



DECEMBER, 2015 - JANUARY, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a busy time for us. We held our auditions for *Over the River and Through the Woods* and could not cast the young man. We tried everywhere we could think of, and there was just no one available. We then decided to use one of our alternates, *Social Security*. I secured the license and ordered scripts, another audition was held to fill the available roles, and we were very successful. Rehearsals started and were going well, until... I got sick. I finally had to drop out and Ric Goodwin, our Artistic/Production Manager, found a very courageous person, Jim Manns, to take my place. We will open on schedule and we must give credit to all of those who pulled together to make this happen. The show truly does go on.

In the meantime, The Board, with the guidance of the Play Reading Committee, chose the seven plays for the 2016/2017 Season. I'm happy to say that I have secured the scripts for all of the plays as well as the licenses for all but one, which we could not apply for until December due to the restrictions of Samuel French. But, rest assured, that will be taken care of shortly.

I want to thank all of those who helped us out during my prolonged illness. Everything proceeded smoothly, for the most part. LBP is truly a family working together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob La Salle, President/Treasurer

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READERS THEATER

BY KATHY AMELIA

We extend our wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all our Readers Theater family and Lemon Bay Playhouse as a whole. The New Year should be blessed with good health and good theater.

January is the beginning of the creative process for our *Seventh Annual Shorts Aloud Festival* starting with the Directors' Meeting on January 11. At this meeting we welcome a new director to our regular cast of characters, Paul Bravo. We will be having a few changes surrounding our Festival this year, starting with auditions. Auditions will be held Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 17 from 3:00pm to

5:00pm in the annex. Another change for this Festival is that we will be performing in the formal Readers Theater format, i.e. stools and stands and white shirts and black pants. There will be no scenery, no blocking, and no sound effects. The readings will be from our black books. Therefore, for those auditioning, stress your facial expressions and emotions with limited body movements. Our *Seventh Annual Shorts Aloud Festival* will be held on Saturday, February 27, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, February 28 at 2:00pm and 7:30 pm. Tech and dress rehearsal will be held on Friday, February 26 at 7:00pm. All of these dates are MANDATORY ATTENDANCE with NO EXCEPTIONS. Please check your calendars BEFORE you audition. I am excited about this upcoming Shorts Aloud and look forward to seeing you at auditions.

Our scheduled outreach dates have started to approach. Therefore, following our January 4, 2016 Readers Theater session, there will be an outreach meeting in the theater. Outreach participation involves rehearsals and travel to venue sites. All current members, and folks who would like to join outreach, are asked to attend. The meeting should not last longer than an hour. In addition to the new scripts given to our full time members during the fall months, there will be new scripts available. We are ready for an exciting and, what will prove to be an interesting season.

See you on the aisle.

ACTING CLASS AND SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP STARTS IN JANUARY, 2016

Lemon Bay Playhouse will be offering an acting class for adults and a Shakespeare workshop starting on January 19 & 21, and each will run for seven weeks. There will be a class presentation on March 5. Call the Box Office at (941) 475-6756 to register. Go online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com for more information.

IMPORTANT EVENT DATES BOARD MEETINGS

**December 21, 2015 at 7:00pm
January 18, 2016 at 7:00pm**

All board meetings are held at the playhouse unless otherwise posted!

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

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT READERS THEATER

BY JACK RABITO

I am happy to announce that there will be a special presentation at RT, on Monday, December 7th, of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory", which literary critics believe was one of his best works. I have the honor of reading this story for the 2nd time at the Playhouse. It was presented the first time in a ticketed holiday Readers Theater December program in 2007.

The story has been thought to be autobiographical and, in the 1990's, was made into an award winning TV movie starring Sally Fields.

What could an orphaned seven-year-old boy, a superstitious older woman, and a coffee drinking terrier have in common? The Christmas Spirit. Sharing in mischief, kindnesses, and adventure, the trio celebrates a lovely and memorable holiday. As our play currently running in December is not holiday oriented, the December Readers Theater is committed to bring LBP patrons a healthy helping of holiday cheer. Of course, along with some old fashioned egg nog.

Everyone is invited to join in the festivities beginning with a social time at 9:30am in the theater lobby followed by the holiday short play readings in the theater at 10:00am. Please join us. There is no admission charge.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS: A GREAT WAY TO DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO LBP

BY CHARLIE TYLER

Did you know that more than 65% of US companies offer matching programs to their present and former employees? Did you also know that 6 to 10 billion in matching goes unclaimed annually.

Financial Services	
Wells Fargo	11%
Bank of America / Merrill Lynch	16%
Morgan Stanley	35%
American Express	70%
Technology	
Xerox	3%
Verizon	8%
Dell	12%
Microsoft	65%
Consumer Goods	
Nike	5%
General Mills	5%
Kraft Foods	11%
Johnson & Johnson	25%
Pharmaceuticals	
Merck	7%
Bristol-Myers Squibb	13%
Eli Lilly and Company	15%
Pfizer	30%

Figure 1. A Sampling of companies that match gifts and % participation by employees.

If you work or worked for a US company, there's a better than even chance that it has at least a 1:1 matching gift program of which you might not be aware.

Figure 1 shows a chart of a few companies that offer matching gifts and the percentage of employee participation.

This list just scratches the surface. Wouldn't it be great to be able to double the gifts you give to the nonprofits you support?

We hope you will investigate whether your company has matching gifts when you consider a donation to Lemon Bay

Playhouse. With your support we can continue to bring first-class community theater to the Englewood area at a reasonable price and maintain our outreach programs to the community.

VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

BY RON BUPP



Our featured volunteer this month has hiked the mountains in Switzerland, ridden a donkey down the Grand Canyon, and parachuted from an airplane. Those are just examples of the versatility of this charming and hardworking lady.

Born, raised, and educated in the Cincinnati, Ohio area, Donna Hadley went to work for Cincinnati Bell Telephone as an operator. She remained a faithful employee of that company for the next 30 years.

Donna made her first visit to Florida in 1986, and that was to the east coast. In 1997, she discovered our tiny bit of paradise and began to volunteer at the Englewood Art Center.

In order to attract new volunteers, actors, and patrons, our playhouse periodically holds open houses where we show the general public our facility and just what we do here. In 2004, it was at one of these affairs that Donna discovered Lemon Bay Playhouse and immediately volunteered as a box office attendant. It wasn't long before we became aware of Donna's versatile talents. The playhouse is always in need of efficient backstage workers, and Donna dove right in and displayed boundless energy, buoyant charm, and zany humor in every job in which she participated.

Although she has worked in every phase of backstage work, her favorite job is Stage Manager, a job which is a thorny tangle of complications and which she has performed with dazzling verve for 17 of our productions. Donna has also become an accomplished actor, appearing in 9 of our productions.

To Donna and all of our volunteers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for all you do.

SNEAK PREVIEW 2016-2017 LINEUP

BY JIM SCIARELLO

Here is a sneak preview of the 2016-2017 shows that have been selected for our 30th season. We have started the director selection process, and it is near completion. The list of shows, with the directors and dates, will appear in a later issue of the Spotlight. Season ticket renewals will go on sale in April, 2016. New season ticket sales will start in June, 2016 and individual ticket sales will be available starting August, 2016.

Exit Laughing, Comedy by Paul Elliott
Hypnosis, Comedy Thriller by David Tristram
Bob's Your Elf, Comedy by Norm Foster
Office Hours, Comedy by Norm Foster
Tuesdays with Morrie, Drama by Mitch Albom
I Ought to be in Pictures, Comedy by Neil Simon
Senior Follies, Comedy by Billy St. John

IT'S AUDITION TIME!

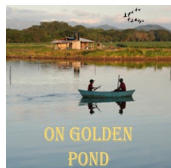
BY JIM SCIARELLO

ON GOLDEN POND

By Ernest Thompson

Directed by Will Horton

Auditions on January 10 and 11, 2016



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *On Golden Pond* on Sunday, January 10, and Monday, January 11, at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.

The play, *On Golden Pond*, by Ernest Thompson will be directed by Will Horton and calls for a cast of three men, two women and one boy (or possibly one girl). The show will run from March 9 through April 3, 2016.

This is a love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-fourth year. They are visited by their divorced daughter, her fiancé and his son (daughter). This is a touching, funny and warmly perceptive study of a spirited and loveable elderly couple facing their twilight years.

Scripts are available for perusal at the Box Office between 10:00am and 2:00pm weekdays. For information call (941) 475-6756.

OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

BY JIM SCIARELLO

PLAZA SUITE

By Neil Simon

Directed by Ric Goodwin

January 20 - February 14, 2016



Following our current show, *Social Security*, Lemon Bay Playhouse will present *Plaza Suite*. This production, Directed by Ric Goodwin, will be our fourth performance for this season. The show runs from January 20 through February 14, 2016.

Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples occupying a suite at the Plaza. Each couple has their reasons for staying at the Plaza. Couple #1, their house is being painted. Couple #2, he is looking for a sexual diversion. Couple #3, they are trying to get their daughter out of the bathroom to get her married. A fantastic cast has been selected by Ric and consists of Ann Hanushek (Karen Nash), Michael LeVasseur (Sam Nash), Lisa Pindara (Jean McCormack), Margo Drewis (Muriel Tate & Mimsey Hubley), John Durkin (Jesse Kiplinger & Borden Eisler), Michele Strauss (Norma Hubley), and Charlie Tyler (Roy Hubley). The very capable stage manager is Donna Hadley. You will not want to miss this show.

Additional information and ticket purchases are 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. Reserved seat tickets are \$18. Student tickets are available at \$12 each.

OUR CURRENT PRODUCTION

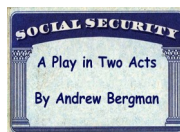
BY PAUL HYATT

SOCIAL SECURITY

By Andrew Bergman

Directed by Ralph and Marion Barnes

December 2 - December 20, 2015



For its third production of the 2015-2016 season, the Lemon Bay Playhouse will present *Social Security* by Andrew Bergman. This show, directed by Ralph and Marion Barnes, opened on December 3 and runs through December 20.

This spirited comedy tells about two married art dealers who struggle with the visit of the wife's goody goody sister, her up-right CPA husband, and her archetypal Jewish mother - who are there to try to save their college student daughter from the horrors of living only for sex. The comic sparks really begin to fly when the mother hits it off with the elderly minimalist artist, who is the dealer's best client! You're in for a barrel of laughs as this very capable cast brings to life a fantastic comedy which the directors describe as a "tongue-in-cheek comedy of the sexually absurd".

Visit www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or stop by or call the Box Office at 941-475-6756 between 10:00am and 2:00pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time for more information and tickets. Reserved seat tickets are \$18. Student tickets are available at \$12 each.



The very capable cast of "Social Security", a tongue-in-cheek comedy of the sexually absurd, take a short break to pose for a picture. Seated (left to right) are Paul Bravo (Maurice Koenig) and Kathy Amelia (Sophie Greengrass). Standing (left to right) are Brad Jenkins (Martin Heyman), Judy Tilley (Trudy Heyman), Ralph Barnes (Director), Marion Barnes (Director), Dottie Warner (Stage Manager), Jessie Choate (Barbara Kahn) and Jim Manns (David Kahn).

A Showcase Production - 2015-2016

Sonny & Cher ■ Cabaret ■ Mr. Bo Jangles ■ Diller ■ Pearl



MARCY DOWNEY

"Hits and Bits of the Sullivan Show"

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016; 7:30 pm



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 29th Season! **2015-2016**

<i>A BENCH IN THE SUN</i> by Ron Clark	September 2 - September 20, 2015
<i>MURDER AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON'S</i> by Ron Clark & Sam Bobrick	October 21 - November 8, 2015
<i>SOCIAL SECURITY</i> by Andrew Bergman	December 2 - December 20, 2015
<i>PLAZA SUITE</i> by Neil Simon	January 20 - February 14, 2016
<i>ON GOLDEN POND</i> by Ernest Thompson	March 9 - April 3, 2016
<i>PROOF</i> by David Auburn	April 27 - May 15, 2016
<i>MAKING GOD LAUGH</i> by Sean Grennan	June 8 - June 26, 2016

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LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00am to 2:00pm. 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."