



## FEBRUARY — MARCH, 2012

### 2012, OFF AND RUNNING!

We have entered into the New Year, and many new plans are underway. The calendar is filling with dates for upcoming events. This is the year of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and that adds to the number of events that are usually in the planning stages at this time of year.

Your Board of Trustees has been busy with preparations for the coming year. As always, we are interested in your opinions and need your help in guiding our Playhouse. Please feel free to share your concerns and suggestions with any of the Board members. We are open to discuss your thoughts regarding the future of Lemon Bay Playhouse.

At our last Board meeting, a list of the current volunteers was presented along with the areas of interest they have selected. We are happy to see all their names and areas of interest they selected. Several committees are busy matching volunteers with opportunities for service here at our Playhouse. If you have a few hours of free time and are looking for a challenging opportunity to serve the needs of our growing Playhouse, please contact our Business Manager, Darlene Benson, at 941-475-6756 or any of the members of your Board of Trustees.

As the year unfolds, there will be new opportunities and challenges presented that will need the attention of our talented volunteers. Lemon Bay Playhouse is a valuable community asset, and your help will add to the value we offer to the community. Come work and play with us as we enter the second quarter century of service at Lemon Bay Playhouse.

Plans are underway for the Annual Membership meeting, the Volunteer Party, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appreciation Celebration and, later in the year, the celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. These are just a few of the future proposed events.

Steve Stump, President

### ALL ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

Mark your calendars for the volunteer party at the Tringali Center on Saturday, February 25 from 4:30 pm to 7:45 pm. Additional information to follow.

### NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Picture this scene in your mind's eye: an intimate little theater with an enthusiastic audience filling every one of the sixty seats in the house. Now look at the stage. Smack dab, down front-and-center, is a post! Yes, a post going from the floor to a supporting beam in the ceiling. Then, glance over to stage left, a few feet away. There you'll see a slow but steady drip from the leaking roof above the stage. But notice how the cast members move deftly about so as to avoid standing directly behind that post or under the dripping water as they smoothly deliver their lines.

O.K., you've just caught an accurate glimpse of a play-in-progress at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, in its original location, during the summer of 1994 – season number eight.

Obviously the production handicaps mentioned above had not deterred those innovative actors and directors, who employed clever blocking and dramatic techniques to make all such obstacles disappear. Audiences loved what they saw and kept coming back in greater and greater numbers.

However, as more leaks began to intrude and other mechanical problems developed, it became clear that any future growth of the Playhouse would require a much better and larger theater building. With that fact in mind, a search committee was formed and set about to find one.

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### IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

#### BOARD MEETINGS

February 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm

March 19, 2012 at 4:00 pm

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 28, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the Theater

#### 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.

# 2012 Showcase Productions

## February 17 & 18, 2012 - Bud Leeds Jazz Ensemble featuring Jonathan "Jazz" Russell – Bronx, NY

If you enjoy jazz, this is a performance you won't soon forget! Violin prodigy **Jonathan Russell** is an exciting 16-year-old jazz violinist who bridges generational and cultural gaps with improvised jazz. He has performed in Europe and throughout the United States at clubs and jazz festivals such as the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the Bohém Jazz Festival in Hungary. The New York Times has written "When he solos, he embraces his instrument and enters a private cocoon, where he conjures sophisticated improvisations on the melodies of jazz standards".

Backing Jonathan will be the Bud Leeds Jazz Ensemble, composed of the following jazz greats: **John Lamb** (former bass player with Duke Ellington), **Bobby van Deusen** (Sammy Davis piano accompanist), **Bill Allred** (trombonist with Walt Disney World Band), **Paul Scavarda** (guitar), **Danny Coots** (drums-Titan Hot Seven); **Bud Leeds** (clarinetist-leads Dixieland bands in New England in the summer and Venice, FL in the winter). You're in for a real treat when these talented musicians get together for a rousing evening of great jazz!

## March 30 & 31, 2012 - The Storytellers

The Storytellers bring the music of the late '50s and early '60s to life with stories about these songs, anecdotes about those who wrote the music and lyrics, and the place of their songs in our lives. The timeless story of Rock and Roll is told through music that has their audiences clapping to the beat, singing along, and joyfully dancing in the aisles. Matt Baker, Joe Hendricks, Janine Elise Scott, John Howard (Founder) and Johnny LaLa make each performance a wonderful memory. If you saw them two years ago, you'll be sure to want to come see them again!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A very short note of recognition for a very generous volunteer at the Lemon Bay Playhouse: Rob Davis, who has been responsible for the Layout and Photography of the issues of the *Spotlight* and the playbills for many years, is stepping down. He has done a marvelous job of creating these and many other publications for the Playhouse over the years. Asking for background on the work that Rob has done, Rosie Tremo sent the following: "In my opinion, Rob Davis is in the top 1% of all LBP volunteers. He's conscientious, dedicated, and beyond competent. Since taking over LBP's publications and photography over five years ago, he set the bar very high for quality and creativity. He has played a starring role in LBP's success." From all of us at LBP a very, very big -

**Thank You, Rob!**

## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

# Neil Simon's Barefoot In The Park

Produced with special arrangement by Samuel French, Inc.

Directed by Marion Barnes

February 29 - March 25, 2012

Sponsored by: *La Stanza*

Rehearsals are underway for our upcoming play, "Barefoot in the Park", a delightful Neil Simon romantic comedy set in the 1960's. The plot concerns Paul and Corie Bratter, a newlywed couple, who have just moved into a tiny fifth floor apartment in New York. When Corie's mother Ethel comes to visit and meets Victor Velasco, an eccentric Bohemian who lives in the attic, the fun begins.



Director, Marion Barnes, front and center, joins the cast of Barefoot in the Park for a photo op during rehearsals. The cast (from left to right) includes Bob LaSalle (Victor), Mike Hilton (Paul), Mariah Phillips (Corie), Ann Hanushek (Ethel) and Garry Craig (the telephone man). The production will open on February 29 and run through March 25. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com).

## 2012's "SHORTS ALoud" FESTIVAL



Get out your calendars and mark **Saturday, April 7, 2012, at 7:30!** It's time for The Third Annual "Shorts Aloud" Festival, presented by the Lemon Bay Playhouse Readers Theater Group. You'll see seven short comedic selections covering a variety of life situations, plus an interesting finale.

Richard Blanchard, Robin Mazey, and Ann Shaughnessy are this season's "Shorts Aloud" directors. Kathy Amelia is the producer. The Readers Theater format is an interesting example of live theater as the scripts are read, and there is minimal set design and props. All we ask is that you sit back, let your imagination be set free, and we guarantee you will leave the theater entertained and laughing. This one-night performance has a special ticket price of \$10.





## 2012-2013 SEASON PLAYS ANNOUNCED

As mentioned in last month's issue, LBP will be expanding its 2012-2013 season to provide you with **seven** great plays for your enjoyment. A new brochure will be issued later this year providing more details. In the meantime, here is a preliminary schedule.

**Sept. 5 - Sept. 23, 2012** *SQUABBLES* ~ a Comedy by Marshall Karp

Jerry and Alice Sloan have taken in Alice's argumentative father, Abe, due to his health problems. Jerry's mother, Mildred, who has lost her home, is on the way. But, she and Abe are sworn enemies!

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 11, 2012** *ARSENIC AND OLD LACE* ~ a Comedy by Joseph Kesselring

Two charming ladies, beloved in their genteel Brooklyn neighborhood, are populating their cellar with the remains of their roomers until their nephew Mortimer stumbles onto their secret.

**Dec. 5 - Dec. 23, 2012** *MY THREE ANGELS* ~ a Comedy by Samuel & Bella Spewack

On Devil's Island, when three paroled convicts working on a roof overhear that impending disaster lies ahead for a kindly store manager and his family, the kind-hearted criminals set about to rescue them.

**Jan. 23 - Feb. 17, 2013** *AN INSPECTOR CALLS* ~ a Drama/Mystery by J. B. Priestley

An eminently respectable family, happily celebrating an engagement, is visited by an Inspector who subjects them to a routine inquiry in conjunction with the suicide of a young working-class woman.

**Mar. 13 - Apr. 7, 2013** *BORN YESTERDAY* ~ a Comedy by Garson Kanin

A corrupt junk dealer, Harry Brock, brings his showgirl mistress Billie Dawn to Washington, D.C. When her ignorance becomes a liability, he hires a journalist to educate her. Billie soon realizes how corrupt Harry is and begins interfering with his plans.

**May 1 - May 19, 2013** *HARVEY* ~ a Comedy by Mary Chase  
Elwood P. Dowd has an imaginary friend Harvey - a six-foot tall rabbit. His social-climbing sister, Veta, decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare their family from future embarrassment.

**June 12 - June 30, 2013** *DON'T CRY FOR ME, MARGARET MITCHELL* ~ a Comedy/Drama by Ernsberger & Cate  
Legendary Hollywood producer David O. Selznick is sequestered in his office for a solid week with a screenwriter and a director, as the three do a rewrite of the script for "Gone with the Wind."

**Be sure to mark your calendars for these great productions!**

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME—(Continued from page 1)

Here's where the good management of LBP's financial affairs paid off. The Board of Directors had, early on, adopted an informal business plan briefly stated as follows: Maximize income and minimize expenses. As soon as the corporation began showing a comfortable cash surplus, the treasurer wisely opened a savings account, specifically earmarked for future growth. Frugality became the Playhouse watchword; all bills were paid promptly; the reserve account swelled.

Hence, the Playhouse Board was able to enter the real estate market with genuine credibility as a potential buyer.

The building at 96 West Dearborn Street – a quality structure in a superb location – was available. The Board made an offer to buy and, thanks to that reserve fund enabling a healthy down payment, they were able to negotiate a price that was both reasonable and affordable. Also because of LBP's solid record of fiscal responsibility, the owner agreed to carry the mortgage – and on top of that, to accept a lower than market interest rate.

The closing was conducted on September 14, 1995 – a day to remember. The excited LBP group departed the legal/financial proceedings with the Deed to the building and the front door key, hurried over to 96 West Dearborn St., where, with pride and exhilaration, they entered the beautiful new HOME of the Lemon Bay Playhouse!

Paul Hyatt

*3rd in a series celebrating LBP's 25th Anniversary.*

## THE GLASS MENAGERIE AUDITIONS



Lemon Bay Playhouse is holding auditions for an upcoming play, 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. This play was written by Tennessee Williams and will be directed by Ron Bupp. Auditions will be held at the Lemon Bay Playhouse at 7:00 pm on Sunday, February 19 & Monday, February 20, 2012. The cast for the play includes 2 males and 2 females and will run from May 2 through May 20, 2012.





96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223

## *Celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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**Contributors:** Steve Stump, Paul Hyatt, Rosie Tremo, Ann Shaughnessy, Marion Barnes  
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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](http://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."