It is my opinion that the color is perfect and adds a great touch of color to our theater.

We had an improvement at the Annex as well. The office door, which was falling apart and leaked very badly in the rain, was replaced. We had contracted with Truex Constuction for the door's replacement, and finally all of the necessary pieces came together. In addition, in response to many complaints about the locks on those doors, I took them in to a locksmith and had them repaired and better keys made.

We held our Annual Meeting on March 9th in the Green Room. I am pleased to announce that Michelle Neitzel was elected to her first term on the board. Thank you to all of you who sent in your ballots. There were no bylaws changes on the ballot this year. The financial report showed that we grossed \$137,509.00 during the last fiscal year on our productions. Most of the credit goes to all of the volunteers; actors, backstage, house managers, box office, costumes, props, and tech; who work so tirelessly to make our theater the success that it is. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the box office.

I wish to express my personal gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of LBP this past year. Our continued cooperation and working together will insure many successful years ahead.

Bob La Salle, President

THE 24 HOUR GIVING CHALLENGE: HELP LBP GROW AND THRIVE

BY CHARLIE TYLER

The 24 Hour Giving Challenge is an exciting online fundraising event from noon on May 6 to noon on May 7. It is strictly an online event using credit cards. There will be \$440,000 in matching funds from the Patterson Foundation and \$220,000 in grant incentives available. The Foundation will match gifts from unique, new donors and increased donations from previous donors up to \$1,000 per donor. Last year LBP made \$3,500 in donations and matching funds. We hope to exceed that goal this year.

The goal of the Challenge is to inspire giving on all levels throughout the 24 hour period and to help organizations build their donor bases. Last year \$2.78 million dollars were raised. A total of 17,625 gifts were given and 45% of these gifts were \$25.00, the minimum

gift. This shows that small gifts can make a big difference. Last year 287 organizations participated and this year 407 organizations are participating.

You might ask, how does this Challenge benefit the playhouse. To answer that in simple terms, donations to the Challenge will allow LBP to:

- Keep ticket prices affordable;
- Add to the proceeds for the Capital Campaign for the Annex Fund to reduce the mortgage debt;
- Continue to fund capital improvements to our existing facilities;
- Continue to offer workshops, acting classes, and Readers Theater Outreach to the community;
- Provide scholarships to the Lemondrops Summer Theater Camp for children;
- Plan an expansion of our present facilities within the next five years.

HOW TO GIVE

Go to www.givingpartnerchallenge.org at noon on May 6 and search for Lemon Bay Playhouse on the home page. Make a donation with a major credit card or debit card.

Each gift is 100% tax-deductible and will be applied to general operating support for Lemon Bay Playhouse. The 24 Hour Giving Challenge is sponsored by The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Patterson Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, and The Charlotte Community Foundation. More details may be found online at our web site www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/The24HourGivingChallenge.pdf.

VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

BY RON BUPP



If you would like to meet a group of theater folks with happiness and excitement oozing from every pore, stop by our Playhouse on the first Monday morning of every month. That is when our hugely successful Readers Theater group convenes. You will meet Kathy Amelia who heads up this program with admirable energy and infectious charm. A native of Long Island, NY, who spent 37 years there in law enforcement, Kathy retired to the Englewood area in 2007. She first volunteered at LBP as a House Manager in

VOLUNTEER (Continued on Page 3)

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

BY RITA CORN

THE FOURPOSTER

by Jan de Hartog

Directed by Ron Bupp

April 30 through May 18, 2014

This play is a moving chronicle of a husband and wife from their wedding night in 1890 until they leave their home 35 years later. They fret and quarrel, laugh, cry, and make love in the same room... an old fourposter, silent witness to all.

Auditions were held and the two very talented veteran actors selected by Ron for this production were Ruth Shaulis (Agnes) and Jim Walsh (Michael).

Information and tickets are now available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by visiting or calling the box office at 941-475-6756 between 10am and 2pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time.



Ruth Shaulis (Agnes)



The Fourposter



Jim Walsh (Michael)

2015-2016 PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

BY JACK RABITO

The Play selection committee has started its work for the 2015-2016 season. At the first meeting on Feb. 27 the Committee began the process of reviewing 20 plays of which 12 will be selected to be presented to the board at the September meeting. They will then decide on the seven plays and two alternates for the season productions. We believe the upcoming 2015-2016 season will be very memorable. The best on the LBP stage is yet to come, and you will not be disappointed!

CALLING ALL ACTORS

BY RITA CORN

THE HEIRESS

by Ruth and Augustus Goetz

Open auditions for *The Heiress*, by Ruth and Augustus Goetz and directed by Leanne Hanson, will be held Sunday, Apr. 13 and Monday, Apr. 14, 2014, at 7:00pm, at the Lemon Bay Playhouse.

In New York in the 1850's, Catherine Sloper, an aristocratic but shy and plain young woman, lives under the scrutiny of her successful father. When a handsome but penniless suitor proposes, her father threatens disinheritance. Can she be rich in love and money?

The Director is looking for 3 male and 6 female actors. The show will run from June 11 to June 29, 2014. Perusal scripts and sides will be available at the Box Office, on weekdays, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please call 941-475-6756 for additional information.

OUR CURRENT PRODUCTION

BY JIM SCIARELLO

A TOUCH OF DANGER

by Francis Durbridge

Directed by Matt McCord

March 12 through April 6, 2014

In this surprise-filled thriller, mystery abounds when novelist Max

Telligan returns to his London apartment from Munich to find his evening newspaper reporting his violent death. He is greeted by a parade of mysterious visitors. Max, it seems, has unwittingly become embroiled in an international terrorist group!

The Director, Matt McCord, has chosen a very talented cast for *A Touch of Danger*. The local actors that were assembled for this "who done it?" thriller are pictured below. With many plot twists and turns, this show is sure to keep you poised on the edge of your seat while waiting for the chilling outcome of this surprise-filled thriller.

Information and tickets for this show are now available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by visiting or calling the box office at 941-475-6756.



The cast of *A Touch Of Danger* takes a break from rehearsals to pose for a photo. This group of remarkable actors consists of (front row left to right) Wendi Scianna (Connie Palmer), Jim Choate (Max Telligan), Maureen Young (Harriet Telligan), and Jessie Choate (Liz Ferber). In the back row (left to right) are Jim Walsh (Jeff Seago), Paul Mullen (Graham Digby), Charlie Tyler (Vincent Crane), Murray Fitzhugh (Lloyd Mitchell), and Jenifer Lewis (Rose).

ACTING CLASS AND WORKSHOP

BY CHARLIE TYLER

Ron DelBello's Acting Class and Charlie Tyler's Shakespeare Workshop concluded with a free program on Saturday, March 8, featuring both groups. A large, appreciative house thoroughly enjoyed what they saw. Refreshments following the performance were supplied by the participants.

Both programs were clearly successful and both attracted new people to Lemon Bay Playhouse. I believe the presentation also won the Playhouse some new friends.



Adult Acting Class - Curtain Call



Shakespeare Workshop - Curtain Call

LAST SHOWCASE PRODUCTION



CAROL AND JOHNNIE Saturday, April 12, 2014; 7:30 pm "Music and Mayhem"

Carol and Johnnie perform songs, comedy, ventriloquism, and impersonations, with a dash of audience participation. Nostalgic medleys include songs from the Golden Oldies, Pop Standards, Old Time Rock and Roll, and Classic Country. Reserved tickets are \$18.00 each and are available online or from the box office (941-4756756). Tickets are selling quickly, so hurry to get the best seat selection for this last Showcase Production of the 2013-2014 season.

IMPORTANT BOARD MEETING DATES

April 21, 2014 at 7:00pm
May 19, 2014 at 7:00pm

Changes in meeting dates or times will be posted
on the website and sent by email

READERS THEATER HAPPENINGS

BY KATHY AMELIA

At this time, our Fifth Annual Shorts Aloud Festival is over and "in the yearbook". Once again, we were sold out and the audience reaction was wonderful. I want to thank the cast and backstage people for doing a wonderful job, especially Mike Hilton who created a montage of our past four shows in pictures! I hope we can expand this show to three performances in the future so as to accommodate our waiting list and growing audience. Our outreach bookings continue to flourish with seven shows scheduled for the first three weeks of April! That's what I call spreading the word(s) as in "LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE".



Our Readers Perform at the March Meeting of Readers Theater

FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCE

BY JIM SCIARELLO

As part of the ongoing campaign to reduce the Annex mortgage, LBP will hold another fundraising performance consisting of classical country music. The group, **John Tuff and Friends**, will be live on stage at Lemon Bay Playhouse to help with this endeavor.

This very talented group of musicians has generously volunteered to appear on the LBP stage to provide the audience with a fantastic evening of music. Their performance will include classic country music of current and older country legends, such as Johnny Cash, Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb, George Jones, Johnny Horton, and more. The Playhouse is deeply indebted to John Tuff and Friends for their generosity in volunteering to stage this benefit performance.

Reserved seat tickets are \$12.00 each and are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com, by visiting the box office, or calling (941) 475-6756.



John Tuff and Friends band members, pictured clockwise from top left, are John Tuff (lead singer and rhythm guitar), musicians John Tuff, Tommy Briggs and John Watson on stage (l to r), John Watson (bass guitarist), Don Jeffery (bass guitar and harmonica), Dann Franks (lead guitarist), and Tommy Briggs (drummer).

LEMONDROPS SUMMER CAMP RETURNS -VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-

BY CHERYL HASTINGS



Lemon Bay Playhouse will again host the **Lemondrops Summer Theater Camp** for children from ages seven through twelve. The three week camp will be taught by Patty Tuff and Cheryl Hastings. More details will be available soon. Cheryl and Patty are looking for volunteers to assist with the Lemondrops Summer Theater Camp. The camp will run from July 14 – Aug. 1 with performances on Aug. 1 and Aug. 2. The hours will be Monday through Friday, from 9am to noon and at 6pm on the two performance nights. Scheduling is flexible, and you may choose to work in one week blocks if you prefer. The only requirement is that you enjoy working with children ages 7 to 12 years of age. Theatre experience is not required. The compensation provided will be the fun and enjoyment of introducing children to the art of theatre. If interested, please contact Patty Tuff at 941-474-5588 during the day or 941-214-8780 in the evening.

VOLUNTEER (Continued from Page 1)

2009 and soon became active in the Readers Theater group. The rest, as they say, is history. Most of the participants in this program have never been on stage before but are keenly interested in the theater. Rather than memorizing lines, they have the opportunity to "read" a part from a script and discuss it with fellow performers. Tying it all together is Kathy. It's not a one-person job, and she is quick to give credit to many of her co-leaders.

The group has established a very well received outreach program in which they perform short programs for various civic groups and clubs in the tri-county area. The 28 performances they provided in the past year have given LBP considerable free publicity and made many more people aware of our theater. Although they have no set charge for their efforts they gladly accept contributions and have turned over to LBP in excess of \$1,000 each of the past 3 years. The highlight of their program is a performance presented on our main stage which they call Shorts Aloud. The past several years they have "sold out" their 2 performances, and Kathy is actively lobbying for a 3rd performance.

In addition to all she does for Readers Theater, Kathy has appeared in our main stage productions of *Enchanted April* and *Dixie Swim Club*. Last November she appeared in a leading role in the Charlotte Players production of *Hallelujah Girls* directed by Ron Bupp. In her community of Holiday Lakes, she is in charge of the community kitchen and often cooks for as many as 240 residents. Thank you, Kathy, for your boundless and buoyant hard work and leadership.



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 27th Season!

2013-2014

SINNERS by Norm Foster
THE GOOD DOCTOR by Neil Simon
A CHRISTMAS CACTUS by Eliot Byerrum
THE LAST ROMANCE by Joe DiPietro
A TOUCH OF DANGER by Francis Durbridge
THE FOURPOSTER by Jan de Hartog
THE HEIRESS by Ruth Goetz and Augustus Goetz

September 4 - September 22, 2013
October 23 - November 10, 2013
December 4 - December 22, 2013
January 22 - February 16, 2014
March 12 - April 6, 2014
April 30 - May 18, 2014
June 11 - June 29, 2014

Editor/Publisher: Jim Sciarrello **Photography:** John Bass Photography **Proofreader:** Ann Hanushek
Contributors: Kathy Amelia, Ron Bupp, Rita Corn, Cheryl Hastings, Bob La Salle, Jack Rabito, Jim Sciarrello and Charlie Tyler
Printing and Mailing: The Olde Englewood Mailing Co.

LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Phone 941-475-6756

Visit our website at: www.lemonbayplayhouse.com (or scan the QR code)



"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."