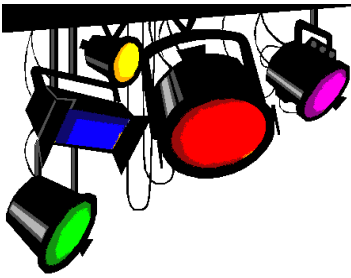




JULY-AUGUST, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our season ended with a bang with a great comedy, "Til Beth Do Us Part." This put us over the top for another year. Since the 2014/15 season, our gross income has increased by 23.5% to over \$192K.

This success is due to a variety of things. First, our play reading committee has picked some of the best plays available to bring to our Board who, in turn, put together great seasons. Second, our Artistic/Production manager has maintained a list of the best Directors in the area who always do an excellent job for us. Third, the actor pool (my wife always called it a puddle) though small, are some of the best amateurs in the area and it was obvious with the accolades we received from our audiences. Fourth, our stage managers and their back stage crews, who always made the scene changes seem effortless, our set décor people, our props mistress and all of those who make our productions look professional. Fifth, our stalwart box office personnel who are constantly solving problems for our patrons while making sure they have just the right seats. Last but certainly not least, are our volunteers who worked tirelessly to make every patron's visit a memorable one. You have my heartfelt thanks.

And so, we are all looking forward to another banner year in our 33rd season. See you at the theatre!

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle

OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

BY PAUL HYATT

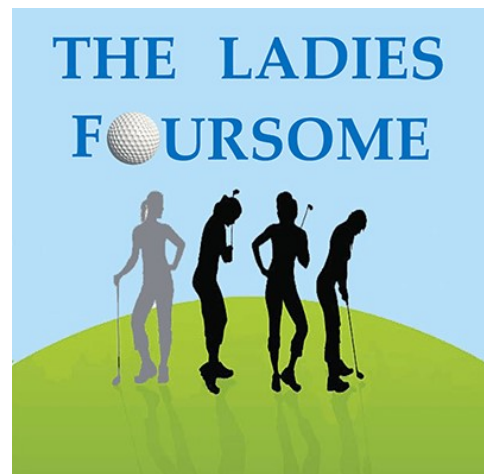
The Ladies Foursome
A comedy by Norm Foster
Directed by Ron Bupp

To kick off its 33rd season (yes, 33rd!) the Lemon Bay Playhouse will present another hit comedy by that clever Canadian playwright, Norm Foster. And what a tale he weaves.

The day after their friend Catherine's funeral, Margot, Tate and Connie gather for a round of golf in honor of their recently departed fourth. At the golf course they are joined by another woman, an old friend of Catherine's they'd never met. Over the course of 18 holes, secrets and confessions unravel as the women discuss love, sex, children, and everything in between.

The show runs from September 4 to September 22.

Information and tickets are 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. Reserved seat tickets are \$23. Student tickets are available at \$14 each.



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

A NEW HOME FOR LBP?

BY BOB LA SALLE



I'm sure by this time you have all heard that LBP is looking for a new place to build a bigger and better theatre. The first place we were seriously considering was a unit in the Lemon Bay Plaza, about 2 miles up Route 776 from our present location.

Then a building at 190 Dearborn Street went up for sale and we started to look into the possibility of purchasing that facility. It was perfect: a large open space big enough for a theatre and all the accoutrements that go with it.

The owner was contacted and negotiations began. We did a property evaluation and found that similar buildings in the area were priced between \$600K to \$800K and that seemed reasonable. In addition, the owner also had two vacant lots right behind the building that, if purchased, could be used for our storage sheds.

We engaged the services of a financial consulting firm, Vera Cruz Advisory, LLC, and they began working on our financial picture and scenarios for acquisition. We contacted a person from Gulf Coast Community Foundation that we had worked with when we raised money to buy the Annex and started looking into a capital campaign.

Then things bogged down. The owner wanted more than the amount that we expected and wouldn't budge on the price. The only way we could swing it was to do a lease-with-option-to-buy. Our financial advisors ran a scenario with this option and presented it to the Board who looked at it closely and determined that we would have to stretch ourselves too thinly to pull it off. If anything happened to the economy within the five year term of the lease, we would lose everything.

The Board wisely chose to pass this up and the owner was informed that we would not be either leasing or buying the building.

We have not given up. We are going to continue to look for available land on or near Dearborn Street and have been researching the construction of a steel building. It has been discovered that they have been used for theatres and churches elsewhere and are much more affordable.

As Englewood grows, we need to keep pace as well and that is what we are intending to do. Stay tuned....

IN MEMORY OF MICHELLE

BY PAUL HYATT



There is now a new star in the vast theatrical heavens above. This one, during her mortal life, was known and beloved by audiences and fellow thespians at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, as, Michelle Neitzel. Sadly, Michelle died this past June 27.

From her first acting part, through a long list of roles on our stage, she played a wide variety of characters, performing each one with skill and a perfect touch of dramatic flair.

I still remember that evening back in April of 1994 when Michelle came "just to watch", as a friend was going to audition for a part in "The Murder Room," which was scheduled to open the following June 24. But, with a bit of urging from the director, she agreed to read for one of the female roles, and wow! It was obvious to everyone there that this young lady possessed a strong, natural talent. She, of course, was offered a part in that play, which she accepted, and then performed beautifully.

This early success was promptly followed by another important role in the very next scheduled production, which was Neil Simon's, "Plaza Suite," opening just three months later.

From then on, for the next 20 some years, very few seasons went by without Michelle appearing in at least one play, and in several seasons she managed two, for a total of at least 25. And all of these, I must add, got high praise from reviewers in area newspapers.

As time went along Michelle also stepped in to handle other assignments for LBP, such as theatrical coach, play director and member of the Board of Trustees.

During all of those very busy years helping our little theatre bloom, she was also managing a full-time career as an independent insurance broker. Thanks to her versatility and strong work ethic, this venture did quite well and grew to the point that, about three years ago, she had to exit the stage activities that she loved so much, and just tend to business.

For her invaluable contribution to the Lemon Bay Playhouse we are forever indebted. And for her departure from this world we are deeply saddened. Michelle is no longer with us, but her place in our galaxy of stars is permanent.

THE BOX OFFICE TEAM

BY DEB POLING

One of the main responsibilities of my position as Business Manager is to ensure the box office runs smoothly. I've been at Lemon Bay Playhouse almost two years now and with a great team of volunteers, my job has been very easy. The box office is run by a group of 10 volunteers. These ten individuals are the most reliable and committed people I've ever worked with. We have a schedule and everyone has their specific days. If you come to the Playhouse on Monday, you'll have the pleasure of working with Linda or Pam. On Tuesday, Barbara will be there to greet you with a smile. Wednesday is shared with Donna, Pat and Rob; and Mama Mia makes sure Thursday runs smoothly. Wrapping the week up on Friday, Carolyn or Donna will take good care of you. Each day our volunteers are busy selling tickets, answering the phone, helping patrons at the window, giving theatre tours, anything and everything to make sure your needs are met. The evening and matinee performances are "manned" by Rob and Russ. These two men are always there, always dependable and always do a great job. What a terrific group of volunteers! I am so glad they are the Box Office Team and I feel blessed to call them my friends.

The Playhouse is run by many other teams of volunteers: actors, directors, stage managers, back stage crew, costumes/wardrobe, lights/sounds, props, and several other groups. All volunteers donate their time and make live theatre possible in Englewood. So next time you call or visit the Playhouse, make sure to thank the wonderful volunteers that you see. If you'd like to become a volunteer, visit our website or stop by the box office for the form.

LINDA



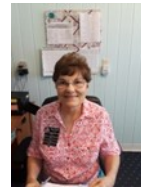
PAM



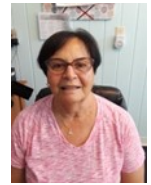
BARBARA



DONNA



PAT



ROB



MAMA MIA



CAROLYN



DONNA



RUSS

THE 2019-2020 SEASON SHOW SELECTION

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Board of Trustees has selected the 2019-2020 Season shows, our 33rd, from the plays that the Play Selection Committee researched and presented to them. The Board also selected two alternates for the season in the event there are any production issues with the seven selected. They are as follow:



***The Ladies Foursome*, Comedy by Norm Foster, September 4 – September 22, 2019**

***Lying in State*, Comedy by David C. Hyer, October 16 – November 3, 2019**

***It's A Wonderful Life*, Dramedy by Joe Landry, November 26 – December 15, 2019**

***Bus Stop*, Comedy by William Inge, January 15 – February 9, 2020**

***Lend Me A Tenor*, Comedy by Ken Ludwig, March 4 – March 29, 2020**

***The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, Comedy by Neil Simon, April 22 – May 10, 2020**

***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Comedy by Christopher Durang, June 3 – June 21, 2020**

***Park Your Car In Harvard Yard*, Comedy by Israel Horovitz – Alternate One**

***Sunshine Boys*, Comedy by Neil Simon – Alternate Two**





SAVE THE DATE

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

It is audition time here at Lemon Bay Playhouse! We will be doubling-up auditions for six of the shows in our upcoming season. This is sometimes referred to as cluster auditions (auditioning multiple shows on the same date). We will be holding our first double-up (cluster) auditions on August 25 and 26 for "Lying In State" and "It's A Wonderful Life."

"Lying In State" will be directed by Ric Goodwin. He is looking to cast 3 females and 4 males in this incredible production. In "Lying In State," a state senator has died in a ridiculous gun accident, and it has made him a national hero. Everyone is searching for something; the local political leaders are looking for someone to fill his seat, his ex-wife is looking for a bugler to play for his funeral, and a host of other zany characters are looking for love, votes, the right casket, and a purple squirrel named Mel. In this madcap comedy, love, politics, and, well...everything is not what it seems.

In "It's A Wonderful Life," directed by Jack Rabito, this beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. The director is looking to cast 2-4 females and 2-4 males.

For more information please visit our website at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or give us a call at 941-475-6756. Sides are available for perusal on our website or at the box office between 10am and 2pm on weekdays.



IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY KLEINE

BY DEB POLING AND JIM HANUSHEK



It is with a heavy heart to relay the passing of another Playhouse volunteer. On Sunday, June 30, after a brief illness, Dorothy Kleine passed peacefully in her apartment.

After living and working in Pittsburgh until 12 years ago, Dorothy moved to Englewood, Florida, to share a home with her sister, Ann Jane Hanushek, and her brother-in-law. Following the lead of her sister, she became involved with the Lemon Bay Playhouse. Her years of honing her bookkeeping skills paid off as she assumed responsibility for managing the season tickets for the Playhouse.

As the season tickets transitioned from paper to the computer, she moved her efforts to assisting with cast parties and to house managing. She was always ready to fill in at the last minute as a house manager. Dorothy was the epitome of what it takes to be a great volunteer.

Dorothy is survived by two cousins, Pat Jordan and Linda Anke, both of Pittsburgh, and her brother-in-law, Jim Hanushek, of Englewood.

Per her request, there will be no ceremony or visitation. Instead, she wanted donations made to Lemon Bay Playhouse.

Dorothy was loved by her many Playhouse friends and will be deeply missed.

50/50 RAFFLE

BY SUSAN CONNER

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers that sold 50/50 raffle tickets for the scholarship fund. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you and you know who you are! I look forward to working with you next season.



GIFT CERTIFICATES

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 Lemon Bay Playhouse Business Manager at (941) 474-9610.



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 33rd Season! **2019-2020**

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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."