



# SPOTLIGHT

FALL 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all enjoying your summer, as hot as it is. I went up to Rhode Island to visit with the "kids" (now in their 50s and 60s) and had a wonderful time. I came back to the Lemon Drops Kids Kamp that is going strong after a hiatus of two years. It's a wonderful group of young people this year and they are having a fantastic time learning about theatre production and acting. A great vote of thanks to Cheryl Hastings who put it all together, and her crew of intrepid volunteers.

I also came home to find that our parking lot was still blocked off with the construction on Dearborn Street. They have been progressing, sloooooooooowly, but there seems to be an end in sight. Hopefully, they will be done by the time we open in September.

In my last message, I spoke about continuing to look for a site to build a new theatre. However, with the price of real-estate these days, I think we will have to put a hold on that. It would be better use of our money to upgrade our present facilities with paint and sprucing things up. I believe new lighting equipment will add tremendously to our productions in the future. We will continue to produce the greatest live theatre in the area.

Another word of thanks to our stalwart volunteers who keep us going. Without them we would not be able to keep this theatre afloat. We are still in need of folks, especially as House Managers and 50/50 ticket sellers. If you are interested or might know someone who is, get in touch or have them get in touch with our staff or go online at: [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/) volunteer where they can get a complete description of the jobs and fill out an application.

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle

## 2022 LEMON BAY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

BY LOUISE GOODWIN

Lemon Bay Playhouse proudly participated in the 2022 Lemon Bay High School Scholarship Night. LBP presented scholarship awards of \$3,000 each to three deserving students: Emma Butler, Alese Lissow, and Lance Schyck.

The students carried a 3.5+ GPA, had over 100 hours of community service, and will be pursuing a degree in fine arts. The students posed for a photo with our scholarship representative Ric Goodwin at the award ceremony. Congratulations and best wishes from everyone at Lemon Bay Playhouse!



## IMPORTANT EVENT DATES

### ENGLEWOOD PIONEER DAYS

September 5, 2022 at 9:00am

Come enjoy the full weekend of activities in Englewood. Plus catch Lemon Bay Playhouse in the Parade

### BOARD MEETINGS

September 19, 2022 at 5:30pm

December 19, 2022 at 5:30pm

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

# WOMEN IN THEATRE WOMEN IN TECHNICAL ROLES

BY LORI SIGRIST

It feels like women have always been a part of live theatre. Doesn't it? Well, it may feel that way, but it wasn't always the case. In Shakespeare's day, women weren't even allowed to perform on stage and all the parts (male and female) were performed by men. Eventually, they did allow women on stage but the struggle to move into different roles within the theatre took a lot longer and was quite the uphill climb. It wasn't until 1998 that a woman won a Tony as a Director of a play. In fact, that year women really broke out with a woman winning a Tony for Best Director of a Musical, Julie Taymor for *The Lion King* AND for a play. Garry Hynes (yes, she's a woman) won Best Director for the play *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.



Pam Hayes and Jackie Dionne finishing the trellis while  
Carol Bertrand details the walls



Pam Hayes and Jackie Dionne  
install the folding flats

Still, while women have made huge strides in some areas of live theatre, when we think of women in theatre, we often only think of actresses and not the more non-traditional roles. If you attended a performance of Lemon Bay Playhouse's *The Savannah Sipping Society* last season, you got to see firsthand the incredible artistry of Pam Hayes who was our set designer for that production. Pam and her amazing and tireless team of volunteers put together a set that brought *The Savannah Sipping Society* to life in the most extraordinary way. For me, the set was the fifth character in the play and took on a life of its own. We asked Pam to tell us about how she became involved in scenic design and what she loves about it. Here's what she had to say:

"If you want to work backstage, (as a woman) you can paint, make costumes or help with make-up." This was the first statement I heard as I stepped across the threshold into my inaugural collegiate play in 1974. I was bold enough to ask, why? In a male-dominated trade, even by today's standards, I stood up and defended my gender to the macho insecurities of women in design. It wouldn't be the first time and it definitely wasn't the last.

Having grown up in theatre, with a mother as a director, I was always involved in all aspects of a production from acting to building to design. I never did my job any differently than my male counterparts and through the years in community theatre and high school plays I relished in the never-ending activity. Building and design came second nature to me. Visualizing how a show should look with lights and design was more important to me than how I would look in a play. It became a

game of sorts. I did end up changing the Technical Directors attitude towards women and was hired as Master Carpenter for two summer stock seasons at the college, coming away with a degree in Technical Theatre. Working as a director and designer for over 40 years has shown me that diverse groups of people, from all walks of life, are more open to creative ways of thinking in production plans. Positive brainstorming is more important than ego-driven planning. Though many will disagree, I believe design is the most important part of a play. It's the first impression an audience gets before the actors appear. If design is lacking, you might as well just stay at home and read the script."

- Pam Hayes

We at Lemon Bay Playhouse are thrilled that Pam will be joining us again to design the set for the first production of our 35th Season, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* which opens on September 7 and runs through September 25. I can't wait to see what she has in store for us. See you there!



Jackie D'Addese helps with clean-up



## A DIRECTOR'S HOPE

The Director takes a script and brings it to life. He or she coordinates with many others aspects (set design, props, costumes, the actors they choose, etc.) but the end goal of all that becomes the director's vision. With a new season of shows on the books, we reached out to ask the director of each show what they would share about the hopes for bringing that vision to life.

Steve Black – *DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*

"The Lemon Bay Playhouse cast of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* and myself as director will have the wonderful challenge of telling the playwright, Sarah Ruhl's, poetic story. The story of a woman who accidentally uncovers a touching and comedic world where each human being is living a life full of secrets and surprises."

Joe Simonelli – *YOU KNOW I CAN'T HEAR YOU WHEN THE WATER'S RUNNING*

"I look forward to directing *You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running* because as four separate one-acts, it gives me the chance to work with a variety of actors and see them stretch their acting skills when doubling roles in different scenes. Four very funny and poignant one-acts! Be sure to catch it."

Jenni Elliott – *SLEEPING INDOORS*

"*Sleeping Indoors* is an intriguing little play that will be fun to direct. It has made me view homelessness in an entirely different way and I am sure that you will feel the same after seeing it."

Ric Goodwin – *THE OUTSIDER*

"Hot on the tail of the 2022 midterm elections, get ready for *The Outsider* a non-stop screwball comedy romp poking fun at how our political parties find the 'right candidate?' to put forth for nomination. I'm thrilled to return to LBP to direct this hilarious show!"

Bob LaSalle – *DINNER AT THE FLEMMING'S*

"I've been looking forward to directing *Dinner at the Flemming's* since I first found out that Sam Bobrick was writing a sequel to *Flemming* which we did three years ago. It was finally published, and it is just as hilarious as the original with the same quirky characters and outlandish goings on. I can't wait to get started."

Carol Warren – *THE AMATEUR KILLER*

"It has an exciting cast of characters who will keep you on your toes. I don't believe you will figure out who the killer is until the very end of the show. Not only is it an exciting murder mystery, but it has a lot to say about the nature of theatre. It's truly a show within a show, which will appeal to a wide range of audience members. I know that I have enjoyed preparing for directing *The Amateur Killer*."

Ric Goodwin – *NOW AND THEN*

"If you like Hallmark movies, you are going to love *Now and Then*. What if you truly had a second chance at true love lost? Would you make the same choices? Sometimes funny and often moving, I am truly look forward to bringing *Now and Then* to LBP audiences."

## VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

The actors stand in the front entertaining the audience. There are props and furniture that they use to continue a story. While keeping your attention, they are in front of a backdrop of paint and design. That painting has been done by our artist volunteer, Anne Marie Solomon.



Anne Marie has been a professional artist most of her adult life. She says "This has been my full-time job. I paint watercolors with a whimsical style that depicts such imagery as sea life, mermaids, beachscapes, island cottages/cabanas, and more. My paintings are unique in style because I studied and apprenticed in Oriental painting techniques."

Her work is exhibited at juried art festivals and she usually spends 2-3 days each week creating in the studio side by side with her husband, Jason Solomon. Jason mats and frames while helping in numerous and important ways.

After the Covid lockdown, when art festivals were canceled, Anne Marie took that opportunity to volunteer at Lemon Bay Playhouse. "I wanted to be amongst creative people, and I found them here!" As the painting coordinator, she likes that it has been so interesting to learn the step-by-step approach to presenting a play. Each play has been different and the set design unique. She is grateful to have had this opportunity and we are grateful to have her artistic eye on each set.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### Volunteer Party Committee

While not being able to have one these past few years, Lemon Bay Playhouse is going to have their annual Volunteer party in 2023! We are looking for people interested in joining a committee to help plan an exciting event to thank our volunteers. If you are interested please contact Bob LaSalle at [rlasalle390@gmail.com](mailto:rlasalle390@gmail.com) or 941-408-6541

Lemon Bay Playhouse is always looking for volunteers. If you aren't sure what volunteer opportunities exist, please go to [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/contribute/volunteer](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com/contribute/volunteer) There you find information on each position. Please reach out with any questions you have!

# CREATIVE MEALS GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THE CAST PARTIES

BY DEB POLING



Barb and Mike Grotheim

What happens after the last performance is over? A wonderful home cooked meal is served to the actors, director, volunteers and their guests. The Cast Party has been a tradition at LBP for many years. Mike and Barb Grotheim took over the responsibility of the cast party in September 2019. They put a lot of effort and thought into making it special for the actors. As Barb pointed out “The actors donate their time and do so much for the theatre that it’s important to treat them special.”

The theme of the play plus the time of year are part of the menu selection. Barb cooks the food and does all the prep work at home and transports to the theatre. In order to make sure everything is up to Barb’s high standards, Mike and Barb do a ‘dry run.’ One week before the cast party, their lucky neighbors are invited to dinner and Barb serves the exact meal. Mike uses his artistic talents to create table decorations and provide a festive atmosphere. They go above and beyond to make the cast party an enjoyable finale to the play.

Mike and Barb Grotheim have been volunteering as house managers at LBP since 2016. They moved to Rotonda permanently from Minnesota in July 2018.

They have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 cats, Lucy and Ethel. Mike was a dentist in the Navy and spent time at Camp Pendleton and Vietnam. Barb was a civilian dental hygienist and they met at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. The rest is history and they have been married for 53 years. On the side, Barb volunteered at the school, she was a member of the Board at a bank and an entrepreneur with her own monogram business. Barb also had her own catering business for over 10 years. They did events with up to 300 people. One of their interesting events was providing 3 meals a day for 3 weeks for 30 teens. Can you imagine! They fed the students of the University of Minnesota Solar Car Race team. They both stay busy here in Florida volunteering in other areas. Mike makes ‘fuzzy stick’ napkin rings for Brookdale Assisted Living and they are both involved with the Baptist Church in Boca Grande. I’m sure the actors and directors will agree with me when I say the cast parties are delicious, fun and the best they can be all due to Mike and Barb’s special touches. Thank you Mike and Barb from everyone at Lemon Bay Playhouse!



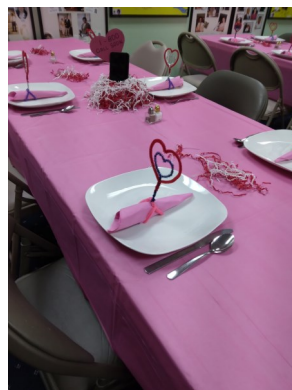
Cast members enjoying the Cast Party



Prisoner of Second Ave.



Savannah Sipping Society



Old Ringers



Fox on the Fairway

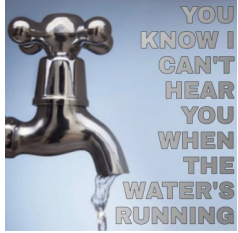


## DUAL AUDITIONS

August 28 and August 29 at 7pm

### ***YOU KNOW I CAN'T HEAR YOU WHEN THE WATER'S RUNNING*** Four One Acts by Robert Anderson

Directed by Joe Simonelli



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running* on Sunday, August 28 and Monday, August 29 at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood.

The play, *You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running*, Four One-Acts

by Robert Anderson will be directed by Joe Simonelli. This show calls for a cast of seven men and six women, these parts may be doubled up. The show will run from October 19 through November 6, 2022.

The Shock of Recognition breaks in on a difference of opinion between Jack Barnsable, an earnest young dramatist, and Herb Miller, his matter-of-fact producer. A quarrel over taste develops, and a job-hunting actor, Richard Pawling, becomes involved. The Footsteps of Doves, George and Harriet, who have been married for 25 years, come to a store to pick out a new bed or beds. They don't get much sales effort from the salesman. Into the discussion comes a young blonde, Jill, who wants a big bed because she is all alone. I'll Be Home For Christmas is light and humorous, but at its base it is serious and touching as it shows parents discussing the sex education of their almost adult children. I'm Herbert, is a sketch about two old people sitting on a porch in rocking chairs and talking. Of course, they don't know how funny they are.

## ***SLEEPING INDOORS***

By Jim Holt

Directed by Jenni Elliott



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *Sleeping Indoors* on Sunday, August 28 and Monday, August 29 at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood.

The play, *Sleeping Indoors*, by Jim Holt will be directed by Jenni Elliott and calls for a cast of two men and two women.

When literary reviewer Paul and his wife Nora invite a homeless man, Dwain, into their home for Christmas dinner, they don't expect to be so charmed by him—or that his journal will be the incredible masterpiece that it is. As they exchange stories, preconceived notions are stripped away and true friendships develop. Can Dwain, whose art thrives in anonymity, be convinced to give up the only life he's known for such comforts as sleeping indoors?

## OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

### ***DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE***

By Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Steve Black

September 7 - September 25, 2022



For the first production of the 2022-2023 season, the Lemon Bay Playhouse will present *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl. This comedy, directed by Steve Black, opens on September 7 and runs through September 25, 2022.

An incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet café. A stranger at the next table who has had enough of it. And a dead man with a lot of loose ends. So begins *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is a work about how we remember the dead and how that memorialization changes us.

Visit [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://www.lemonbayplayhouse.com), 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 \$25.

### **An International Theatre Festival in our own backyard** By Melissa Mutkoski

In the middle of wars, travel restrictions, human rights issues, droughts, mass shootings, and let's not forget the continued fear of Covid outbreaks, theatre troupes from 12 countries travelled to Venice, FL this summer to celebrate Theatre, and its ability to help us communicate, heal and survive. This festival is held every two years at the Venice Theatre, and if you haven't ever attended it, I strongly recommend it.

For a theatre lover, there's nothing like immersing yourself in theatre for a week, surrounded by actors, directors, tech crew and producers. Not only do you see 1-hour versions of a dozen or so performances from all over the world, but you can participate in various workshops and group discussions throughout the week-long event. While the event organizers kept everyone fed and hydrated (does wine hydrate you?) we also had some free time to introduce the travelers to the local shops and restaurants and beaches.

Each theatre troupe brought their set pieces, costumes and props with them. The Venice Theatre tech crew also built many of the sets on site. Each show had one rehearsal to work with the set, light and sound crews to program their show before putting it on stage. One show made extraordinary use of empty suitcases as perfect set pieces! We saw shows with puppets, dancers, romances, comedies, farces and heavy drama. A couple of shows used monitors in the theatre to provide English subtitles, which somewhat helped us single-language troglodytes understand the plot! But most of the theatre companies chose universal pieces. Even when I wasn't sure what was actually being said, the costumes and music and presentations from far away places were exhilarating, especially since most of us haven't been able to travel very far and wide in recent years. To be able to come together to celebrate our love for theatre, in spite of the world around us, brought us all closer to each other.

Check out this amazing 5-minute video VT produced at the end of the week: <https://vimeo.com/724073601> (enter password: AACT2022)

## Upcoming Showcase Productions



MARK ROM AND THE MAGIC ELIXIR  
BAND

Saturday, November 12, 2022 7:30 pm



KATHY MCSTEEN - CLOWNING  
AROUND COMEDY SHOW

Saturday, November 19, 2022 7:30 pm



96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223

## *Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Season!* **2022-2023**

Sep. 7 – Sep. 25, 2022	<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i> by Sarah Ruhl	Directed by Steve Black
Oct. 19 – Nov. 6, 2022	<i>You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running</i> by Robert Anderson	Directed by Joe Simonelli
Nov. 30 – Dec. 18, 2022	<i>Sleeping Indoors</i> by Jim Holt	Directed by Jenni Elliott
Jan. 18 – Feb. 12, 2023	<i>The Outsider</i> by Paul Slade Smith	Directed by Ric Goodwin
Mar. 8 – Apr. 2, 2023	<i>Dinner at the Flemmings</i> by Sam Bobrick	Directed by Bob LaSalle
Apr. 26 – May 14, 2023	<i>The Amateur Killer</i> by Robert Scott	Directed by Carol Warren
June 7 – June 25, 2023	<i>Now and Then</i> by Sean Grennan	Directed by Ric Goodwin

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**Visit our website at: [www.lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://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."