



FEBRUARY - MARCH, 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lemon Bay Playhouse continues to progress in a timely fashion. A new curtain will be installed after the close of *The Last Romance*. We want to offer a huge thank you to Rob Davis for his generosity in offering to pay for this update to our decor.

The other items in our Strategic Plan are moving along very nicely. We have contracted with Pro Audio Services of North Port for a new sound system and the addition of a full video system which will be installed in July while the new booth is being built.

In addition, we have launched a mini-capital campaign to raise the funds to pay off the mortgage on the Annex. Many thanks to Rita Corn and Jack Rabito for offering to do three benefit performances of *The Gin Game*. This kicked us off with a bang. You will read more about the capital campaign elsewhere in this news letter.

As to the success so far of our new season, we are doing marvelously. I'm pleased to announce that *A Christmas Cactus* garnered a 98% attendance rate in December, a 15% improvement over last season's Christmas play. The first three productions have averaged 96% attendance, which is exceptional for this time in the season when the Snowbirds are not yet in full plumage.

A monstrous thank you goes out to all of our volunteers who have worked so hard and diligently to make our little playhouse the success that it is. On that note, our annual volunteer thank you dinner will be held on Saturday, February 15th at 5:00pm at the Tringali Center. You can sign up by calling the box office or drop by weekdays between 10:00am and 2:00pm. I hope to see all of you there.

Bob La Salle, President

LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE ANNEX CAMPAIGN OPENS WITH A GREAT GAME OF GIN

BY CHARLIE TYLER

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Annex campaign officially began on Friday, January 17 with a sold out benefit performance of *The Gin Game* by Donald L. Colburn, featuring Rita Corn and Jack Rabito, and continued over the weekend with two more sold out performances. The rights to the play were underwritten by a donor and Lisa Boyle of Olde Englewood Mailing Co. printed the programs at no cost. Additionally, Renate Petrie made a very generous \$500 donation in honor of Rita and Jack. In all, these benefit performances

raised approximately \$5100 for the campaign. With approximately \$11,000 in additional pledges thus far, the campaign has raised about \$16,100 or about 20% of its goal. A special thank you goes to our patrons and volunteers for their support and, of course, to Rita Corn and Jack Rabito for giving so generously of their time and talent.

The Annex Campaign is a part of Lemon Bay Playhouse's Five Year Strategic Plan and seeks to pay off the \$85,000 mortgage on the Annex building at 80 Dearborn Street, purchased in May of 2012. The purchase of this building reflected LBP's continued commitment to expanding its facilities, increasing the quality of its productions, offering more volunteer opportunities and educational programs to the community, and keeping ticket prices affordable. LBP had rented the Annex building for several years at a cost in rent and maintenance that exceeded its present monthly mortgage payment. The theatre was able to take advantage of the low cost of borrowing and to use its own capital to purchase the building. The building gives the theater more office space, rehearsal space, space for workshops, costume and prop storage space, and additional space for entertainment.

Paying off this mortgage over the next two years will allow the theatre to continue to keep ticket prices low, to upgrade its present facilities and to plan for further expansion as outlined in the strategic plan. The playhouse has already committed funds for a sorely needed new sound system to be installed in July. A new curtain, generously underwritten by LBP volunteer Rob Davis, will be installed after the close of *The Last Romance*. We hope for continued support as Lemon Bay Playhouse plans for a successful future.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD MEETINGS

February 17, 2014 at 7:00pm

March 17, 2014 at 7:00pm

At Lemon Bay Playhouse

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 5:00pm - At Tringali Center

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 2:00pm - At Lemon Bay Playhouse

CALLING ALL ACTORS

BY RITA CORN

THE FOURPOSTER

by Jan de Hartog



Open auditions for *The Fourposter*, by Jan de Hartog, and directed by Ron Bupp, will be held Sunday, Mar. 2 and Monday, Mar. 3, 2014, at 7:00pm, at the Lemon Bay Playhouse.

The 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.

The Director is looking for 1 male and 1 female actor. The show will run from April 30 to May 18, 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.

NOW IN REHEARSALS

BY RITA CORN

A TOUCH OF DANGER

by Francis Durbridge

Directed by Mat McCord

March 12 through April 6, 2014

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 selected a talented cast for *A Touch of Danger* the following actors were selected: Jim Choate (Max Telligan), Jessie Choate (Liz Ferber), Maureen Young (Harriet Telligan), Paul Mullen (Graham Digby), Wendi Scianna (Connie Palmer), Jim Walsh (Jeff Seago), Charlie Tyler (Vincent Crane), Murray Fitzhugh (Lloyd Mitchell), and Jennifer Lewis (Rose).

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9th at 2:00pm at the theater. A mailing will go out to all members, prior to February 23, 2013, with the agenda and ballots for voting. Please save the date and join us at the meeting.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00am on Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night. Also, take this time change as a reminder to replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home.

OUR CURRENT PRODUCTION

BY JIM SCIARELLO

THE LAST ROMANCE

By Joe DiPietro

Directed by Dan Higgs

January 22 through February 16, 2014

The Last Romance was written by Jersey born Joe DiPietro and is directed by Sarasota resident, Dan Higgs. This heart-warming comedy confirms that a crush can make anyone feel young again—even an 80-year-old widower named Ralph (Don Walker). On an ordinary day in a routine life, Ralph decides to take a different path on his daily walk—one that leads him to an unexpected second chance at love. Relying on a renewed boyish charm, Ralph attempts to woo the elegant, but distant, Carol (Jenny Walker). Defying Carol's reticence—and the jealousy of his lonely younger sister Rose (Donna Hadley)—Ralph embarks on the trip of a lifetime and regains a happiness that seemed all but lost. The Young Man (Michael Hilton) is a figure that is encountered repeatedly during the course of the performance.

Under the direction of Dan Higgs, and with talented local actors on stage, prepare yourself to enjoy the daily trips to a dog park in Hoboken, NJ. Playwright DiPietro included several plot twists that make the play even more enjoyable. Come join us and find out for yourself how the romance develops.

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 between 10am and 2pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time.



The cast from *The Last Romance* takes time for a photo op. Front and center is Dan Higgs (Director), seated (left to right) are Donna Hadley (Rose Tagliatelle), Don Walker (Ralph Bellini) and Jenny Walker (Carol Reynolds) and standing is Mike Hilton (The Young Man).

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT IDEA



Looking for a great gift for that special person? Need an item for your silent auction or fundraiser? Want a gift to reward exceptional employees? Can't find a present for that special occasion? Lemon Bay Playhouse has the perfect solution for all of those needs. A Gift Certificate! You may purchase a gift certificate any time during the season and it will be good for any play during that season. For more information, or to purchase a gift certificate, call the LBP Business Manager at (941) 474-9610.

SHOWCASE PRODUCTIONS

BY JIM SCIARELLO

Our first three Showcase performers, Kardenni, Cynthia Sayer, and Barbara Van Eycken were sold out. But we still have one very exciting and entertaining Showcase Presentation left this season. Carol and Johnnie, two very talented professionals, will delight you with the variety and quality of their performances. Reserved tickets are \$18.00 each and are available online or from the box office (941-4756756). Tickets are selling quickly, so purchase them now to get the best seat selection available.

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.

WHAT'S NEW AT READERS THEATER

BY KATHY AMELIA

The Fifth Annual Shorts Aloud Festival is underway with rehearsals being conducted at the Annex. Readers Theater is once again presenting six varied skits somewhat in the format of Masterpiece Theater! This production runs March 1 and March 2 at a reduced ticket price of \$10. Our directors, Richard Blanchard, Larry McGee, Robin Mazey, and myself are pulling out all the stops! There are some seats left for each performance, so don't hesitate to experience this unique form of theater. As this is our fifth year, we will be presenting a special photo slideshow of years past. If you have never seen Shorts Aloud, do yourself a favor, come and be entertained. If you are returning to our theater to see another Shorts Aloud, you know a good time is guaranteed.....See you on the aisle.



Herb Levin, Jack Rabito, and Jay Torrance as disgruntled elves during one of RT's outreach shows at Village of Holiday Lakes.

ACTING CLASSES

BY CHARLIE TYLER AND RON DELBELLO

The adult acting class and the Shakespeare workshop are going quite well. The adult acting class has eight participants. This class is an introduction to the methods and theories of acting and includes many of the concepts. Ron DelBello, a drama teacher with a background in directing and educational theatre, is teaching the class. This 8-week class will be meeting on Tuesdays from 10:00AM to noon at the playhouse annex.



The Shakespeare workshop has eight people registered and is studying Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. This workshop is being led by Charlie Tyler, who instructed and directed Shakespeare in schools for 28 years and has taught adult workshops in Shakespeare since 2000.

The class and workshop will run through February and they will culminate, as they did last year, with a performance event on Saturday, March 8 at 1:00pm.

LEMONDROPS SUMMER CAMP RETURNS



Lemon Bay Playhouse will host the **Lemondrops Summer Theater Camp** for children from ages seven through ten. The three week camp will again be taught by Patty Tuff and Cheryl Hastings. The activities will include things such as improvisation, theater games, body movement, blocking, tongue twisters, and puppetry. The camp will be held in July so keep an eye out for the pamphlet and registration forms. This camp was very successful last year, and fantastic positive comments were received from parents and students. So plan on signing up as soon as registration begins.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

All of our energetic and giving volunteers who have put in 10 or more hours of volunteer time in 2013 are invited to attend the volunteer appreciation party. You may bring your spouse/significant other. The party is on Saturday, February 15th at 5:00pm. It will be held at the Tringali Center, 3460 N Access Rd., Englewood. Please join us for food, drink, and merriment. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible by calling (941) 475-6756 Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.



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

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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."