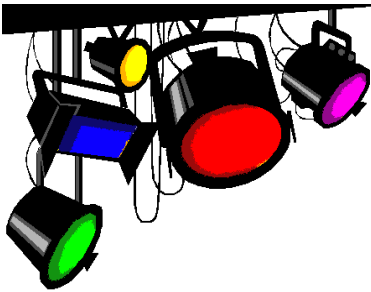




JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Another year has come to an end, however, our season has just started. The first three productions were great successes, playing to often sold out houses. I expect the rest of the season to go even better. Though we had one hiccup, being unable to cast *Bus Stop*, I had kept *2 Across* in reserve for just such an occasion. It's

a wonderful play that I'm sure will be enjoyed by all.

Through the hard work of the Play Reading Committee, the Board was able to put together another great season for 2020-2021. We have some comedies, a mystery and a very special Christmas play that I'm sure will please our audiences. It is an adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. I'm presently hard at work securing the licenses for all of the plays and by the time this is printed, I should have everything done.

We have another Volunteer Appreciation Party scheduled for February 29 (yes, that's Sadie Hawkins Day!) to be held at the Tringali Community Center. We have a dedicated committee planning the get together so don't forget to RSVP to let us know that you will be there. Then on the following day, March 1, we will have our Annual Meeting in the theatre at 2 pm.

We have not abandoned our hope for a new theatre. We are presently looking for land to purchase that is either on or close to Dearborn Street on which we can build a new facility. Hopefully we will be able to keep our present buildings as well. We have been trying to get in touch with the owners of the land across Dearborn Street from the theatre but have not been successful so far. We will persevere!

I hope everyone had a most enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all during the new year.

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle

OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

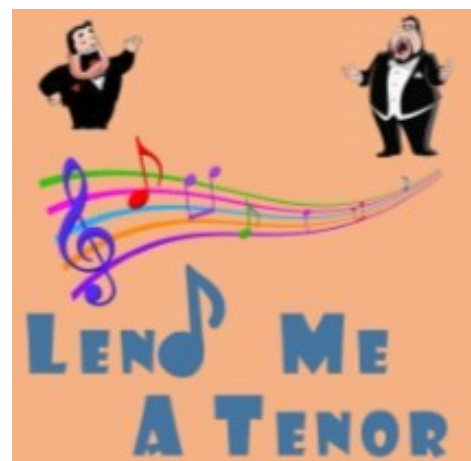
BY PAUL HYATT

Lend Me a Tenor will be directed by Tom Erb and runs from March 4 through March 29, 2020. It calls for a cast of three female and four male actors.

It spins this intriguing tale: Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is primed to welcome world famous Toto Morelli, known as Il Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation, to appear for one night only as Otello. The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant, Max, believe he's dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into Morelli's Otello costume and fool the audience into thinking he's Il Stupendo. Max succeeds admirably, but Morelli comes to and gets into his other costume, ready to perform. Now two Otellos are running around in costume and two women are running around in lingerie, each thinking she is with Il Stupendo.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by calling the box office at 941-475-6756.

Box office hours are weekdays, 10 am-2 pm and one hour before a performance.



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READER'S THEATRE?

BY KATHY AMELIA

A new year! How exciting! Our monthly sessions, the first Monday of the month, will attract our seasonal participants. This will be the first in ten years we will not have our showcase, *Shorts Aloud* in February but you never know when it will return. We always welcome new faces to experience this unique form of live theatre. When you return from all points far from Englewood, think of bringing a new face to our theatre. See you on the aisle!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

There is always so much to look forward to here at Lemon Bay Playhouse!

Coming up:

Volunteer Party - February 29, 4:30 pm at Tringalli Community Center

Annual Meeting - March 1, 2:00 pm in the theatre.

We love our Lemon Bay family and we can not wait to celebrate you and all you do to make Lemon Bay Playhouse a community success! Hope to see you all soon!

AUDITIONS

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

In keeping with its policy to "cluster" auditioning, the Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for its next two plays, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, on Sunday, February 23 and Monday, February 24 at 7:00 pm at the Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood. These are two stunning plays that you will want to be apart of! Join us!

The Prisoner of Second Avenue is casting 4 females and 3 males. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is casting 3 females and 2 males.

For more details about the auditions, please contact the Box Office or 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 10:00 am and 2:00 pm weekdays. For additional information call (941) 475-6756.



VOLUNTEER PARTY

BY RALPH BARNES

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help do a variety of small but necessary tasks at the Annual Volunteer Party on February 29. No time commitment is too small! We need all hands on deck to make it a big success. The party will be held at 4:30 pm at the Tringali Center in Englewood. The Volunteer Party is always a great way to meet fellow members of our great community and to find out how you can best help Lemon Bay Playhouse succeed. Contact Ralph Barnes at ralfbarn.com or 941-488-4432 if you would like to volunteer for this event. Hope to hear from you soon!



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

BY RALPH BARNES



Willie Butler, 90, of Englewood, has been serving audiences at the Lemon Bay Playhouse for eight years and says he loves it. He is a great House Manager and works alongside his dear friend, Bill Tsafos, of Venice, for at least three or four performances each month during the theatre season. The duties of House Manager include checking out and opening up the theatre prior to a performance, greeting patrons as they arrive, taking tickets, handling any emergencies that may arise, preparing and serving a small buffet of wine, cheese and crackers, cookies and other goodies during intermission in the lobby, plus cleaning and locking up when the performance is over.

In addition, Willie has been responsible for contacting all the other House Managers and assigning them to handle specific shows and finding replacements for them whenever necessary.

Willie was born in Troy, Ohio and says he fell in love with live theatre while working for 20 years as an usher at the 2,800-seat Colonial Theater in Dayton, Ohio. "All of the big Radio & TV stars of the day (Red Skelton, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, Dolly Parton, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme and others) played the Colonial on national tours and I got to meet most of them. It was wonderful," he says. Willie found the Lemon Bay Playhouse soon after he moved to Florida, taking up residence in the Rotonda area. The first show he saw here was *Arsenic And Old Lace* and it was love at first sight. "I think this is the nicest and most intimate small theatre you'll ever find," he says. "I wouldn't change a thing."

Willie is a veteran of World War II. He served as a Military Policeman in the Army both here in the USA and for two years in Germany after the war ended. That's where he met Victoria, his future wife. He spent months filling out forms and doing whatever he had to do after he returned home and was discharged from the service to bring her to the USA and marry her. "She studied hard to learn English and was very proud to become an American citizen," he says. "She loved America." Victoria was a highly respected and successful optometrist for 36 years before she died six years ago. Willie and Victoria were married for 54 wonderful years.

Thank you Willie for all you do for the Playhouse. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers for helping make LBP a vital part of our community.

SHOWCASE PRODUCTIONS

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

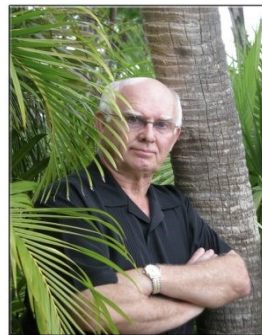
In February we have not one but two show stopping Showcase Productions!

The first one appearing on Saturday, February 15 is the next installment in our Lemon Bay Playhouse Comedy Festival starring, Gid Pool! Gid Pool appears on the Lemon Bay Playhouse stage with special guest Rosco Nash. Gid is the winner of two comedy festivals and was judged "Best of the Night" for his performance at the largest comedy festival in the world, the Edinburgh "Fringe" Festival. He has also performed at the world-famous Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas. Gid's comedy has been showcased on the Today Show and written about in a feature article in the Wall Street Journal. Jane Pauley wrote about him in her book, "Your Life Calling." Want to know why men don't understand women? He knows and he's talking. Gid is not one to be missed!

On Saturday, February 22 we welcome Marcy Downey to the stage with her production of *Legends of Laughter and Song*. With a lifetime of show business experience, and an impressive list of stage appearances including New York, Los Angeles, Lake Tahoe, and Florida, Marcy Downey is the ultimate entertainer. Her singing voice has attracted critical acclaim from coast to coast, and her stage personality "lights up every room in which she appears." In this show, Marcy performs top hits and comedy bits from the best of the best in show business. Legends such as Dolly Parton, Barry Manilow, Diana Ross, Sonny & Cher, Frank & Dean, Liza Minnelli, Dionne Warwick, Tom Jones, Lily Tomlin, Phyllis Diller, and many more! Come hear the songs and comedy of legends!

Tickets can be purchased online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by calling the Box Office at 941-475-6756.

Box office hours are weekdays, 10 am-2 pm and one hour before a performance.



Marcy Downey

**"Legends of Laughter
and Song"**



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

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

<i>THE LADIES FOURSOME</i> by Norm Foster	September 11 – September 22, 2019
<i>LYING IN STATE</i> by David C. Hyer	October 16 – November 3, 2019
<i>IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE</i> by Joe Landry	November 26 - December 15, 2019
<i>2 ACROSS</i> by Jerry Mayer	January 15 - February 9, 2020
<i>LEND ME A TENOR</i> by Ken Ludwig	March 4 - March 29, 2020
<i>THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE</i> by Neil Simon	April 22 - May 10, 2020
<i>VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE</i> by Christopher Durang	June 3 - June 21, 2020

Editor/Publisher: Crystal Coluzzi **Photography:** John Bass **Proofreader:** Debbie Park
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 (or scan the QR code)



Mission Statement

"We strive to improve diversity and enrich the greater Englewood community through live theater, volunteerism, education in the performing arts, and to provide a venue for other cultural activities."