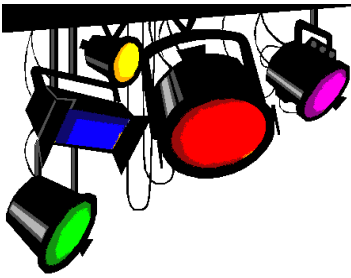




SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, our season is off to a rocky start. One of the actors in *The Ladies Foursome* had to drop out due to medical reasons. It was a mad scramble for a couple of days trying to find someone to step in. Finally on a whim, I called an actor who had done this sort of thing for us in the

past but had not worked with us in several years, and lo and behold, she consented to taking the part. My thanks goes out to Kim Fox for being courageous enough to do this for us.

Our new season is looking very good. We have a great lineup of shows and auditions for the next two plays, *Lying in State* and *It's a Wonderful Life* were well attended and it looks like we have casts for both shows.

You may have noticed a tent surrounding our sheds during the week of September 11. This is because we found termites in some of the wood in a couple of our sheds and we decided to fumigate them all. Better to be safe than sorry!

On the new building front, just a few minutes ago, I gave the OK to accept the latest offer on a new building here in Englewood. A confidentiality agreement prevents me from disclosing the location of the property, but, suffice it to say, it is only a few minutes from our present location and is on S. Indiana Avenue. It is large enough that we won't have to keep either of our present buildings. This looks very promising for us. We have a feasibility study under way and we have an architect on board as well. Stay tuned....

Respectfully,

Bob La Salle

OUR UPCOMING PRODUCTION

BY PAUL HYATT

The Lemon Bay Playhouse will hold open auditions for two plays that are scheduled for later production this season. The plays are, *Bus Stop*, by William Inge and *Lend Me a Tenor*, by Ken Ludwig. Auditions for these two productions will be held on Sunday, November 17 and Monday, November 18, at 7pm at Lemon Bay Playhouse.

Bus Stop will be directed by Renee Statham and run from January 15 through February 9, 2020. It calls for a cast of three female and five male actors, and tells this story:

In the middle of a howling snowstorm, a bus out of Kansas City pulls up at a cheerful roadside diner. All roads are blocked and four or five weary travelers are going to have to hole up until morning. Cherie, a nightclub chanteuse in a sparkling gown and a seedy fur-trimmed jacket, is the passenger with the most to worry about. She's been pursued, made love to and, finally, kidnapped by a 21 year-old cowboy with a ranch of his own and the romantic methods of an unusually headstrong bull, now ready to sling her over his shoulder and carry her, alive and kicking, all the way to Montana. As a counterpoint to the main romance, the proprietor of the cafe and the bus driver at last find time to develop a friendship of their own; a middle aged scholar comes to terms with himself and a young girl who works in the cafe gets her first taste of romance.

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

Sanders, 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.

Scripts and sides are available for perusal on our website (sides only) or at the box office between 10 am and 2 pm weekdays. For information call (941) 475-6756.

LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

LBP AWARDS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS!

BY RIC GOODWIN

On May 13 it was my pleasure to present \$3000 scholarships to three very deserving Lemon Bay High School students. Receiving the awards were : Zachary Covell, Joseph Meisner, and Jocelyn Cherisier.

Zach is attending Florida Southern College as a theatre major. He has just announced that he was cast in their first production: *Biloxi Blues* by Neil Simon.

Joey was accepted into the prestigious B.F.A. Theatre Program at the University of Florida.

Jocelyn, a native of Haiti, is attending the University of South Florida planning to study music and medicine.

Thank you to all of our patrons who participate in our 50/50 raffle that is held before each show. It enables LBP to support talented students in our community to pursue their dreams.



Pictured from left to right: Jocelyn Cherisier, Ric Goodwin, Zachary Covell and Joseph Meisner.

STEPPING DOWN, NOT STEPPING AWAY!

BY LOUISE GOODWIN

With the untimely passing of the beloved Rita Corn five years ago, Ric Goodwin accepted the role of Artistic Production Manager. Although his style was different from Rita's, Ric's extensive theatre background and expertise made him the right choice at the time to take the position. Since then, Ric worked tirelessly to elevate production values, increase the acting pool, bring in additional qualified directors, and shared new innovative ideas to enhance the audience experience. In addition, he directed plays, continued to act and taught acting classes as well. He also restructured our audition schedule to enable actors to audition for more than one play with dual auditions. He reorganized our furniture storage, held a "yard sale" and even spent a July 4 holiday clearing out a storage room to enable additional storage for wardrobe.

With a future that includes a possible move to a larger space, Ric felt it was the right time to bring in someone with the expertise and energy to oversee these future plans. Lemon Bay Playhouse has been fortunate to find that person and Ric has handed the reins to Jeff Dillon. Ric plans to remain active at Lemon Bay Playhouse as he will continue to act, direct, volunteer on committees, and give occasional curtain speeches.

LBP BOOSTS ENGLEWOOD

BY PAUL HYATT

Proving its strong community spirit, the Lemon Bay Playhouse is doing another benefit performance in support of a local, non-profit organization. On Tuesday evening, October 22, all of the proceeds from ticket and refreshment sales for a special performance of the play, *Lying In State*, will go to the Friends of Elsie Quirk Library. Every member of the cast, the stage crew and tech personnel are donating their time and talent for this cause.

The Friends organization then uses the resulting funds to support a wide variety of cultural and educational programs presented throughout the year at Elsie Quirk Library, which, incidentally, is our next door neighbor.

Tickets are \$25 each and are available online at www.lemonbayplayhouse.com or by visiting or calling the box office at (941) 475-6756 between 10 am and 2 pm weekdays and one hour prior to curtain time.



LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE NEWS

THANK YOU, JIM!

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI

In April, Jim Sciarrello retired for the 2nd time in his life. Jim has been a faithful volunteer at Lemon Bay Playhouse since 2007. When I asked Jim about his work here at Lemon Bay, I was taken back by everything he was able to accomplish.

During his time at Lemon Bay Playhouse, Jim and his wife have always been donors and season ticket holders. Jim's volunteer work at the Playhouse included box office sales, set construction, representation at community activities, publicity, ad sales, ad purchases, graphic art design, website maintenance, interface to Arts-People ticketing software, newsletter publisher, playbill publisher, show flyers, and preparation of brochures (for season ticket sales, volunteers, membership, readers theater, and post season ticket sales). Whew! If you have seen any Lemon Bay Playhouse publications in the past decade you can almost guarantee it was done by Jim!

In October 2012, Jim was appointed to the Board of Trustees as a Member At Large. He was responsible for advertising, publications, publicity, website update and maintenance. Publications was not all that Jim had a hand in! Jim also organized several volunteer recruitment open houses, participated in the play selection process for several seasons, and organized a recognition celebration for Paul Hyatt on his 90th birthday for being the longest standing member of the Playhouse!

There is no doubt that Jim has been a valued member, team player and friend to Lemon Bay Playhouse. His efforts have not gone unnoticed! Thank you, Jim for everything you have done to make Lemon Bay Playhouse a happy success. Enjoy your next "retirement!"

*Thank
you!*

A HAPPY BEGINNING!

BY CRYSTAL COLUZZI



Hello! I am so thrilled to introduce myself as Lemon Bay Playhouse's new Publicity and Media Manager. Theatre is something that runs through my veins. My father was the Venice High School Drama Club President in 1988 and he hasn't stopped passing down his passion for theatre ever since.

As a child I attended numerous theatre camps, auditions, and shows in the Venice area. During my time at Venice High

School I just couldn't stay away from the bright stage lights and performed in numerous shows myself. Coming full circle and getting the opportunity to be working with such passionate staff and volunteers at Lemon Bay Playhouse feels like a dream come true!

In addition to my work at Lemon Bay Playhouse, I am a special education teacher in North Port, Florida. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Education from the University of South Florida. Go Bulls! In my free time I enjoy coaching competitive cheerleading and gymnastics. You can also find me in the Alto section of *St. Mark's Episcopal Church Choir*. The stage will always feel like home to me! I was last seen at Charlotte Players as Annelle in *Steel Magnolias* this past spring and hope to be on the Lemon Bay stage very soon.

Here's to many years of success and growth with Lemon Bay Playhouse. I am so grateful to serve the wonderful people of Englewood!

WELCOME JEFF DILLON!

BY CHARMAINE ENGELSMAN-ROBINS
Florida Weekly Correspondent



Lemon Bay Playhouse is proud to introduce our new Artistic Production Manager, Jeff Dillon! Jeff was recently featured in *Florida Weekly*. Here is the article introducing our new staff.

Some people are drawn to a certain profession, while others might spend years searching for that perfect fit. In the case of Venice native Jeff Dillon, he was just about born into it. And most begin learning when they finally choose a particular career path, but Mr. Dillon lucked into a far better experience; he not only learned his career; he lived it.

The son of a newspaper editor, Sam, and a librarian mother, Joan, his family moved here in the 1950s. Venice was so tiny that it didn't have its own shopping center; the Pantry Pride in Englewood was the closest grocery store. But despite that small-town aura, Venice was already so steeped in the arts that it wasn't unusual that in addition to her "day" job, Mr. Dillon's mom was one of the community's most faithful and valued volunteers. She eventually became an employee of the Venice Theatre, or as it was known back then the Venice Little Theatre. The youngest of five children and too young to be left home alone, Mr. Dillon got to tag along as a matter of course when mom was at the theatre, a circumstance that resulted in

many rewards for the young boy.

Jeff Dillon has 52 years in the theatre. "Most of my friends were adults," Mr. Dillon said. "It was a family and I felt like I had 15 dads and 15 moms there. They were interesting people both on and backstage, and I was able to learn a lot about both sides of the stage just by being there and asking my typical kid questions. Also, whenever a script called for a young boy extra to play the newspaper boy or whatever, there I was. I was The Kid," he said. "If you go backstage now and look at the old posters, that's pretty much the story of my young theatre life. So I grew up very at ease with being on stage and gleaned an understanding how the technical side of the business worked as well. I absorbed a lot of broad experience in all the different areas of theatre."

His mom's experiences were also becoming more and more diverse as she advanced from volunteer costumer to paid employee, actress and director. She was, in Mr. Dillon's admiring description, "very gifted."

Older brother Keith was also bitten by the acting bug, and the day finally came when they got to appear together in what Mr. Dillon refers to as his "first adventure on stage." In "Toad of Toad Hill," Keith played Mr. Toad himself while Jeff shined in the role of "a foraging woodland creature — a squirrel, I think."

Though not professionally trained, Mr. Dillon cites growing up in the actual theater as "a very good place to learn: you start out in the chorus, then maybe you get two lines, then four lines, then you've worked your way up to 100 lines and, finally, you get a lead. It all sounds pretty idyllic, and one can't help wondering if his experiences could ever be duplicated now. All these years later, Venice has grown a lot, but it's still an exceptionally friendly and close-knit community and of course the theatre community remains protective and supportive of itself and those it embraces. Mr. Dillon speaks to that as he remembers teaching stage craft to high school students in the mid-1980s and his former co-worker and stagehand friend Frank Perry was teaching stage construction. "I think of theatre as a generational medium," Mr. Dillon said. "By that I mean that no matter what your age is when you come into theatre, everyone starts in the same place and everyone has to learn the same things. Community theatre is an exceptionally good place to learn. Even now, I'll still run into people I've mentored and maybe their first show was my 50th show, but they too went on to have long careers in theatre. I find it satisfying that I've affected others just as others have affected me."

And having started out all those years ago as "The Kid," he's probably one of the few people his age who can say he now has 52 years in theatre. Those years have, overall, been happy ones. Venice has not been his only venue; in addition to working a good bit in Sarasota and around Florida, he's also done theatre in Oklahoma, North Carolina and other areas where art is appreciated.

And now, Mr. Dillon has climbed another rung on the ladder of his career. He was just named artistic production manager at Lemon Bay Playhouse, where he will replace the current manager who will retire as of July 1.

Toward the end of this year Mr. Dillon will be attending his 40th reunion at Venice High School with the rest of the Class of 1979. No doubt he'll be regaling former classmates with his great theatre stories as well as swapping old memories of when they, and Venice, were young. All in all it sounds like a very good life — with several acts and encores yet to come.

PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

BY LOUISE GOODWIN

Every summer our Play Selection Committee reads approximately 20 scripts to be considered for the season that is one year away. The committee is composed of several Lemon Bay Playhouse Board members, the Artistic Production Manager, and dedicated volunteers. This year's committee included: Gloria Bandy, Wendi Scianna, Murray Hudson, Ralph Barnes, Marion Barnes, Louise Goodwin, Ric Goodwin, and Bob LaSalle.

The committee met in May and discussed over 30 possible plays, bringing the number down to 20 plays for our summer reading. We will meet again in September, and from our list of 20 plays we will present the Board with 12 choices to choose for our 34th season. The Board will read the plays and vote at an upcoming meeting to select plays and two alternate plays. Stay tuned for what comes next!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT READER'S THEATER

BY KATHY AMELIA

Well, the summer is coming to a close and our "season" is approaching with a promise of entertaining skits and camaraderie. Our first meeting is Monday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the theatre lobby where we will have some sweets while we "meet and greet" many of our members who are in sunny Florida already. Our program will start at 10:00 in the theatre and I hope to see some new faces among our audience. As always, see you on the aisle.

WELCOME MELISSA!

BY RALPH BARNES

The Lemon Bay Playhouse Board of Directors voted unanimously at their August meeting to elect Melissa Mutkoski to fill a vacancy that developed recently on the Board. She is a member of the tech team that handles light and sound for our productions.

Melissa and her husband, Rich, were active in community theatre for over 30 years in Massachusetts before moving to Florida in 2014. "We raised our kids (Ryan and Brianna) at rehearsals, in costume departments and set builds," she says. "They both grew up with their dad on stage while I was backstage doing anything and everything that had to be done. I believe involvement in theatre taught my kids how to communicate well, how to take direction, support each other, and how to solve problems in a group."

During their years in the Bay State, the Mutkoskis were associated with The Burlington Players, Colonial Chorus Players of Reading, the Arlington Friends of the Drama and the Concord Players. Melissa and Rich

still have strong ties to the Boston area, where they return twice a year to work with Voices of Hope, a collection of community theatre performers and directors that stage productions at annual galas to benefit cancer research.

Melissa spent 25 years working as a Quality Assurance Specialist in the software industry in Massachusetts before retiring. She is now a realtor with Paradise Exclusive in the Cape Haze area.

LEMON DROPS SUMMER CAMP

BY CHERYL HASTINGS

The seventh year of Lemon Bay Playhouse's kid's theatre camp was held July 9 through July 28, culminating in two evening performances of the play *What Lurks Below* written by Cheryl Hastings. The play tells the story of three kids who fall in a sink hole and meet and befriend many unique underground characters while trying to find their way back home.

Of the 21 campers who attended, ten were returning campers. Ten students were granted full scholarships funded by the Lemon Bay Playhouse Camp Endowment Fund. The camp has become well known throughout the community. Enrollment started on April 1 and was filled by April 10. We had 12 campers on the waiting list of which two were invited when life circumstance left two students unable to attend.

Camp activities included a variety of acting exercises to develop acting skills, a craft project called make your own Mars bug which were used in a camper written skit, and games related to the play, including; *Twenty-one Questions That May Bug You*, a form of *Jeopardy*.

In keeping with the underground theme, snacks included mole nails (Bugles), slug slime (GoGurt), ants on a log (White chocolate dipped pretzel stick with chocolate sprinkles) and mud cake (Chocolate cake with chocolate pudding). Campers enjoyed the creepy, crawly foods.

Cheryl Hastings directed the camp, assisted by Debra Martin, Marilyn Barton, Brianna Dudgeon, Henry Reisinger, Matthew Black and Nathan Black. We wish to thank the kids for their hard work and congratulate them on a fine performance. We also would like to thank Lemon Bay Playhouse for their support in allowing us to provide this opportunity to the youth of our community.





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>BUS STOP</i> by William Inge	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

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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)



"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."