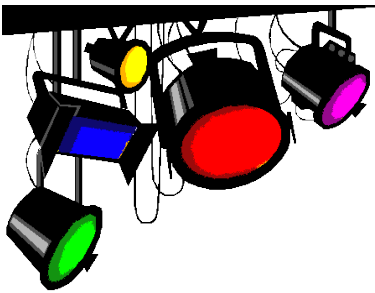




FEBRUARY - MARCH, 2017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Interesting times here at LBP. We are getting ready for the Volunteer Appreciation Party to take place on February 26th. To that end I have been totaling up the hours that our stalwart volunteers have accumulated and I am impressed. An invitation letter will go out

shortly to all those volunteers who put in ten or more hours during the year.

Also, I have been getting ready for our annual meeting to take place on March 5th. Ballots will be mailed out in the first week of February to all those who are members as of February 1st, so keep a lookout for them and get them back to us promptly.

At the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Board passed a new five year strategic plan. It calls for some work to our building, the theater, and the grounds. It also lays out plans for the initiation of a new theater. A copy of the plan is available any time in our box office or drop me an email and I will send you an electronic copy.

I'm happy to say that *Office Hours* is a great success and is sold out as of this printing. All of our productions this season have done very well and everyone who has worked on them should be very proud. I personally want to thank you all for the work you have put in to make our little theater the gem on Dearborn St.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob La Salle, Executive Director

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READERS THEATER

BY KATHY AMELIA

Readers Theater is busy preparing for its Eighth Annual Shorts Aloud Festival on February 18 and February 19, 2017. Rehearsals are underway and I want to thank everyone who auditioned and all who are giving a concerted effort to

bring this show to the public audience. This is always a sold out event and a time to showcase this unique form of theater.

Our monthly RT sessions are being well attended, but we are always looking for new participants. So circle your calendar for the first Monday of the month at 9:30am for coffee and treats before entering the theater at 10:00am to enjoy an interesting program. You can volunteer to read or sit back and observe.

Hope to see you on the aisle.

Kathy

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00am on Sunday, March 12. 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.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

BOARD MEETINGS

In the Green Room

February 20, 2017 at 6:00pm

March 20, 2017 at 6:00pm

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 4:30pm
At Tringali Center

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 5, 2017 at 2:00pm
At Lemon Bay Playhouse

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME FOR BOARD MEETINGS

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

VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

BY JIM MANNS



Over the past many years Readers Theater (RT) has become one of the driving forces behind the continued success of LBP. It has opened the door to many who may have thought "I can't get up on stage". Well it turns out they most certainly can, and that has helped spawn a legion of supporters and contributors that has helped our theatre grow.

The beloved Rita Corn, along with her husband Richard, was instrumental in getting this program started many years ago and is now in the very capable hands of our spotlight volunteer of the month Kathy Amelia.

Kathy moved to the area from Long Island, NY about 10 years ago, after spending 34 years in Law Enforcement; while earning her degree in Criminal Justice along the way. "My involvement with LBP got started after a friend and I dropped by the theatre in 2007 to attend an open house" Her first play *Enchanted April*, directed by Dale Moore, was mostly due to her ability to speak Italian. Along the way she also performed in *Dixie Swim Club*, *Social Security* and with the Charlotte Players in *Hallelujah Girls* and *Cemetery Club*.

Volunteer work is what Kathy is all about. In 2007 she started in the community kitchen at the Village of Holiday Lakes in Port Charlotte, a position she has been heading for the past 8 years. Along with lunch being served to up to 120 people once a week,

Kathy also does special events at the community for up to 250 people.

One of the key components to the success of LBP is not only reaching out to the community but going out into the community. There is no better example of this than Readers Theater outreach program. With a schedule that includes up to 15-20 shows per season, performing at churches, women's clubs, assisted living facilities and schools.

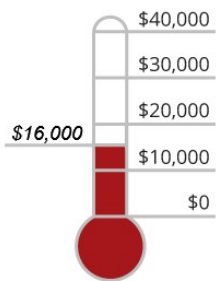
All of this is done at no charge to the person holding the event (donations gratefully accepted of course). Talk about promoting our theatre, talk about putting a face on our theatre, RT, with the Leadership of Kathy Amelia, has much to be proud of.

The main stage production of RT is "Shorts Aloud" which is presented as a showcase event. With six skits, along with intermittent entertainment, it is one of the highlights of our season. As a sidebar, ALL the money we receive from Shorts Aloud goes into LBP coffers.

Community Theatre is about a dedicated group of volunteers who have a love for the arts, in particular theatrical performance. The genesis of this for many can often be discovered through Readers Theater. LBP should be very proud and grateful for a volunteer like Kathy Amelia; through her many, many hours of work leading our RT group along with stage managing and acting. Thank You Kathy for helping to make LBP the Jewel on Dearborn.

PLAYHOUSE ROOF FUNDRAISER UPDATE

BY JIM SCIARELLO



As you may remember, on September 20 and 21, Lemon Bay Playhouse participated in the 2016 Giving Challenge for the fourth time. The objective was to raise unrestricted funds to help pay for the new roof being put on the playhouse at a cost of over \$40,000. The Giving Challenge raised about \$10,000 which brought us to 25% of our goal. After the Giving Challenge our campaign continued. Thanks to you, our generous friends of LBP, we have now raised over \$16,000 in donations

which is about 40% of the \$40,000 cost of the new roof that was put on the Playhouse.

Our campaign to raise the full amount is still ongoing and any further donations are deeply appreciated. You can continue to show your support for Lemon Bay Playhouse by becoming a friend of the Lemon Bay Playhouse. Your donation of \$25 or more entitles you to a yearly membership which runs for one year from date joined. Each level of support has special benefits for our donors. Any or all of the donation may be directed to the roof fundraiser.

For as little as \$25 we will make you a Theater Buff member. The benefits of being a member, and a Friend of Lemon Bay Playhouse, entitles you to the following:

- Subscription to the Spotlight, LBP's Bi-monthly newsletter
- Invitation to the monthly Board and Annual Membership meetings
- Voting Privileges
- The gratitude of all the volunteers and staff at LBP
- Recognition as a supporter of the Lemon Bay Playhouse!

Please take a look at our brochure and see ALL the benefits associated with the levels of donation. Brochures are in the lobby and available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com.

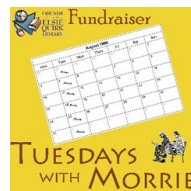


FRIENDS
of the
ELSIE
QUIRK
LIBRARY

Fundraiser!

OUR SECOND FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCE THIS SEASON

BY JIM SCIARELLO



Lemon Bay Playhouse, and many of the volunteers, are donating the facility and their time for a one night performance of the play, "Tuesdays with Morrie". This performance has been arranged for Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 at 7:30pm, a night that the playhouse is normally closed. The Playhouse is donating ALL of the proceeds from this performance to the Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library. The cost of a reserved seat ticket for this fundraiser performance is \$25.00. Lemon Bay Playhouse and Friends of the Elsie Quirk Library would love to fill the theatre and sell all 95 seats. Please tell your friends who may be interested in supporting the library. Come join us and put the FUN into FUNdraiser.

Information and tickets are available by visiting or calling the Box Office or online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com. Box office phone number is (941) 475-6756

This is our second fundraiser this season. Our first was a night at the theater for Englewood Helping Hands.

Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping out on this special performance.

2016–2017 Showcase Productions

JOHN TUFF AND FRIENDS

"No 'Cryin' In Your Beer Country Music"
Saturday, February 25, 2017; 7:30 pm

JIMMY MAZZ

"Las Vegas Legends"
Saturday, April 15, 2017; 7:30 pm

2017 Readers Theater

READERS THEATER 8th ANNUAL SHORTS ALOUD FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7:30 pm and
Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm



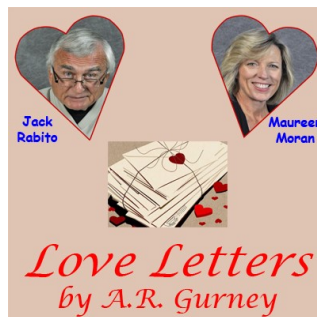
Get out your calendars and a pencil! Lemon Bay Playhouse is proud to announce that the Eighth Annual Shorts Aloud Festival, produced by Kathy Amelia, is scheduled for Saturday, February 18 at 7:30pm and Sunday, February 19, at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. This show, "The Art of Readers Theater", is presentation by the Lemon Bay Playhouse Readers Theater Group. The performance consists of six short comedic selections, with intermittent entertainment from Carol Burnett and Friends, covering a variety of life situations with an interesting twist. These three performances guarantee a unique theater experience with a light-hearted and amusing flair. Please reserve a seat and come see the humorous side of life! All we ask is that you sit back and let your imagination be set free. By doing this, we assure that you will leave the theater entertained and laughing. Get your tickets soon since they are going fast.

The Readers Theater format is an interesting example of live theater where the scripts are read and there is minimal set design and props. LBP Readers Theater is open to those interested in reading or hearing plays in a group setting. Meetings are held at the playhouse on the first Monday of each month, from 9:30 am to noon, starting in October and continuing through May. No theatrical experience is necessary to participate. In this setting, actors do not memorize lines but read from scripts. It is a good way for new actors to try their hand at public performance and to gain familiarity with other skills such as script analysis, character development, and other acting tools. It is a delightful way to enjoy hearing new plays with fellow theater fans!

Information and tickets are available for all performances online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by visiting or calling the Box Office at (941) 475-6756 between 10:00am and 2:00pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time. These performances have a special reserved seat ticket price of \$12.

PENDING PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

BY RIC GOODWIN



Lemon Bay Playhouse is proud to announce a *pending* agreement to create an internship with State College of Florida (SCF) Venice. I have been working since September with Professor Nicollette Mason from SCF to turn this idea into a reality. This is truly a win/win situation for both of our organizations. The paperwork is completed and

internship opportunities will be advertised through the Career Resource Center at SCF Venice Campus; office of Michelle Groves, Advisor. The internship will offer students the opportunity to receive academic credit for the real-life experience of working both onstage and behind the scenes at our playhouse. Because these are unpaid internships, the SCF students will be working side-by-side with our incredible group of volunteers. Students can opt for academic credit or no credit, using the experience to build their resumes.

A kick-off event to highlight the future partnership will be a performance of a cutting of A.R.Gurney's *Love Letters* at SCF Venice on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Performing *Love Letters* will be Jack Rabito and Maureen Moran, who were last seen in LBP's production of *On Golden Pond*. This event is free and open to the public and will begin at 12:30 pm in the Selby Room, building 800 at SCF Venice, 8000 S. Tamiami Trail.

TUESDAY WITH MORRIE TO OFFER LBP'S AUDIENCE A NEW EXPERIENCE

BY RIC GOODWIN

As a director, one of my primary obligations is to attempt to get the audience to suspend their disbelief and draw them into "the world of the play." With most of the plays you see at LBP, the directors use "realism", such as realistic settings. Plays are presented as if you are looking through a fourth wall into the setting of the play. Realistic props such as telephones that ring and radios that play, etc. are examples that directors will use as visual reinforcement in telling the story.

I have chosen to go in a different direction with Tuesdays with Morrie. I would ask you instead to focus on the two characters and the inspiring and poignant words they are sharing with you. At times they will talk directly to you; at times to each other face-to-face. And at times, incorporating a theatrical technique called offstage focus, they will project the characters they are talking to out and above you. Some props you will see; others will be pantomimed and seen with your mind's eye. Places in the play will be suggested and through the dialogue become obvious.

So I am asking you to join me on this less-is-more, minimalistic journey, as we share this beautiful story that Mitch Albom and Jeffrey Hatcher have given to us. Watch, listen, feel, laugh, and learn, for as Mitch reminds us at the end of the play, "the teaching goes on".

VOLUNTEER PARTY DETAILS

BY JIM MANNS



Hello Everybody!

You are cordially invited to the LBP annual volunteer party to be held on February 26th at the Tringali Center, Englewood.

The thank you party will commence at 4:30pm with the cocktail hour at which wine, beer and soft drinks will be served. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm followed by dessert and coffee. The party will conclude at 7:30pm.

This is the 30th season for LBP, something extra special to celebrate and we hope to see you there.

Please RSVP no later than February 22 to the Playhouse box office by phone at (941) 475-6756 or drop by and sign up.

Sincerely - YOUR Lemon Bay Playhouse Volunteer Coordinator

Directions: Heading East on 776 turn left at the Spinnaker light, take an immediate left onto the access road. The Tringali Center is located at 3460 N. Access Rd., Englewood FL.

VOLUNTEER AND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

BY JIM SCIARELLO

Thanks to the many volunteers and supporters of the arts at Lemon Bay Playhouse. Due to your participation we have accrued a tremendous amount of volunteer hours and have significantly increased our membership in 2016.

With great appreciation we can report a total 15,745 hours contributed by our 112 volunteers. These numbers equate to approximately 141 hours per volunteer. There were also 22 volunteers with more than 250 hours in 2016. I have the feeling that there may be some volunteer that have not turned in their volunteer hours card and therefore, the numbers may be a little lower than in actuality.

We also give a big thanks to our supporters of the arts who have made contributions to Lemon Bay Playhouse. Anyone who made a contribution of \$25 or more has become a member of the playhouse. Last year we had 74 members and currently we have 124 members. Due to our supporter's generosity we have an additional 50 members which equates to about a 68% increase. Please contribute \$25 to the playhouse and become a member. Join today!

PLAY READING COMMITTEE ARTICLE CORRECTION

BY LOUISE GOODWIN

An omission was made in the last Spotlight regarding the Play Reading Committee (PRC) membership: the name of Murray Hudson was omitted from the list of members. Our most sincere apology to Murray for this omission. Murray has been on the play reading committee for several years and his thoughtful contributions and reviews of plays have been invaluable. Thank you, Murray, for all your hard work!

Anyone from the LBP community who would like to suggest a play or script to the committee, please forward your suggestion to: ric.and.louise@gmail.com. Also, the PRC is needing an additional member; if you enjoy reading and would like to serve on this committee, please contact me at the above email address.

OUR 2017-2018 SEASON FINALIZED

BY JIM SCIARELLO

As reported in an earlier newsletter the Play Reading Committee (PRC) had a busy summer reading 19 scripts for possible production for Lemon Bay Playhouse's 2017-2018 season. Of those 19 plays, seven were eliminated and 12 scripts were submitted to the Board for their consideration. The Board then met in Executive Session to select the seven plays and dates that will make up our 31st season. After the plays were selected Ric Goodwin, our Artistic/Production Manager, sent a call out for directors for the selected shows. The directors that applied, and their play preference, was submitted to the Board. In another Executive Session the board selected the Directors. Audition dates and the cast composition was also completed. The playhouse is pleased to provide you with the final 31st season lineup.



Annoyance, Comedy by Sam Bobrick, Sep. 6 – Sep. 24, 2017

Directed by Michele Strauss

Auditions: July 23 & 24, 2017 – Cast: 1 female and 2 male

Later Life, Comedy/Drama by A. R. Gurney, Oct. 18 – Nov. 5, 2017

Directed by Jenni Elliot

Auditions: August 27 & 28, 2017 – Cast: 2+ female and 2+ male

Over the River and Through the Woods, Comedy/Drama by Joe DePietro, Nov. 29 – Dec. 17, 2017

Directed by Peter Ivanov

Auditions: October 1 & 2, 2017 – Cast: 3 female and 3 male:

Crimes of the Heart, Comedy by Beth Henley, Jan. 17 – Feb. 11, 2018

Directed by Ron Bupp

Auditions: November 19 & 20, 2017 – Cast: 4 female and 2 male

Flemming, Comedy/Mystery by Sam Bobrick, March 7 – April 1, 2018

Directed by Bob La Salle

Auditions: January 7 & 8, 2018 – Cast: 3 female and 5 male

The Tin Woman, Comedy/Drama by Sean Grennan, April 25 – May 13, 2018

Directed by Will Horton

Auditions: February 25 & 26, 2018 – Cast: 4 female and 2 male

Sylvia, Comedy by A. R. Gurney, June 6 – June 24, 2018

Directed by Murray Hudson

Auditions: April 8 & 9, 2018 – Cast: 3 female and 2 male

Louise Goodwin, PRC Chair gives a shout out to PRC members Ric Goodwin (preliminary chair), Murray Hudson, Bob La Salle, Michelle Nietzel, Ruth Shaulis, Michele Strauss, and Charlie Tyler for all their reading and hard work.

Become Part of the Lemon Bay Playhouse Family

*Make a donation of \$25 or more and become a member
and supporter of the arts at Lemon Bay Playhouse.*

- Experience the Benefits -

Pick up a brochure at the playhouse or go to
www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/membership.html
for more details

IT'S AUDITION TIME!

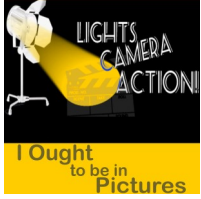
BY PAUL HYATT

I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES

By Neil Simon

Directed by Ron Bupp

Auditions on January 15 and 16, 2017



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *I Ought to be in Pictures* on Sunday, February 26 and Monday, February 27 at 7:00pm at the playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn St., Englewood.

The play, a comedy, written by Neil Simon and Directed by Ron Bupp, calls for a cast of two female actors and one male actor. The show will run from April 26 through May 14, 2017.

The script tells an intriguing story: Herb, a Hollywood screenwriter currently between "gigs" and suffering from writer's block, is surprised when his past reappears in the form of Libby, his estranged young daughter from Brooklyn. She has made the trek cross country with dreams of movie stardom. With encouragement from Steffy, his once a week girlfriend at his side, Herb decides to take another stab at fatherhood and hopefully this time, get it right.

For more details visit our website at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com. Scripts and sides are available for perusal on our website (sides only) or at the Box Office between 10:00am and 2:00pm weekdays. For information call (941) 475-6756.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION

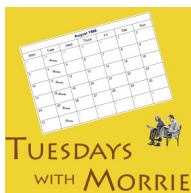
BY PAUL HYATT

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

By Mitch Albom

Directed by Ric Goodwin

March 8 - April 2, 2017



For the fifth production of its 30th Season, the Lemon Bay Playhouse presented *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom and directed by Ric Goodwin. The performances will run from March 8 through April 2, 2017.

This strong and touching drama tells the autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. After a 16 year separation, their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live. The pair journey down a path in which the older man passes lessons of life to the younger man, who will always remember his Tuesdays with Morrie - an inspiring and unforgettable evening of theatre. Be sure to get a good seat by booking early to see this show.

Information and tickets for all performances are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by visiting or calling the Box Office at (941) 475-6756 between 10:00am and 2:00pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time. Reserved seat tickets are \$18. Student tickets are available at \$12 each.

JUST COMPLETED PRODUCTION

BY PAUL HYATT

OFFICE HOURS

By Norm Foster

Directed by Ralph Barnes

January 18 - February 12, 2017



For the fourth production of its 30th Season, the Lemon Bay Playhouse presented *Office Hours* by Norm Foster. The show was directed by Ralph and Marion Barnes. This production, a few days after opening, played to sold out audiences. It ran from January 18 through February 12, 2017.

Office Hours explored the everyday concerns of people working in small offices. It's one Friday afternoon and the audience is looking in on six office settings in a big city. Here we followed six different and very funny stories unfolding at the same time. However, they are all connected somehow, from the figure skater on the ledge to the novelist in the closet. This show took you on one wild ride in a madcap race towards quitting time, which sent the audience into uncontrolled laughter.



The actors for the show "Office Hours" take a moment to pose for a photograph. Seated (left to right) are Kathi Faulkner (Francine Majors), Joanie Anton (Sharon Freeman), Rebecca Cross (Pam Gerard), and Victoria Caruso (Ellie Young). Standing (left to right) are Judy Tilley (Rhonda Penny), Tim McConaghy (Lloyd Penny), Gary Craig (One-Armed Man and Mark Young), Bob La Salle (Warren Kimble, Stan Thurber, and Neil Penny), Rick Moore (Bobby Holland and Richard Penny), Brad Jenkins (Gordon Blaine and Salesman), and Jerry Zezas (Artie Barnes).

RETURNING AGAIN DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON



SUMMER ADULT ACTING CLASS



LEMONDROPS SUMMER THEATER CAMP

Keep an eye out for the dates and times

GOT A VHS PLAYER YOU DO NOT USE?

Lemon Bay Playhouse is looking for a VHS player that can be used convert our VHS tapes to DVD's. If you have one that you no longer need we can use it. Please contact Bob at the playhouse (941) 475-6756.



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 30th Season! **2016-2017**

<i>EXIT LAUGHING</i> by Paul Elliott	September 7 – September 25, 2016
<i>HYPNOSIS</i> by David Tristram	October 19 – November 6, 2016
<i>BOB'S YOUR ELF</i> by Norm Foster	November 30 - December 18, 2016
<i>OFFICE HOURS</i> by Norm Foster	January 18 - February 12, 2017
<i>TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE</i> by Mitch Albom	March 8 - April 2, 2017
<i>I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES</i> by Neil Simon	April 26 - May 14, 2017
<i>SENIOR FOLLIES</i> by Billy St. John	June 7 - June 25, 2017

Editor/Publisher: Jim Sciarrello **Photography:** John Bass **Proofreader:** Ann Hanushek
Contributors: Kathy Amelia, Paul Hyatt, Louise Goodwin, Ric Goodwin,
Bob La Salle, Jim Manns, and Jim Sciarrello
Printing and Mailing: The Olde Englewood Mailing Co.

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."