

Back Stage

January 2021



COMMUNITY
PLAYERS
of Salisbury



The View from Row G ***By Sharon Benchhoff, President*** ***(fresnelop@gmail.com)***

Happy Holidays to you all. Last month I shared we were developing a plan to bring a live performance to your home. Well, we are on our way. In this newsletter you will read all about "Almost Maine" a perfect winter's tale. We are collaborating with Salisbury University's Communication Department and have Skyler Vann, an SU student who will be filming a live performance that will be available for you to watch at home on February 13 th and 20 th with a ticket you will purchase on line. The multi-talented Cockey family will be providing the perfectly matched score for the production. One of the many reasons Players chose "Almost Maine" was because of the cast size. Eight of the nine scenes consist of only two actors; the ninth has three. We want to keep all of our exceedingly talented actors safe. If you visited our Facebook page, you saw all actors wore face masks during our read through as well as our two gifted directors, Matt Hatfield and Ken Johnson. Rehearsal times are staggered to keep the numbers small and we have temperature checks for everyone before we start. Set construction has been going strong with each of us working in a separate bubble within our rehearsal space to maintain social distancing. I do hope you will be part of our audience for "Almost Maine". Until next month, take care.

CAST of ALMOST MAINE

Prologue	Reece Chang, Alexa Nastasi
Her Heart	Pete Evans, Robin Finley
Sad and Glad	Jason Bruce, Cierra Lyons, Sarah Runge
This Hurts	Jacob Brittingham, Abigail Porter
Getting It Back	Matt Hatfield, Shelbie Thompson
They Fell	Nate Drehmer, Ken Johnson
Where it Went	Judy Hearn, Mike Murphy
Story of Hope	Bobbie Calloway, Richard Hill
Seeing the Thing	Devin Bradley, Nate Drehmer

Directors: Matt Hatfield & Ken Johnson

Tickets will be purchased through our website, sbyplayers.org. Price for an individual ticket is \$15.00. A family/group ticket is \$20.00. The ticket entitles you to one viewing of the pre-recorded live performance of "Almost Maine" on either February 13th, 14th, or February 20th. Patrons may view the play with a complimentary ticket obtained on line. Specific details on how to purchase tickets will be available within the few weeks.

WANTED: OLD UNUSED PLAYERS SHOW SHIRTS

Did you buy a Show shirt and wear it once or twice? Is it hanging in the closet or folded in a drawer? If you are like many of us, they don't even fit anymore. Ken Johnson has begun a project to repurpose those shirts into wall hangings. He has used all his and is looking for old Players' show shirts that are not being worn anymore. If you have any shirts you would like to donate, please contact Ken at kjohnson71063@gmail.com. What a creative idea! We look forward to seeing the result of his work!!



The Officers and the Board of Directors of Community Players hope that your holidays were wonderful and safe!

Articles, photos, etc. for publication in **Back Stage** should be emailed to me (popirusty@comcast.net) by the 15th of each month. Also, if you have ideas for the improvement of our newsletter, please let me know!

Rusty Mumford
Corresponding Secretary

Board Member Spotlight



David Allen has been a member of Community Players of Salisbury since the fall of 1993 helping with lighting in *Oklahoma!*. Over the years he has been involved as board member, vice-president, president, stage manager, as well as helping with set building, lighting, sound, special effects, ticket sales, and the man in a boat during the tornado in *The Wizard of Oz* (CPS). David also has devoted time to local community arts productions and events with the Magi Fund, Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre, local schools and various other community groups over the years.



Ken Johnson currently teaches Musical Theatre for Wicomico County and can't think of a better way to spend his days than with the multi-talented students in his classes. He directed *CLUE* and *12 Angry Jurors* at Wi Hi and has directed the All-County Musical since its beginning, *Seussical* in 2017 and *Mamma Mia* in 2018. He began his "career" with Players over 40 years ago, running a follow spot for "*Don't Drink The Water*". He has been President of Players twice and is currently on the Board of Directors. Ken is directing our current virtual production of *Almost, Maine* with Matt Hatfield and has directed several productions for Players, most recently *Matilda*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Addams Family*, and *Into the Woods*. He has appeared on stage often, most recently as The Trunchbull in *Matilda*, Bert in *Mary Poppins*, Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* and as Aldolpho in *Drowsy Chaperone*. Ken is also very active backstage having designed and built the sets and/or the lighting for over 50 Players' productions.



Production Committee to Begin Work

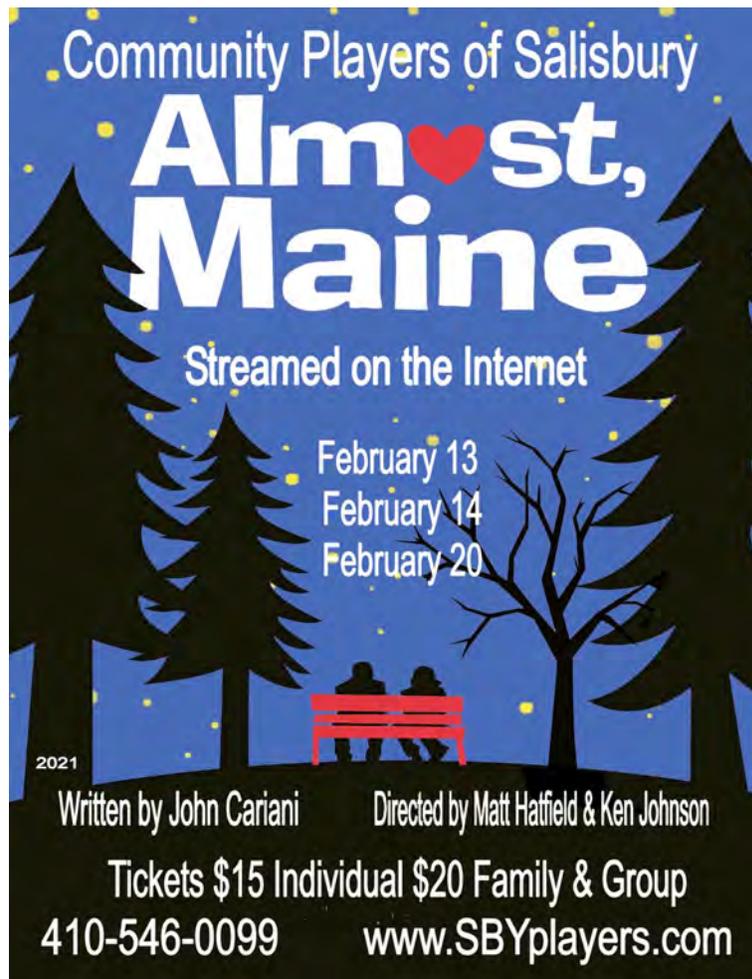
Would you like to participate in selecting shows to present to the Board of Directors for next year's season? Then the Production Committee is the place to be. You must be a member of Community Players. You must commit to reading or watching all the scripts/shows submitted and be available to meet multiple times in the first few months of 2021 to discuss. We will be looking at shows that would make up a regular season as well as explore outside-the-box COVID friendly performance opportunities. If you are interested please e-mail Melissa Dasher, Vice-President and Production Committee chairperson at bizemomx5@comcast.net. Per our bylaws, the Production Committee will consist of 9 members representing as many facets of theater expertise as possible. Melissa will be appointing this committee in early January, so if interested, e-mail her before the end of December.

Production Committee Seeks Input

It is time to start planning for next season. The production Committee will begin reading and considering productions for our 2021- 2022 season. If you have a desire to direct one of your favorite shows, or have ideas of plays or musicals you would like to see Players produce, please let us know by emailing Melissa Dasher bizemomx5@comcast.net . We will be looking at traditional on stage productions as well as creative ideas that meet COVID restrictions. The deadline for submissions is January 31.



"Nothing excites me more than spending the rest of my life with you. Except maybe seeing *Hamilton*."



Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town, because its residents never got around to getting organized. So, it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

"ALMOST, MAINE is a series of nine amiably absurdist vignettes about love, with a touch of good-natured magic realism...witty, romantic, unsentimental. A beautifully structured play, with nifty surprise endings (most but not all of them happy)." —NY Times.

"Sweet, poignant, and witty. Nearly perfect. ALMOST, MAINE's charm is real. It packs wit, earns its laughs and, like love, surprises you." —NY Daily News.

"Mega-hit ALMOST, MAINE lands somewhere between Norman Rockwell and Our Town . Unabashedly unhip. There is no pretense of an edge here—the show offers a sweetness and decency that's become rare at the theater. At this point, it's a welcome breath of fresh air." —New York Post.

Community Players of Salisbury TRIVIA NIGHT



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Email

register!

Postponed until 2021



Next meeting is January 6, 2021

Players' next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 6 at 6:30 PM**. This meeting will be a **ZOOM only** meeting!

If you would like to ZOOM in, please email Darrell Mullins at dgmullins@salisbury.edu. Invitations will be emailed the day before the meeting.



Name Selection for our Property

At our December meeting, all of the property name suggestions which had been received were presented to the Board of Directors. After much discussion and consideration, the list was narrowed to the following choices:

Nutters
Players
Players' Place
The Playhouse

We would like your input. Please email Rusty Mumford at popirusty@comcast.net with your choice from the list above prior to January 15, 2021. This will allow a final decision at the February meeting.

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"Instead of focusing on your differences, let's revisit your shared love of the theater."

Community Players of Salisbury
P. O. Box 2431
Salisbury, MD 21802

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U. S. POSTAGE PAID
SALISBURY, MD 21801
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*Please consider
becoming a member
of Community Players.
If you are not sure if
your dues are paid for
the current year,
please check the
mailing label on this
newsletter.
If it does not show
2020-21, your dues
are not up-to-date.*

Next Monthly Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 PM ZOOM only
5109 Nutters Cross Road



Community Players Officers & Board of Directors
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

President: Sharon Benchoff - fresnelop@gmail.com
Vice-President: Melissa Dasher - bizemomx5@comcast.net
Recording Secretary: Kel Nagel - kelnagel@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford - popirusty@comcast.net
Treasurer: Charlie Linton - charliecamtransport@yahoo.com
Immediate Past-President: Darrell Mullins - dmullins@salisbury.edu

Board Members

Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta, Matt Hatfield - Term Expires 2021
Sammy Barnes, Nate Drehmer, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023

We're on the Web: www.SBYplayers.com