



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are making adjustments after the loss of our Artistic/Production Manager, Rita Corn. Ric Goodwin has taken over and is doing a wonderful job. It's a very complicated and time consuming job, but he dove right in and is making progress with the upcoming productions. I volunteered to direct "Murder at the Howard Johnson's", and that is going swimmingly. We have a cast and have started rehearsals. Our Board members have all proven themselves by their willingness to help out with any further problems that might pop up.

I talked to Derick Royal, one of the owners of the Englewood Center on Indiana Ave., about leasing the old grocery store as a possible sight for our new theater. He didn't seem to be very concerned about the length of vacancy that facility has had. He quoted me a minimum of \$100,000.00 per year for the lease and probably more. The Board will have to discuss other options.

I was contacted by Dee Schneider about having someone play the piano during intermissions. I emailed that we could not find anyone to do it unless they were paid. Her reply to my email indicated that she knows someone who might be willing to volunteer to do it on Sundays. I think this is something that our patrons would really enjoy, so I will pursue it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob La Salle, President/Treasurer

24 HOUR GIVING CHALLENGE - A SUCCESS STORY

BY CHARLIE TYLER

For the third year in a row, Lemon Bay Playhouse participated in the 24 Hour Giving Challenge on September 1 and 2. The 24 Hour Giving Challenge is an online fundraising event, giving qualified nonprofits an opportunity to raise money for the people, animals or places they are created to serve. It is strictly an online event, using credit or debit cards. No cash or checks are accepted. The Challenge was active this year from noon on September 1 to noon on September 2.

This year, the Patterson Foundation provided a 1:1 match for each new donor's contributions - up to \$250 per donor, per organization. This match was good for the entire 24 hours of the Challenge.

LBP's participation in the 24 Hour Giving Challenge was quite successful. The event was explained in Facebook posts and in emails to our members and volunteers. Program inserts were used for performances of "A Bench in the Sun" on August 31 and September 1. All Board members and staff participated. In all, we received twenty

nine online gifts totaling \$3,300. Twenty seven of these gifts qualified as new dollars. One offline gift of \$500 was also received for a total of \$3,800. As of this writing, \$3,225 of this amount will be matched for an online total of \$6,450 and a grand total \$6,950. Six percent of the \$3,300 (\$198.00) raised online will be backed out to cover credit card fees and pay Kimbia, the company that maintains the website. The matching dollars are not subject to this fee. Overall total should be \$6,752.

Over the past three years, the Playhouse has been able to raise over \$17,000 for its general operating expenses from the Challenge. We hope to participate again next year, if the event is continued.

Many thanks to all of you who supported Lemon Bay Playhouse and to the Patterson Foundation for its generous matching of gifts and to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, and the Herald-Tribune Media Group for their supporting roles.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READERS THEATER

BY KATHY AMELIA

Once again, Readers Theater begins its new season after a restful and rejuvenating summer! We will have our first monthly session on October 5, 2015 at the theater. At that time, we will have a special tribute to our founder, Rita Corn, who, along with her husband Dick, began Readers Theater at Lemon Bay Playhouse. We hope to see all our returning members there. Our outreach program will begin with dates starting in October so our troupe should get out their calendars to make notations. We're looking forward to having another successful season. Remember, January is right around the corner, and our Seventh Annual Shorts Aloud Festival will be holding auditions. See you on the aisle!

IMPORTANT EVENT DATES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE For Rita Corn

**November 14, 2015 at 2:00pm
Friendship Hall
Englewood United Methodist Church**

BOARD MEETINGS

**October 26, 2015 at 6:30pm
November 16, 2015 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**

MEET THE NEW ARTISTIC PRODUCTION MANAGER

BY RIC GOODWIN



I thought it would be fitting for those who don't know me or know much about my background to introduce myself formally to the Lemon Bay Playhouse family.

My interest in theatre began at an early age and was kindled by my mother who taught high school English and directed high school theatre for over 40 years. After college I spent some time in Hollywood as a stunt man and commercial actor. I returned east to further my education and raise a family. I have an MA from Akron University and an MFA from Wayne State University. I worked for over 36 years in Educational Theatre at both the high school and university level, including 29 years at Ashland University in Ohio. I retired in 2013. This journey has seen me involved in over 150 productions either acting or directing at university, community, and professional theatres.

I am married to Louise Goodwin, who volunteers with wardrobe here at LBP. We have 5 grown children between the ages of 30-40 and 2 grandchildren. Both Louise and I are die-hard Cleveland sports fans and we also love the OSU Buckeyes. We live in Rotonda West with our dogs Coco and Finn and our cat Livvy. We moved here two years ago and feel very blessed to be a part of the LBP community.

Replacing an icon like Rita Corn is not possible. She was truly the lifeblood and key persona in the history of LBP. This theatre was her life and passion, and she helped make it the very special place that it is. Along with the echo of her familiar "Hey! Hey! Hey!" Rita would also be the first to remind us that "the show must go on"...and indeed it will. It is my honor to carry on the legacy that Rita created.

SAVE THE DATE - OPEN HOUSE - 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT 96 W DEARBORN ST.

BY JIM SCIARELLO

We are planning an open house in order to celebrate our 20th anniversary in our current theater (96 W Dearborn St.) this year. The first show at this Playhouse was "Star on the Door" by Jack Sharkey and Leo Sears. It was directed by Paul Hyatt and opened on Wednesday, Nov. 3 and ran through Sunday, Nov. 12, 1995. There were a total of eleven performances. The Board of Directors at that time were A.J. Robinson, Rita Corn, Bill Barnes, Barbara Rodvik, Jean Scudder, and Paul Hyatt.

We are planning the open house at the theater on Saturday, Dec 5, 2015 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. This will give the community an opportunity to see what we do and how live Community Theatre operates. Also, we would like to attract new volunteers to the playhouse through this event.

We hope to recruit volunteers by providing tours for the visitors on that day. We will take them through the various areas of the building and Annex and explain the tasks we perform. To carry this out, we will require your help. We are in need of volunteers to be available to assist us on that day. That is, to be at various locations in the theater and Annex to explain the tasks that our volunteers perform. At the end of the tour, there will be refreshments and volunteer sign-up sheets.

If you are interested in helping at the open house you may sign up by calling the box office at (941) 475-6756, or stopping by, and leaving your name, telephone number, and email address.

VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

BY RON BUYP



If you are using a dictionary to look up words like enthusiasm, dedication, and volunteer, you are likely to find a photo of Cheryl Hastings right next to each word. Born and raised in Norwich Connecticut, Cheryl brings a wealth of theatre experience to LBP. After graduation from high school, she waited until she was 43 years old to obtain her BA in Health Administration. Along the way, she was a successful dairy farmer and owned and operated three different restaurants and a catering business. She first became interested in theater when she volunteered as a stage hand at the Chelsea Players, a community theater in Norwich. She subsequently appeared as an actress in fifteen of their productions and even studied acting in New York City.

As a snowbird, visiting her daughter in Englewood, she came to see a number of our LBP productions. She liked what she saw in our theater and the Englewood area and decided to become a permanent resident in 2012. She immediately volunteered at LBP in our box office. It was not long before she put her theater experience to work backstage doing painting, prop work, costumes and graduating to Stage Manager, where she has performed with admirable energy and virtuoso efficiency for seven of our shows. She has also appeared on stage in *Squabbles* and *Born Yesterday*.

Perhaps her premier accomplishment at LBP has been her extraordinary work with our Lemondrops summer theater program for kids. Working with Rita Corn and Patty Tuff, she helped develop and operate this very successful program even writing the plays the kids perform as part of their experience. With her amazing theater expertise, along with vibrant and infectious charm, Cheryl continues to be a vital part of LBP. Thank you Cheryl.



FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCE FOR ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND, INC.

BY JIM SCIARELLO



Lemon Bay Playhouse is helping our community through a special benefit performance of *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*. This additional performance will be held at Lemon Bay Playhouse on Tuesday, October 27, 2015. We will be using the theater and our



volunteers will be assisting with this added performance. All proceeds from the ticket sales of this show will go to support Englewood Helping Hand, Inc., our local food pantry.

Non-perishable food donations will be greatly appreciated on this evening. A drop basket will be on hand at the theater. Help stock the pantry shelves and enjoy a night at the theater filled with suspense and comedy. Come join us and put the fun into FUNdraiser. This show will be offered at a special fundraiser price of \$25 for a reserved seat. 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. Many thanks to all of our volunteers for helping out on this special performance.

IT'S AUDITION TIME!

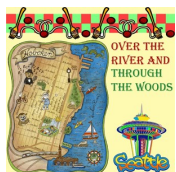
BY PAUL HYATT

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS

By Joe Di Pietro

Directed by Ralph Barnes

Auditions on October 4 and 5, 2015



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *Over the River and Through the Woods* on Sunday, October 4 and Monday, October 5 at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.

The play, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, by Joe DiPietro will be directed by Ralph Barnes and calls for a cast of three men and three women comprised of two couples in their eighties, a young man in his thirties, and a young lady in her twenties. The show will run from December 2 through December 20, 2015.

An ingenious comedy, it tells about Nick, who visits his grandparents every Sunday for dinner. But when he has to tell them he's been offered a dream job that will take him far away, a scheme is devised to keep Nick around.

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

ANOTHER AUDITION

PLAZA SUITE

By Neil Simon

Directed by Ric Goodwin

Auditions on November 22 and 23, 2015



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for its next play on Sunday, November 22 and Monday, November 23 at 7:00pm at the Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn St. Englewood.

The play, *Plaza Suite*, by Neil Simon will be directed by Ric Goodwin and calls for a cast of three+ men and two+ women. For the audition, prepared comic monologues are welcome, but not necessary, along with cold readings.

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. The show runs from Jan. 20 through Feb. 14, 2016.

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

A Showcase Production - 2015-2016

"Ellington Hour" ■ Authentic Arrangements ■ Modern Creations

GREG NIELSEN'S JAZZ BAND

"Jazz the way you like it"

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015; 7:30 pm



OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

BY PAUL HYATT

MURDER AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON'S

By Ron Clark and Sam Brobrick

Directed by Bob La Salle

October 21 - November 8, 2015



For its second production of the 2015-2016 season, the Lemon Bay Playhouse will present "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," by Ron Clark and Sam Brobrick. This show, directed by Bob La Salle, opens on October 21 and runs through November 8.

Theatergoers who enjoy suspense along with lots of laughs will enjoy this romp: Is all fair in love and even murder? This light and funny comedy about a love triangle in a Howard Johnson's Motor Inn is filled with mirth-provoking situations.

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 cast of "Murder at the Howard Johnson's" take time from rehearsals for a photo op. Standing (l to r) are Mike Levasseur (Paul Miller), Kim Fox (Arlene Miller) and Jim Walsh (Mitchell Lavell). Seated (l to r) are Bob La Salle (Director) and Cheryl Hastings (Stage Manager).

TICKET PURCHASING NEWS

BY JIM SCIARELLO

We now have flex pass subscriptions available. Tell your friends that they can purchase tickets to our shows at a reduced price. Patrons can purchase our Flex Subscription (Four Pack) Pass at a cost of \$68 per person. Each Flex Subscription Pass is valid for one ticket to a performance of your choice to any four of our plays you choose. Flex Subscription Pass tickets may be purchased by visiting or calling the box office at (941) 475-6756 or online by going to the link https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?buy_pass=lbp. You will be able to select the shows and seats desired at a reduced cost.



The other great news is that one can purchase tickets by phone, online or at the box office with Amex, Visa, Master Card, and Discover credit cards as well as with PayPal. We make your ticket purchases easy and without a service or processing fee. Free parking is always included.



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>OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS</i> by Joe DiPietro	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."