



**FEBRUARY - MARCH, 2013**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope you all came through the holiday season well and happy. It is a most joyous time of year, but, at the same time, it can be difficult and sometimes nerve wracking.

Our first ever Christmas show went over very well. Though we didn't break any records for attendance, the audiences enjoyed the performances, and I heard many positive comments. In spite of the several problems that happened during the run, our intrepid actors and back stage crew came through.

In January, the Board adopted our new Five Year Strategic Plan which can be found online on our web site. Among many things, it outlines the improvements we want to make to our present theater; from a new curtain and sound system to replacement of the ailing air conditioner in the auditorium. In addition, it lays out our plans to purchase the Annex building and the beginning plans for a new theater.

The most crucial part is the last item: fundraising. We have laid out some goals that are critical in accomplishing what is enumerated in the plan: increased season ticket sales, "Four Pack" sales, and group sales; increasing the number of ads sold for our playbills and attracting some sponsors. To do this, we need your help. As always, volunteers are the critical part of our little theater. We need people who will promote group sales, and speak to potential sponsors as well as helping us plan special events. If you are interested in improving our theater, and have some time you can devote to us, contact the box office or speak to any board member. You too can be an integral part of keeping Lemon Bay Playhouse the best little theater in Southwest Florida!

Bob La Salle

### **36 HOUR GIVING CHALLENGE**

BY BOB LA SALLE

We will be participating in **The Giving Partner 36 hour Giving Challenge** that is being offered by the presenting partners: the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and The Patterson Foundation. It is also sponsored by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Charlotte County Community Foundation, and the Manatee Community Foundation.

This will take place beginning Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7AM and continuing through Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. People who wish to donate to Lemon Bay Playhouse should log on to [www.givingpartnerchallenge.org](http://www.givingpartnerchallenge.org). On the opening page, in the upper right corner is a box that says "[Search for organizations](#)." Click in that box and enter "Lemon Bay Playhouse" and then click on search. You will be taken to our page that will have our name and our mission statement and a large button that says, "[Donate](#)". Click on that, and you will be taken to our donation page. There you can check a box for donation amount and then enter some information about yourself. From this page, you can also access our profile, which will give you a great deal of information about us and our aspirations.

There will be opportunities for us to receive some matching funds, if we qualify, and to win some incentive grants that are offered. And, of course, you will be helping us to keep LBP going strong.

### **IMPORTANT MEETING DATES**

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

**\*\* Please Note Time Change \*\***

**February 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm**

**March 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm**

**ALL 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 to members who have an active email address with the playhouse.**

### **ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE**

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 2:00 pm at the theater. A mailing will go out to everyone, prior to February 23, 2013, with the agenda and ballots for voting. Please save the date and join us at the meeting.

## AUDITIONS

### **HARVEY**

By RITA CORN



Open auditions for "HARVEY", a comedy written by Mary Chase and directed by Carole Kleinberg, will be held Sunday, March 3 and Monday, March 4, 2013, at 7:00pm, at the Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.

This classic play features Elwood P. Dowd, who has an imaginary friend "Harvey", who is a six foot tall rabbit. Elwood's social climbing sister, Veta' decides to have Elwood committed to a Sanitarium to spare their family from further embarrassment. This is when the fun begins!

The Director is looking for 6 males and 6 females of various ages. The show will run May 1 to May 19, 2013.

Perusal scripts and sides are available at the Box Office. For further information call 941-475-6756 from 10:00am to 2:00pm daily.

## **VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

### **JANE MERRITT**

By RON BUDD



Jane Merritt typifies the numerous talented and dedicated volunteers who make our theatrical productions possible with their artistic and committed work. For more than three years, she has worked on every play the LBP has produced. She started her volunteer efforts by working in our box office but soon began her extraordinary efforts backstage. Her efforts to find the rare props required for many of our plays are legendary. Jane loves all her work at LBP and confesses that the most difficult part of her job has been trying to locate the many "period pieces" required for some of our plays. After successfully working props for a dozen shows, she was ready to take on the taxing job of Stage Manager and has done an outstanding job in that capacity for seven shows.

Jane was born in Minnesota but spent most of her adult life in Colorado. She is a graduate of Colorado's Western State University and had a twenty-five year career as an elementary school teacher. She moved to our community about six years ago right after hurricane Charlie.

In addition to her volunteer efforts at LBP, Jane stays busy as a member of the Coastal Wildlife Club - Turtle Division, the Red Hat Ladies, and the Rotonda Women's Club. She also volunteers at one of our local elementary schools.

We love you, Jane, and we are very fortunate to have you and all of our volunteers as part of our organization.

## **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**



All of our energetic and giving volunteers are invited to the volunteer appreciation party on February 23rd from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Invitations are being e-mailed. Please join us for food, drink, and merriment. The party will be held at the Tringali Center, 3460 N Access Rd., Englewood. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP before February 15th by calling (941) 475-6756 Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please accept our invitation to show our gratitude for your volunteer service.

**COMING  
SOON!**

## **OUR NEXT TWO PRODUCTIONS**

By RITA CORN

### **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**

By J.B. Priestley

Directed by Doreen Barnett

For our fourth play of our 26th season LBP's play selection committee has chosen this classic mystery, which is not your typical whodunit. This is a very thought provoking production, which will keep you wondering through the entire play.

This mystery/drama takes place in England in 1912 when an eminently respectable family happily celebrating an engagement is visited by a Police Inspector, who subjects them to an inquiry in conjunction with the suicide of a young working class girl.

The director has selected a talented cast that will be certain to entertain you. The show runs from January 23 thru February 17, 2013.



The cast from *An Inspector Calls* takes a short break for a photo op. The actors in the production are (left to right) Andrew Murr (Eric Birling), Frank Falcetta (Arthur Birling), Peggy Martin (Sybil Birling), Caitlin Waldrop (Sheila Birling), Nicholas Pokorny (Gerald Croft), Mary Lou Andrey (The Maid), and Paul Powers (The Inspector).

## **BORN YESTERDAY**

By Garson Kanin

Directed by Ron Budd



Director Ron Budd has selected a very talented cast for his production of *Born Yesterday*, a comedy/drama by Garson Kanin. The following actors were selected: Ruth Shaulis as Billie Dawn, Ray Burroughs as Harry Brock, Jim Walsh as Paul Verrall, Bob LaSalle as Ed Devery, Lee Hakeem as

Senator Hedges, Ann Hanushek as Mrs Hedges, Rick Moore as Eddie Brock, Cheryl Hastings as Helen, and Russ Ousley as the Assistant Manager.

This delightful play involves a corrupt junk dealer, who brings his showgirl mistress to Washington D.C. then decides her ignorance is a liability, so he hires a journalist to educate her. But Billie realizes Harry is corrupt and begins interfering with his plans. The show runs from March 13 thru April 7, 2013.

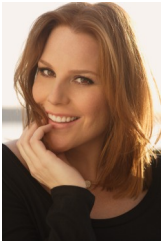


## SHOWCASE LINEUP

By JIM SCIARELLO

Lemon Bay Playhouse Showcase Production series is still in full swing. We have two more talented performers and our acclaimed 4th Annual Shorts Aloud Festival coming up. Those of you who missed the Patricia Dean Trio and Cynthia Sayer productions missed two great evenings of fantastic music, song, and toe tapping. Purchase your tickets now so you do not miss the remaining Showcase Productions. Our Showcase brochure is available online at [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com), at the box office, or in our lobby.

### Whitney James Quintet - Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 7:30pm



Vocalist Whitney James studied musical theater and opera before committing to jazz, and her theatrical background has served her well. She doesn't just sing a tune—she creatively engages it. Every time she approaches a melody and a lyric, she finds a new way to phrase them, shape them, highlight a word or a few notes that shade the meaning and make the music richer. Her sense of time and pacing make her a consummate musician's singer—she knows how to work with a band, instead of asking it to merely back her. A show not to be missed.

### Marcy Downey – Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 7:30pm



Announcing the Lemon Bay Playhouse debut of Marcy Downey's new cabaret show, *'Here's to the Divas and Dames'*. You may remember Marcy as 'Diva and the Italian Guy' with her late husband, Buddy Sebastian. She has since produced her own solo act and has been performing it for sold-out crowds in New York and Florida, receiving rave reviews and standing ovations for her singing and humor. Marcy adds that rare comic element that makes for a memorable evening of smiles and satisfaction.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHORTS ALOUD FESTIVAL



This year's annual Shorts Aloud Festival will be presented on March 2 at 7:30 pm and March 3 at 2:00 pm. This year's six selections are just as sidesplitting as last year's. So if you need a night of guaranteed hilarity, please mark your calendars and buy your tickets soon at the special price of \$10.00.

The directors for this year's production are captured on camera "exchanging their views". Pictured from left to right are Richard Blanchard, Ann Shaughnessy, and Robin Mazey.

## VOLUNTEER FOR MAKEUP AND HAIR

Do you have a background in makeup or hair styling? LBP is looking for volunteers to help with makeup and hair design. These are key elements in our productions which are needed to create an appearance for the characters to portray the social class, time period, and any other essentials required to produce the look appropriate for the performance. If you are willing to contribute your skills and time please call the Ann Hanushek at (941) 474-9610 to let us know you are interested in contributing to the success of our productions.

## DIRECTORS SELECTED

By RITA CORN

In the last issue of the Spotlight, the 27th season plays were announced. On January 6th, the Board of Trustees met and selected the directors for the productions. The following are the plays and the directors for the 2013 - 2014 season.

**SINNERS - Sept. 4 - Sept. 22, 2013 - Comedy by Norm Foster, directed by Michelle Strauss**

**THE GOOD DOCTOR - Oct. 23 - Nov. 10, 2013 - Comedy by Neil Simon (based on Anton Chekhov), directed by Carole Kleinberg**

**A CHRISTMAS CACTUS - Dec. 4 - Dec. 22, 2013 - Comedy by Eliot Byerrum, directed by Bob La Salle**

**THE LAST ROMANCE - Jan. 22 - Feb. 16, 2014 - Comedy by Joe DiPietro, directed by Dan Higgs**

**A TOUCH OF DANGER - March 12 - Apr. 6, 2014 - Mystery by Francis Durbridge, directed by Matt McCord**

**THE FOURPOSTER - April 30 - May 18, 2014 - Comedy by Jan de Hartog, directed by Ron Bupp**

**THE HEIRESS - June 11 - June 29, 2014 - Drama by Ruth Goetz and Augustus Goetz, directed by Leanne Hanson**

Season tickets will go on sale in the Spring of 2013. This promises to be another outstanding season, so plan to get your tickets early. You won't want to miss any of these great shows!

## ART IN THE LOBBY EXHIBIT

By ANN SHAUGHNESSY

"OOPS!! In the last issue of our newsletter, I reported that the lobby exhibit for the next show, *An Inspector Calls* would be presenting jewelry. I'm sorry to say that I was mistaken and the jewelry exhibit will actually be presented for *Born Yesterday* that starts on March 13<sup>th</sup>. As last year, the jewelry designers will be at each performance before the show and during intermission to help you try items on or answer any questions you may have. We are all looking forward to seeing you again at this season's jewelry lobby art in March/April. Sorry for the mixup!

## IN MEMORIAM - ROBERT GSCHWEND

June 14, 1928 - November 26, 2012



On Saturday, January 19th, 2013, a Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held for Bob at Faith Lutheran Church in Rotonda West. The service was very moving, beautifully personalized, and attested to the fact that he was a man who loved to serve others. We at Lemon Bay Playhouse saw this over the many years that Bob volunteered here. Bob was a hard-working and dedicated volunteer and enjoyed being involved with construction projects at the theater. The crew got to know Bob during our story sharing times while on coffee breaks. Bob will surely be missed at the playhouse. In addition to volunteering at LBP, he was also active in the Sunrise Rotary Club, Faith Lutheran Church, and Meals on Wheels.

His obituary said it best: "Robert will be remembered by family and friends as a kind and gentle man who showed his love through service." LBP expresses our deepest sympathy to his wife, Barbara, his children and their families, and his many friends.



96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223

## *Celebrating our 26<sup>th</sup> Season!*

### **2012-2013**

*SQUABBLES* by Marshall Karp  
*ARSENIC AND OLD LACE* by Joseph Kesselring  
*MY THREE ANGELS* by Samuel and Bella Spewack  
*AN INSPECTOR CALLS* by J. B. Priestly  
*BORN YESTERDAY* by Garson Kanin  
*HARVEY* by Mary Chase  
*DON'T CRY FOR ME, MARGARET MITCHELL*  
by Duke Ernsberger and Virginia Cate

September 5 - September 23, 2012  
October 24 - November 11, 2012  
December 5 - December 23, 2012  
January 23 - February 17, 2013  
March 13 - April 7, 2013  
May 1 - May 19, 2013  
June 12 - June 30, 2013

**Editor/Publisher:** Jim Sciarrello **Photography:** John Bass Photography **Proofreader:** Ann Hanushek  
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**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](http://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."