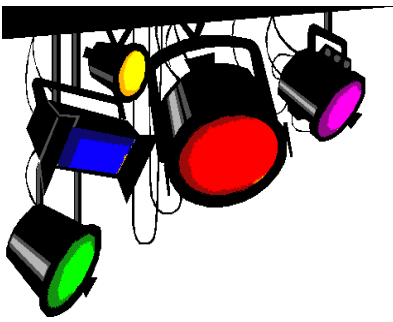




SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, here we are, six months into the Covid-19 pandemic and we are still hanging on. It is my fervent hope that this message finds you all safe and well.

We have been busy sprucing up the theatre with hopes of opening in January. Jeff and friends have painted the walls, floors, stage and added some needed lighting for rehearsals. We will also be installing a new lighting system in the coming weeks.

We are planning on holding virtual auditions in late November for the first two plays, *Art of Murder* and *Almost Maine*. We have established procedures for social distancing during rehearsals and for patrons when we open. By design, the four plays scheduled have only 4 characters each, making it easier to do so. Then, we open on January 20.

However, that all depends on the state of the pandemic in November. Jeff Dillon and I will assess the situation the first week of November together with our Board of Trustees and will decide if it will be safe to go ahead with the remainder of the season. We don't want to take a chance with any of our volunteers, actors or patrons health and wellbeing. Have no fear, I have been keeping close watch on our finances and it is my considered opinion that even if we must cancel the remainder of the season, we will still be financially secure. We have been operating very frugally and have been putting money away with plans to open a new theatre. We have a large cushion to fall back on.

Everyone please stay safe, social distance and wear your masks in public places because we want to see you all in January.

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle

LBP WILL POSTPONE OPENING UNTIL JANUARY 2021

After long deliberation and in light of the best advice from all avenues of information, the Board of Trustees has decided it is in the best interest of our patrons, staff and volunteers to delay our opening until January 2021. Hopefully the pandemic will have declined to a tolerable level with good treatments and possibly a vaccine available.



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

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RECIPE

..... of the

MONTH

Here is a recipe that came from my mother! We love to make it before watching football games together as a family. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do! Grab some celery sticks or tortilla chips and dig in!

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

- Preheat your oven to 350 degrees

In a mixing bowl:

- 2 cans of chicken breast (drained)
- 1/2 bottle of Frank's Buffalo Sauce
- 1 package of cream cheese
- 1 mini bottle of ranch dressing

Mix well!

- Pour the mixture into a medium sized casserole dish
- Top with 2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
- Bake until crispy!
- ENJOY!



We want your recipes! Next edition we will have yummy and healthy recipes from Deb Poling! Submit your own recipe to be shared in future articles by emailing them to boxoffice@lemonbayplayhouse.com

BOX OFFICE UPDATE

BY DEB POLING

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Box Office will open on **Monday, November 30 at 10:00 am**. Flex passes and individual ticket sales will be available for purchase as we prepare for the opening of *Art of Murder* on January 20, 2021. Our first Showcase Production will be *Paisley Craze* on Saturday, January 9, 2021. Get your tickets early as they typically sell out fast! See you in 2021!



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY JEFF DILLON

Patrons arrive at Lemon Bay Playhouse for a performance of local community theatre. They fill up our parking lot and lobby. They are here to see their friends and neighbors up on stage performing and engaging the audience. Before the show, when you have taken your seats and there is still a few minutes before the house lights dim, you might take a couple minutes to read the program. You will see notes from the director, bios from the actors, a list of board members, donors and volunteers. At the bottom of one of the pages you will see the titles of Artistic Production Manager, Business Manager and Marketing and Publicity Director. These are three of the employees that work for Lemon Bay Playhouse on a regular basis but What does the Artistic Production Manager do for the Lemon Bay Playhouse? Good Question....

Jobs in the theatre are malleable to a certain degree. It means, after a certain set of defined responsibilities, they take on the shape of the person doing that job. When I took over for Ric Goodwin, my predecessor, I had large shoes to fill. He had the job for four years and is well known around the community as a director and educator.

I brought a similar yet distinct skill set to Lemon Bay Playhouse. I have been in the area essentially all my life and the one theatre I had not worked at was LBP. Over a 35 year period I had worked at all the theatres in the tri county area. From Anna Maria Island Players to Manatee Players to Venice Theatre to Charlotte Players and all points in between, I directed, designed, executive produced projects, built and painted scenery, designed lighting and scenery as well as production and technical work. I was even an actor for several years. I have a strong production background and I did many years in professional theatre. I am also a drummer that plays in original bands and subs with ongoing bands.

I applied for the job here at LBP and I got called in for an interview. I talked about my background and experience. My one goal, if there is only one, was to help LBP grow technically, artistically and to raise the production level of the individual plays.

So...what do I do?

I do a bit of administrative work. Essentially, I am on every Artistic and Production committee.

I create a master calendar for the upcoming season (I work a year in advance.)

I assist with play selection, director selection, I book showcase variety entertainment.

I work with our team in Marketing and Publicity and our team on the website.

I gather event and show information.

I help out with auditions.

I design lighting and scenery.

With this season I am directing *Art of Murder*. I assist with props and set building and painting.

I sit in during rehearsals.

I sit in on rehearsals during our production week. (Tech Week).

I assist cast shows and deal with casting situations.

I am in contact with playwrights who send original work.

With the down time, I painted the Auditorium and Stage House.

I will be installing a new lighting system in October.

I coordinate production meetings with our creative staff and volunteers.

I am in communication with current and future play directors.

I attend Board Meetings.

Bob LaSalle, LBP President, and I work very closely (especially now as we guide LBP through this pandemic.)

I schedule production volunteers.

I schedule volunteers and board members to do curtain speeches.

I am always working on more than one show at a time.

Basically, if anyone has a problem or situation I help to solve it.

I reach out to other theatres and build relationships so that we may help each other.

I work with emerging playwrights and help guide them to create new and interesting work for the LBP stage.

I write content for our newsletter and e-blasts.

I work closely with Deb Poling the LBP Business Manager and Crystal Coluzzi the LBP Marketing and Publicity Manager.

I am happy to talk with anyone about LBP!

Please reach out to me for general information and volunteering in any capacity.

Be safe and be well.

LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY DEB POLING

What Does the Business Manager Do?

I have been Lemon Bay Playhouse's Business Manager for three years now and my main focus is the Box Office. Our Box Office is open five days a week from 10am to 2pm plus one hour prior to each performance. Thank goodness for the wonderful volunteers that are here to support the many functions required in the Box Office. My responsibility is to ensure staffing coverage, training of new procedures and events, and smooth daily operations. If there are patron issues or questions, my goal is to reach a resolution while following the rules and guidelines which must be adhered to. Funds that are received from ticket sales, donations, the 50/50 raffle and refreshment donations are summarized and deposited each week in our checking account. I run many reports of ticket sales, the most important being the weekly sales. A spreadsheet is used to summarize the revenue by play, type of payment (cash, credit card, PayPal, gift certificate), and online or box office transactions. Donations, gift certificates, and flex pass sales are also included. Each week the summarized dollars are entered by our accountant into QuickBooks and then used to finalize revenue reports. Other reports generated include PayPal and Flex Pass redemptions by play and revenue.

Besides the Box Office functions, I have various responsibilities critical to the running of the Playhouse. I purchase all the office supplies, general operating supplies, and refreshment items. Each day I open and distribute the mail and answer voice messages as needed. Throughout the year, Lemon Bay Playhouse is requested to support many fundraisers and silent auctions within Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. I review each request and if approved, a gift certificate is processed, printed and mailed to the organization with a personalized cover letter supporting their event. As needed, I help fill gaps in the house manager and 50/50 volunteer schedules by phoning other volunteers and ensuring everything is covered. Within our ticketing software system, *Arts People*, I maintain the database that tracks all volunteers and the area in which they volunteer.

As the upcoming season is finalized, I set up all the shows and production showcases in *Arts People* so that tickets can be sold and information is linked to our website. This includes show description, image, performance dates and pricing. I help with the Season Brochure and Spotlight Newsletter by providing articles and proofreading. There are many things I get involved with on a daily basis, but it takes a much bigger team to keep the Playhouse running smoothly. I work closely with our Board President, Bob LaSalle; Publicity Manager, Crystal Coluzzi; Artistic Production Manager, Jeff Dillon; and Website Manager, Jim Sciarelllo. I also work with our many volunteers that are part of the Lemon Bay Playhouse team.

It takes all of us to keep Lemon Bay Playhouse the great local theatre of Englewood, Florida!



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

What does a Publicity Manager do? Unlike some of the other positions at Lemon Bay, you may not typically see me around the theatre. That is because almost all of my work is done on a computer in the background!

I could not be more proud than to be on the staff here at Lemon Bay Playhouse! I grew up with a love of theatre and always knew I wanted to continue to be apart of the magic as an adult. I have been with Lemon Bay Playhouse for almost two years now.

In my daily duties, I am always working on tasks for Playbills! Playbills tell the audience all of the background knowledge they need to know before watching a performance. Before a play begins, I create a production schedule for everyone involved in order to keep the Playbills on track. This schedule lets the cast and crew know when I need their biographies, when I need their headshots taken and final deadlines to get the Playbill to the print shop. I attend production meetings for shows as often as possible so that way I am always in the loop on any show changes that may need to be documented in the Playbill.

I gather all of the cast and crew bios, director's notes, scene information and author information and design the Lemon Bay Playhouse Playbills. I work closely with other staff members, the director, stage manger and volunteers to proofread the Playbill before it gets sent off to print. This is no small task! Every patron gets a Playbill and they need to be just perfect!

All of the graphics for our shows are created by me. I read the plays over and decide which pictures best symbolize the show. (This is one of my favorite parts of the job.) This often takes me a whole year to come up with and edit.

Bi-monthly, I work on creating this very Spotlight edition you are reading right now! I collect articles from staff and volunteers, edit their articles and insert pictures and designs to be sent out to enjoy. I am always brainstorming for new article ideas.

Another major task is advertising for Lemon Bay Playhouse. I connect with local news outlets and write press releases for all of our season productions as well as showcase productions. Without these press releases we would not have an audience!

I reach out to other theatres in the area and we will often "swap ads." This means I create a graphic showcasing everything Lemon Bay Playhouse will be doing and they design one for their theatre and we print them in each others Playbills! This is a great way for local theatres to share visions and ideas. It only helps us all grow!

I design advertisements to be featured in magazines, websites and just about anywhere else you could imagine! If a business would like to advertise in our Playbills, they reach out to me to see what we can do and where their ad may fit.

None of my job functions could be done without the help and support of Bob LaSalle, Jeff Dillon, Deb Poling and Jim Sciarello. We all need each other to make sure that the show goes on!

I hope to catch you all at the theatre soon!



96 W. Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Celebrating our 34th Season! 2020-2021

<i>ART OF MURDER</i> by Joe Dipietro	January 20 – February 14, 2021
<i>ALMOST, MAINE</i> by John Cariani	March 10 – April 4, 2021
<i>NOW AND THEN</i> by Sean Grennan	April 28 - May 16, 2021
<i>BAGGAGE</i> by Sam Bobrick	June 9 - June 27, 2021

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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.”