



# SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I want to wish you all well and hope that you suffered minor damage from our friend Ian. Roofs and pool cages can be repaired, but people can't be replaced. For those of you that suffered major damage, we wish you brighter days ahead and if there is anything that LBP can do to lessen the blow, please don't hesitate to ask.

The theatre survived well with some water in the Annex and very minor dampness in the theatre itself. I'm sure you noticed that our set shed was dealt a fatal blow. We are making plans to replace it. If you know of anyone who can take the remains away, please let me know.

We had a great beginning to our season with *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. A really great production by all involved. We were in rehearsals for *You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running* when we had that visit from Ian. Because we were well into rehearsals and had paid to have the set built, we decided to push *You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running*..... back to the December time slot and cancel *Sleeping Indoors* which hadn't started yet. This, we felt, would give everyone, patrons and actors alike, time to semi-recover from the chaos. I know it has been confusing and I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding. But, in the best theatre tradition, "The Show Must Go On."

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all here in 2023.

Bob La Salle

## WOMEN IN THEATRE WOMEN AS STAGE MANAGERS

BY LORI SIGRIST

Webster's Dictionary: STAGE MANAGER, noun  
In theatres, one who superintends the production and performance of a play, and who regulates all matters behind the curtain.

ALL MATTERS BEHIND THE CURTAIN...The above dictionary meaning of Stage Manager really does say it all. Stage Managers handle everything behind the scenes in a production of a play and it is one of the most challenging jobs in theatre. They have to juggle rehearsal scheduling, coordinate backstage workers, get actors where they need to be and basically handle whatever comes up whenever it comes up with the production. We asked three of the stage managers for this season to tell us about their experiences with stage managing: the highs, the lows, and the special challenges they face as women in that position.

The Stage Managers: Donna Hadley (*Dead Man's Cell Phone* and *The Amateur Killer*), Carol Warren (*You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running*) and Dottie Warner (*The Outsider* and *Now and Then*.)

**Question: How did you become involved with stage managing? Do you remember your first show? What stands out about that production today?**

**DONNA:** I was working at the box office and an actor asked if I would like to work backstage. I worked with the stage manager on two plays before being asked to stage manage on my own. I had no formal training in stage management, so it was "hands-on" learning. What stood out about the production was that everyone associated with the play had their assigned duties and we all worked together.

**CAROL:** I think we get involved as stage managers out of a sense of responsibility to the theatre. It takes more than just actors to put on a show. Knowing that we realize that it's necessary to do all of the jobs at the theatre, not just act. The theatres that I've worked with previously called the Stage Manager position, Assistant Director.

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## IMPORTANT EVENT DATES

**VOLUNTEER PARTY**  
February 18, 2023 4:30 - 6:30pm

A Celebration of our Volunteers. More details to come

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
March 4, 2023 at 2:00pm

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 AS STAGE MANAGERS

BY LORI SIGRIST

**CAROL:** One of my favorite memories is *Agnes of God*. In Thomasville, I worked with the same director on a regular basis. He was a very talented director, but being a man, he had no idea what it was like to give birth. We actually threw him out of a rehearsal to discuss childbirth with the actress playing Agnes. It took a woman's perspective to direct that part of the show.

**DOTTIE:** I started as a volunteer at the Lemon Bay Playhouse box office in 2011. I moved on to 50/50, props and set decor, until one day the Artistic Production Manager at the time, Rita Corn asked me to be a Stage Manager. I shadowed one of the other stage managers which was a valuable way to learn the job. My first show as Stage Manager was *The Glass Menagerie*.

**Question: What is the biggest challenge for a stage manager that you don't think others realize is a challenge?**

**DONNA:** The biggest challenge is knowing where all the actors and crew are at all times during the performance. Also, being alert and noticing if a patron leaves his or her seat in the middle of the performance and following up to see if that patron needs medical help.

**CAROL:** As a stage manager you are the go-between with the actors and the director. The actors come to you with any concerns they have and it's your job to present those concerns to the director. Another job is "herding" actors. They can be all over the place and sometimes have no idea they need to be in one place, on time, and always prepared.

**DOTTIE:** There are so many jobs that the stage manager has to juggle. I sometimes think others aren't aware of how many. As a stage manager, you are always troubleshooting problems and the inevitable emergencies that come up.

**Question: What do you enjoy the most about stage managing?**

**DONNA:** I like watching the actors gain more confidence and becoming their characters as they learn their lines; and, enjoy each performance.

**CAROL:** The thrill of seeing a show come together from cold readings to a perfect production. There is a point in every show where a divergent group of actors becomes a family. That is a wonderful feeling. I think the stage manager is the one who fosters the sense of connection between the cast members. The stage manager position can be the fulcrum that keeps the show in balance.

**DOTTIE:** I enjoy the challenge of working with a new cast for every show. Seeing the show start to take form and develop during the rehearsal process.

**Question: What do you wish actors and directors would do more of to help you with your stage managing duties?**

**DONNA:** I think all parties involved in the production of the play should respect each other's time and effort. It is wonderful when there are no "divas" male or female in a play.

**CAROL:** LISTEN!

**DOTTIE:** Pay closer attention to the information shared by the Stage Manager. It is most important for everyone to listen and respect the job that we are trying to do for them. Yes, in a perfect world - no divas!

**Question: What in particular do you find challenging as a woman Stage Manager that you don't think male Stage Managers have to deal with?**

**DONNA:** As an actor, I have only worked with one male Stage Manager. In my experience, I find that women Stage Managers pay attention to detail in a more thorough way.

**CAROL:** I think directors and actors tend to forget that there are limitations to what your stage manager can physically handle. In our particular theatre environment, most of our stage crew are ladies. This can make it difficult if you are trying to move huge flats or stage pieces. Directors and designers should take this into consideration when they are designing a set.

**DOTTIE:** I've actually never worked with a male Stage Manager. My experience has only been with very strong women.

**Question: In your Stage Managing experience which show stands out as your favorite and what made it so?**

**DONNA:** *Driving Miss Daisy* because of the set, actors and crew and we had an actual small car onstage!

**CAROL:** I love, love musicals. I stage-managed *Camelot* in Thomasville. I think it is my favorite because it was such a beautiful set and the music was wonderful!

**DOTTIE:** I have a lot of favorites but *Harvey* stands out for me because of its intricacies and technical challenges. My favorite one for content has to be one directed by Ric Goodwin, *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

Lemon Bay Playhouse wishes to thank all of our amazing Stage Managers and our fabulous volunteer backstage crew for their hard work and dedication to getting a play "up on its feet"! We could not do what we do without them!

Enjoy the show!



Carol Warren (standing left) with original cast of ....*Water's Running*



Donna Hadley at the Stage Manager station backstage

## GIFT CERTIFICATES



Looking for a great gift for that special person? Need an item for a 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 LBP Business Manager at (941) 474-9610.

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## THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE STEPPED DOWN

### KATHY AMELIA - Reader's Theatre

We have offered Reader's Theatre for many years here at Lemon Bay Playhouse. For the last 13 years, Kathy Amelia has been the coordinator and leader for the group. Everyone who knows Kathy knows she puts her heart and soul into the program. Hurricane Ian has affected many homeowners and unfortunately Kathy has her hands full with decisions and repairs. The Reader's Theatre group met for the last time this season on December 5. LBP is sincerely grateful for Kathy's involvement and wish her luck in rebuilding her home. Hopefully she will return to the program in the fall. Thank you Kathy for everything you do for the Playhouse!

### JANE WARBURTON - House Manager Coordinator

The theatre was closed March 2019 and reopened in September 2021. Due to the pandemic, we lost many volunteers for multiple reasons. We needed a new coordinator for the house manager volunteers and Jane Warburton accepted the challenge. And a big challenge it was! Jane worked very hard scheduling volunteers and trying to fill all the spots. It was a long season and we truly appreciate all Jane's efforts. Jane decided one season was enough and has stepped down from the coordinator role. A huge Thank You goes out to Jane from the LBP staff for your time and efforts last season!

### GAYLEN PUGH - Board of Trustees

Gaylen came to LBP in 2017 and auditioned for several shows over the next few years. I got to know her through those auditions and found her to be an interesting and talented person with a great background in theatre. I asked her to join our Board of Trustees in 2021 to which she consented and was duly elected in March of that year. She served as our Volunteer Liaison and was a valued member of our board. Gaylen unfortunately had to resign due to health issues this year. She will be missed.

## VOLUNTEER CURTAIN CALL

There are many ways to volunteer at Lemon Bay Playhouse. Every single person is valued for the time they can put in to help. Some focus on one task while others help in many different areas. One volunteer has worked in many positions, and we reached out to ask her about why she helps at Lemon Bay Playhouse.



Pauline Logsdon says, "Whether you're new to the area or have been a long-time resident, it's a great way to meet new people and also enjoy great local theatre." Pauline is originally from Pine Grove, PA. Living here with her husband Gary, Pauline has two sons and two grandchildren. While retired, Pauline works at Charlotte Sports Park for the Tampa Bay Rays Spring training games in concessions. She enjoys volunteering with Coastal Wildlife Club on morning walks for turtle patrol the past seven seasons and of course helping at Lemon Bay Playhouse

When asked what got her started at Lemon Bay Playhouse she recalled "one February morning I stopped at the box office and met Mama Mia Schneider. I was inquiring about volunteering and looking to buy tickets for *Fleming* for my sister and I to enjoy during her upcoming visit. Mama invited me in to see the theatre and the rest is history." Pauline started with the 50/50 (a great introduction to volunteering at Lemon Bay Playhouse) and then worked backstage for Dottie Warner during the run of *Sylvia*. She now is involved in helping with auditions and this season she is giving house managing a chance.

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#GIVING  
TUESDAY

## GIVING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Every year, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is considered Giving Tuesday. A chance to donate after the days of shopping post Thanksgiving. This year, we were able to raise \$750 thanks to the support of the wonderful patrons that we have. Remember that your donations are tax deductible and help with many aspects of the theatre. Those that donated \$25 or more were entered to win two tickets to any show this season. We would like to congratulate Denise G. for winning those tickets! Can't wait to see Denise and everyone else in the new year!!



# READER'S THEATRE ON HOLD

BY HENRY REISINGER, JR.

Reader's theatre is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on a Monday during the season but most start gathering in the lobby around 9:30 a.m. This is when they get a chance to be able to catch up with each other. Kathy Amelia, the leader of Readers Theatre, welcomes her readers in addition to a table of snacks for the pre-theatre festivities. In the lobby people say hello and converse with one another. Overheard are stories, comical antics and what people are trying to enjoy after everything that has happened from hurricane Ian. As 10:00 am. comes around, Kathy invites everyone into the theatre. She begins by sharing her own devastations.

Each month at Reader's Theatre, Kathy would bring scripts and ask those there to come up and share scenes for the rest of the crowd. Whatever the script needed, Kathy would talk about and then grab people to play the character on stage. However, with the destruction brought to her home from Hurricane Ian, she heartbreakingly shares that her shed was destroyed which contained all her organized containers and tubs of scripts. She was fortunate enough to be able to find two older scripts to be used for today's theatre. She asked two readers to come up and perform *Maisy and Grover Go To The Theatre*. A comedic bit that most of us are familiar with; a husband is dreading going to the theatre with his wife. Kathy sets the scene while stage directions as the two readers sit on the stage with their scripts.

Both readers thoroughly take over the characters. It is evident from the crowd because of their laughter and applause that they enjoyed the two acting as a married couple. The two take their seats as Kathy starts to describe the next script, again asking two different people to read. The second script is one called *Thanks For The Memories*. Many chatter prior to the reading because they remember this scene being done before at one of the Shorts Aloud that Kathy has presented over the years. The script is about a man and a woman sitting on a park bench discussing their lack of intimacy lately. The couple are then interrupted by a police officer who informs them that they are not married to each other and that they both need to get back to the "home" where they both reside. The twist at the end is again concluded with laughter and applause. A short break is given while Kathy changes the chairs for the next reading. The last piece of the day for Reader's Theatre was a tradition of five years. Jack has read *Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote over the last five years. He speaks of Capote's skills and how wonderful the piece is during this time of year. As he reads through the story he transitions back and forth between the characters that are in the story. The crowd smiles and enjoys being taken back to the Christmas days of old.

Upon completion of all the scripts that Kathy had for the day, she takes a moment to collect herself and hold back tears. It is a bittersweet ending to the calendar year but also an ending to Reader's Theatre... for now. She recalls having put on ten wonderful years of her Shorts Aloud, but that the unfortunate events that have happened to her are forcing her to focus on taking care of things at home. Kathy says "I'm a cook without cookbooks, and an actress without scripts, but I have friends." In the emotional moment, she thanks them all for everything. She gathers herself and says "that once the community comes back, Reader's Theatre will come back."



Reader's Theatre photos and brochures that survived.

\*\*\*If anyone is interested in stepping in to help out with Reader's Theatre while Kathy needs to be away please reach out to [info@lemonbayplayhouse.com](mailto:info@lemonbayplayhouse.com) and we will get you in touch with the right people to be able to continue this wonderful theatre tradition.

## DUAL AUDITIONS

February 19 and February 20 at 7pm

### ***THE AMATEUR KILLER***

Mystery By Robert Scott

Directed by Carol Warren



The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *The Amateur Killer*, Sunday February 19 and Monday February 20 at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood.

The play, *The Amateur Killer*, mystery by Robert Scott will be directed by Carol Warren. This show calls for a cast of three men, four women, and two parts that can be either men or women. The show will run from April 26 through May 14, 2023.

In this murder mystery thriller, Daniel is letting his personal history with Lucas affect their relationship. Daniel is directing the production of *Adieu* for the local Amateur Dramatic Society, but it's his knowledge of Lucas's affair with Natalie that will lead to murder.

### ***NOW AND THEN*** Dramedy By Sean Grennan Directed by Ric Goodwin

The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for *Now and Then* on Sunday, February 19 and Monday, February 20 at 7:00pm at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, 96 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood.



The play, *Now and Then*, by Sean Grennan will be directed by Ric Goodwin and calls for a cast of two men and two women.

Sometimes what happens after last call just might change your life. One night in 1981, just as Jamie is closing the bar, a desperate last-minute customer offers him and his girlfriend Abby \$2,000 to sit and have a drink with him. As the trio swaps stories and Jamie considers the decisions he faces about his musical career and his future with his girlfriend, the young couple begins to realize that this older man is unusually invested in their choices and the reason he gives them is completely unbelievable.

## OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

### ***THE OUTSIDER***

By Paul Slade Smith

Directed by Ric Goodwin

January 18 - February 12, 2022



For the first production of 2023, the Lemon Bay Playhouse will present *The Outsider* by Paul Slade Smith. This political comedy, directed by Ric Goodwin, opens on January 18 and runs through February 12, 2023.

Ned Newley doesn't even want to be governor. He's terrified of public speaking and his poll numbers are impressively bad. To his ever-supportive Chief of Staff, Ned seems destined to fail. But political consultant Arthur Vance sees things differently. Ned might be the worst candidate to ever run for office. Unless the public is looking for...the worst candidate to ever run for office. A timely and hilarious satire that skewers politics and celebrates democracy.

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.

## LEMON DROPS CAMP



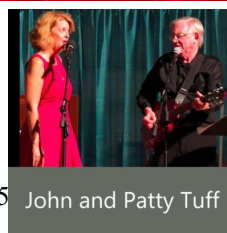
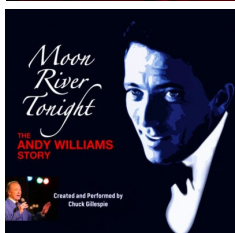
The Lemon Drops Summer Theatre Camp happened again this past summer from July 11- July 30, 2022. The nineteen campers put on *The Great Gotz-A-Lot Bash*, written by Camp Director, Cheryl Hastings. Assisted by counselors, Debra Martin, Patty Tuff, Jayden Fisher, and Henry Reisinger, Jr.

The "bash" took place at the multimillion-dollar estate of Henri Gotz where he will soon marry Flapper Fannie. Guest attending included those with and those without wealth, the not so famous and the famous, such as Amelia Earhart, John Ringling, Annie Oakley, Bessie Smith, and Coco Chanel. The two-day party included bungling Keystone Cops, a pretend wealthy couple who were arrested for insurance and credit card fraud, and the Stock Market Crash. The kids put on a fantastic show! Many thanks to all the volunteers that aided with the production and the parents of actors.

Keep a look out for sign ups to our next Lemon Drops camp for this coming Summer 2023!

CHUCK GILLESPIE  
MOON RIVER TONIGHT:  
THE ANDY WILLIAMS STORY

Saturday, January 14, 2023 7:30 pm



JOHN TUFF AND FRIENDS

Saturday, February 18, 2023 7:30 pm



96 W. Dearborn Street  
Englewood, FL 34223

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

**2022-2023**

Sep. 7 – Sep. 25, 2022

*Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Steve Black

Nov. 30 – Dec. 18, 2022

*You Know I Can't Hear You When The Water's Running*  
by Robert Anderson

Directed by Joe Simonelli

Jan. 18 – Feb. 12, 2023

*The Outsider* by Paul Slade Smith

Directed by Ric Goodwin

Mar. 8 – Apr. 2, 2023

*Dinner at the Flemmings* by Sam Bobrick

Directed by Bob LaSalle

Apr. 26 – May 14, 2023

*The Amateur Killer* by Robert Scott

Directed by Carol Warren

June 7 – June 25, 2023

*Now and Then* by Sean Grennan

Directed by Ric Goodwin

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LBP Box Office is open Monday-Friday, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Phone 941-475-6756

**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."